

St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge

01946 822279 or 07460 990631

revbgibbs@outlook.com

The Rev'd Canon Richard Lee MStJ (07841 398088)

Associate Priest of St Bees Priory

Rural Dean of Calder

Retired Clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate:

Rev'd Canon Jim Baker MBE and Rev'd Anne Baker (01946 822498)

The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

Sunday Services in Church

Services every Sunday at 9.00 am, 10.30 am and 6.00 pm

9.00 am BCP Communion except 4th Sunday (Family)

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays Holy Communion - 10.30 am

2nd and 4th Sundays Morning Worship - 10.30 am

6.00 pm Evening Prayer (1st - Evensong, 4th - Communion)

Services are also Live Streamed

For weddings, baptisms, funerals and other religious occasions, please contact

01946 822279 or email enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

Priory Web Site - <http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk>

Hire of Priory & Halls

The church, Old College and New College halls are all available for hire for meetings, functions, lectures, concerts and recitals, etc. Contact booking officers for details.

Booking Officers

Ian & Rosalie McAndrew - 01946 822326 or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk

Priory Secretary - enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

Magazine production & distribution

This magazine is free but production costs are about 50p per copy. Contributions from the Parish Council and our advertisers, to whom we are most grateful, pay much of the costs. However this leaves the balance to be paid by the PCC. Donations to the Treasurer or your Magazine Distributor are most welcome.*

Circulation - over 1,000 households in St Bees Parish

* - Treasurer - Norman Killip, Honeybee House Seamill Lane, St Bees, CA27 0BD.

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

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St Bees News

May 2024



St Bees Parish A B C

Area Visitor / Good Neighbour Scheme	The parish is divided into 30 small areas each with an official Church Visitor whose task is to welcome and help people in the name of the Priory. Co-ordinator - TBA.
Aikido club.	Adult martial art classes in St Bees, Mon., Tues. & Thu each week. See www.westcumbriaaikido or contact Adrian on 07951 999 192.
Arts Society	meets every two months on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. Venue to be arranged. Details from Dilys Brownrigg (822584) or Chris Robson 822468.
Bellringing	The Priory has a ring of 8 bells. Those interested in ringing or learning to ring, contact D Sim, 18 The Crofts. Practice Wednesdays, 8.00 pm. Sundays, ring at 10.00 a.m.
Scouts, Beavers	1st Beckermert & St Bees Scout Group - Scouts 10.5 - 14.yrs. Monday 6.30 - 8.30. Beavers 6 - 8 yrs. Thursday 5.00 - 6.15 pm in New College Hall
Cubs	8 - 10.5 yrs. Haile Village Hall, Thursdays, 6.00 - 7.30 pm.
Choir	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).
Churchwardens	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Currently Tom Kelly + 3 vacancies.
Councillor	Local councillor for Cumberland Council for Egremont North and St Bees is Graham Minshaw. Graham.Minshaw@cumberland.gov.uk Tel -07840 844424
Electoral Roll	is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church
Fair Trade	Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - lee535877@aol.com
Finance	The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system.
First Responders	provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497
Football Association	Contacts - Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson.
Freemasons	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 07897 535100 or www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk .
Friends of the Priory	assists in the conservation of the Priory and encourages interest in its historical and architectural heritage. Contact R McAndrew or Norman Killip, Treasurer, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees,
Garden Society	Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.

History Group	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
Judo Club	meets regularly at NCH. Contact sankaikunijudo@gmail.com or Janice (07828 116752) or Pim (07733 291200). Also meeting Pilates, Yoga, Taekwondo and Aikido. All in upper NCH hall.
Over 60's Club	meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.
Parish Council	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Coulderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
Parochial Church Council	meets 10 times a year. Elections are held in March at the A.P.C.M. Its task is to spearhead the mission and ministry of the church in the Parish. PCC Secretary - r.e.rendell@gmail.com , 07977 096426.
Pop-in Cafe	Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes.
Pre-School	meets in the new building next to the Village School, All day, 5 days a week. For children of 2 years upwards. Contact on 823880.
Priory Singers	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 7.30 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (01946) 825307.
Priory Web Site	The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk
Rangers	meet on alternate Mondays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. in NCH. Contact calderdivision@gmail.com for info on your nearest unit of Brownies .& Guides. New Rainbows unit starts in Bigrigg on Mondays.
Seagalls	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Judith 07772523742
St Bees Triers	Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm. Email running@triers.co.uk Tel. 823497 Web www.triers.co.uk
Village School Association	Organising events for the pupils and community, raising funds for the school. : stbees.vsa@gmail.com or @stbeesvsa Facebook or Instagram
Village Hall	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
Village in Bloom	Details from Kathy Nesbit via PC Sec. Jane Donaldson. See above for Parish Council contact details.
Village Web Site	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Address is http://www.stbees.org.uk
Women's Institute	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137.

