

## St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge

01946 822279 or 07460 990631

revbgibbs@outlook.com

Retired Clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate:

The Rev'd Jim Marshall (01946 64259)

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

The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

The Rev'd Richard Lee MStJ, Rural Dean Calder (07841 398088)

### 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 Morning Worship - 10.30 am

2nd and 4th Sundays Holy Communion - 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](mailto: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](mailto:imcandrew@stbees.org.uk)

Priory Secretary - [enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk)

### Magazine production & distribution

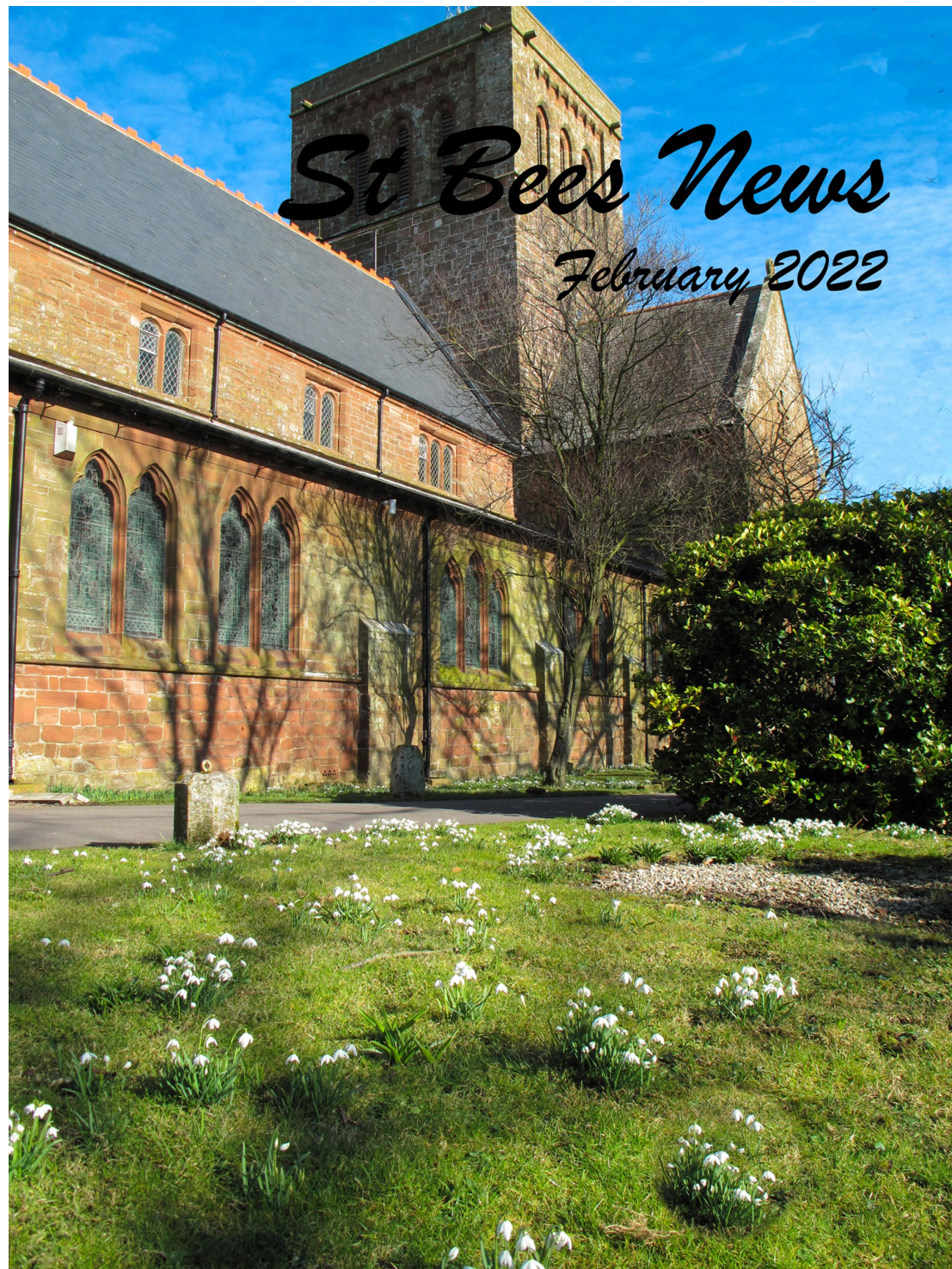
*This magazine is free but production costs are about 50p per copy. Contributions from the Parish Council and our advertisers, to whom we are most grateful, pay much of the costs. However this leaves the balance to be paid by the PCC. Donations to the Treasurer\* or your Magazine Distributor are most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

Circulation - 900 households in St Bees, Sandwith, Rottington, Linethwaite, Coulderton, Middletown, Nethertown.

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

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

Printed by Printpoint (01946) 64305





## St Bees Parish A B C

<b>Area Visitor / Good Neighbour Scheme</b>	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 - M Westhead (822674).
<b>Arts Society</b>	meets every two months on the last Wednesday of the month at 8.00 p.m. Venue to be arranged. Details from Dilys Brownrigg (822584) or Chris Robson 822468.
<b>Bellringing</b>	The Priory has a ring of 8 bells. Those interested in ringing or learning to ring, contact D Sim, 31 Main Street. Practice Wednesdays, 8.00 pm. Sundays, ring at 10.00 a.m.
<b>Brownies</b>	Brownies meet on Tuesdays. Further details can be obtained from Leanne Cherry, contact 07805154408.
<b>Cubs, Scouts, Beavers</b>	Cubs for children aged 8 - 10, meet on Thursdays, 6.30 - 8pm. Beavers meet on Thursdays (term time) from 5.00 - 6.00 pm. Details from Graham Young. They meet in CCF Hut, St Bees School. Scouts meet at Egremont.
<b>Choir</b>	rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).
<b>Churchwardens</b>	are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Rosalie McAndrew (822326), Malcolm Lightfoot, Wendy Mellor, & Tom Kelly.
<b>Councillors</b>	Copeland - Cllr Jeffrey Hailes- 01946 814819, 7.00 to 9.00 p.m Monday to Friday. Cumbria - Cllr Chris Whiteside, 01946 67575 or 07798667678. E-mail <a href="mailto:chris.whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk">chris.whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk</a>
<b>Electoral Roll</b>	is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church
<b>Fair Trade</b>	Fair trade food and craft items and catalogues available from Deb Lee, who can deliver. Tel 823470 - <a href="mailto:lee535877@aol.com">lee535877@aol.com</a>
<b>Finance</b>	The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system.
<b>First Responders</b>	provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497
<b>Football Association</b>	Contacts - Seniors Tony Barnett 590640. Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson.
<b>Freemasons</b>	St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 01946 64275 or <a href="http://www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk">www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk</a> .
<b>Friends of the Priory</b>	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, Details from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.
<b>Garden Society</b>	

