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 David Cox

The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

The Rev'd Richard Lee - 07841 398088

Sunday Services

10.30 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays

9.00 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays

They are also Live Streamed via YouTube

See www.stbeespriory.org.uk 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.*

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

St Bees News

December 2020 - January 2021

Priory Christmas Services & Special arrangements

See page 2

St Bees Parish A B C

Area Visitor / Good Neighbour Scheme The parish is divided into 30 small areas each with an official Church Visitor whose task is to welcome and help people in the name of the Priory. Co-ordinator - M Westhead (822674).

Arts Society 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.

Bellringing 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.

Brownies Brownies meet on Tuesdays. Further details can be obtained from Leanne Cherry, contact 07805154408.

Cubs, Scouts, Beavers 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.

Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9.30 a.m. Details from Frank Bowler, the Organist (Tel. 825307).

Churchwardens are leading lay Church members who will be pleased to help and advise on church matters. Rosalie McAndrew (822326), Malcolm Lightfoot, Wendy Mellor, & Derek McGee

Councillors 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 chris.whiteside@cumbria.gov.uk

Electoral Roll is the list of all church members qualified to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. E.R. forms are available in church

Finance The Church Treasurer is Norman Killip, Honeybee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, who will explain our Christian Giving system.

First Responders provide Basic Life Support in association with the Ambulance Service. Contact Andy Brock 823497

Football Association Contacts - Seniors Tony Barnett 590640. Juniors (U-12) - Alec Morton 823992 & Alastair Billson.

Freemasons St Bega Lodge meet 7:00 p.m. On 2nd Wed of each month, Village Hall. Details: 01946 64275 or www.cumbwestmasons.co.uk.

Friends of the Priory assists in the conservation of the Priory and encourages interest in its historical and architectural heritage. Contact Philip Barratt or Tom Rice, Treasurer, Green Ghyll, Greendykes, Egremont.

Garden Society Dtails from Mark Hewertson, (Tel. 01946 825468). Flower Show is held on the 3rd Saturday in August.

Guides meet on Tuesdays from 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. Further details can be obtained from Amanda Smith or email stbeesguides@yahoo.com

History Group works towards improving knowledge of local history. Lectures arranged periodically. Details from Chris Robson 822468.

Over 60's Club meets in Hodgett's Club on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Details - Gill Richardson Tel. 822394.

Parish Council The Clerk to the Council is Mrs Jane Donaldson, East House, Coulderton. Tel. (01946) 822560, e.mail pc-clerk@stbees.org.uk, who will answer queries on civil parish matters.

Parochial Church Council 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, jonmell@hotmail.co.uk

Playgroup *(Toddler Group)* 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 - amylinton1983@gmail.com

Pop-in Cafe Every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon - Pop-in Cafe in New College Hall. Everyone welcome - Coffee and homemade cakes.

Pre-School meets in the new building next to the Village School, All day, 5 days a week. For children of 2 years upwards. Contact on 823880.

Prayer Group meets on Thursdays from 1.45 - 3.15 p.m. in New College Hall . All denominations welcome.

Priory Singers rehearse in Old College Hall, Mondays at 8.00 p.m. Details from Frank Bowler. (Temp). (01946) 825307. *Not meeting at present.*

Priory Web Site The Priory web site has up to date information on the ministry team, church services and activities. See http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk

Seagalls meets first Tuesday of month at 7.30pm in the Seacote Hotel. Contact Lynne Smith - Tel. 822285 - or Judith 07772523742

St Bees Triers Friendly running club for all abilities. Every Thursday 6pm & 7pm. Email running@triers.uk Tel. 823497 Web www.triers.co.uk

St Bees Youth Group 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. Contact organisers on 07518 394297.

Sunday Club Children's activities and toys are available in the Baptistery. Contact – R McAndrew (822326),

Village School Association exists to raise funds for the school and to foster links between school and community. Secretary - via School - Tel. 822392.

Village Hall Management Committee administers Hodgett's Club. For details and booking contact Phil or Valerie Turpin (Tel 823772).

Village in Bloom Details from Eileen B Todd, 14 Main Street. St.Bees. (Tel 822522).

Village Web Site Information for inclusion should be sent to Ian McAndrew (822326) or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk Address is http://www.stbees.org.uk

Women's Institute meets 2nd Monday of month at 7.30 p.m. usually in New College Hall (see program). Contact Roxanne Benson Tel 823137.