Calendar for May 2024

5	Sunday	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
5	Sunday	2p.m.	Beach Clean, meet by the Beach Clean Station
7	Tuesday	7p.m.	Seagalls, The Seacote
8	Wednesday	7p.m.	Friends of the Priory Committee Meeting, NCH
11	Saturday	7.30p.m.	Classical Choral Concert with Margie Simper, St Bees Priory
12	Sunday	10.30a.m.	Morning Worship
13	Monday	7.30p.m.	WI, St Bees Village Hall
14	Tuesday	10.30a.m. 7.00 p.m.	Over 60s – Coffee Morning , Oddfellows Arms PCC Meeting
17	Friday	7.0 p.m. 7-8.30p.m.	Egremont Town Band Concert, St Bees Priory St Bees Green Future – Clothes Swap, Adams Recreation Ground
18	Saturday	12.30 p.m.,	Wedding, Melanie Park & Kristian Dempster
19	Sunday	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
19	Sunday	1.30-4.30p.m.	St Bees Green Future – Pollinator Art and Craft Display, NCH
22	Wednesday	7p.m.	Friends of the Priory AGM, NCH
24	Friday	4.30-6p.m.	Friday Fun, St Bees Priory
26	Sunday	10.30a.m.	Morning Worship
28	Tuesday	9.30a.m.	Over 60s – Trip to Kendal

Calendar for June 2024

1	Saturday	3-5p.m.	NSPCC Strawberry Tea, St Bees Village Hall
9	Sunday	4p.m.	Festival Choral Evensong and Buffet, Priory
29	Saturday		Bees Bash – Further details to follow

Editor – June 2024

The **June 2024** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Pat McDonnell, Sandyridge, Priory Road, St Bees** who would appreciate contributions not later than **Wednesday, 8 My 2024** please.

Email : sandyridge@btinternet.com Tel: 01946 822516

St Bees News

May 2024

Rural Dean's Ramblings

Maps are important and finding our way is quite vital to living a normal life. We all need signposts and they come in many forms. Travelling around our Deanery has been really frustrating recently. Its not just the roads around St Bees that are full of potholes and there seems be an evil genius randomly distributing road closure signs around the Deanery and indeed the County! Rough physical journeys leave us frustrated and fractious because of missed appointments or time-wasting diversions. Maps, Signposts, and routes on Google maps all point us in the right direction and without them we would remain lost in a series of diversions that lead us from one field of potholes to another.

Finding our way through life can be rough, diverting, and stressful. Illness, job security, financial insecurity, relationships, and anxieties about life in general, current affairs are like emotional potholes that leave us rattled and frustrated by not being able to find a way to periods of relative security in our lives.

Beliefs and values can offer stability in many ways as they offer pointers as to navigating our hearts, minds, souls through good and bad times. For many the discipline of routine work offers security, for others it is their family life and friendships others have fixed routines that offer stability. Perversely – others reject routines and timetables and live fully sustainable lives living a lifestyle that to many resembles chaos! Some write a journal and read it to reflect on how life is treating them. Many have to keep a diary and knowing what is coming next helps to deal with the challenges that each new day brings.

May is part of our shared Diary and gives us real hope that Spring has well and truly sprung. The sun is warmer, the days are longer, and the trees are in full leaf plus hopefully, the rain will be less regular. Summer is on its way! In Church, May is a month of celebration, the Church Diary is full of notable saints and mystics who offer much food for thought. Ascension Day (9May) the affirmation that faith is a universal gift wherever you are, Pentecost (19 May) no matter what your language, culture, background faith speaks your language. St Matthew's Day (14 May) reminds us that the unknown and seemingly insignificant can be called to serve and shine! On the 8 May we are reminded of Julian of Norwich and her ministry of quiet wisdom.....and her ministry of signposting in order we should avoid the potholes in life.

