

St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge

(01946 822279 or 07460 990631

revbgibbs75@gmail.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 David Cox

The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

The Rev'd Richard Lee - 07841 398088

Sunday Services (Suspended until further notice)

10.30 a.m. Live Stream service

See website for details

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.

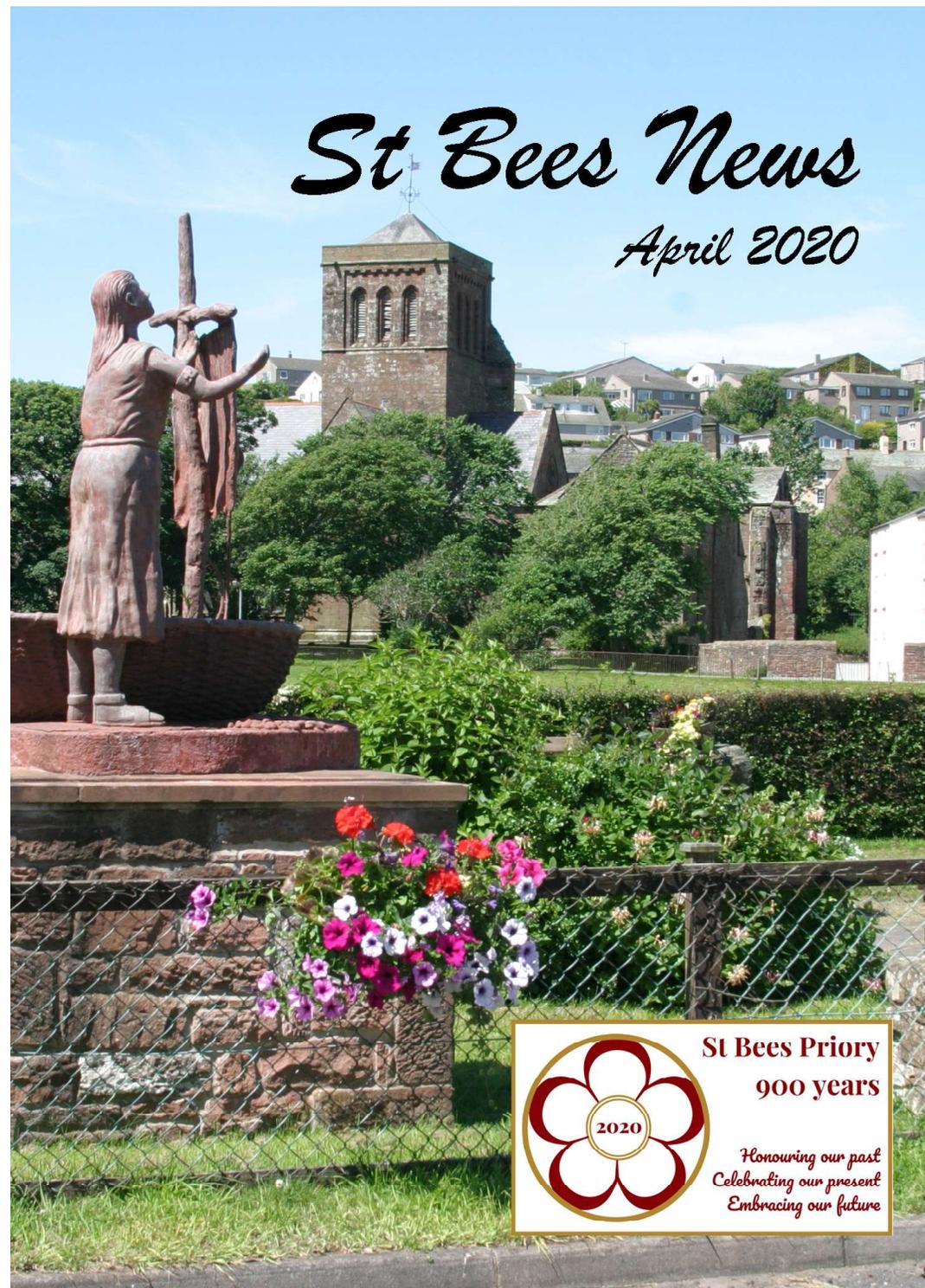
However this leaves the balance to be paid by the PCC. Donations to the Treasurer or your Magazine Distributor are most welcome.*

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

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

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ABC will be back next month!

