

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Annual Report and Accounts

Abridged with additional parish reports
for the year ending 31 December 2021



To know Christ and to make him known

Charity Number 1143193

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

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The PCC also employs a 'Parish Administrator' (on a self-employed basis).
Mrs Vicky Bearman undertook this position from January to March followed by
Mrs Emma Mason from September and December.

There are no other staff costs relating to the trustees (key management personnel).

Shepherds Trust

The PCC acts as custodian to the Shepherds and Whitehead Trusts on behalf of the Shepherds Trust Trustees.
The Trustees distributed 'Christmas gifts' of £10 each to 12 individuals, associated costs for postage and
cards being £30, giving a total of £150 payment during 2021.

Other giving

Other giving during 2021 totalled	1,179
Christian Aid	302
Toilet Twinning	60
Royal British Legion	265
Bishops Harvest Appeal	326
Children's Society	227

Grants

The PCC received grants totalling	13,138
Culture Recover Fund	8,900
Additional Restrictions Grant	4,002
Listed Places of Worship (Vat)	236

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Note 5 and Supplementary Notes to Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 December 2021

5	Liabilities	2021		2020	
		£		£	
	Parish Council loan	950		950	
	Uncashed cheques	-		435	
	other payments	-		20	
		950		1,405	

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6 Supplementary Notes:

Employment

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000
During the year the PCC employed an organist, Mr F Bowler who was also employed as caretaker, and Mrs D Bowler as cleaner (both part-time) though no payments were large enough to attract social security costs.
Mr F Bowler is a member of the PCC

Review of the year

At the end of last year's report I wrote that I hoped that in 2021 we would continue to reach out and bless our congregation, community and the wider world. Looking back over the past twelve months I can see that we have, despite many challenges, been the blessing we hoped to be.

The year started rather depressingly with another lockdown. But by now we were amateur experts in all things digital and we again moved online broadcasting our services on facebook and youtube. Reverend Nicki Pennington and I shared "Baking through Lent" videos and ideas and reflections for families called "A Crafty Lent". Our Good Friday "Hour at the Cross" service was in the form of a video including musical contributions on the Father Willis organ from Frank Bowler.

It was wonderful to be back together for in person worship again at Easter, and a joy to hold weddings and baptisms in the Priory again, despite the restrictions, and to meet for our APCM and worship in May. At this service we thanked outgoing warden Derek McGee and welcomed a new warden to the team, Tom Kelly. Several PCC members did not stand for re-election and we were sad to see them go but grateful for their contribution. We were also sad to say goodbye and thank you to an excellent Parish Secretary, Vicky Bearman. A faithful supporter of the Priory for many years, Mary Branford, retired from leading the flower arranging rota this year. We are pleased that several parishioners are continuing her good work, albeit on a smaller scale.

In the summer, inspired by Carlisle Diocese's refreshed "God for All" vision we began to embed the four themes of "Tread Gently", "Care Deeply", "Follow Daily" and "Speak Boldly" into our worship.

This would not have been possible without the participation and support of the retired ministry team and our Rural Dean.

Tread Gently

This year's COP 26 conference in Glasgow in September was a defining moment in our efforts to combat climate change. In 2021 we responded to our need to reduce our carbon footprint by exploring becoming an Eco Church. We set up a working party to look at what needs to be done to achieve a bronze award. From September to December our worship was focused on the theme of "tread gently".

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Care Deeply

In December we began to explore what it means to "care deeply" for one another and our worship explored this theme. The PCC heard a presentation on the work of the "Welcome Churches Network" and we signed up to be a church that welcomes Afghan refugees. In November we hosted a service for groups supporting 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

At the end of the year we hosted our first ever Christmas tree festival and it was a resounding success. We were so pleased to welcome charities, voluntary groups, schools and businesses into the Priory and to enjoy their innovative and even profound Christmas tree creations.

2021 was a busy year for our ministers, wardens, PCC, cleaner and caretaker as together we tried to find our way through the Covid 19 crisis; enabling people to worship whilst keeping them safe. We look forward to 2022 with hope as we begin to explore further the themes of "follow daily" and "speak boldly" continuing to look for ways to be a blessing whatever may befall.

Reverend Becky

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Administrative information

St Bees Priory Church is situated in St Bees, Cumbria. It is part of the Diocese of Carlisle within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St Bees Priory Church, St Bees, CA27 0DR.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) was registered with the Charity Commission on 1 August 2011.