“Our life is all grounded and rooted in love, and without love we may not live”.

“All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well”.

Julian of Norwich to our modern eyes was lost in the midst of physical illness and weakness but her mind and soul possessed a map and signpost that gave her direction and purpose. That map is still there.

Richard Lee, Rural Dean

Priory News

Lent Lunches in March raised a wonderful total of £720 from four lunches, which were well supported – to be shared between NSPCC (St Bees branch) and the Christian Aid Crisis Appeal for Gaza families. Grateful thanks to all involved in the success of the lunches – our hosts and Pop-In teams, and generous guests. Thank you all for your amazing support. The food and friendship were much appreciated and two great causes benefited. Our Lent Lunches may not be exactly frugal but they are very popular!

Review of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sincere thanks to all with responsibility for the ministry, administration and maintenance of the Priory church, its halls and grounds and churchyards over the past year – for their dedication to its life, work and mission. The PCC wish to thank our Vicar, Ministry team and churchwardens; secretaries and treasurer; committees and office-bearers. Also, the church choir and organist, bellringers, embroidery group, and sidesmen and women at services. Thank you too to our cleaners and caretaker, flower-arrangers and the Holy Mowers squad. Special thanks to the Friends of the Priory and their members, and the revived Priory Singers. Also, many thanks to the Pop-In Café teams.

Not forgetting magazine editors and distributors without whom this publication would not be produced or delivered! Let's remember the behind-the-scenes stalwarts who keep the church functioning on a daily basis. Many thanks to one and all.

What's On at the Priory in May

Egremont Town Band Concert for Friends of the Priory – will be held on Friday 17 May at 7.00p.m. in the Priory fundraising for Friends of the Priory. Refreshments will be served in the interval. All are most welcome. Come along for an entertaining evening of brass band music!

Classical Choral Concert [with Margie Simper](#) to be held on Saturday 11 May at 7.30p.m. in the Priory. Organ solos and ensemble with strings and voices. Refreshments served. Donations to be shared between the Priory and Wasdale Mountain Rescue.

Friday Fun and Activities for 5 to teens - happening at the Priory on Friday 24 May and offering stories and songs, crafts and food. Primary school-age children very welcome. 4.30 to 6.00p.m.

Review of Holy Week Music - A large audience enjoyed Faure's Requiem, sung beautifully by the Priory Singers and friends and guest soloists on Holy Monday – generously donating the retiring collection of £315 to Friends of the Priory funds.

Special thanks to our organist Frank Bowler for his Good Friday Organ Meditation of sacred music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Parry and others. The audience raised £107 in donations for the Organ Fund and the Priory.

Parish Council News

Annual Parish Meeting – the Annual Parish Meeting took place on Mon 15 April, attended by a number of local residents. Doug Sim, the Parish Council Chairman, presented his report on council activities during 2023/24 and outlined some of the ongoing work to deliver on projects such as providing more off-street parking. A copy of the annual report will be published with a future edition of the parish magazine.

Outrigg Flooding– Martyn Taylor, the Area Highways Manager, attended the April Parish Council meeting to explain plans for resolving the ongoing flooding problems on the Outrigg road. Mr Taylor began by apologising to the local community for the delay in finding a solution to the flooding. He also apologised to the owners of the neighbouring land who had been contacted by Highways staff for the first time just a few days ago and who were not responsible for the delay. The meeting which had just taken place with landowners had been a productive one and Mr Taylor hoped that a long term solution had now been found. It was expected that work would start in 4 to 6 weeks.

Other Highways & Drainage issues – a number of other highways issues were discussed with Mr Taylor including the issues of pedestrian safety on Abbey Road, where there is a planning application for a further five houses, and the ongoing drainage problems from the Byersteds junction.

Potholes – The issue of potholes was discussed with Mr Taylor. He explained that the budget was not sufficient to repair every pothole immediately and repairs had to be prioritised. He encouraged residents to continue to report potholes using the Highways online reporting system (cumberland.gov.uk) which allows photographs to be uploaded and, if reported whilst at the pothole, allows the exact location to be logged. The more reports, the greater attention is likely to be paid!