<b>Guides</b>	meet on Tuesdays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. Further details can be obtained from Amanda Smith or email <a href="mailto:stbeesguides@yahoo.com">stbeesguides@yahoo.com</a>
<b>History Group</b>	works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.
<b>Over 60's Club</b>	meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.
<b>Parish Council</b>	The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Couderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, email <a href="mailto:pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk">pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk</a> , who will answer queries on civil parish matters.
<b>Parochial Church Council</b>	meets 10 times a year. Elections for 20 members 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 - Jon Mellor, <a href="mailto:jonmell@hotmail.co.uk">jonmell@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Playgroup (Toddler Group)</b>	meets every Wednesday in term time only, from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. in New College Hall, St Bees Priory. Details from Amy Linton - Email - <a href="mailto:amylinton1983@gmail.com">amylinton1983@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pop-in Cafe</b>	Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes.
<b>Pre-School</b>	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.
<b>Prayer Group</b>	meets on Thursdays from 1.45 - 3.15 p.m. in New College Hall . All denominations welcome.
<b>Priory Singers</b>	rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 8.00 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (Temp). (01946) 825307.
<b>Priory Web Site</b>	The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See <a href="http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk">http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk</a>
<b>Seagalls</b>	meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Judith 07772523742
<b>St Bees Triers</b>	Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm & 7pm. Email <a href="mailto:running@triers.uk">running@triers.uk</a> Tel. 823497 Web <a href="http://www.triers.co.uk">www.triers.co.uk</a>
<b>St Bees Youth Group</b>	meets 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 7.00 p.m. in New College Hall. All youngsters of secondary school age are welcome. See Priory website for details <a href="http://www.stbeespriory.co.uk/groups">www.stbeespriory.co.uk/groups</a> .
<b>Village School Association</b>	exists to raise funds for the school and to foster links between school and community. Secretary - via School - Tel. 822392.
<b>Village Hall</b>	Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).
<b>Village in Bloom</b>	Details from Eileen B Todd, 14 Main Street. St Bees. (Tel 822522).
<b>Village Web Site</b>	Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or <a href="mailto:imcandrew@stbees.org.uk">imcandrew@stbees.org.uk</a> Address is <a href="http://www.stbees.org.uk">http://www.stbees.org.uk</a>
<b>Women's Institute</b>	meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137.

## Calendar for February 2022

1	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Seagalls 'Women to Women Finance' - Seacote Hotel
6	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
		6 .00 pm	Evensong
8	Tuesday	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting, Priory
			<b>Magazine copy date</b>
13	Sunday	10.30 am	Holy Communion
14	Monday	7.30 pm	St Bees W.I, 'Tales of the Convent' - Seacote Hotel
18	Friday	9.30 am	Egremont Farmers Market & Fairtrade, Market Hall
20	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship
21	Monday	6.30 pm	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall
26	Saturday	11.00 am	Diocesan Mothers' Union Commissioning, Priory
27	Sunday	9.00 am	Family Story Service
		10.30 am	Holy Communion

### March

1	Tuesday		Pancake Day (To be confirmed)
2	Wednesday	10.00 am	Ash Wednesday service, Priory

## The Sandwith School Trust

The Sandwith School Trust – applications invited for 2021/2022 academic year

Funds are available for young people under the age of 25 years, in Sandwith, Rottington and a portion of Abbey Vale for such things as their academic materials, educational experiences, and Christian instruction. The trustees encourage children and young people to take advantage of this resource, and submit applications. Trustees generally welcome one application per academic year.

Grant application forms are available by emailing [enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk).

Completed applications should be received in March 2022 (date to be decided). They can be returned by post to the address on the form or by email to [enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk).

## Editor – March 2022 Magazine

The **March 2022** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Anthony Payne, Croeso, 83A Main Street, St Bees**, who would appreciate all contributions **not later than Tuesday 8 February** please.

Email: [payne.croeso@btinternet.com](mailto:payne.croeso@btinternet.com) Tel: 01946 822637

## St Bees News

## February 2022

There is nothing going on. Christmas is over. New year is done. Easter is late; Lent doesn't start until March. No pancakes until the 1<sup>st</sup>, no Lent lunches until the 6<sup>th</sup> March (all being well) Don't even start thinking about chocolate eggs, that's not for another six weeks at least. The church diary is almost empty. Social calendar is looking bare. Nothing is happening. Maybe that's why card and gift companies are so keen on Valentine's Day, something for us to spend money on whilst we're looking for something to do in dark, depressing, boring February...

In case you hadn't already guessed, your vicar is feeling grumpy and uninspired. I'm guessing I'm not alone.

There may be nothing going on but that doesn't mean there's nothing to do. Each of us are attempting tasks today that very few people will ever know about. We may be working harder than ever. Early in the morning and late into the night we're serving, studying, caring, praying, trying, failing, living and dying. We may have worries that we keep to ourselves, cares that we carry alone and dreams that we tell only to those who hold us close. Is this what February 2022 feels like for you? If so, you're not alone.

On Saturday your grumpy and uninspired vicar ventured into the garden for the first time this year. It was time for a big tidy and a think about what to grow in 2022. But as I stomped into the great outdoors, heavy footed and ready for action I was stopped in my tracks by the sight of a tiny splash of brilliant white in amongst the gravelly ground. A snowdrop had pushed its way into the world. As I knelt closer, I noticed that wasn't just one but dozens across the path, some in bud some just green and waiting for another second of sunshine.

Every year I know this day will come, but it always catches me by surprise. It seems too early in the year for flowers. But still they come. The sight of them reminds me that it will soon be Candlemas, the day we remember Jesus' presentation at the temple when he was a baby, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. In the Gospel of Luke we read that Mary learns that day that her child would be opposed and a sword would pierce her own soul. We can hardly imagine the battle in her spirit that she kept quietly hidden. Snowdrops are associated with this festival and are placed in a tiny vase on the Priory altar on this day each year. The tiny white flowers remind us of the fragility and beauty of the gift of God in his Son, Jesus, and the enduring faith of Mary, his mother.

There is nothing going on in February...except there is. Under the surface of our lives, the face we show the world, each of us are fighting our own private battles. May the thought of a snowdrop bring you hope this February.

With love from Becky

## Prory News

**Christmas Services in the Priory** -The Christmas season of services were well-supported, even with distancing restrictions, with wonderful choral carols, lifting spirits in uncertain times. Many people could celebrate the festival in person or via live-stream, and the services were appreciated by all. Special thanks to organisers and clergy, to Rev. Becky, organist and the church choir enhanced by students and extra choristers.