Calendar for April

Please note - Many events have been postponed or cancelled. This is the situation as we know it on 22 March .

See www.stbeespriory.org.uk or facebook.com/stbeespriory for updates as well as village sites - www.stbees.org.uk and www.facebook.com/St.Bees

5	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Holy Communion (Live Stream service)
5			Walk with Cross, (Cancelled)
7	Tuesday		Lent Course (Cancelled)
8	Wednesday		Organ Music for Holy Week (Cancelled)
9	Thursday	10.00 a.m.	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion (Cancelled)
		7.00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion (Cancelled)
10	Friday		Good Friday, “Three Hours at the Cross” (Cancelled)
11	Saturday		Service of New Fire (Postponed to 2021!)
12	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Holy Communion (Live Stream service)
19	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	(Live Stream service)
20	Monday	6.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall (Scheduled)
26	Sunday	10.30 a.m.	(Live Stream service)

Calendar for May

2	Saturday	10.00 a.m.	Amnesty International sponsored walk - TBC
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Live Stream service - See Page 2 “Worship” and check on www.stbeespriory.org.uk as it may be made available on Facebook or on website.

Pop-in Cafe - Regretfully closed until further notice

Please note - All church groups, choir, bell ringers, etc., are not meeting, and all users of church halls have cancelled their meetings, until further notice.

Sincere apologies for disruption, but we must be responsible and protect the health of our members and customers.

Editor - May 2020 Magazine

The **May 2020** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Jon Mellor, Cross Hill House, St Bees** who would appreciate all contributions not later than **Wednesday 8th April** please.
E mail - jonmell@hotmail.co.uk. Tel. 01946 824926

Continued from page 19.

There may be other community networks, on such as “What’s App” groups, if so, can you please let us know.

St Bees Parish Council and Copeland Ward Councillor Jeff Hailes.

List of volunteers

Sandwith & Rottington

Tracey West : info@sandwithvillagegroup.co.uk 01946 823112 / 07739806445

Facebook page: @sandwithvillagegroup

Linethwaite, High & Low Walton, High House Road, Finkle Street, The Crofts

Julie Cox 07743267527 jools232@me.com

Councillor Grant Gilmour 07710030524 grantgilmour@yahoo.com

Donna McMullen. 07854575230. donnamcmullen11@btinternet.com

Stephen & Carole Woodman 01946822375. 07842174871 sandcwoodman@outlook.com

Abbey Vale, Abbey Road, Monks Hill, Holly Mews, Abbey Farm, Scalebarrow and Richmond Crescent to Flatt Houses, Beach Road

Hilary & Steve Hemm 07731385152 hilaryh51@btinternet.com

Richard Lee 07841398088 & Deb Lee 01946 823470 lee535877@aol.com

Beach Estate, Seacote Gardens, Peckmill, Station Road & Rowan Terrace

Demi McDowell 07840301712 DMcDowell14@aol.com

Councillor Jon Mellor Jonmell@hotmail.co.uk

Wendy Mellor 01946 824936 or 07891328016

Main Street (to Outrigg), Seacroft Road and Outrigg

Mark Smedley 07958455926 . marksmedley@hotmail.co.uk

Stuart Burgess & Yvonne Leech. 01946 824712 leech.burgess@btinternet.com

Top Main Street (south of Outrigg), Nethertown Road and Egremont Road

Alan Corcoran. 07913173294 rosieandal@hotmail.co.uk

Tom Horner & Abi Nutsford-Milling 07808068835 abibeautytherapy@gmail.com

Fairladies

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Seamill Lane

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Pippa Kelly 01946 822525 pippa1.kelly@gmail.com