Litter bins – An officer from Cumberland Council's Street Cleansing team met Parish Council representatives at the main beach to look at the need for an additional bin near the beach café. He has confirmed that a new bird proof bin is now on order and will be installed when it arrives. He is also investigating how the hinges on the large bins can be tightened to prevent them blowing open in high winds.

Public Space Protection Order – Cumberland Council is preparing a new Public Space Protection Order which will help to tackle persistent anti-social behaviour across Cumberland and will include dog exclusion zones and areas where dogs must be on leads. The proposals have been the subject of an online consultation and the Parish Council will be submitting a response, welcoming the proposals and supporting the inclusion of the play areas at the beach and on Outrigg as areas where dogs are not allowed.

Next Parish Council Meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 20 May at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. All council meetings are open to the public – why not come along and see the Parish Council at work? There are still opportunities to join the Parish Council and we would love to hear from anyone who may be interested.

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Christian Aid Week is here this month! 12-18th May

Last month you read a bit about Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world and Aline who lives in the challenging south of Burundi. Despite many life challenges Aline, through a project run by Christian Aid, was able to restore her life. Here she is with one of her children. The house in the background was built by Aline with bricks she made.



She was taught many skills by Christian Aid, so was able to start a business and buy a bicycle. She has bought solar panels so her children can do their homework in the evenings. Education is a good way to break the cycle of poverty

70k in May! Aline's long and difficult journey out of extreme poverty began, like many others, with a little support from Christian Aid. **But Christian aid needs you!** Just £5 could support a savings group and £10 contribute to the type of training offered to Aline. Kelvin and I (please feel free to join us) will cycle 70km on Saturday May 18th. **What will you do?**

We don't do house to house collections any more but You can donate and find out more at: <https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-006503> Or <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/st-bees-priory-christian-aid-week-2024>

Use the QR code (it works- or at least it did in the April edition!) Thank you.

May we persevere in life, live in hope and act in love!



Priory Flower Rota for May

May 5	Dilys Brownrigg	12	Kay Steele
19	Sally Kennedy	26	The Atkinson family
June 2	Elaine Lamb	9	Gill Burgess

Sincere Thanks to Pat Crichton for the beautiful Easter lily flower-arrangements, and to Barbara Hewetson and family for the lovely Easter garden in the porch.

Special Thanks to Jeya Cox for the Easter service gifts of Pace eggs to worshippers on Sunday, and to Rosalie McAndrew giving out Cross Buns and oranges on Palm Sunday.

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Grassroots

Vi

The family of the late Carole Taylor (nee Bone) Mike, Michael, Alison and Nicola of 1 Main Street St Bees would like to thank all family and friends for the cards, care and support they received during the loss of their wife and mother. They are overwhelmed by the support they have received during this very sad time. A total of £865 has been raised for palliative care for which toiletry bags, toiletries, PJs etc are going to be purchased as requested by the staff for patients and families who arrive unexpectedly into their care.

Beach Clean - Meet at 2p.m. on Sunday 5 May by the Beach Clean Station (beside the seafront toilets) to collect equipment. Thank you for your help to keep St Bees beach clean.

NSPCC Strawberry Tea - Saturday 1 June, St Bees Village Hall (Hodgetts) 3-5p.m. Tickets £6.50 per person. Contact 07703486074.

Our Amazing Planet - Returning on 31 August! 2-5p.m. Fun and activities for all the family. Ideas to help the planet and, of course, a good tea! See you there. For more info or offers of help, contact debleestbees@outlook.com.

Over 60s - On 30 April Mr Dick Beddows will be giving a talk about the work of the RLNI. This will be in Hodgett's Club at 2p.m. On May 14 we will be holding our coffee morning fundraiser at 10.30a.m. in The Oddfellows Arm. There will be a cake stall, bric-a-brac and a raffle. All welcome. On May 28 we are having a trip to Kendal. The bus leaves the Oddfellows at 9.30a.m. This trip is open to non-members. If you would like a place on the bus, please contact Gill Richardson on 07890195727

International Martial Arts Seminar in St Bees

In June this year, St Bees based, West Cumbria Aikido, will be holding their third international mid-summer Aikido seminar at St Bees School. Aikido is a Japanese martial art with origins deep in the Samurai history of Japan. About 50 people are expected to participate in the weekend event. This includes local club members and people from Scotland, further afield in Cumbria, Lancashire, Yorkshire, even Norfolk and Dorset. There are also a few international participants from Sweden, Netherlands, Spain and perhaps even someone from the US. It promises to be a fun and exciting weekend! To find out more about adult classes for Aikido in St Bees see www.westcumbriaaikido.com and/or contact Adrian at info@westcumbriaaikido.com or call / Signal / WhatsApp Adrian on 07951 999 192.