**The Christingle service** – Much enjoyed by all families who attended, despite restrictions with candle-lighting and serving refreshments. Unfortunately the Orchestra could not accompany the Christingle carols, due to their leader Alison recovering from her hospital operation. Their music and melodies were sadly missed, but Frank Bowler saved the day with organ & piano carols. Many thanks to Deb Lee for the Take-home bags of treats and to Becky for the Heart of Christmas booklets for adults. Generous donations to the Children's Society raised £248.65 - paid in cash or on the new Contactless device. Many thanks to all who contributed to the occasion.

**Sincere Thanks** go to all who decorated the priory so beautifully – to the Lightfoot/McAndrew team for decorating the Priory Christmas tree; to Colin Wadey and Jack Hale installing the tree in position; and again to them for dismantling the tree after Twelfth Night. Thanks also to the children at the Crib Service who decorated the Nativity stable with figures and animals.

**Grateful Thanks** - to John Kennedy and Jack Hale for hoisting the illuminated cross onto the belfry tower - a dazzling sight shining out over the village, impervious to storm Arwen! Thanks too to Doug Sim for floodlighting the Priory for the festive season, in place until Candlemas. The improved lighting helped also to guide visitors to the Tree Festival in dark winter days.

**Christmas Gifts under the Priory Tree** – Thank you everyone for your thoughtful and kind gifts to our senior St Beghians locally and in Care Homes. They were delighted to be remembered and to receive a present in a doorstep chat or visit.

**Diocesan Mothers' Union service** will be held in the Priory on Saturday 26 February at 11.00 a.m. when Deb Lee will be commissioned as President of Carlisle Diocese Mothers' Union by Bishop James. Please follow the Covid guidelines in church, and also please park in Barony carpark, not in the church grounds.

**Parish magazine** - Many Thanks go to everyone contributing to the success of the St Bees News – editors and distributors, desktop publisher, printers, writers of articles and of course all the generous donors contributing funds to its publication monthly. You may be surprised to hear that it's read worldwide – via postal or online copy!

### *Priory Flower Rota for February*

6	Dr Claire Summers	13	Rosalie McAndrew
20	Carole Smith	27	Flower Fund

Grateful thanks to all our flower-arrangers and to donors to the Flower Fund – and to Pat Crichton for her beautiful Christmas floral arrangements in the Priory. The church looked glorious!

## News From The Village School

We hope you are all keeping well. Despite the continued difficulties due to the pandemic we have had a great start to the new year. The children came back into school at the start of term, refreshed after the Christmas break and have been working very hard across the curriculum.

Our school councillors are supporting their fellow classmates through class discussions about relevant topics. Sadly, we have been unable to meet as a group during current Covid operations in school but we hope to be able to do so as the term moves on.

We are working hard to ensure fundraising continues within school even though the VSA are no longer operating. Anyone in the community can take part in our school lottery at [www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk), find St Bees Village School and purchase your ticket for just £1.00 each.

Stay safe.

*Emma Sharp*

## Lunga's News

Hello. Lunga here. A Happy New Year to you all. By the time you read this mammy tells me I shall be one year old - not quite sure what this means but I believe my brothers and sisters will be one as well. Funny that! I hope you had a good Christmas. I had parcels to open - the paper was good fun! I have a lovely new soft blanket and another bone to chew - I like to chew most things! Mammy's friend gave me a stocking full of doggie treats - so far, I've only had a few and that packaging was good to eat too! Did you like all the twinkly lights? Did you see church with its special light? I do not know what the lights mean but they help us walk in the dark. Mammy tells me it will get lighter soon. I enjoy going on the sand when it is quieter as all the other dogs and people are so interesting. It's hard walking into the wind, don't you find, as it blows my ears? I like running in the fields as well, so I may see you about. All the best.

*Claire Summers Lunga's mammy*

## St Bees WI News

Our first meeting of 2022 was held at the Seacote Hotel on Monday January 10th, it was a Scottish evening, with Scottish themed Quiz by Jon Mellor. The winning Quiz Team was 'The Ladies Macbeth' and 'The Best Dressed Scot' was won by Angela Blair. Thank you to all those who brought Scottish items for display, from beautiful kilts, maps, books, a doorstep Scotch Terrier called Hamish and even a Haggis! This was followed by refreshments and raffle. Thank you to all those who braved a cold dark January night to support us, a great evening was had by all!

Our next meeting is on Monday February 14th at the Seacote Hotel at 7.30 p.m. 'Tales of the Convent', by local lady Jo Walker, this is not to be missed as there will be some hilarious true stories to be told courtesy of Jo. There will be raffle and refreshments, the competition is a bible or religious item. New members and visitors most welcome. See Village notice boards, [www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI](https://www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI) or contact Roxanne on 823137.

L A W R E N C E E D E N

*Designers of Fine Kitchens*

*For stunning kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms*

*We offer the complete service from initial  
design to full installation*

Unit 1b Sneckyeat Industrial Estate, Whitehaven, CA28 8PF

01946 67450    [www.lawrenceeden.co.uk](http://www.lawrenceeden.co.uk)

### **Hartleys Beach Shop and Café**

Refreshments and meals  
served daily

Shop stocks a wide range of  
groceries and other goods  
And of course the full range  
of our famous ice creams

### **REMEDIAL BODYWORK**

#### **BOWEN THERAPY**

Tel: 07832 219400

DAWN MILLS  
Registered Homeopath and Bowen Therapist



[www.dawnmillshomeopathy.com](http://www.dawnmillshomeopathy.com)

#### **We Sell & Deliver**

Kiln Dried Softwood, Hardwood & Pizza Oven Logs  
BSL Virgin Woodchip - BSL EN Plus A1 Wood Pellets  
Kindling - Coal - Smokeless Fuel - Hotmax Fuel logs  
- Firelighters

Peat Free Compost - Screened Topsoil  
Decorative Bark & Woodchip - Sawdust

#### **Waste Recycling Services**

We also offer recycling services for  
green/brush waste and timber.



**West Coast  
Composting Ltd**  
Wilson Pit Yard  
Wilson Pit Road  
Whitehaven  
Cumbria  
CA28 9QJ



Tel: 01946 328008 or 07795 113434  
Email: [info@westcoastcomposting.co.uk](mailto:info@westcoastcomposting.co.uk)  
Web: [www.west-coast-group.co.uk](http://www.west-coast-group.co.uk)

### **MUNCASTER CASTLE & PENNINGTON HOTELS**

#### **Enjoy a great day out at Muncaster Castle**

Castle tours, bird shows and beautiful gardens to visit and enjoy. For up to date information and tickets please visit our website

[www.muncaster.co.uk](http://www.muncaster.co.uk) or call 01229 717614

Why not become a "Friend of Muncaster" a great deal for those living locally who visit regularly.