Calendar for December / January

5	Saturday	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Charity Sale & Art Sale in OCH
6	Sunday	10.30 am	Communion service
13	Sunday	9.00 am	BCP Communion
20	Sunday	10.30 am	Communion service
		4.00 pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (Booking)
21	Monday	7.30 pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (Booking)
		6.30 pm	Parish Council On-line meeting
24	Thursday	3.00 -5.30 pm	Christmas Journey (Timed Slots)
		11.30 pm	Midnight Communion (Booking)
25	Friday	10.00 am	Family Communion (No booking required)
27	Sunday	9.00 am	BCP Communion
January			
3	Sunday	10.30 am	Common Worship, Holy Communion
10	Sunday	9.00 am	BCP, Holy Communion
15	Friday	1.00 p.m.	Virtual Meeting on Conservation Area (See page 23)
17	Sunday	10.30 am	Common Worship, Holy Communion
24	Sunday	9.00 am	BCP, Holy Communion
31	Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship (Candlemas)

Evening prayer services every Sunday at 6.00 pm

If in lockdown services will be online at 10.30 - Common Worship, Holy Communion.

Last Word - Limericks 2

Further to the equation of last month….
(12+144+20) +3 times the square root of 4 all divided by 7 add 5 times 11 gives 9 squared and 0, becomes
To a dozen, a gross and a score
Add three times the square root of four
Divide all by seven
Add five times eleven
The result is nine squared and no more.
And a contribution from Anon concerning the St Bees non-limerick
There was an old man of St Bees
Who was stung by a wasp on his knees
"Its that same wasp again"

Editor - February 2021 Magazine

The February 2021 issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Amy Linton, Overbeck, Seamill Lane, St Bees** who would appreciate all contributions not later than **Friday 8 January** please.
Email: amylinton1983@gmail.com Tel. No. 01946 447614

St Bees News December 2020 - January 2021

When Josh was little, I always looked forward to the last day of the school term when he would open his book bag and amongst a shower of glitter hand over his annual Christmas creation. Fingerprinted robins, cotton wool snowmen, complex paper snowflakes adorned cards written "To Mummy and Daddy" in the best handwriting his little hands could produce. As I recall those days of glitter and glue, I remember the joy I felt both in receiving the gift and seeing the big grin on my proud little boy's face.

Of course, I was once active "behind the scenes" in this glittery production; working as a teacher of five-year olds. I remember these times a little less fondly as glitter has a habit of sticking to anything other than the surface it's meant to stick to. A friend recently told me that in her school they describe the sparkle left on classroom carpets as "nice mess". I wish I had known this phrase in my teaching days, it might have come in handy when I was apologising for the aftermath of Christmas crafts to the cleaning staff. Despite my traumatic memories of glitter, glue and five-year olds; homemade gifts, especially the sparkly kind, still bring me joy.

These days glitter has gone distinctly out of fashion. We now know that the microplastics contained in glitter are harmful to the environment and manufacturers are looking for alternatives. You may have noticed less of the sparkly stuff on cards and gifts this year as some retailers pledged back in 2018 to remove glitter from their own brands by 2020. Classroom cleaners across the world heave a sigh of relief…

This year maybe we will need to seek out other, more environmentally friendly, ways to add a bit of sparkle and shine to December and November? One idea is to join in with the "Make St Bees Glitter" campaign. Described on the "St Bees News and Views" Facebook page, the suggestion is that "by decorating our homes and gardens, the sparkly scenes around the village will create a magical feeling after a difficult year."

Sadly, some of you may not feel like putting decorations up this year and even the thought of a simple wreath or candle in the window might be too much to ask. Please do talk to someone if that's the case or, if it all gets too much to bear, ring one of the numbers at the bottom of this letter. And, if you see a candle in my window please know, I placed it there for you.

My teacher friend shared another great phrase with me today. In a classroom in her school one of the teachers has put up a sign that reads "throw kindness like confetti". I like this idea because we can spread the joy, and, because it's metaphorical, no vacuuming is needed! Home-made gifts and acts of kindness; there's more than one way to spread the joy.

With tidings of comfort and joy for this Christmas and New Year,

Becky

For someone to talk to you if you're feeling low call The Samaritans 116123, First Step on 0300 123 9122, Mindline Cumbria on 0300 561 0000, or text SHOUT 85258

Advent & Christmas Celebrations at the Priory

If we are out of lockdown by early December this is the Plan of Services:-

Please be aware that changes to the norm are necessary – it's not ideal but being responsible for your safety, we plan distancing in the Priory, so reduced numbers and an advance booking system will be introduced for certain services. Please let the booking officer know in good time!

Sunday 20 December Nine Lessons & Carols at 4.00 pm Booking required
contact Gill Burgess on 07947925252 or email gillburgess1@hotmail.co.uk

Monday 21 December Nine Lessons & Carols at 7.30 pm Booking required
contact Anne Ross on 07977594378 or email anneross34@btinternet.com.

Thursday 24 December Christmas Journey 3.00 to 5.30 pm Timed slots allocated
Staggered slots available for visiting the interactive Christmas Journey in the Priory.
contact Hilary Hemm on 01946825992 or email bookings@stbeespriory.org.uk .