Coulderton, Middletown & Nethertown

Councillor Jeffrey Hailes 07747 231687 jeffrey.hailes@copeland.gov.uk

Jane Donaldson 01946 822560 jld1051@btinternet.com

St Bees News

April 2020

When I was six years old I got lost in WHSmiths. My dad was looking after my little sister and I whilst my mum did the food shopping. I told my dad I was going upstairs to look at the toys and he didn't hear me. When I came downstairs they had gone. I wandered out into the precinct and searched for my dad and sister. When I couldn't find them I panicked. Luckily for me a lovely lady found me crying and tried to help me find my parents. By this time I'd given up looking for my dad and instead we searched for my mum, who I was sure was wearing her large, furry hat. I was finally reunited my family at the police station. My memories at this point are a bit fuzzy but I'm pretty sure my dad looked distinctly green and my mum was quite cross. And she wasn't wearing her furry hat.

By the time this article goes to print we will have been socially distancing ourselves from each other for a fortnight. My mum and dad are now self-isolating in their home near Wolverhampton and today I had to send out a message informing parishioners that all church services are cancelled. All being well, by the time you read this, two Sunday services will have been streamed live from the Priory. A bit like the six year old Becky lost and alone in a town centre I'm trying to find my way on unfamiliar ground; a little bit frightened and disorientated. I'm guessing many of you feel the same. But I believe we can find a way through this, together we can be brave and outward looking, resisting panic and being a peaceful presence to others in need.

Much has been said about “social distancing” but that’s the wrong way to describe what is essentially “physical distancing”. There’s no need for us to be socially separated from each other. You don’t need to be near someone to be sociable. There’s social media, the telephone, a note through the door, a package on the doorstep. This may be more social interaction with a neighbour than we ever had when we were physically present with each other!

When Mary met Jesus on the first Easter day her instinct was to hang onto him, but Jesus said to her “Do not touch me”. In another account of his resurrection Jesus says to the women “Do not be afraid”. Both these directives from Jesus seem counterintuitive to me. Of course we want to hold on to you Jesus, of course we are afraid, we thought you were dead! In these unsettling times we may feel lost; longing for a safe hand to hold onto like the women outside the tomb or a six year old in Smiths. In these times let us comfort and encourage one another with stories of hope and happy endings. Reunions to come, hugs to be had, kindness celebrated, a belated Easter day.

With love and prayers,

Reverend Becky Gibbs

A note from the Vicar

On Sunday 15th March I preached at the 10.30am service in the Priory on the “gathered and scattered church”. I sought to encourage parishioners that we were still church whether gathered together in the Priory or forced to isolate from one another. Five days later all services were cancelled, our 900 years events postponed, schools shut to most pupils, supermarket shelves decimated and many people fearful for their lives and livelihoods.

We very quickly had to rethink how to be church in this community. This is what we’ve come up with;

Pastoral Care - Jesus said “Love your neighbour”. You don’t need me to tell you to just keep on doing that. Make sure you and your family have what you need and are protected from illness then serve those who need you, and if no one needs you, ask your neighbour if they need you.

If you need help and you’re not sure who to ask the Parish Council have allocated trusted helpers to nine geographical areas. – See pages 19-20 and the village website www.stbees.org.uk & <https://www.facebook.com/St.Bees/> to find out more.

The Priory continues to be a Food bank drop off point so if you manage to find anywhere selling bread, baked beans or such like, don’t be tempted to hoard, buy extra to donate.

If you are seeking spiritual support our retired clergy and wardens are at the end of the phone. Their numbers are on the back cover of the magazine. I am also available on my landline and mobile.