Calling all lovers of wildlife & birds of prey - Ask us about our adoption packages, a great gift for any bird lover supporting the Hawk & Owl Centre. Donations always welcome for our conservation projects

#### **Pennington Hotels**

Accommodation and great food can be found at the Pennington Hotel in Ravenglass and Sella Park Country House Hotel at Calderbridge

Both venues offer great food and the perfect place for events and weddings, conference and corporate packages are available. Holiday Cottages available for that perfect staycation and getaway

[www.muncaster.co.uk/staywithus](http://www.muncaster.co.uk/staywithus) or call 01229 717222

**We look forward to seeing you soon**

## **stamperlloyd** bathrooms & kitchens

01946 591384

#### **PLANNING - DESIGN - INSTALLATION**

A family business where quality and customer satisfaction  
is paramount

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**

Showroom opening times:

**MONDAY - FRIDAY 9-5: SATURDAY 9-4**

5a Sneckyeat Industrial Estate, Whitehaven, CA28 8PF



## Friends of the Priory Report January 2022

The Friends were involved in two events in December to celebrate the festive season.

We held our traditional Christmas Concert on 17 December in a programme arranged by Maureen Barratt and performed by Frank and choristers, Neil Bettinson on accordion, various readers with seasonal poems, and the audience joining in the carols. The Mummers rounded off the evening with their 'King of Egypt' melodrama! We raised £175 thanks to everyone there.

Members also produced an attractive decorated tree for the Christmas Tree Festival – this was adorned with banner and bells, and stars illustrating their Priory projects over the years.

Our Newsletter of the past year will be sent out to members in due course. A programme of events is being planned for 2022 including lectures; a concert in May by Egremont Brass Band; a Choral Evensong service & Tea for the Friends Festival Sunday in June; and a Midsummer Songs & Poetry evening. Thanks to all our members for their support.

### From the Priory Registers

#### Christian Funeral

21 December Peter Agnew 43 Seacroft Drive, St Bees  
16 January Stanley Martin Thompson Gables Care Home - Formerly Bega Flats  
May God's blessing be upon you and your families.

**Deepest Sympathy** is extended to the family and friends mourning the sad loss of Peter Agnew who died in December after a courageous battle against cancer. He was well-known in the village as a colleague and regularly assisting Alison at the Albert Hotel. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Alison and daughters Megan and Sophie, and their families. Greatly missed but always lovingly remembered.

**Sincere Sympathy** is extended to the family and friends mourning the sad passing of Keith Hayes of Whitehaven, a dearly loved husband, father, son and brother, who died at home after a brave fight against an aggressive cancer over recent months. Keith's family was known to many friends at church – as the husband of Clare a chorister and dad of Lucy and Rhys both baptised at the Priory, and son-in-law of Philip & Maureen Barratt. We keep them all in our hearts and minds and treasure our memories of a remarkable young man and his cherished family.

**Love & Prayers** for healing and comfort go out to all recuperating from operations and therapies, thinking of Rexie Hindley in Workington Community Hospital; and others known to us receiving care and support at home. Many Blessings on you all.

**Please note - Priory Singers have restarted. 7.30 pm weekly in Old College Hall. You are welcome to come along and join them.**

## TRIPLE TTT

### THE KIND OF THE WORK WE CARRY OUT:

Grass & Hedge Cutting ♦ Moss/Weed Control  
Fence Building ♦ Bricklaying ♦ Paving ♦ Roofing  
Rubbish/Garden Waste Removal ♦ Patio/Driveways  
Full Design & Landscaping ♦ Tree Surgery  
♦ Pressure Washing ♦ Patio/Driveway Cleaning  
Window Cleaning ♦ Gutter Cleaning & Installation  
Soffit & Fascia Board Cleaning ♦ Painting

01900 810008

enquiries@triplettt.co.uk • www.triplettt.co.uk

### St Bees Post Office Main Street, St Bees

Newsagent, groceries,  
Off-licence, gifts, etc.  
Car Tax & Lottery  
Tel. (01946) 822343

### Seacote Hotel & Holiday Park

Sunday Lunch 2 Courses - £10.95  
Young Diners from £5.95

Bar Meals daily - 5.00 to 8.30 p.m.  
Refurbished Function Room ideal for  
Weddings - Christmas  
Funerals - Meetings

Tel - (01946) 822300  
www.seacote.com  
email - tom@seacote.com

### Ian Shackley Painter and Decorator

Carpet & Vinyl Fitter, Underlay,  
Grippers. Bars supplied  
Laminate flooring fitted  
Gardening work undertaken

Tel 01946 823050  
e-mail ishackley@btinternet.com

## F. IRVING & SON

— Funeral Directors —

24hr Personal Service Family Firm Private Chapel of Rest

*A complete funeral service with a modern refurbished funeral home,  
from a family run business proudly serving the local community.  
Now in its third generation, with over 60 years of dedicated  
traditional and caring service.*

COMPLETE FUNERAL PACKAGES / PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS  
(please ask us for details)

152-153 Main Street • Frizington • Cumbria CA26 3SB  
Tel 01946 810473  
www.irvingsfunerals.com

## About Our "Royal Hotel"

1847.... and the village of St. Bees. The time and place, would you think, for a luxury Hotel? Thomas Tyson of Whitehaven thought so, and the building we now know as 'Grindal' resulted. But it began as 'The Royal Hotel', before becoming in turn 'The Railway Hotel', 'The St. Bees Hotel' and briefly, 'Brindle's'....and then, with the new century, part of the School.



Mr. Tyson outlined his thinking in the 'Cumberland Pacquet' – but the long-winded article, with its strange use of capitals, is too lengthy to give fully here. It deals first with the Lease (nine hundred and ninety-nine years, quite usual for St. Bees) and then with the funding. The three hundred Shares at £10 each – equivalent to nearly £300,000 today – were quickly taken up.

The 'Pacquet' account went on:

*'... it will be situated opposite the Railway Station at St. Bees, thereby giving it superior Advantage and Convenience for the Trade. St. Bees has superior Claims upon the District by the College and the School, where between Four Hundred and Five Hundred Persons are being constantly educated for the Established Church, and where a first class Education is given to the Pupils of the Free Grammar School.*

*It will be needless to say much about the Advantages which the St. Bees Royal Hotel will afford to every Class of Persons ...*

*The Sea Coast of St. Bees has been admitted by the Medical Faculty to possess purer water than any lying between Ardrrossan in Scotland and the Orms Head in Wales, simply by its Situation, receiving the Waters of St. George's Channel before they become intermixed with the Sands embedding the whole of the Coast, and fresh waters running thereon.*

*The Hotel will possess every Accommodation that is found to exist in first-class Establishments; it will also have Tea Gardens, Bowling Greens, and other places of Public Amusement. Every Article shall be of the best Description ..."*

According to Mr. Tyson, St. Bees is protected from severe coastal weather, and has the finest bathing around. (Encouragement maybe for Mr Hodgson at the Queen's, for he promptly added six bathing-machines to the four already on the beach). A hotel in the village would bring advantages to everyone, increased property value being one. Mr. Tyson foresaw others linked to the Earl of Lonsdale's improvement plans, which apparently included a public swimming pool. Wishful thinking, perhaps.