Pollinator Art and Craft Display – A reminder this free event is on Sunday 19 May, 1.30-4.30p.m. in New College Hall. Items by local children and artists on the theme of pollinators and their habitat will be on display to mark World Bee Day. There will be a craft activity for children to take part in and refreshments available. A Project Officer from Cumbria Wildlife Trust will also be there to provide information and answer your questions about pollinators and supporting their habitat, and will have free packets of wildflower seeds to give out.

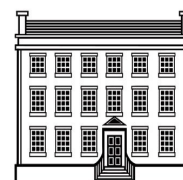
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Friends of the Priory Report

Egremont Town Band Concert will be held in the Priory on Friday 17 May at 7.00p.m. Refreshments will be served in the interval. All are most welcome to attend.

The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 8 May at 7.00p.m. in New College Hall, and the Friends AGM will be on Wednesday 22 May at 7.00p.m. in New College Hall.

Sincere thanks to the Priory Singers who generously donated the retiring collection of £315 at the superb Faure Requiem during Holy Week to the Friends – much appreciated! Also, many grateful thanks to Sally Kennedy and Claire Hale who kindly served refreshments afterwards.

Claiming date – We plan to hold our Festival Choral Evensong and Buffet on Sunday 9th June in the Priory at 4.00pm – to be led by the Priory Church Choir. More information next month.

Please note that the Friends welcome all parishioners as members of this heritage group, and not only church members. Anyone with an interest in the conservation, history or architecture of the Priory or the future of this church is most welcome to join. Do come to any of our events or send a subscription to the Treasurer Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Sea Mill Lane, St Bees. That's £10 per member/£15 per family, payable by cash, cheque or BACS.

Clothes are not all they are made to be!

Last week I bought a new t-shirt. It was a lovely bright pink and reminded me that Spring was well underway. I was so pleased with it until.... I discovered that it had taken 2,700 litres of water to make my t-shirt ☺. That would have been enough to last 1 person for 3 years! And 20% of the world does not have enough water to drink.

I bought a new pair of jeans, as I had managed to lose some weight and my old jeans were falling down! Again, I was SO pleased but then I read that the homeworkers in India, who make clothes for the UK fashion industry, have no minimum wage (earning just 89p/day), no basic health or safety measure, and are not entitled to sick or maternity pay. Many now have Byssinosis, a condition of the lungs from inhaling fabric fibres – it was one of the biggest killers of mill workers during the Industrial Revolution. Despite us buying £2.4m worth of clothes just at Christmas, only 2% of the fashion industry publish measurable plans to provide a living wage.

And now for the good news! In February you raised £353 for Transform Trade. This not only helped develop a female-led community shop, but also allows Transform Trade to advocate for the abused workers in the clothing industry, as well as other artisans and farmers.

Secondly, you can come along to the clothes swaps run by St Bees Green Future. The next one is on Friday 17 May at 7.30p.m. at Adams Recreation Ground. As well as saving money, you might be saving water!!

Deb Lee

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St Bees School

This week, St Bees School proudly hosted a dynamic Study Skills Fair aimed at equipping Year 10 to Year 13 students with essential tools for effective studying.

With examinations on the horizon, the fair provided a timely opportunity for students to enhance their study techniques and strategies.

The Study Skills Fair was a comprehensive event covering a wide array of study methodologies, from Dual Coding to The Leitner System, Revision Timetabling to Healthy Eating for Brain Power, and Meditation to Mind Mapping.

Led by our dedicated teachers, who shared their own experiences and insights, students had the chance to explore various techniques in an engaging and interactive environment.