Thursday 24 December Midnight Communion at 11.30 pm Booking required
contact Sally Kennedy on 07497615591 or email kennedysg@hotmail.co.uk

Friday 25 December Christmas Family Communion at 10.00 am
No need to book

Booking Officers for Services

Sunday 20 Dec 4.00 p.m. contact Gill Burgess on 07947925252 or email gillburgess1@hotmail.co.uk
Monday 21 Dec 7.30 p.m contact Anne Ross on 07977594378 or email anneross34@btinternet.com.
Thursday 24 Dec 3.00 – 5.30 p.m. contact Hilary Hemm on 01946825992 or email bookings@stbeespriory.org.uk .
Thursday 24 Dec 11.30 pm contact Sally Kennedy on 07497615591 or email kennedysg@hotmail.co.uk

Please note:- If lockdown strikes again we will resort to Plan B – all services would be livestreamed from the Priory but we hope and pray that public worship can go ahead. All services online too!

All Age Online Nativity Service on Zoom
Sunday 13th December 4.00 pm (contact Reverend Becky for a Zoom invite)

Christingle – instead of meeting in the Priory this year everyone is welcome to take part online from your homes. Village School children will be given a pack with a DIY Christingle which they can create at home and watch the online service **on Facebook live and YouTube on Friday 18th December at 4.30p.m.**

Additional events - see Page 6.

Parish Council News

Christmas Event - it is very difficult to plan for an event this year as we do not know at this stage what government advice will be in the coming weeks. It is very unlikely that we will be able to have our Santa Parade in the usual way but the Parish Council is working with other village organisations to see if we can organise some form of celebration for the children of the village who look forward to seeing Santa. We will definitely have a village Christmas tree this year thanks to generous sponsorship from Nuvia!

Conservation Area Appraisal – CBC is carrying out an appraisal of each of the conservation areas in the borough including St Bees. Much of the centre of the village is within the conservation area and this has an impact on development of properties and land within the area in order to protect its traditional character and appearance. The draft appraisal for St Bees will be available on the CBC website from 23 November and the public are invited to join the consultation which runs until 18 December. A virtual public meeting will be held on 15 January 2021 at 1pm – to book a place, please contact Samuel.woodford@copeland.gov.uk

Beach Clean Station– the Parish Council is working with St Bees Litter Champions to provide a 2 minute beach clean station at the main beach. The idea is that anyone going for a walk along the beach can use the equipment provided to collect a small amount of rubbish as they walk along and then deposit the rubbish in a litter bin as they leave. The beach clean station will be fixed to the wall of the beach toilets so the litter pickers and bags are freely available. The Litter Champions are raising money to help with the costs and will check and maintain it.

Outrigg Yard- Following correspondence received from the agent for the site owners, the Parish Council has looked again at its decision not to seek to acquire the site. However, after considering all relevant factors it has decided not to take discussions any further.

Footpaths – there have been several reports of the footpath from Nethertown Rd to Sea Mill being very muddy and slippery at the Sea Mill end. This has been reported to the County Council and we understand that they are inspecting the path with a view to improving that section.

CBC Budget Consultation – Copeland Borough Council has launched a consultation on its budget for 2021/22. The consultation and details of how to comment are available on the CBC web-site www.copeland.gov.uk or you can request a hard copy by ringing CBC on 01946 598300. The consultation runs until 8 January.

Meetings – The Parish Council is continuing to hold its monthly meetings remotely via Cisco Webex until government advice changes. Members of the public are still welcome to join the meeting - the details of how to join will be published on the agenda (available on the web-site and noticeboards). The next meeting will be Monday 21 December at 6.30pm.

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The Bertie Hunt

We experienced the worst of times then the best of times. Bertie the puppy panicked when a firework went off at 10 pm on a Friday night in late October. He managed to escape our garden on Seamill Lane. He didn't come back and after searching for much of the very wet and windy night we posted a plea for people to keep their eyes open for him. The response was absolutely fantastic with over 1000 shares on social media. Many people from St Bees, Whitehaven, Egremont, Thornhill, Nethertown and surrounding areas went out in the unpleasant weather of that weekend, with some searchers out by torchlight in rain after midnight.

The first sighting was at Coulderton on Saturday afternoon, and the search moved there but unsuccessfully (though mixed with relief that he'd survived overnight). He was later reported on the Crofts but again no sign. Another appalling night of wind and rain with thunder before dawn on Sunday and with hope starting to fade he was later seen on the railway track and then on the beach at Seamill, heading back towards Coulderton. At this point Bertie was apprehended and thankfully we're reunited.

Regardless of how important dogs are in your life the experience was an inspiring demonstration of the humanity and selfless kindness of so many wonderful people, to whom we'll always be grateful.