However that may be, the end of 1847 saw the Hotel almost complete. There were some, though, who did not want it here, and were ready to go to extreme lengths to see that it never opened. I hope to say a little about these in the magazine's next issue.

Bob Jopling, Village History Group

## Keith Singleton's

### For all your gardening needs

Full range of gardening composts  
and wide choice of plants for house and garden

Open 7 days a week from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

Seaview Nurseries  
Nethertown, CA22 2UQ  
01946 820412

[www.keithsingletonhorticulture.com](http://www.keithsingletonhorticulture.com)

## Local Councillors

### Borough Councillor

Councillor Jeffrey Hailes

Telephone 01946 814819

[Jeffrey.Hailes@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:Jeffrey.Hailes@copeland.gov.uk)

### County Councillor

Councillor Chris Whiteside

Telephone: 01946 67575 (home) or 07798 667678 (mobile)

[Chris.Whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk)

## Stonehouse Farm

Friendly family run B&B located in a large modernised Georgian farmhouse in the centre of St Bees

Tel. 01946 822224

[csmith.stonehouse@btinternet.com](mailto:csmith.stonehouse@btinternet.com)

[www.stonehousefarm.net](http://www.stonehousefarm.net)



Unit A23, Haig Enterprise Park,  
Kells, Whitehaven, CA28 9AN

[www.holtsframing.co.uk](http://www.holtsframing.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/holtsframing](http://www.facebook.com/holtsframing)



# Brockbanks Solicitors

A Family Oriented Firm, Providing High Levels of Service & Attention to Detail

- Will writing & Probate Services • Accident Claims (no win, no fee)
- Buying and Selling a Property • Commercial Contracts & Leases
- Crime & Motoring • Employment • Family & Matrimonial
- Lasting Powers of Attorney

To make an appointment, please contact our Whitehaven office on  
(01946) 692194. Home visits also available.

COCKERMOUTH

01900 827222

MARYPORT

01900 813488

WORKINGTON

01900 603563

CARLISLE

01228 521383

Also KESWICK as Oglethorpe & Broatch 01768 772125

[www.brockbanks.co.uk](http://www.brockbanks.co.uk)



## Letter from Michelle - Mukinge Hospital, Zambia

Dear Friends,

Did you know that the 17<sup>th</sup> November was World Prematurity Day? This is held to raise awareness of the challenges and burden of preterm birth globally. Worldwide prematurity is the leading cause of death in children under five. 15 million babies are born premature every year one million of these babies will not survive. In Zambia the preterm birth rate is estimated to be 13% (compared to 8% in the UK) and Mukinge is no exception, our neonatal nursery has a constant flow of babies coming through its doors.

Recently I have been helping out in the neonatal nursery, this is where premature babies are cared for until they are big enough to join their Mums on the ward, they need to reach 1.8kg to go to the ward and 2kg to go home. Some of these babies are with us for just a short time but many are with us for weeks if not months. The mums form a little community helping each other out, supporting each other as they care for their babies giving two hourly feeds, changing them and holding them. Days when a baby graduates to the ward or goes home are a cause for celebration with singing and dancing (literally). Days when a baby becomes sick or dies are sad days for all. The care we can offer premature babies is very basic compared to developed countries. We can keep them warm, feed them, give oxygen, CPAP, antibiotics and U/V light treatment when needed but we can't ventilate or give the many advanced cares that are available in other places.

I love getting to know the mothers and share in their joy as their babies gain weight, come off oxygen and reach other milestones. Some days however are hard, when a baby isn't gaining weight and we don't know why, when they have a heart defect that we can't fix, when they need more respiratory support than we can give. It's hard when you know a baby is unlikely to survive which is the reality for most of our extreme prem babies.

On a day when I was feeling down about some of our babies, I was reminded that it is not always as hopeless as it seems. One of our doctors was telling me about a lady who had brought her daughter to Mukinge to deliver her first child. They were not local and had travelled some distance past several hospitals where she could have delivered. When asked "why Mukinge?" the lady said her own daughter had been born very early and she had been delivered at Mukinge where she was cared for by Sister Michelle. I was touched that she remembered me by name but it also reminded me that there is hope and despite the odds these babies sometimes do make it.

It is always lovely when one of these babies come back to see us as the little girl in the photo did. She was born 10 weeks early and had a difficult start to life spending many weeks in hospital before finally going home. Through caring for these babies we are able, I hope, to share a little of God's love and compassion for these mums and their precious babies.



### The Albert Hotel

1 Finkle Street, St Bees

#### Free House

B&B Accommodation available  
Home made Sunday Lunches &  
Evening Meal  
Small Parties welcome  
Dining Room always open  
01946 822345

### Afternoon Tea at Stone House Farm, St Bees by B's Bakes

Booking essential  
Birthday, Anniversary and Wedding Cakes  
Tray bakes, lots of varieties  
Special birthdays and children's  
parties catered for  
**Contact Jo Beattie**  
07564 936754 / 01946 822224  
j.beattie.stonehouse@outlook.com



## CUMBERLAND STOVE SERVICES

- Stove and Fireplace Installation
- Flue Lining
- Chimney Sweeping
- Stove Maintenance and Repair
- FREE NO OBLIGATION  
SURVEY AND ESTIMATE

Email: [enquiries@cumberlandstoveservices.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cumberlandstoveservices.co.uk)

Tel: 01900 268737 Mob: 07702112406



# JJ HRYB

## Plumbing & Heating

Bathrooms, showers, wet-rooms  
Underfloor heating  
General plumbing requirements

**Installation and servicing of gas and  
oil fired central heating and appliances**



307154



C3945

Irton, Holmrook, Cumbria  
tel: 019467 24175  
mobile: 07855 806637  
[john@hrybltd.com](mailto:john@hrybltd.com)



## St Bees School

It's finally here - the start of the Spring Term! In true St Bees style, we've jumped right in and hit the ground running.. Our fantastic teachers have been busy planning over the Christmas period to ensure that we're starting 2022 off right.

But first, we would like to welcome our new international students who have joined us this term. We have 8 new students who have joined us from Germany, Spain, Hong Kong and China. They have made an incredible impression on the staff and students, and are already settling in to life at St Bees, both in school and in the Boarding House.

Our teachers have been planning some creative, hands- on lessons to fully engage students and their brains after the Christmas break.

Miss Cole has been guiding our junior students through the process of learning emergency first aid. From knowing what to do when coming across a casualty and COVID-safe CPR techniques, to how to perform the correct recovery position, students now have a basic understanding of what to do if they come across someone who needs their help. These are vital life skills that we want every St Bees student to be able to develop - you never know when they may need to be used to save someone's life.