Structured like speed dating, the afternoon consisted of 10-minute sessions at 11 different stations. This format allowed students to sample each study skill, providing them with a diverse range of tools to incorporate into their study routines.

It was a whirlwind of learning and discovery as students delved into different approaches to studying.

Mrs Vanessa Johnstone, Director of Studies, expressed her enthusiasm for the event, stating, "We believe that mastering these study skills will make a significant difference for our exam groups as they enter the final stretch before their IGCSEs and A levels."

The fair aimed not only to equip students with practical study techniques but also to instill confidence as they approach their upcoming examinations.

The St Bees School community is rallying behind all students, offering support and encouragement as they navigate their academic journey.

St Bees Green Future

Clothes Swap - Do you want to declutter, update your wardrobe, save money or help the planet? If so, pop along to our next clothes swap on Friday 17 May, 7-8.30p.m. at Adams Recreation Ground. Bring along any clothes or accessories in good condition to the start of the event. It costs £4 to take part, which includes refreshments and as many items as you would like to take away.



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Harry Nankivel

Does anyone know of a Harry Nankivel of St. Bees, at around the end of Victoria's time?

That question from Australia appeared on our village website some twenty years ago. To most who noticed it then it would probably have meant nothing. But the name Nankivel would have been familiar to many after Doug Sim's excellent Magic Lantern Show a few weeks ago. It seemed then that few in our turn-of-the-century village had been more ready than fun-loving Harry, to be in front of the camera.

He was first identified in the lantern slides by Doug's elderly uncle Joe, who in years gone by had been a fellow member, of our Priory Choir. Confirmation came when I sent to Australia the picture of a man and dog on our Gutter Foot bridge. Quickly there came an excited reply from a Peter Nankivel of Brisbane, explaining that as Harry's grandson he was anxious to piece together as much as could be discovered of his grandfather's story. And he already knew that self-same photograph, for it was one of the mementos his grandfather had taken with him when leaving for Australia decades before.

A happy correspondence with Peter continued for over eight years. It led to a delightful visit from Peter and some cousins, to with stay with my wife and I in St. Bees. By then, our separate efforts in our two parts of the world had gathered together almost the whole of the Harry Nankivel story.

Harry's father had been a minister in a dissenting Devon Church. What had brought him to Cumberland we do not know. It is nevertheless probable (though I cannot assert it) that his father was the unusually powerful clergyman remembered here in old village lore, for habitually defying the tollkeeper at the Abbey Farm tollgate, by hoisting his donkey across his shoulders to carry it toll-free over the line. It may be relevant that this tale had also been believed by Nankivel generations in France.

Something apparent from Harry's early days was the development of a fine tenor voice. Something else was his love of entertaining. We hear of him being engaged with choirs as well as the Priory's, and in village concerts, and of invitations to entertain at events such as the Bellringers' Seacote Dinner in honour of the newly arranged bells. And later there would be engagements with quite auspicious bodies further afield - the Cathedral Choir at Calcutta is another from which he earned a fine reference.

There is more I hoped to say about this earlier part of Harry's life. Next would come his employment at Fairladies here, and later he would become a family man in Australia. Then came service with the British and then the Australian military in France during World War One. I had not expected to submit more on the subject, but perhaps if space allows there may opportunity in another edition for a little more of the story.

Bob Jopling, Village History Group



St Bees WI

Hope you all have had a nice Easter. The better weather is hopefully just around the corner, which will be welcome after what has been a very long winter! Our April meeting was a bring and share buffet hosted by Lesley Rutherford. We shared some delicious food, both savoury and sweet, with a glass of wine or two and a good crack; a thoroughly enjoyable evening!

Our next meeting is on Monday 13 May at St Bees Village Hall (Hodgetts) at 7.30p.m. Our speaker is Maurice Steele who will be showing a film of Cumbria across the seasons; a chance to see different locations of our lovely county over a year. Do join us! Visitors: £4, New Memberships Annual Fee: £48.

For Annual Fee, we have 11 meetings organised per annum, (one meeting monthly), something different every month e.g. activities, crafts, speakers on all subjects, evenings out. You will also make lots of new friends! Included in the membership is 8 WI Life magazines delivered direct to your door, plus a booklet of handy money saving vouchers! So, what's not to like?! If you would like to join our group, just turn up on the night - you will be made most welcome! There are also refreshments and a raffle. Look forward to seeing you! Further details from our Facebook page (www.St-Bees-WI-facebook) or any WI Member.