Thank you to everyone who helped, from Anne and Peter Smith of Seamill Lane.

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Copeland Local Plan consultation – *Doug Sim, Chair, St Bees Parish Council.*

The Copeland Local Plan draft options 2017-2035 has been out for consultation, finishing 30th November, and this has generated a great deal of interest in the village. One of the problems of the current COVID situation is that public meetings and exhibitions cannot be organised, and all information has to be accessed on-line – and there is a lot of it. There are two main documents to plough through, and about five more with supporting evidence, averaging 200 pages each. Nonetheless, the internet links to the Copeland web site have been widely publicised in the village, and it is apparent a lot of people have been reading the Local Plan documents.

St Bees Parish Council has been assessing the proposals, and at the virtual meeting on 16th Nov, they were debated with members of the public present.

The main issue of concern is the proposed changes to the settlement boundary of the village. This is the boundary in which development is preferred. All local authorities must prove they can release through the planning process a 5-year supply of house building land to support natural and economic growth. To do this they have to call for suitable development sites to be submitted, and in St Bees this threw up 31 sites around the perimeter of the village. This was whittled down to four, of which two are significant areas to the west of Abbey Road for nominally 92 additional houses, which would require settlement boundary changes. To be clear, this process is not the granting of permission for building, but just allocating this land as being deliverable for building in the future.

There have been concerns voiced in the village about the capability of the village's infrastructure to cope with this expansion, and questions about the benefits that it would have. This was reflected by the comments of public and councillors at the meeting, and it was unanimously agreed to object to the boundary changes. Infrastructure concerns centred on the very poor road network in that area, and how any future development would access the public roads. Whilst utilities such as water and electricity can be beefed up, some things are immutable, such as the bottleneck of Abbey Road's east end, where no widening is feasible due to existing buildings. Abbey Road itself is well overdue re-engineering to have a pavement and suitable width for the volume of traffic it currently carries. There was also a feeling in the meeting that the highways assessment of likely access and feeder roads was not apparent in the proposals, and this aspect was being pushed into the future, whereas it should be addressed now. Nobody could think of any benefit to the village of developing these areas, other than contributing to the Gov't target, and it was noted there were large amounts of land being allocated elsewhere in the area which are adjacent to good roads. So why put this burden on St Bees?

The other topic discussed was the poor specific inclusion of such as cycle tracks and travel hubs in the plans for connectivity. Our proposed cycle track to Whitehaven is not mentioned, and it was felt the accommodation within the plan of other community initiatives such as extension of the car park at the station should be referenced.

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Councillor Jeffrey Hailes
Telephone 01946 814819
Jeffrey.Hailes@copeland.gov.uk
County Councillor
Councillor Chris Whiteside
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Christmas at the Priory—Continued

Priory Christmas Tree – There will be a Christmas tree in the Priory – hurray! After the anticipated end of lockdown it will be decorated and made ready to receive the usual presents below.

Christmas Gifts – for our senior friends in St Bees will cheer their Christmas and show them that we remember them with love. Please do bring a small gift labelled for lady or gentleman to any December service, and place under the Christmas Tree in the Priory. Gifts and cards will be posted to St Beghians in Care Homes if access is not possible.

Advent Reflections - Join others from across West Cumbria on Facebook live for a moment of contemplation each day during Advent. **Every evening at 8pm throughout** Advent a minister or their colleague from the Coast to Fells Mission Community will lead a ten minute thought for the day on Facebook Live. Expect a variety of styles, churchmanship and formats including traditional, meditative, artistic and inventive. **Find us at 8pm from 29th Nov-24th Dec on the Coast to Fells Mission Community page.**

Boxes of Hope

Sincere Thanks from Sue Davidson and Rosalie McAndrew on behalf of Boxes of Hope Cumbria to all who supported the appeal for destitute families in Romania. A wonderful total of 24 boxes and 5 bags of beautiful knitted woollens (hats, scarves & mitts) came from the Priory; plus soft toys, balls, little cars, jotters and pencils; sweeties, toiletries and spare box fillers. Thank you to our many generous and kind donors of gifts and cash donations too. Many thanks to Tom & Noreen Woolaghan for delivering the boxes to the depot, ready for transport to Barrow and on to Romania. Thanks, one and all!

Big thank you for Christmas food bank donations

The congregation at the Priory and the attendees at the Multi Charity Sale have together given in kind or money so that we can donate over 50 Advent Calendars and some bars of chocolate to the Egremont food bank. Many thanks for helping to brighten the Christmas season for a few families!

January Services

Thinking ahead to January, for the moment at least we plan to follow the same pattern as before if we have public worship; details In Calendar.

If we are in lockdown then the services will all be online at 10.30 and will be Common Worship, Holy Communion.