We are finally underway with our first school drama production - *Alice in a Musical Wonderland*. Students from all years were invited to attend a relaxed audition on Monday evening this week for a number of roles. We were extremely impressed with the performances we saw. Students will also be helping Mrs Bettinson with the planning and directing processes, as well as special effects makeup, set and prop design. We will be releasing more information about the performance in the coming months, so keep an eye out on our social media platforms and The Hive... let's just say we are **very** excited!

Eco Club students are also feeling re-energised after a cold, dark winter and are raring to get going to make our school an even greener place to be. As such, they are asking the school community for donations of any gardening equipment or seeds//cuttings/young plants to help start off the spring planting season in a few months. If you do have any items or plant seeds/cuttings, please get in touch with us.

Finally, as St Bees School continues to grow, welcoming more students and bringing more facilities back online, we will recommence using the "Wallside" field (the field next to the Priory) with immediate effect. We kindly ask all the lovely dog owners of St Bees to please keep dogs on a lead when walking along the Dandy path. Due to there being some dog mess on the field and for the safety of our students, we therefore cannot allow dogs to be on the field itself. If for any reason your dog does stray onto the field and defecate, it is absolutely imperative for health and safety reasons that this is collected in a bag and disposed of appropriately.

## Oddfellows Arms

92 Main Street

St Bees

**Charity Quiz**  
**1st Wednesday of each month**

**Small parties by arrangement**

**Tel. (01946) 822317**

## St Bees Village Hall (Hodgetts)

Available for occasional or regular hire

WiFi, broadband, 55" TV Screen

Small stage, lighting and sound systems

A licensed bar can be provided

Charges: £12 per hour, max £50 per session.

Discount for regular bookings

For more details and availability

Contact Bookings Secretary: 01946 823772



## High House Cottage St. Bees

Ideal base for holidays or family visits

Sleeps 7 in 4 lovely bedrooms

Facebook.com/highhousecottage

@highhousecottage\_stbees

Stephen 07834 040 079

Highhousecottage@hotmail.com

## COINS WANTED BY SERIOUS COLLECTOR



**Sovereigns**  
Paying at the moment  
a minimum of £220

If you have collectable coins of any nationality, tokens, medals, bank notes, jewellery you wish to sell, please contact Tom on 01946 841972,

I have been a numismatist since 1968 and offer generous  
and fair prices for material for sale.

For each and any transaction I will donate a set %age to St. Bees church funds.

## Michelle's letter - continued

Many of you have asked how the COVID situation is here. I am happy to report that for three weeks now our COVID ward has had no patients. There are still some cases in the community but not as many as before.

Thank you for your continued interest in the work here at Mukinge, I hope this letter finds you well.

Love

*Michelle*

Mukinge Hospital, PO Box 120092, Kasempa, Zambia

Email: [michelle.proctor@sim.org](mailto:michelle.proctor@sim.org) mobile and whatsapp: +260 977719486

## INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER David Hopkinson IFA Ltd

### We give advice on

- reviewing your existing investments
- making a new investment
- how to draw your pension
- protecting your assets from inheritance tax
- funding for long term care fees

### Expert advice - Value for money

Home appointments available – free initial meeting

The Old Vicarage, Newton Arlosh, Wigton, CA7 5ET

016973 52446

[www.davidhopkinsonifa.co.uk](http://www.davidhopkinsonifa.co.uk)

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

# robinson+co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND BUSINESS ADVISERS

[www.robinsonco.co.uk](http://www.robinsonco.co.uk)

- Independent Financial Advice ■ Book-keeping Services
- Planning for the Future ■ New Business Advice
- Retirement Planning ■ Payroll services ■ Sage Software
- Investments ■ Accountancy ■ Taxation ■ Audit

Offices in Whitehaven, Workington & Gosforth

Tel: 01900 603623, 01946 692423 or 019467 25808



Registered to carry on audit work in the UK by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for investment business

## Milburns Solicitors

you don't have to go  
out  
of the area for  
**specialist  
legal advice**  
Milburns have the  
**local solution**

25/26 Church Street  
WHITEHAVEN  
01946 694818  
[www.milburns.org](http://www.milburns.org)

Need specialist advice?  
Get in touch!



ST BEES SCHOOL  
WHERE WEST MEETS EAST  
DAY & BOARDING  
Ages 11 - 18



The UK's ONLY Fusion Curriculum  
... call today!

+44 (0) 1946 828000 [admissions@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@stbeesschool.co.uk)  
[stbeesschool.co.uk](http://stbeesschool.co.uk)

### St Bees Swimming Pool



General swim sessions are now  
available EVERY DAY at  
St Bees School pool.  
Check out our website to find  
the up-to-date timetable.

<https://www.stbeesschool.co.uk/sports-and-facilities/swimming-pool/>



## *Parish Council News*

**Christmas events** – the traditional Santa Parade which took place on 7 December was a great success once again. A sum of £229.84 was collected in aid of the RNLI. The Parish Council would like to thank Santa, his elves and his chauffeur, as well as all those who helped with putting up the tree and lights. The tree has been a welcome colourful sight in the centre of the village and it has been decided to leave it in place until Candlemas to brighten up a rather dreary January! A local resident kindly offered the use of his electricity supply and the Parish Council has agreed to make a donation to Hospice at Home in lieu of payment.

**Budget & Precept for 2022/23** – at its December meeting the Parish Council approved its budget for the next financial year. The council will continue to progress the project to create more off-street parking adjacent to Station car park as well as funding repairs to the play area at the beach and maintaining the toilets. A sum has also been included to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The precept has been set at £52000, a 4% increase on the current year.

**Parish Noticeboard at Rottington** – the noticeboard is now back in place at Rottington following some repairs.

**Fairladies footpath lights** – The two faulty lights have now been repaired. The old fittings had become obsolete and have been replaced by LED fittings which should prove more reliable. The routine testing of the lights will also be done in the coming few weeks.

**Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** -June may still seem a long way away but the Parish Council is beginning to make plans to mark the Queen's Jubilee including lighting a beacon. We know that some local groups already have plans and ideas for Jubilee events. We would like to hear from those involved with local groups so that we can share ideas and co-ordinate plans. If anyone has ideas or would like to volunteer to help organise events, please contact Hayley Monaghan ([hjmonaghan3@aol.com](mailto:hjmonaghan3@aol.com)) or Jane Donaldson([pc\\_clerk@stbees.org.uk](mailto:pc_clerk@stbees.org.uk)) or contact us via our Facebook page.

**Beach Issues** – CBC has informed us that work is going to be done on the lights at the beach car park which have been in a poor state for some time. They are also going to provide two additional picnic tables for the beach area.

**New bus service** -the introduction of the new Seascale to Whitehaven bus service which will call at St Bees has again been postponed because of a shortage of drivers. It is now expected that the service will begin in the spring.

**Next Meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 21 February 2022 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

## *The Triangulation Pillars of St Bees Parish*

Many of us will have experienced the reassurance of seeing the familiar shape of a trig point (or pillar) emerge from the mist as we reach the top of a hill. Others will reach them in the expectation of a good view. Yet more will have posed for photos whilst standing on them.