Charity number 1143193

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent Revd R Gibbs

Ministry Team
Retired Clergy with the
Bishop's Permission to Officiate

Revd Canon J Baker
Revd A Baker
Revd D Cox

Revd J Marshall
Revd Canon T Park
Revd R Lee

Endowment Funds

The movements in endowment funds during the year were:

	At 1 January 2021	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	At 31 December 2021	Change in year
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Mossop Fund	225	-	-	-	32	258	32
Postlethwaite Fund	246	-	-	-	35	281	35
Chancel Fund	901	-	-	-	129	1,030	129
Sunday School Fund	4,692	-	-	-	671	5,363	671
	6,064	-	-	-	868	6,932	

Purposes of endowment funds

The Mossop, Postlethwaite, Chancel and Sunday School Funds are all held on permanent endowment.

The income arising from the capital of the Mossop, Postlethwaite and Chancel Funds may be used for general purposes and is credited to unrestricted funds.

The income arising from the capital of the Sunday School Fund may only be used for expenditure associated with the Sunday School and is therefore credited to restricted funds.

Purposes of restricted funds

Restricted funds are those funds which must be spent on restricted purposes in accordance with the donors' wishes.

The following funds represent accumulated donations and investment income for the stated purpose:

Fabric Fund, Graveyard Fund (including the David Watson Memorial Fund), Organ Fund, Sunday School Fund, Furnishing Fund, Bellingers Fund and Choir Fund.

The Shepherds Trust Fund is expended on Christmas donations as directed by the Trustees of the Shepherds Trust. The Whitehead Trust fund is similarly directed by the Trustees of the Shepherds Trust. The PCC acts as custodian of these two funds, hence though included in the annual PCC reporting of accounts do not contribute to the overall assets of the PCC.

The Livesey Trust Fund is expended on junior choir members' gratuities.

The Webster Trust - Gifted (in the 1940s) by Mrs Webster of Wimbledon a sum of £100 to the churchwardens under Trust to maintain & keep insured, the West Door of the church.

The New College Hall Fund consists of the insurance valuation of the building less accumulated depreciation thereon. No historical data is available to ascertain how the building was originally funded, however the members have chosen to allocate this to restricted funds on the assumption that the building costs would have been funded from specific donations and appeals.

The New College Appeal fund was created in 2017 to raise funds for essential maintenance work on the grade 2 listed building, which was substantially completed in that year. Fundraising continued throughout 2018 towards the cost of installing a new heating system in the building, and to carry out internal restoration works. The balance remaining in the fund will be used to provide funds for further improvements to the building.

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Administrative information (continued)

Wardens

Mrs W Mellor
Mr D McGee (until May 2021)
Mr Tom Kelly (from May 2021)
Mrs R McAndrew
Mr M Lightfoot

Secretary

Mr J Mellor (until May 2021)
Mrs R Rendell (from May 2021)

Treasurer

Mr N Killip

Lay Vice Chair

Dr P Bearman (until October 2021)

Deanery Synod Representative

Mrs R McAndrew

Elected PCC members

To serve until APCM 2022:

Mr G Gilmour
Mrs D Lee
Mr J Kennedy
Mr N Killip

Co-opted to serve until 2022:

Mr C Robson (ex-officio)
Mr J Haile (Patron)

To serve until APCM 2024:

Mr F Bowler
Mrs A Ross
Mrs H Hemm

Committees

The PCC meets approximately 10 times a year. It operates through a number of committees, which meet as required between full meetings of the PCC. The Incumbent is an ex-officio member of all of the committees.

Full Committee

This committee is the only committee required by law. In this parish it consists of the Incumbent, the Lay Vice Chair, the Wardens and Deputies, the Officers and Members of the PCC.

Standing Committee

This committee meets and transacts the business of the PCC between its meetings and also sets the agenda for full meeting of Council. It is chaired by the Incumbent, and comprises the Church Wardens, treasurer and two nominated lay members of the PCC.