Prayer - Services in the Priory may have ceased but it is still a place of prayer and reflection. At the time of going to press the Priory is open all day everyday. We have installed “stations of the cross” using images and words for contemplation. Everyday the church bell will ring twelve times to indicate that prayers are being lifted from the Priory and sent out to the village, wider parish and beyond.

If you wish to join us from your homes you can find the prayer for each day here;

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/todays-prayer>

Worship - Worship services in the Priory have ceased but as long as the church stays open worship continues. We will be live streaming a service from the Priory every Sunday at 10.30 am on Facebook live and our organist Frank Bowler will be joining us from a safe distance. There are many other forms of worship available on line and on the radio. The daily service is broadcast live every day from various venues across the country at 10.45am on Radio 4 DAB side channel. Check the Priory website or “friend” The Priory on facebook for other suggestions for how you might worship at home.

Hygiene - The Priory is well maintained and looked after and this must continue if we are to stay open. We have enlisted a large team of volunteers to keep the church clean so that

Parish Council News

Coronavirus – It is clear that the current coronavirus pandemic will impact on everyone’s lives in the coming weeks. The Parish Council will use its noticeboards, website and Facebook page to provide information for residents. Everyone will need to rally round to help friends and neighbours who may not be able to get out for shopping, prescriptions etc. Residents in the Sea Mill Lane area have already set up their own contact group to make sure that help is available to those who need it. The Parish Council is working with our Ward Councillor, Jeff Hailes, to promote similar good neighbour schemes in other parts of the village. The Parish Council has made contingency plans to ensure that work can continue even if it is not possible to hold regular meetings. The contact details for the Clerk and Chairman/Vice Chairman can be found on the website and noticeboards.

Fleatham Croft/High House Road Junction – The Parish Council has been concerned for some time about the visibility for drivers exiting Fleatham Croft where the view of traffic on High House Road is limited by parked vehicles. Cumbria Highways have proposed new road markings to improve the situation and the Parish Council looks forward to seeing the scheme implemented in the new financial year.

Beach Play Area - The Parish Council is considering the purchase of new equipment for the toddler area to replace the springy donkey and dolphin, which have suffered from regular failures of the springs. It is hoped that the equipment can be installed before the peak season.

Wainwright Wall- Plans are in hand to repoint the sandstone wall and remount the anchor from the SS Izaro, which is usually displayed there. The Parish Council is very grateful to the lifeboat team who have been looking after the anchor in the meantime and have offered to help to put it back in position.

Parish Council Meeting – The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 20 April at 6.30 p.m. in the Village Hall unless restrictions to slow the spread of Coronavirus prevent us from holding the meeting. See the noticeboards and website for up to date information.

Community coronavirus support

This is a difficult and worrying time for many people due to the current on-going issues with Coronavirus. As a result of this, we would like to provide extra support to those in the parish who need it. Some residents may have difficulty with getting essential supplies, prescriptions or may even just want to talk to someone; getting a newspaper is important for many, we can provide help with that.

In collaboration with Jeff Hailes, our CBC ward councillor, the parish council has put together a list of dedicated people you can trust who will support you at this time. This is shown below.

They have been allocated nine geographical areas. If you live in one of these areas and you need help, or are concerned about someone else, please get in touch by phone, email or text with a person allocated to your area.

Continued overleaf.

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you can visit safely. Please keep yourself and others safe by staying at home if you are unwell, sanitizing your hands as you enter/leave the Priory and, if there are others in the building, distancing yourself.

Finally, if you do stop by and can afford it please put some money in the donations box. We anticipate that this crisis will put a huge strain on our finances.