These pillars have their origins in the Ordnance Survey 'Retriangulation of Great Britain' carried out between 1935 and 1962. With the advent of satellite mapping many are now redundant. There are two Pillars within our parish, (of 6,872 across Great Britain.) The first of these is Stanley, built in 1949, and located above Bell House Farm. NX979139, altitude 364ft.

The second pillar is Rottington, which was built in February 1938. It is the 7th oldest in the UK. It will be found at NX952134 and is incidentally the highest point in the parish, at 463ft. Unassuming in appearance, it has long lost its traditional white coat, but in the annals of the Ordnance Survey history it is PP1, (Primary Pillar 1) When the surveyors returned from their fieldwork to their offices in Southampton they presumably got a large sheet of paper out on the table, marked a point on it, and said, "Right, that's Rottington."

They would then draw the angles to the other nearby primary pillars, in this case Black Combe (PP2) and Skiddaw (PP3). Gradually a network of primary triangles (approximately 383) would cover the whole of the England, Scotland and Wales. Northern Ireland had its own survey, but some measurements were taken across the Irish Sea to make sure Ireland was in the right place! Rottington is still used by the Ordnance Survey as a tracking point for their modern satellite mapping programmes.

Once the primary triangles were complete they were divided into secondary triangles, which were in turn divided into a network of tertiary triangles, of which the Stanley pillar forms a part. As a rough rule of thumb triangulation pillars are approximately 3 miles apart. In clear weather it is always possible to see at least two other pillars from the one you are standing by. Once inside a tertiary triangle local features were used to form a more intricate network of smaller and ever smaller triangles. In the case of our parish Fairladies and Coneyside Farms, along with North Head Lighthouse all featured as triangulation stations.

In Cumbria there were a total of 204 pillars, of which 191 remain, ranging from Sca Fell, 3,207ft, PP92, and confusingly named as it is actually on Scafell Pike, to the lowest at Beckfoot, north of Allonby, at a modest 39ft above sea level.



Rottington Pillar & Solway Firth

## Grassroots

**Sincere Thanks** to all friends, families and societies in St Bees Parish and beyond, who sent Christmas messages and donations for the December magazine. You all helped to raise a wonderful total of £570 - that's £495 for the Priory and £75 for the Children's Society. Thank you all for your generosity and support.

**Serving Refreshments in church** – The PCC considered carefully the risks of restarting catering in church and decided to delay serving refreshments after services or at 'Pop-In' until the Covid increase in cases locally has levelled off or decreased. We are well aware that this will come as a great disappointment to those who are isolated at home and longing to meet friends and enjoy a conversation. Please be assured that we will review this decision at the end of January and inform worshippers and parishioners hopefully of a date to restart 'Pop-In' or Sunday refreshments – by email, facebook or word of mouth.

**Special thanks to Debbie Bowler** for her new notelets and postcards on sale in the Priory, featuring her photos of the church, St Bega's statue in Beckside garden, and of the beach – available for 50p or £1.

**January Beach Clean** – Well done to Amy Linton and her helpers beach-cleaning on Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup>. The 24 volunteers worked for 2 hours cleaning up the beach and removing 16 bags of plastic waste. "Another successful event organised by parish councillor Amy Linton" commented Copeland councillor Jeff Hailes. Well worth the effort – protecting sealife & birdlife from lethal plastic ties, netting and twine which can cause slow and painful strangulation to creatures.

**Lowes Court Gallery** would like to thank all their customers, supporters and volunteers for their contributions over the past year. In the light of high number of Covid cases locally, the reopening will be delayed until Tuesday 8 February to protect customers and staff. The February feature wall will be dedicated to the artwork of local Primary School children. Meantime do check online and view new products for sale – clocks and mugs in the Cumbrian dialect, cat embroideries, and much more.

**Florence Mine Arts Centre** – is closed for the winter break and renovation, but will reopen to the public on Saturday 12 February, when we will be unveiling a new group exhibition and planning further exciting new developments. Opening times – Wednesdays to Sundays, 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.

**PC Pitstop to the rescue!** The February magazine production was endangered by the DTP editor's computer starting the New Year by expiring. Everything pointed to a major failure so I had two concerns - one was getting it repaired quickly and the second was getting the parts needed given the current shortage of computer chips. However PC Pitstop in Egremont was able to quickly source and obtain the necessary parts and get the machine up and running and ready to produce this edition. Thank you Jimmy!

## St Bees Priory Christmas Tree Festival 2021

I hope that you were all able to visit the Christmas Tree Festival at some point over the festive period - it was absolutely wonderful to see such a huge variety of beautiful trees adorning the Priory!

The results from the 2021 Christmas Tree Festival are as follows:

- |     |                |                            |
|-----|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1st | Tree number 1  | Carl Sharpe Roofing        |
| 2nd | Tree number 4  | Egremont Ambulance Station |
| 3rd | Tree number 19 | St Bees Community Garden   |

Huge congratulations to everyone who entered and a special well done to Carl Sharpe Roofing who won the £50 prize! (Carl Sharpe roofing wished for their prize money to be shared between the RNLI and the Priory- such a lovely gesture, thank you!). There were a total of 327 votes counted and we have raised £336.95p through entry fees and donations which will be shared between St Bees RNLI and the Priory.

The plan is to have another Christmas Tree Festival in 2022 so get your thinking caps on and get planning - it's never too early! As with any event, your feedback would be appreciated - any feedback (or ideas for the 2022 festival) can be emailed to Sarah George at [sarahgeorge.bees@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgeorge.bees@gmail.com).

Thank you once again to everyone who took part, visited, voted and donated - it truly lit up the Priory in style over the festive period!

## Seagalls

The Seagalls held their Christmas Meeting on 7th December in the Seacote Hotel, where a buffet was enjoyed by all prior to our Christmas Crafting session with Maggie. We made Christmas Elves with wool and Paper Tree Angels. Maggie showed great skill and patience and we had great feedback from everyone involved.

The decorated trees in the Priory proved a great success and we look forward to participating again this year.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st February in the Seacote Hotel at 7p.m. Shenda Whelan will be speaking about Women to Women Finance, top tips for your finances in 2022. Shenda is a financial and mortgage advisor for Emma Ralls Wealth Management based locally.

Special thanks to Marisa Nutsford who has collected our subs and helped keep our finances in order over the past few years and also to Rose Kennedy who has retired as a signatory. Also to Tom and staff at the Seacote, your continued support and hospitality is greatly appreciated.

Look out for our 2022 calendar with plans for the coming year. See Facebook and Village Noticeboards and also the contact number shown in the 'A.B.C.' of the magazine. All are welcome to join us.



## Five steps to helping others

(lifted from “Wellbeing and mental health: A guide to looking after yourself and others” written and produced by “Every life matters” with the support of Cumbria County Council, p25.)