Members

Reverend Becky Gibbs (Chair)
Grant Gilmour (from November 2021)
Tom Kelly (from May 2021)
Deb Lee (from November 2021)
Malcolm Lightfoot
Rosalie McAndrew
Wendy Mellor

Building and Works Committee

The function of this committee is to arrange for the maintenance of the fabric of the church and ancillary buildings and grounds and to advise on

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory
Administrative information (continued)

proposals for action which ultimately require ratification by the PCC. The committee meets on a regular basis, several times a year but can meet more often if extraordinary action is necessary.

Members
 Mr J Kennedy (Chair)
 Mr G Gilmour
 Mr M Lightfoot
 Dr I McAndrew
 Mrs R McAndrew

Dr J Hale
 Mr F Bowler
 Mr D Hope
 Mr T Kelly

Churches Together Representative
 Representatives from all the Egremont group of churches meet regularly to discuss aspects of mutual interest.
 Representatives: Mrs S Davidson

Worship Committee
 The function of this committee is to advise/recommend to the incumbent on matters of worship in the Priory.

Members
 Mr F Bowler
 Mr P Barratt
 Mrs R McAndrew
 Mrs W Mellor

Accountants
 robinson+co
 Chartered Accountants
 72 Lowther Street Whitehaven CA28 7AH
 Bankers
 TSB plc
 59 Lowther Street
 Whitehaven
 CA28 7DT

The CBF Church of England Funds
 Senator House
 85 Queen Victoria Street
 London
 EC4V 4ET

Restricted Funds

The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	At 1 January 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Gains and Losses £	At 31 December 2021 £	Change in year
Fabric Fund	2,040	605	(33)	-	-	2,612	572
Graveyard Fund	8,280	1,969	(3,558)	-	729	7,420	(860)
Organ Fund	30,357	987	(1,079)	-	3,804	34,069	3,712
Sunday School Fund	1,792	161	-	-	138	2,090	298
Furnishing Fund	4,637	122	(120)	-	616	5,256	619
Bellringers Fund	5,715	842	(50)	-	609	7,116	1,401
Shepherds Trust	6,578	183	(150)	-	907	7,518	940
Whitehead Charity	642	14	-	-	70	726	85
Livesey Trust	7,380	194	-	-	954	8,528	1,148
Choir Fund	2,163	304	(629)	-	268	2,105	(58)
Webster Fund	351	7	-	-	35	393	42
New College Hall building	453,088	-	(10,069)	-	-	443,019	(10,069)
New College Hall Appeal	1,638	-	-	-	-	1,638	-
	524,660	5,389	(15,689)	-	8,129	522,490	-

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Note 4 to Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31 December 2021

Unrestricted Funds

The movements in Unrestricted funds during the year were:

	At 1 January 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Gains and Losses £	At 31 December 2021 £	Change in year
Unrestricted General Fund	119,425	98,166	(80,600)	-	11,011	148,002	28,577

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Purpose of unrestricted funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds

The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	At 1 January 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Gains and Losses £	At 31 December 2021 £	Change in year
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Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules.

The PCC became an Official Charity registered with the Charity Commission on 1 August 2011, Charity Number 1143193.

Recruitment and appointment of members

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Priory is led by a ministry team and the church council, who are responsible to the Bishop of Carlisle. The ministry team is as noted on page 3.

The Priory has a rich musical heritage, which is led today by our organist/choirmaster. He leads the choir and plays our famous organ as well as the grand piano as appropriate for the occasion.

For a hundred and fifty years, bell-ringers have summoned people to worship. It's not just a time prompt, but a spiritual reminder in a world of secular values that a religious service is about to take place in the midst of the community. The ringers are led by the Tower Captain.

Key management personnel

The members of the PCC consider that they themselves comprise the key management personnel of the charity, in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running the operation of the charity on a day to day basis. Subject to remuneration paid for specific roles as shown in note 6 to the accounts, all members give of their time freely. Details of members' expenses and related party transactions are given in note 6 to the accounts.