With love, Becky

Reverend Becky Gibbs, 01946822279, 0746099031, revbgibbs75@gmail.com

NB - The vicarage landline was disconnected for three weeks but is now working again

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Coping with Social Distancing

How do we as individuals and parents cope with social distancing without driving ourselves and each other crazy? Dr. Giuseppe (Bepi) Raviola, director of mental health at Partners In Health, put together a list of key practices to maintain good mental and emotional health for those asked to stay at home in efforts to prevent further spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Top 10 Practices:

- 1) Social distancing does not mean emotional distancing; use technology to connect widely;
- 2) Defined routines and schedule, seven days a week, at home—don't go overboard;
- 3) Exercise and physical activity, daily if possible;
- 4) Learning and intellectual engagement—books, music, limited internet;
- 5) Positive family time—working to counter negativity;
- 6) If you live with others try to have some alone time, outside if possible, but inside too.
- 7) Focused meditation and relaxation;
- 8) Remember the things that you really enjoy doing, that you can do in this situation, and find a way to do them;
- 9) Limit exposure to TV and internet news; choose small windows and then find ways to cleanse yourself of it;
- 10) Shower daily, if possible, to reinforce the feeling of cleanliness.

Remember:

Things will get better eventually, and back to normal; the world is not collapsing (don't go "catastrophic").

Most people are good, and people are going to persevere and help each other

You're tough, you've overcome challenges before; this is a new one.

This is a particularly strange and unprecedented situation; humour helps once in a while.

If having obsessive or compulsive thoughts related to the virus, or the broader uncertainty, wash your hands once, and then remind yourself that anxiety is normal in this scenario. But the mind also can also play tricks on us. Try to breathe and move the internal discussion on.

Live in the moment, think about today, less about the next three days, even less about next week; limit thinking about the next few months, for now.

Helpful websites and numbers;

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

Freephone The Samaritans 116 123

For support in a crisis, Text Shout to 85258.

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Anyone for Pudding?

Some thirty years ago a group of our senior residents met to talk about old times. As they chatted, Jackie Walker recorded what they said, and Pat Hindson made a transcript of their conversation. It was all part of a History project guided by the late Dr. John Todd, and to anyone interested in our past the transcript is fascinating.

Recently, in some old papers, I came across a reference to "Herb Pudding". Apparently, it was a favourite of John McNeal of Fleswick House, who said he "often crossed the road to Mrs. Richardson's to get a big helping of it". In my ignorance I had no idea of what Herb Pudding was – until I remembered where I had seen it mentioned. Mary Richardson had been one of the people taking part in the History project, and there, in the recording, was her recipe exactly as she gave it

"I went for my dandelions across to Mr Stephenson's, and then got my nettles and chopped them and Ernie bought the leeks, I got some spring cabbage and I got a Savoy at Marissa's and I got my herbs out of the churchyard. Easter Magiants, that big broad-leaved one with the red stems. I chop mine fine with the big chopping knife, and I put them into salt and water, and put a cup of barley in and just let them steep. Then I put them in a bag and boil them with a bit of fat bacon. Then I put them into a big dish and make a hole in the middle and put a big dollop of butter in and two eggs and mix them all up and you eat it with beef and good gravy for Easter Sunday. Lots of people used to come for it. I've made it for donkeys' years.

"We used to pick the herbs singly then it wasn't quite so much work cutting all the heads off. There are lots of beautiful Easter Magiants at Muncaster Castle. You put anything in the pudding, blackcurrant leaves, anything at all in greens. There's something for the heart, the liver and the kidneys. Everything in these herbs is for a particular part of the body – I used to know them all".

I wonder – does anyone make Herb Pudding in this way today?

Bob Jopling - Village History Group

A question to naturalists in the know - What are Easter Magiants? We remember Frank Irving's father Johnny using them in his Herbie Puddings.

From the Albert Hotel

The Albert are willing to deliver meals to anyone in the village. A menu will be available on Facebook. All the elderly or those in isolation (even with families). They can phone me on 07769633804. Thanks.

Alison Agnew



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Holy Week Walk with the Cross - Cancelled

Organised by Churches Together in Egremont & District – the Walk with the Cross would have set off from Egremont Methodist Church at 3.00 p.m. on Palm Sunday 5 April and proceeded to St Bees Priory.

Churches Together have decided to cancel the Walks with the Cross, as it involves groups walking closely together and meeting in churches at start and finish.