Lunga's Biblical Observations

Hello. Lunga here. I have been helping Mammy read the Bible, especially when we are at the caravan. We looked at the passage in Ecclesiastes (a big word meaning assembly or preacher-man I believe) Ch3 v.1-8. It talks of a time and place for everything. This does not seem to have been written from a dog's point of view, so here goes:

There is a time for eating: always and whatever it is.

There is a time for sleeping: except when eating.

There is a time for barking: well, you need to say hello, or 'keep away'.

There is a time for walking: whenever not eating or sleeping.

There is a time for sniffing: alas Mammy always hurries me along - she does not understand.

There is a time for running: to chase another dog or squirrel - great fun.

There is a time for playing: with a toy or a friend.

And there is always time for Mammy: after all, I need to look after her.

Bye for now.

Lunga and his mammy Claire Summers.

St Bees Parish Council

Environmental project questionnaire

St Bees Parish Council would like to find out your views on possible projects to reduce the parish's environmental impact. We would like to hear which of these projects you feel should be a priority and whether you would like to get involved in their delivery. Our Climate Change Working Group has devised an online questionnaire, which is available via this link: <https://forms.gle/BHh6eubCqPyRXJ2v9> or by scanning the QR code below. Alternatively, contact amyinton1983@gmail.com for the link via email. If you don't have internet access and you need a paper copy, please contact Amy Linton (01946 447614).



Margie Simper and family in Concert

Saturday, 11th May, 7:30pm

Join us in St Bees Priory for a varied programme of Classical music on the Priory Organ, including organ solos and ensemble music with strings and voices.

Organ Henry Wallace FRCO Voice and violin Amelia Wallace

Organ, voice and violin Margie Simper LGSM Viola Adrian Simper

Entry free. Donations to be shared between the Priory and Wasdale Mountain Rescue. Please give generously.

St Bees Seagalls

We have had a busy start to the year and have welcomed a few new members, which is lovely. We had a social meet up with dinner in The Seacote and discussed ideas for the 2024 calendar.

Last month saw Dave (Property Doctor) chat to us about how he started out, his DIY stories and he provided us with useful advice re household security and insurance. Dave kindly donated his speakers fee to Village Hall funds.

Maggie once again managed to keep us all quiet while concentrating on making her metallic effect wall plaques. There were some good efforts and we all enjoyed ourselves and managed to avoid getting covered in shoe polish.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 7 May at 7p.m. in The Seacote. See back of the magazine for contact. All welcome.

News from the Village School

It's hard to believe that I have come to the end of my first term here at St Bees Village School; it seems like only yesterday that I was writing my welcome letter.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank parents, the children and the staff and governors for welcoming me into the school community; it really was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Priory for our Easter Service and I felt proud to stand up as the Headteacher of this fabulous school.

We have achieved much already this term with trips out, visitors in, parent/teacher meetings and the start of additional after school clubs to look forward to after Easter. Plans are already underway for the summer term, with a view to launching a revamped website and holding RWI phonic information sessions for parents & carers of our younger pupils. We look forward to what challenges the Summer term may hold!

Kate Davis, Headteacher

St Bees VSA

Good Friday? GREAT Friday!

We had so many visitors to this year's VSA Easter Fair. It was all go from the off. The kids in particular enjoyed the Lucky Dip, which was super popular...We had nearly 200 items up for grabs!

The crafts, egg hunt, the games and tasty treats were also well received, not just by the kids and their families, but some familiar St Bees residents.

Of course, it wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the parents and carers of the kids, donating the prizes for the Hamper Raffle and Lucky Dip. So, THANK YOU! We were blown away by the volume, it was amazing.

Our VSA Committee and event volunteers grafted hard to get the Easter Fair ready...all of your help is greatly appreciated.

St Bees Village Easter Trail

St Bees residents have outdone themselves again. No less than 22 Easter displays throughout the village, such a treat for locals and visitors to St Bees. What community spirit! Thanks to the display creators and anyone who bought our trail map. We hope you enjoyed seeing our village, all colourful and bright through the breezy Easter fortnight.

Coming soon! St Bees Bash will be here before we know it!