Related parties

The Friends of the Priory support the Priory through social and cultural events and encourage interest in its history, architecture and heritage. There are other dedicated groups of volunteers who are generous with

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-	-	-	101
505	-	505	-
1,268	-	1,268	1,401
531	-	531	704
960	-	960	286
-	-	-	789
-	-	-	-
141	-	141	(1)
3,405	-	3,405	3,279

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2021

Analysis of Payments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
3a Activities undertaken directly				
Priory utilities	5,590	-	5,590	4,530
Priory Cleaning and Caretaker	8,030	-	8,030	4,251
Insurance (inc. NCH)	6,390	-	6,390	10,793
Maintenance: Priory & OCH	2,120	33	2,154	2,381
Maintenance: Graveyard & Priory grounds	988	3,558	4,546	1,675
Organist and Organ expenses	3,509	1,079	4,588	3,411
Leaflets and sundry printing	511	-	511	179
Magazine expenses	3,207	-	3,207	2,215
Social Committee Expenses	163	-	163	63
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,695	170	2,865	514
Music and Choir	-	629	629	436
New College Hall expenses	784	-	784	1,254
Old College Hall expenses	-	-	-	35
	33,988	5,470	39,457	31,738

3b Giving and Donations:

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)

The 10.30 morning service and festival services have been strongly supported by the Priory choir and organist, numbers increasing over Christmas to 20 choristers (average of 15).

Note:- In 2021 it is noticeable that worshipping congregation has halved in number, but many more plus newcomers are viewing on Livestream (via youtube or facebook).

Electoral Roll for 2021 149 (134 Residents, 15 non-resident)

RMcAndrew

Reports for the 2022 APCM

Report from PCC Secretary

Since the last APCM in May 2021, the PCC have met largely in person within the Priory and more recently in New College Hall due to the relaxation of Covid restrictions. With this relaxation, the discussions on Covid restrictions, alongside the other matters arising for the PCC for the Priory, have been regular and in depth to ensure balance between safety for the congregation from the risk of Covid and allowing a more 'normal' life to resume. Aside from Covid, many aspects for the church have been discussed, notably from October 2021 a change to the structure of PCC meetings saw time within the meetings for discussion on specific activities to support the God for All themes; Tread Gently, Care Deeply, Follow Daily and Speak Boldly.

There are many people within the church who need great thanks for their support over the past year. Specifically during these times of a Covid pandemic, great thanks are given to Malcolm Lightfoot and team for the risk assessment for events at the Priory and adapting to an ever changing situation in relation to Covid. Lastly in thanks for support, the PCC have been very grateful to the congregation and wider community for the generous financial support to the Priory.

I would like to give my thanks to Jon Mellor, who stepped down as PCC secretary at the last APCM, for his time on the PCC but also for his support to me in the transition into the role as PCC secretary in May 2021. Phill Bearman stepped down from the PCC in October 2021 and, on behalf of the PCC, great thanks is given to Phill for his time on the PCC and in the role as Vice Chair. The PCC welcomed Revd. Richard Lee onto the PCC in February 2022. Great thanks is also wished on behalf of the PCC to Rosalie McAndrew and Wendy Mellor for all their commitment and counsel over the years as both are stepping down as Church Wardens at the APCM in April 2022.

Rebecca Rendell, March 2022

Churchwarden's Social & Pastoral Report 2021

This report covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022 through another difficult and demanding year of Covid restrictions, but the PCC and congregation rose to the challenge and kept the Priory worship and administration in good order.

Ministry - From January to March the church was closed for public worship, but continued livestreamed services with recorded readings & prayers; meetings on Zoom; the magazine online. Thankfully worship resumed on Easter Sunday but no singing for the congregation. In September some normality returned, with 2 morning services; clubs and groups restarted in the church halls, and festivals were celebrated at Harvest & Christmas.

Many thanks go to the Ministry team who assisted with services, alternating with Becky for her Sundays at St Leonards. The Priory Christmas services were well-attended, although the worshipping congregation has halved in number over the year, with many viewing on Livestream from home.

Youth Ministry – Becky held All-age monthly meetings on Zoom for young people, and launched a new monthly 'Bible Story' service for young families. School services were cancelled. Members of the uniformed groups took part in the Remembrance Sunday parade and service; the Christingle was well-supported by children delighted to receive their candlelit orange and a take-home bag of goodies. Many returned for the Crib service; and to visit the Christmas Tree Festival and vote for their favourite. However few children attend church regularly despite the introduction of Storybags and activities in the Baptistery; and Youth Club has not attracted new members.

Arts & Music & Social Functions – Social events resumed at the Priory in the autumn – the Friends Organ Recital by Frank Bowler; a recording/filming concert by Harpists Northwest of Pachelbel's Canon; the Multi-Charities Christmas Fair with Art Exhibition & Sale; and the Friends Christmas Concert of Carols & Readings. Appreciative thanks go to the Priory Choir and Frank organist & choirmaster for uplifting church worship, and also the Advent & Christmas Carol services.