1

### Be Aware

Watch for the warning signs that someone might be struggling. This is more challenging during the Covid-19 crisis, and we may need to be more pro-active about checking in with others by phone and online.

2

### Ask

Trust your instincts and ask the person directly how they are doing. If necessary, ask twice. “Are you really OK?”. If you feel they may be struggling let them know that you are worried about them and that you care.

3

### Listen

Give them time and space to talk and be helpfully nosy. Have a look at our listening tips on the following pages. During the Covid-19 crisis you may need to do more of this by telephone and online.

4

### Build Support

Explore what help they might need. Build a circle of support through family and friends. Have a look together at the resources at the end of this booklet, or on our website. Set goals about what they can do next.

5

### Check-in

Keep checking in and letting the person know you are there for them. Knowing someone cares can make all the difference.

**Every Life Matters – Helping others**  
[every-life-matters.org.uk/helping-others/](http://every-life-matters.org.uk/helping-others/)

## The Priory perspective



**One of the four themes associated with our ‘God for all’ Vision is that of ‘Speak Boldly’.**

However, what does this mean?

It means we will share our faith in Jesus Christ in every day ways, seeking to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches.

Easy to say, but for most of us, rather more challenging to exercise.

Nevertheless, it is said that a Picture paints a thousand words. For those of us old enough it will evoke memories of the song by Bread and Telly Savalas in the 1970’s.

However, we have just lost to this mortal world one who epitomised Speaking Boldly throughout his life : The late, the great the most Reverend Desmond Tutu - ‘Arch’.

Tutu lived and worked in a country ( South Africa) with a regime that for many years did its very best to silence him internally, let alone on the World stage, because it regarded him as a second- class citizen on account of the colour of his skin.

Jesus ‘spoke boldly’ about the Temple where “ Corruption had entered this Holy place”.

He overturned the tables to show that he would bring liberation and justice to ALL people.

Tutu, plunging into political waters was what the Bible demanded! When challenged, he would reply with a question: “ When God delivers a bunch of slaves out of bondage, is that a political or religious act ?”

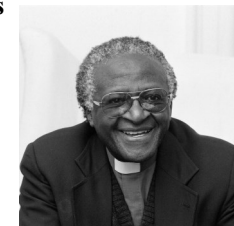
As someone who bitterly opposed apartheid, his message was never less than a plea for justice, freedom and reconciliation. He filled a vital niche as a genuinely independent voice, impossible to silence and unafraid of confronting the powerful.

Nelson Mandela said of him: “ Sometimes a student, often a teacher, never afraid, seldom without humour, Desmond Tutu will always be the voice of the voiceless. ONE WHO SPOKE BOLDLY .

*Grant Gilmour*

**Tutu was as passionate about equal rights for LGBTQ+ people as he was about racial equality.** Tutu said at the launch of the Free and Equal campaign in 2013 “*I would refuse to go to a homophobic heaven. I would not worship a God who is homophobic and that is how deeply I feel about this*”. In the last few months St Bees and Crosslacon parishes have been reflecting on how following Jesus might influence how we perceive gender, relationships and sexuality. How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church? We started the CoFE “Living in Love and Faith” course before Christmas and will continue in small groups; seeking to deepen our understanding, listening to one another, studying the Bible and praying that we might be a church where all feel welcome and cared for.

*Rev Becky*



### **Reducing our Carbon Footprint in St Bees!**

We have a lot to be thankful for in our village! We live in a wonderful location, with our beach and surrounding hills. We have pubs, a café, 2 schools, a Priory and also our village shop.

Not only did the shop become an essential source of food and other vital deliveries in the lockdowns but the owners are doing their bit to save the planet!

At the shop you can recycle your medicine blister packs and pens as well as batteries. The shop also has plastic free refills for washing up and laundry liquid. But, perhaps more importantly, one of the ways to help the planet is to buy local. So, not only will we ensure we still have a shop in ten years time, but you also do your bit to save the planet. Easy: shop local. The author of this article has no link with the owners of the shop except a joint desire to help our planet.

Did your New Year's resolution include something like Reduce, Recycle, Reuse? As well as recycling your pens at the shop, did you know you can also buy pens made from recycled plastic? (for this and other great reuse ideas contact Fair trade, as in the front cover). You can also recycle cake wrappers at Overbeck, Sea Mill Lane and your dental rubbish at 61 Main Street. Amazingly the money raised by this small action is used to provide free dental treatment in Africa!

How will you, Reduce, Recycle or Reuse this year?

Deb Lee

***Next month— an update from the Vicarage Community Walled Garden...in the meantime here's a photo from October 2018 and another from July 2021. Spot the difference!***



We read in the Gospel of Matthew that the Lord sees that every act of kindness, compassion and love is an action done to Him therefore when we care deeply about our fellow man we demonstrate our love for Jesus.

Whatever the trials and tribulations of the last two years we have learned a lot about what it means to care deeply and seen many small acts done with great love in our church community. Two recent and very practical activities demonstrate our care and service in St Bees.

At a community level, there was simple joy created by the recent Christmas Tree festival. An event out of nowhere (a proposal from one of the Choir) but picked up by many groups as a way of bringing some light and joy across the community. The Festival evolved and many hours were spent by individuals and teams putting together a spectacle which reflected the things they cared about from Nursery schools and Emergency workers to picking litter off the beach and making people laugh! At the end of the festival those people had brought light and joy into the lives of those who visited the Priory and the care was demonstrated further when the winners kindly put their prize money back into the collective pot for the nominated charities.

On a more personal level, there have been many small acts of service to parishioners by the church community. The distribution of food after Harvest festival and gifts from under the Priory Christmas tree by members of the church team and congregation are unsolicited and unlooked for, but as quiet demonstrations of care they are often greatly appreciated to those who receive them. The key point though is not the appreciation of individuals but the acts, often unheralded, unnoticed and unacknowledged, that demonstrate our faith in Christ our love for the Him. He sees them and feels the love and as community we grow in Christ.

In 2021 the Christmas Tree Festival was a new way of demonstrating our care while the food and gift giving represent our more traditional approach but the year ahead presents us with a new challenge. There are many other groups and individuals that are outside, unknown and unrepresented in our activities especially families and young people. The new challenge is how can we, as a Christian community, listen and respond in loving service to our local community in 2022 and beyond?

*Tom Kelly*

***The "Care Deeply" vision states that "we will listen to our local communities, and respond in loving service". One of the ways we do this is at the Priory is by signposting organisations that offer support to people who may be struggling with anxiety, depression or other issues which are having an impact on their mental health & wellbeing. The West Cumbria Mental Health Partnership has a helpful website with links to a variety of organisations that support mental health and well being. <https://wcmhp.org.uk/> Over the page you will find some simple advice if you are seeking to help someone who is struggling.***