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Village School News

Sensory Room - We are very excited about the new sensory room. We have received very kind donations from the community and building works will commence shortly.

Remembrance Day - Although we were unable to have our usual Armistice Day service at the Priory, we did observe 2 minutes' silence, and children took part in classroom activities in recognition of those who lost their lives in the service of their country.

Fundraising - We are trying to keep up with the usual fundraisers which we support in school each year and recognise that this is most important in the current climate, as charities are really struggling. For Children in Need the children came to school in non-uniform and will do so for Christmas Jumper Day, raising much needed funds.

VSA - St Bees Village School Association (VSA) is a registered charity who arrange fundraising events to purchase goods or experiences which will enhance the learning of the children at the School. The VSA is led by an amazing lady, Claire Mason, who, together with her wonderful team, support us endlessly and we honestly don't know where we would be without them. Events this term, aside from the hugely successful Scarecrow Trail previously reported on, have included a dress-up day for Halloween and a Silver Smarties challenge where the children could 'earn' silver coins for school by helping with household chores. Prizes were awarded to the pupils who raised the most amount. The funds raised went towards a new Reading programme for pupils.

The VSA also organised a self-portrait Tea Towel venture whereby each child and staff member in school had to draw a picture of themselves. These were then collated and printed onto Tea Towels and were on sale for parents to purchase; a lovely idea for Christmas presents or keepsakes.

The VSA are always looking for new ways to raise money for us. There are a number of ways by which any member of the community can support the pupils of the School:

Easyfundraising: a shopping platform where you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online at no extra cost to yourself www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Smile Amazon: shop as normal at no extra cost with a percentage gain for school www.smile.amazon.co.uk

Your School Lottery: only £1.00 per week, a GUARANTEED winner every single week. Search for St Bees Village Primary School at www.yourschoollottery.co.uk Thank you all so much!

Parking - Sadly, we need to yet again ask parents to please park considerately in the village at drop-off and pick-up times. A reminder that there is ample parking at Fairladies, the station and the beach car parks.

Online Safety - We would like to share a link that has been sent to us by the NSPCC for parents about keeping children safe online. It is particularly in relation to Tick Tock and Instagram and the dangers of posting videos. Our children are too young to be allowed to use these Apps but we thought it might be helpful if you have older children:

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/should-i-be-worried-about-my-child-sharing-videos-and-images-online2/

Finally, in this difficult time for all and we would like to thank all staff, governors, parents, families and community members for their support this term. We can only hope that matters improve in the new year but in the meantime we wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas break. ***School re-opens on Tuesday, 5th January 2021.***

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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/

Multi-Charities Sale

The Multi-Charities Christmas Sale was a great success despite being brought forward several days and missing Remembrance weekend. Organiser Carole Woodman reported takings of £1805 from 12 charity stalls, and more sales from Traidcraft was announced by Deb Lee, the local distributor. You may read all about this in The Whitehaven News! Special Thanks to the strongarm gents who cleared chairs and set out tables in Old College Hall.

Stop Press! A second Charity Sale with Art Exhibition & Sale will happen - Saturday 5 December.

Many people missed the first Sale and the Charities have more stock to sell!

Second Charity Christmas Fair & Art Exhibition/Sale of local artists work will be held for one day only, Saturday 5 December – Old College Hall from 10 am to 4 pm

In response to popular demand after people missed the first Multi-Charity Sale held earlier to beat the lockdown, the Sale will happen again and Chris Robson and local artists will exhibit their work. Most of the previous stalls will be there again for you to visit, with all CoVid precautions in place.

St Bees Post Office and General Store

Karl, Chelsea and family would like to thank customers, old and new, for their support and wish them all a Happy Christmas and healthy New Year

December		Shop		Post Office	
24	Thursday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	**Closed**	
25	Friday	**Closed**		**Closed**	
26	Saturday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	**Closed**	
27	Sunday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	**Closed**	
28	Monday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm
29	Tuesday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm
30	Wednesday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm
31	Thursday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	**Closed**	
January					
1	Friday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	**Closed**	
2	Saturday	7.00 am	8.00 pm	9.00 am	5.30 pm

Remembrance in St Bees

A short and dignified wreath-laying ceremony was held at the War Memorial in the village, attended by members of the civic and uniformed organisations, in honour of those who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

This year's ceremony was different, being socially distanced and reduced in number. There was no parade or march-past, but the occasion was commemorated in solemn silence as always. At 11.00 am the Silence was marked by the tolling of the tenor bell at the Priory, before and after.

Later that week on Wednesday 11th November a Remembrance programme was broadcast on St Bees Radio from 11 am to 1 pm, with readings by Rev Richard Lee and the Silence, with The Last Post and Reveille - followed by wartime favourite songs, many featuring the darling of the Forces, the late Vera Lynn.