Many thanks to Deb Lee for organising the Mothers Union Garden Party & Traidcraft Fundraiser at her home in June; and leading a Priory Event in the Campaign against gender-based Violence, attended by Soroptimists, M.U. members, and WOW (Women Out West).

Initiatives

The Culture Recovery Fund A PCC committee was set up to apply for a grant towards Priory projects and maintenance costs to support the re-opening of the church after the months of lockdown, reduced income and closure. The CRF bid resulted in a grant awarded of £8,600 which funded heritage projects – revised interpretive history panels in church and in the OCH courtyard – and payment of 3 months' utilities, some staffing costs, and 4 sanitiser pedestals. The Heritage Lottery Fund made these grants available to all heritage organisations with certain stringent conditions.

Old College Hall (Hire)	482	-	482	322
New College Hall (Hire)	423	-	423	243
Pop-in Café	1,688	-	1,688	940
	7,033	-	7,033	6,445
2c Investment Income	3	1	4	36
Bank Interest	2,280	1,777	4,057	3,918
Income from Listed Investments	2,284	1,778	4,062	3,954
2d Church Activities:	1,919	2,463	4,382	3,347
Fees	2,240	-	2,240	975
Magazine Donations	4,159	2,463	6,622	4,322

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Notes to Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 December 2021

Analysis of Receipts

2a All other giving/Voluntary receipts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Pillar Box donations	1,834	-	1,834	1,080
Contactless Giving	1,328	-	1,328	-
Grants	13,048	90	13,138	2,398
Lenten Lunches	-	-	-	177
Special Collections	-	-	-	609
Legacy	-	-	-	500
	16,211	90	16,300	4,764

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2b Activities for generating funds

Hire of priory	238	-	238	-
Sales	922	-	922	242
Special events (900 Years)	-	-	-	1,480
Social Committee	83	-	83	112
Magazine Advertising	3,198	-	3,198	3,106

The Priory Christmas Tree Festival This was one of the original 900 Years Anniversary projects which survived the pandemic and was wonderfully celebrated thanks to the imagination of organiser Sarah George and the ingenuity of the 26 local organisations and individuals who took part. Over 300 votes were received and many visited during the 3 weeks, enjoying a most successful festival.

Fundraising – A good number of events took place and funds were raised for various charities.

Christian Aid Week raised £781 plus 25 Gift-Aid forms; Pop-In Café restarted in September resulting in £100 per week regularly; Harvest groceries were donated for the Foodbank and 25 Shoeboxes and bags of knitted goods for Romania. Christmas Greetings in the magazine raised £570 for Priory & the Children's Society; and the Chringle produced £248 also for the Society. Amazingly the Annual Multi-Charity Sale raised over £4,767 and Chris Robson's Art Exhibition/Sale raised £500.

Finally the Christmas Tree festival totalled £337 shared between the Priory & St Bees RNLI.

Many thanks to everyone for their support and generosity in the past year.

Tourism & Visitors – The Priory has welcomed many more visitors this year - British holidaymakers unable to travel abroad and seeking the freedom of coasts and fells, or enjoying the facilities of holiday lets or the caravan & chalet park. The Priory publications have sold well, including Debbie Bowler's new notelets and postcards, and Donald Brownrigg's calendars. All very popular.

The Priory Registers for 2021/22 recorded 10 baptisms, 6 weddings and 11 funerals. We remember the sad loss of many dear friends in the parish and community – Russell Atkinson, Gus Kennedy, Stewart Miller, Dick Brown, Guy Mawson, Peter Agnew, Keith Hayes and Neville Denson. We give thanks for their lives and cherish their memory.

Retirements of Church Officers – This year we offer our sincere thanks to those retiring from office – two churchwardens Rosalie McAndrew standing down after 28 years and Wendy Mellor stepping down to devote time as Lay Reader in training. We appreciate their many years of devoted commitment to the life and work of the Priory. Many grateful thanks to Rebecca Rendell taking on the office of PCC secretary, and welcome to Emma Mason in her post as Parish Administrator.