Church Services

All services – including Holy Week & Easter worship - Sadly all church services have been suspended for the foreseeable future. Following Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops have issued the directive that all public worship is suspended until further notice. This means there will be no church services in the Priory, but it will remain OPEN – all day and every day for private prayer and meditation.

APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting has been postponed until October.

Fair Trade Fortnight

A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported the special Farmers market for Fair Trade Fortnight. We were able to send £380.08p to Traidcraft Exchange as a result of your cake baking, buying, tea and coffee making and drinking, raffle ticket and tombola selling and buying and card donations. Traidcraft exchange works with people in low income countries, helping them to get more out of trade and business and reap the rewards from the hard work they do every day, increasing income, confidence and opportunities. Thanks also to the Co-op for their generous donations for the raffle. Thank you everyone!

Fair Trade Easter Eggs

If you would like to purchase a Fair Traded Egg for Easter, please either complete an order form at the back of the Priory or contact Deb Lee 823470 lee535877@aol.com. You can order packs of small eggs (made by Divine-a company half owned by the West African cocoa farmers), medium eggs for egg hunts and large milk, dark, himalayan salt and raspberry. Give the producers a Happy Easter too.

Radio Cumbria Sunday service – Richard Corrie of Radio Cumbria has informed churches that a regular church service will be broadcast on Sunday mornings from 8.00 to 9.00 am. Details of the order of service are available on Facebook or Twitter.

Polite Notice! To all churchyard visitors and those tending graves – now that grass-cutting has started, could all Christmas wreaths and decorations please be removed? Thank you.

Priory Mowing Team

Two of the church grounds mowing team have had to withdraw their services for various reasons. So, the team would like to boost their numbers this spring. If you are able and willing to help out, please contact Malcolm Lightfoot and find out what's involved. Thank you! Malcolm Lightfoot - mjlightfoot918@btinternet.com.

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Village School News

World Book Day

Children were invited to come to school in non-uniform for World Book Day and bring their favourite book into school to share with their peers. A book swap scheme was set up for the day and children were able to explore and purchase a range of second-hand books. This was a huge success and all proceeds will go towards further plans for the school library.

Sport Relief

All classes have taken part in sporting challenges within their PE sessions, which included multi-skills, netball shooting, hockey and football. Throughout the week the children also took part in a 1 mile run and a day of sports-related non-uniform, which raised funds for Sport Relief.

Bingo

The bingo, which we held in the school hall, was once again very popular, raising a significant amount for school funds. Many thanks go to Claire Mason and the members of the VSA. Thanks also to all who came along to support us and to those who very generously contributed prizes, and well done to those who won them! We all had a lovely evening.

Strudda Bank Farm - (Postponed)

Strudda Bank is a 500 acre traditional beef and sheep farm at Calderbridge. Our Early Years, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children all planned to visit the farm during March but obviously were unable to do so. The farm had planned activities to suit the curriculum and as part of the Geography & Science curriculum, the children were to be taught about farming, life cycles, habitats and where their food comes from.

Pirates vs Mermaids

Years 3 and 4 put on a brilliant performance for their Spring play, Pirates vs Mermaids. Parents and grandparents were treated to an hour of swashbuckling comedy from our budding Thespians!

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Seagalls

What a wonderful evening we spent in the Queens Hotel for our get-together in March - plus a lot of new faces who we hope to see again! After consuming plates full of various sandwiches and chips, which was then followed by a quiz, we spent the rest of the evening socialising and getting to meet new friends. A really great night which, we hope, we will repeat again in the future! A big thank you to Judith for organising the evening, to Marisa for reading out the quiz questions and also to the staff at the Queens for looking after us all so well.