WI News

Unfortunately we find ourselves in a lockdown situation once again, this time until December 2nd. This is necessary to drive down the Coronavirus, pushing the 'R' Reproductive Rate below one, so that we can resume our lives once again: although we will still be restricted, it will be better than a full lockdown.

Regarding re-starting our WI evenings in New College Hall, we will have to be patient and see what transpires in the Spring of 2021. I am hopeful that a vaccine will be available at some point in the New Year; in the meantime, we must continue to stay safe and follow Government Guidelines. I wish all our members, visitors, speakers and supporters of St Bees WI a very happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. Further details www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI . Or Contact Roxanne Benson on 01946 823137.

St. Bees Seagalls

Wishing all the Seagalls and readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It seems like an awfully long time since we had our last meeting, a quiz night at the Queens. Thanking all of our group members who lightened the load by organising some of the meet ups. We were in the process of organising an outdoor meeting and Boris changed the rules again. We are still here and ready to start up again in 2021 as soon as we get the go ahead. We are planning on running the rest of our 2020 schedule, speakers permitting. If anyone is interested in joining us next year then please get in touch: our numbers are in the back of the magazine. Wishing you all the very best, Lynne and Judith on behalf of the Seagalls.

St Bees RNLI are looking to recruit volunteer crew.

No previous sailing experience is needed as you will receive all the training you need both here in the village as well as at our headquarters in Poole.

If you live in or very near to St Bees and want to be part of the RNLI's continued aim to help save lives at sea, please send an email with your details to St-Bees@rnli.org.uk

Colin Wadey

Letter from Michelle Proctor

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul, He is here with me, I am not alone.
O His love is sure, and He knows my name, For my God is, the Ancient of Days
.Ancient of Days by City Alight

Dear Friends

The song above is a favourite of mine at the moment, in fact I had a hard time deciding which verse to use for this letter. I was listening to it recently as my car ground to a halt and could not be persuaded to move again. It was good to be reminded that God was with me as I sat by the side of the road waiting to be towed back to Mukinge. The car has since been taken to Solwezi (180km away) and fixed. In a world where there is a pandemic, natural disasters, wars and unrest a broken-down car is not such a big deal but it is comforting to know that whatever we are struggling with and wherever we may be, we are not alone God is with us.

The construction of our new operating theatre and ICU is almost finished. The last major thing to be done for now is the solar power and this should be installed soon. The plan is to move in in January. We hope that in time we will be able to raise enough money to install a piped oxygen system. In preparation for the opening we have been doing some extra training for the nurses who will be working in the ICU. I led a couple of sessions including one on paediatric resuscitation.

How is the COVID situation in Zambia? Probably the most frequent question I get asked, at the moment, and the answer is not simple. Compared to many countries our numbers are low as is the mortality rate. However, the numbers are slowly rising and we have had our first patients test positive at Mukinge. So far most of these patients have not been admitted with typical COVID symptoms but were found to be positive on random testing. The results take a couple of weeks to get back to us, so by the time we realise that the child with diabetes or the man with hypertension was also was COVID positive they have been discharged and gone home. This makes the task of contact tracing and testing difficult as the team has to find people and track their contacts in sometimes distant villages weeks after they left the hospital.
All over Zambia schools, colleges and universities opened up again in September and students of all ages are required to wear masks. Our own Nurses Training College has resumed classes and we have over 600 students back studying and trying to make up months of lost study with evening lectures and classes on Saturdays.

COVID has meant many changes to the lives of people all over the world and Mukinge is no exception. Wearing a mask in the hospital has become the new normal and no one is allowed in without one. The 24th October is Zambia's Independence Day. There may not be the usual big celebrations this year, but I am ready for the day with my mask in the colours of the Zambian flag!

What is Boarding like at St Bees School

Aleksandar is a new international student at St Bees School. He gives us an inside look at what it's like to be a boarder and how it has helped him settle into school life here in the UK.

My name is Aleksandar Engels and I am 18 years old. I am currently a Year 12 student attending St Bees School in this beautiful part of the UK - West Cumbria.

I actually originate from Germany but I took the decision to finish my schooling under the guidance of St Bees, not only in order to continue my education to gain A Levels for University, but also to grow as an individual through the School's strong focus on character development.

I am part of an exclusive and characterful family of just over 20 individuals who support each other through everyday life, not only during school time, but also together as a boarding family, a team and a unit.

Here, I learn and grow in interpersonal relationships with my peers in terms of teamwork, discipline and independence. Boarding life is a mix of cultures and experiences and we all learn from each other in ways that cannot be taught in a classroom.

We are so fortunate that our boarding community involves this mix of different nationalities and we are given a space to interact, grow and share together. Although we come from very diverse countries and regions of this world, we are able to work together to settle into school life, as well our private lives in the boarding house.