Sincere Thanks to the magazine editors and mag distributors keeping the village and parish informed and in touch with church and community life. The St Bees News is funded by contributions from its advertisers and St Bees Parish Council, plus generous donations from its readers.

Social & Pastoral Care – No catering was possible this past year, so everyone was delighted to return to Pop-In Café which reopened in September. Later Pop-In moved back to NCH with caution advised. In March 2022 Pancake Tuesday

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was celebrated and Lent Lunches resumed after a two-year lapse. Greetings & Gifts were sent out at Easter, Harvest and Christmas to senior parishioners in Care Homes, and to villagers isolating or housebound who much appreciated the social visit and the gift. Many thanks to all Area Visitors who supported their neighbours with doorstep deliveries of fruit & flowers, or phoned and kept in touch in various ways. The community spirit is alive and well!

Sincere Thanks to all those organising church services and functions, and monitoring Covid precautions in past months – maintaining a safe environment for everyone. Special thanks to Frank & Debbie Bowler for their painstaking work as caretakers and cleaners this past year. The PCC wishes to thank all who have faithfully supported the life and mission of the Priory this year, despite restrictions and difficulties.

Safeguarding Report

1. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Hilary Hemm

2. Safer Recruitment, and Training

In 2021 our parish supported the following groups working with children and young people, and with adults who are vulnerable: Pop-In Thursday café and Bell ringing.

We are in the process of safely recruiting and training (largely by renewal of training) the leaders and volunteers working with the groups listed above in accordance with the Church's national guidance and we are ensuring that they will have received the level of training required by the Church. Our Safeguarding Officer will complete her training at the end of March 2022. We intend that our other leaders will be completing the new Leadership Safeguarding course by the end of May 2022. For most of them it will be a refresher course.

The past two years have been very different with regard to Church practices and activities because of the Covid 19 restrictions in place for much of the time. Safeguarding activity continued throughout. New Safeguarding guidelines and new training for all levels of personnel were issued by the Church of England and the Diocese in 2021. We are working to ensure that our leaders and other volunteers receive the new training appropriate to their role and have current DBS checks where required.

3. Church Policy and Guidance

Our Parish has adopted the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy statement', and Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance. The policy will be reviewed and renewed by the PCC in June 2022 and thereafter on an annual basis.

*Hilary Hemm
12 March 2022*

costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is not provided for in these accounts. Support costs, including governance costs, are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.

1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.10 (2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Receipts and Payments Account and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises (if any) is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years.

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. Freehold land and buildings are depreciated on a straight line basis at 2% per annum.

1.6. Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at year ending 31st December.

Any purchases or sales of investments are shown separately within the Receipts and Payments Account. The gain or loss is shown in the notes to the accounts.

1.7. Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, grants or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds.

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Notes to Financial Statements
For the year ending 31 December 2021

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are summarised below.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The presentational currency is UK Sterling £. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. In particular, consideration has been given to the recent COVID-19 pandemic in this assessment.

1.2. Fund accounting

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Restricted funds are those funds which must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 4.

Endowment funds, where the capital must be retained, are also explained in note 4.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.3. Income

All income is included in the Receipts and Payments Account when received. Care has been taken to ensure no income has been duplicated or omitted. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December. Whilst they are not shown within the Receipts and Payments account, details are shown in the notes to the accounts.

1.4. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on a payments. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over. Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Expenditure on church activities comprises those costs incurred by the PCC in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both

THE FABRIC, GOODS, ORNAMENTS etc.

Introduction

This report refers to the period 16/5/21 to 15/3/2022.

Questions, comments or further elaboration are invited by email or at the APCM.

A) PRIORY

Due to the continuing adverse effects of Covid, certain work that would otherwise have been carried out since the last APCM has been limited.

Nevertheless, once again a great deal of effort by parishioners has gone towards maintaining our splendid but ancient Priory during the past year. Sincere thanks are offered for such support. (See section G)

As previously reported, nowadays our present voluntary manpower resources are increasingly insufficient to allow many scheduled maintenance items to be tackled and consequently more of the day-to-day work is having to be done by resorting to outside sources who require payment.

Roof

In early June, our approved roofing contractors (Younghusband) attended to the leak in the Sanctuary roof above the north side altar rail.

In late November, damage was sustained to the roof by storm Arwen and was subsequently repaired by Younghusband (our preferred roofing contractor) at a total cost of £1,464 (inc. VAT).