We did have a guest speaker organised for our April meeting on Tuesday 7 April in the Seacote Hotel but, unfortunately, we have just been informed that (especially as he would be travelling from Carlisle where there have been new outbreaks of the coronavirus) he will not now be able to attend. Indeed, if the spread of the virus worsens, we may even have to cancel all meetings for the foreseeable future! All we can do is to inform people nearer the time of any changes. Thank you.

St Bees WI News

Thank you to Louise Hetherington who gave a wonderful talk on Crufts Dog show, in our March meeting. Louise had hot footed to our WI meeting all the way from the NEC Birmingham to join us. She was accompanied by one of her award-winning Kerry Blue Terriers, Kira, who proved very popular among our members, enjoying lots of attention! Louise, who resides in Sandwith, has been a breeder of Kerry Blue Terriers for years. You are likely to come across Louise with her dogs at many local and national shows, including Gosforth, picking up many Rosettes. In fact, Kira has just returned from a year in Ireland where she has been shown all over the country winning countless awards. Louise judged our “canine competition” which was won by Angela Blair. This was followed by refreshments and raffle.

We do not have a meeting in April, as its Easter Bank Holiday Monday. Our next meeting is scheduled for 11 May, ‘All Types of Scams’ by Emma Loveridge. New members most welcome. Visitors £4 per session. Please see village notice boards, Village Facebook and www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI.

Roxanne

From the Priory Registers

Holy Baptism

23 February Rowan Seth Blacker Summergrove
May God’s Blessing be upon you and your family.

Flower Rota suspended

St Bees School

On the five year anniversary since the announcement of its closure, St Bees School are delighted to reveal that they are on track to have 50 students in September – over tripling their current cohort of 15.

The growth in numbers reinforces how local, national and even international students are truly engaging with the new St Bees ethos. The concept of a Fusion Curriculum – the only one of its kind in the UK – is something not only new to Cumbria, but also to the UK. With a strong focus on merging the best of the West and the best of the East, teaching Mandarin, Chinese Maths and a clear push on character development, St Bees is leading the way in an educational revolution.

New parents have been overwhelmed by the opportunities presented to their children – and never before have young people been so excited to start in September. With an international mix, Germans, British, Spanish, Turkish, and inevitably, a few Chinese; the boarding house will have a St Bees family of 20 – almost half the school.

One of the key aspects of St Bees that parents were delighted by was the intensive one-to-one mentoring; a type of life coaching, ensuring that their child was kept on track from day one. This support is more than just academic. Here at St Bees, they provide the wings... and give the children the opportunity to fly. Watch this space to see how it continues to grow and make educational headway.

There are still a few places remaining for next year. Head of Marketing and Admissions, Ceara Hayden, is delighted with the intake and interest and cannot reply quick enough to enquiries – but has encouraged all interested parents to get in touch as soon as possible. “We are truly overwhelmed with the interest for this year, and this is a sign that parents and students are really understanding what we are trying to do here. This is such a unique school – and one of our strengths is our small size. We do have space for more – but it will always be small. We aren’t academically selective, but we do only take students with potential. That can be academic, but it can also be artistic, sporting, teamwork, drama, etc. We want kids with a bit of ‘star quality’ and would love to have a chat if you think we’re right for you.”

With just over a term left to go... do get in touch today!

Reminder re 900 Year Story Competition

Please submit your story to story@stbeesschool.co.uk

School years 7 - 9: 900 words; School Years 5 - 6: 500 words

Budding authors welcome! Any topic.

Extended submission date - 29 May.

Grassroots

Deliveries from Post Office

We are so saddened by the current situation due to the Covid-19 outbreak. To help the community, which has supported us over the years, we would like to offer something in return. We are offering a free delivery service for anyone over 70, vulnerable or self-isolating, in Egremont, Bigrigg, Nethertown, Sandwith and surrounding areas. Our thanks to the St Bees RNLI, Alison Agnew and others who are helping to make this possible.

When ordering your shopping you can pay for your groceries by credit card (if over £5) or you can leave the money at the door when we arrive. Phone 01946 822343 to place your order, preferably the day before. We are open until 8.00 pm.