Get the date in your diaries. Saturday 29 June. Starting with the parade, with the school children leading us all to St Bees School field for an afternoon of festivities.

Follow our Facebook and Instagram page @stbeesvsa for updates."



We will strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, seeking to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Outcomes, some examples:

- We developed our biblical understanding of the place of the natural world in God's plans through series of worship services in the season of creation-tide
- We continued to enable more sustainable ways of using our resources in all our buildings including the Priory church and Vicarage community walled garden
- We equipped Christians with practical, everyday ways of living more sustainably through the centre pages of the parish magazine.



Next steps

In order to deliver our vision for the next generation we will be looking at a strategy for all our buildings "A Space to Be". To do this we will focus this year on strengthening governance and asking the local community to join us in this vision.

Thank you for all your support this past year and for the ways in which you may have made this village a happy place.

Please do get in touch if you would like to join one of our teams or to find out more about the Christian faith.

Rev Becky

**An extract from Rev Becky's contribution to the
Parish of St Mary and St Bega Annual Report 2023-2024**

In September, I took on the role of Priest in Charge of Egremont and Haile and stopped ministering in Crosslacon parish whilst continuing to minister in St Bees. This has greatly increased my workload across four churches in addition to the Priory but the churches are closer to home and there is a more natural link between the benefices of St Bees and Egremont and Haile.

The benefices are grateful for the support of a large team of retired clergy and lay people who have made it possible for each church to hold at least one service every Sunday. Their support has also been vital for funerals, weddings and baptisms across the parishes and to enable other one-off events to take place,

St Bees Priory hosted the Carlisle Diocese labyrinth and welcomed over school children this summer and was home to over twenty Christmas trees from organisations across the parish this winter. This, and many other regular and one-off events, would not have been possible without the dedication of a huge team of volunteers.

The Priory and grounds are beautifully and expertly maintained by another team of dedicated volunteers. This takes a lot of time, money, expertise and physical effort.

As we look to the future our focus is on developing the potential of our buildings and connecting with volunteers and who will want to share the history, ministry and mission of the Priory in the years to come.

Review of the year

Throughout 2023 we continued to embrace the God For All vision and the four themes; Care Deeply, Follow Daily, Speak Boldly and Tread Gently, appeared regularly on PCC agendas and in our standing committee meetings. Overall, having this vision has inspired us to tread new ground and deepened our existing ministries.



We will listen to our local communities, and respond in loving service, seeking to transform injustice, challenge oppression and pursue peace & reconciliation.

Outcomes, some examples:

- We have listened to our local community and have continued to run a “warm spot” but as a new Memory Cafe
- We have developed effective partnerships with other groups and organisations including local businesses, St Bees School and CAAS (Copeland Age Advisory service) in order to run the Memory Café.
- We have equipped Christians to be peace-makers and reconcilers in all spheres of life by running the “Difference Course” both online and in person.



We will help each other to follow Jesus more closely, seeking to grow as his disciples in all aspects of life, both corporately and as individuals

Outcomes, some examples:

- We encouraged growing Christian faith at “Friday Fun” and the “Story Service”
- We embedded a culture of ‘whole-life discipleship’ (Monday-Saturday as well as Sunday) through sermons and magazine articles
- We enabled people to encounter and study the Bible, and to explore its application for everyday life in Bible study groups
- We encouraged lay members to follow their calling and were pleased to see Wendy Mellor licensed as a Lay Reader in November.
- We listened to one another concerning the Church of England’s proposed prayers for Living in Love and Faith and chose to affirm these prayers for use in church services.



We will share our faith in Jesus Christ in everyday ways, seeking to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches. We’ll do this in both time-honoured & pioneering ways.

Outcomes, some examples:

- We facilitated giving everyone the opportunity to hear and respond to the good news of Christ by making the most of digital platforms including streaming the King’s coronation live and serving refreshments
- We helped Christians speak about Christian viewpoints on the important issues of today by raising contemporary topics in sermons, in PCC meetings and discussion groups
- We enabled more connections with under-represented groups in our churches, by welcoming children and adults to take part in and visit the Christmas Tree Festival, Easter experience, 900 years embroidery project and the Labyrinth project - facilitated by Carlisle Cathedral.