Broadening the horizon is often a way forward, especially for young people, and is essential for a successful future. This is what boarding life at St Bees means to me.

Furthermore, I can say that I have already found very good friends and that living in a boarding house has so far been a great achievement and experience in my life.

Boarding is a great experience for any student. It gives them a taste of independence, which is experience that many children don't get to have, as well as enabling friendships to form with those from all over the world.

Our comfortable boarding house is on site, and less than a two minute walk from the school building.

To find out more, email us on admissions@stbeesschool.co.uk.

Village History

As is usual in December there is no village history article in this magazine. Instead from items noted during the year we offer -

More absolutely useless facts which nobody needs to know

1936 Just before Christmas a flock of Mr. Atkinson's Abbey Farm geese escaped on to the railway. Thirty-one of them discovered – too late – that the train could go faster than they could. How many St. Bees families dined on mangled goose that Christmas is nowhere recorded.

1880 On his way home to Gill Cottage after a convivial Saturday evening at the Queen's, Willie Todd saw (or believed he saw) the ghost of his wife's uncle following him. The strange thing is that he did not learn until the next day that the uncle had died that afternoon.

1850s Canon Parkinson's portrait still hangs in Old College Hall. He was Theological College Principal (and Vicar) from 1846 to 1858. Genial and well-to-do, he was popular in the district, especially amongst the upper sections of society. But he would have been less so with the student who decamped to Gretna Green with his landlady's daughter. True, there had been a form of marriage – but still the Canon would not have him back.

1851 Have you sheep to dip? For 1/6d. Main Street's John Reay will sell you enough Claytors Dipping Powder for fifty sheep. Amongst much else he stocks paraffin and jams, anchovies and Prussic Acid, Gilbey's Gin, Captain White's chest protectors, picture postcards, and The Articles of the Church of England in Latin and English. He'll even arrange pianoforte hire if you wish.

1906 Schoolboy Billie McNeal was frequently in trouble. One term's logbook has him "punished" – which generally meant caned - four times. Twice he was caught in the Girls' Cloakroom (strictly out of bounds); once he climbed over the wall to the Mawsons' garden to steal rhubarb for his dinner, and once he tied two girls' plaits together through their chairbacks, so that neither could stand up. And on the Church Choir's outing to Birkenhead he first lost his cap by putting his head out of the carriage window, and then brought up his breakfast over the Vicar's shoes.

This final item is not to do with St. Bees History and perhaps does not belong on this page. But it came from a St. Bees resident (albeit a nine-years-old one) and therefore may just qualify. In school some while ago:

"It's no good, Mr. Jopling, you trying to tell me about Henry the Eighth. My Nan knows all about him. He was called 'the Eighth' because he had eight wives. He cut the heads off four and the arms and legs off all the others. My Nan was there, you know – she's quite old, you know – and she said you could hear the screams all over the Palace. She'll never forget it if she lives to be a hundred…"

I was wondering which was more important - historical accuracy, or this lad's faith in his Nan. But after what came next I just had to preserve the latter:

"My Nan's very rich, you know. She pretends she isn't, and I'm not supposed to tell. But in the bank she's got three lots of a million pounds – one million for me and the other two for my brothers, and we'll get them on the day we're eighteen".

They've all reached adulthood now. I've not heard that they seem any richer.

Bob Jopling, Village History Group

With the return of students our isolation centre had to be relocated as it was originally in one of their classrooms. The only place that was free and had everything we needed to set up an isolation ward was our chapel. So, our Chapel is now a ward and our morning devotions are held outside.

Not all effects of COVID have been negative, I was able to "attend" my Goddaughter's wedding on line due to the restrictions on gatherings in the UK.
Zambia relies on tourism for a big part of its income but this year with travel restrictions, no flights and two weeks isolation required on arrival the industry has been hit hard. Some places, to encourage visitors, have done special deals for Zambian residents. For me this meant a holiday in Kafue National Park staying at places that normally would be beyond my budget. It was the most amazing week. We saw so many animals and birds on our game drives, relaxed by the river and ate way too much!

Thank you for taking the time to read my news, I would love to hear your news too.
Love
Michelle

A Letter From Michelle · Mukinge Hospital · PO Box 120092 · Kasempa 0000000 · Zambia

Grassroots

Bob Jopling's Jottings – Bob's Jottings are on sale at the Priory and Post Office, and at the Charities Fair – a lovely Christmas present of amusing and fascinating tales of St Bees in the 1900's.