Thank you and take care.

Alan & Amanda Bewley

Sadly most of the following have been amended to publicise cancellations or delays.

Amnesty International West Cumbria – (Decision pending) Sponsored Walk -

Amnesty West Cumbria Group have planned their programme of events for 2020 and invite members and supporters to join forces for their fundraisers for justice and human rights. This event may or may not happen!

Amnesty Annual Sponsored Walk for Life – Saturday 2 May – on the Coastal Way from Whitehaven to St Bees (and return if wished!). Meet at the Market Place in Whitehaven at 10.00 a.m. to walk the 6 miles to St Bees Beach (or 12-ish there & back). Refreshments provided at the Lighthouse, and at St Bees beach park (coffee & cakes).

Sponsor forms available from R. McAndrew (822326) or Alan Alexander (810444) or online from Alan - sandoak@aol.com Do join the walkers and be sponsored, or sponsor others. Come and enjoy a great day out on the Colourful Coast!

Arts Society - Cancelled. The April lecture for The Arts Society was planned, when we would have welcomed Ross King. Ross, an art historian and author, has spoken to us on a number of occasions and has never failed to deliver an informative and interesting lecture.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Russell Hall following a recent illness. Formerly of Abbey Farm, Russell had a short hospital stay and is now home in Durdar recuperating.

Herdwyck Consort – From Darkness to Light - Postponed. A concert of sublime choral music celebrating life, death and resurrection will happen another year.

Over 60s Club Gill Richardson reports that the Over 60 Club events for April have been cancelled. Apologies to our members.

900 Years Anniversary Celebrations

May Ball – This has been now been postponed till Saturday 28 November.

900 Year Story Competition - Given the present problems, the closing date for the competition has been extended until 29 May.

Paschal Candle

About a year ago the Priory ministry team welcomed a new member, Reverend Richard Lee. Richard has much to offer the parish and we are grateful for his contribution. The following is a few words from him on the subject of the “Paschal Candle”.

“Paschal may be new to you. It means all things associated with the Passover or Easter, it has roots in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. In the UK, the term paschal has tended to be replaced by the old Germanic word Easter. Easter is an old English word that may be drawn from two sources, Ostern (Germanic) which simply means ‘eastern’ and/or ‘eostre’ the name of a pagan goddess associated with Spring.

The ‘Paschal Candle’ (Easter Candle) is a large candle, kept in church and lit at certain times. There is a Paschal Candle in St Bees Priory and in many other churches in this area. It is associated with, Christ as ‘the Light of the World’, with Baptism and with the living hope of the Resurrection.

On Maundy Thursday all candles and ornaments are removed from Church. On Easter Eve (Saturday) after dark, a ‘New Fire’ is lit outside the building. People gather in the light of the fire, the Paschal Candle is lit, carried into church and Christ is proclaimed in special music and words as the Light of the World! Everyone in church receives ‘the light’ by means of a lighted candle and Baptism Vows are often remade. Sometimes, there may be a baptism. Generally, after the Service there can be a time of celebration around the fire where baked potatoes, chestnuts, or marshmallows – warmed in the ashes of the fire are consumed and enjoyed (tend to be a bit burnt but no one seems to mind).

Then from Easter Sunday to Pentecost the Paschal Candle is lit at every Eucharist. The Candle is lit for all baptisms and for funerals when it symbolises the hope of the Resurrection seen in the ‘Light of Christ’. On the front of the Candle the Greek characters Alpha and Omega are a reminder that Christ is the beginning and ending of all creation.

We had hoped to hold an “Easter Eve” service in the Priory this year but we have had to cancel.

We will have to wait until 2021 for this “Service of new fire” and toasting marshmallows on the Easter Eve embers.

Of course, we can then gather for an Easter warm drink and if the fire is still burning then Marshmallows, tea cakes – or anything else you like to toast may be toasted!!!

See you there!

Richard Lee