Florence Arts Centre - Shop local - at Florence Arts Centre and support local makers! "handmade@christmas" from Fabricate - the textile group from the Western Fells! Christmas decorations, needle-felting, embroidered pictures, bags of creative ideas! From Wednesday 2nd December - Saturday 19th December (Government restrictions permitting)

"A Sense of Place" - Wednesday 2nd December - Saturday 19th December (Government restrictions permitting)

A summary exhibition of our recent residency programme - ceramics, collage, film, photography, sculpture and spoken word. A selection of work by Carolyn Marr, Frances Marr, Lucia Tambini, Jocelyn McGregor, Julia Parks, Hattie Moore, Amy Johnson, Shaun Blezard, Kate Davis and Kirsten Taylor, Florence Arts Centre Gallery open: Wednesday - Sunday 11 - 4. www.florenceartscentre.com
01946 824946 florence@florenceartscentre.com
Plenty of free parking - disabled access - refreshments available!

News from Jonni Stratton-Brook—Jonni has written to say that, given her age (96), she and her family have decided that living in her own is no longer advisable. She is therefore moving to her daughter and son-in-law's home in Yorkshire. She is grateful for the incredible help she has had locally from a Whitehaven friend and her "official" carer in Egremont.
Also she'd like to bid adieu to all her friends in St Bees and thank them for their friendship and care over many years.

With Best Seasonal Greetings to all our friends in St Bees, and also our thanks for so many kindnesses received in this strange year - Bob and Thelma Jopling.

John & Sally Kennedy send all their love and best wishes to all for a Blessed Christmas & a Joyful New Year.

Christmas Greetings and best wishes for 2020 from Leonie and Ian Hill to all our friends and neighbours.

May the peace, joy and hope of Christmas be with you today and always. With warmest wishes from Dorothy Warbrick.

Gill Burgess would like to wish all her friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes to all my friends in St. Bees for a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year. Mary Todd.

Jim and Anne Baker extend festive greetings to all friends and acquaintances in the parish. May the light of the Christ Child shine in your hearts and families in these dark times.

Philip and Maureen Barratt wish everyone in St Bees a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Best wishes to all friends and neighbours for a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2021 from Ian & Rosalie McAndrew.

Elizabeth Cotes would like to wish all her friends in St Bees, Sandwith and Nethertown a Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Vicar and family, the Ministry Team, Churchwardens and PCC.

Gweneth & Neville Denson & family send their love and best wishes to all their friends and neighbours for a happy, peaceful Christmas and a better Year ahead. God bless and keep you safe.

John & Eleanor Haile wish everyone Blessings and Happiness for Christmas and 2021.

Margaret Thompson, Lisa & Faith at "the Oddies", would like to wish all their customers a very Happy Christmas, and thanks for all their support throughout the year.

Covid 19, what a strange year, No Carol Service, no Pubs and no beer, So be kind to each other, we are in this together, We wish you a Healthy Christmas for now and forever. Love from Anna, Dick and Joe Beddows..

Mark, Sarah, Tom & Emma George would like to wish all their friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2021.

Ken and Gill Richardson would like to wish all friends and family a Happy Christmas and a better New Year than 2020 has been.

Sending Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for a Peaceful New Year to friends and neighbours from Malcolm and Cath Lightfoot.

Derek & Joyce Ashley wish relatives, friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Wishing all my friends in St Bees and at the Priory a very Happy Christmas and a better 2021. Angela McGill (Gosforth).

Best Wishes for a Joyful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2021 from Pat McDonnell.

Alex and Eileen O'Fee would like to take this opportunity to wish all friends and relatives a Happy Christmas and especially a healthy 2021.

Irene Palmer sends greetings from Bradford-on-Avon to her friends and neighbours. All the best for the Christmas and the New Year.

Blanche and Edward Arch would like to wish all their friends and acquaintances A Happy Xmas and a healthy New Year.

Joan and Colin Wadey wish all their friends and neighbours in St Bees a very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Blanche and Edward Arch wish all their friends and acquaintances in St Bees a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Christmas Greetings and best wishes for every joy and happiness in the New Year to all in St Bees and outlying villages from Derek and Mary McGee.

The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Happy Christmas and a better, joyful, New Year to all. Love and best wishes Jon & Wendy Mellor and family.

John and Helen Bushby would like to wish all their friends in St Bees a Merry Christmas and happier times for us all in 2021.

Huw, Chris and family Lewis send their warmest good wishes to all. Happy Christmas!

Jackie Walker wishes all friends in St Bees a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Dave and Val Maudsley with their family wish all friends and relatives a Happy Christmas & a Peaceful 2021.

To friends, neighbours and all. Love and best wishes for Christmas and the New year. Phyl & Dave Bowler.

This too will pass. Best wishes to all our friends for a Happy Christmas. Anne and Sandy Mackenzie.

Gladys Lawler wishes everyone a Healthy & Happy Christmas and good luck for 2021.

Frank and Deb wish all their friends a Happy Christmas & a happy and healthy New Year. Many thanks for the support through our own interesting year.