This amount was subsequently reimbursed by our insurers (EIG), less the first £500 for which we are responsible.

South Transept Roof Leak

The intended investigation into persistent roof rainwater leaks on the East and West walls of the South Transept and around the East end of the Nave was postponed in 2021 due to Covid.

Because it is suspected that such leakage may also be contributing to the troublesome internal high-level spalling in the chancel, no further work has yet been done on this.

Discussion is currently being held with Brendan Teasdale (masonry and roofing specialist recommended by our architect Chloe Granger) about conducting a detailed investigation into the cause of the leakage and suggesting remedial action. The intention is that if the problem can't be resolved at the same time as the investigation, (for instance if grant funding is needed) then the condition left at the conclusion should be no worse than at the start.

Heating

In October, a registered gas engineer from Roland Hill Ltd (who were responsible for installing the original gas supply into the premises) conducted a complete check and maintenance of the entire gas installation and certified that this is operating safely and satisfactorily.

The recommendation that the gas pipework in the under-croft should be painted in the official identification colour, which would also prevent corrosion, has since been implemented.

Electrical Matters

Over the course of the year, our approved electrical contractor (SEL) has replaced two exterior lights in the vicinity of the bell tower access door and a further two on the gateposts by the church entrance.

Storm Arwen caused damage to two external lights resulting in an intermittent fault due to dampness causing the circuit breaker to trip and take out other critical lights. This has subsequently been rectified but the fitting on the NE corner of the building still requires replacing.

Chancel Floor

Until such time as the rainwater leaks have been rectified and affordable funding is available, progress is in abeyance regarding improvements to the Chancel stone flags & tiles and providing a new oak covering over the heating pipes.

Pews

All the pews which were temporarily repositioned as a precautionary measure against Covid have recently been returned to their original places.

Organ

Servicing has been satisfactorily carried out during the year.

Security

The alarm system was serviced during the year under the contract with Compass

Gutter clearing

Low level gutters and downspouts on the Priory were cleared in late Autumn and early 2022 thanks to Malcolm Lightfoot and Jack Hale supplemented by James Skelton and Unblock Cumbria.

Cleaning

Frank and Debbie Bowler have continued to painstakingly look after the Priory and both halls for which we are most grateful. Covid precautionary measures have caused a considerable increase in their workload.

Contactless giving

Since being permanently installed last summer (2021), the new contactless giving

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For the year ending 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Notes					
Cash funds:					
TSB Bank current account and 'cash in hand'	55,149	12,722	-	67,871	50,205
CCLA Deposit funds	6,608	1,793	-	8,401	8,396
	<u>61,757</u>	<u>14,515</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,272</u>	<u>58,602</u>
Investment assets					
CCLA Investment fund [shares at market value]	87,985	64,956	6,932	159,873	139,864
	<u>149,742</u>	<u>79,471</u>	<u>6,932</u>	<u>236,144</u>	<u>198,466</u>
Total cash and investments					
	<u>149,742</u>	<u>79,471</u>	<u>6,932</u>	<u>236,144</u>	<u>198,466</u>
Other monetary assets	-	-	-	-	-
Assets retained for church use:					
New College Hall	-	443,019	-	443,019	453,088
	<u>-</u>	<u>443,019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>443,019</u>	<u>453,088</u>
Liabilities	5	950	-	950	1,405

New College Hall - additional note

Freehold land and buildings retained by the Priory comprise the New College Hall which is included in the financial statements at its insurance valuation of £556,944 less accumulated depreciation thereon.

The New College Hall was built by the Theological College and donated to the church when the Theological College closed in 1895.

No historical cost information is held for this asset, and the members consider that the cost of obtaining such information will outweigh any benefits arising.

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory
Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31st December 2021

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Receipts						
Voluntary receipts:						
Planned giving		46,205	730	-	46,935	43,135
Collections at services		3,177	-	-	3,177	3,712
Donations		5,327	328	-	5,655	13,019
All other giving/voluntary receipts	2a	16,211	90	-	16,300	4,764
Gift Aid recovered		13,771	-	-	13,771	13,087
		84,690	1,148	-	85,838	77,717
Activities for generating funds	2b	7,033	-	-	7,033	6,445
Investment Income	2c	2,284	1,778	-	4,062	3,954
Church Activities	2d	4,159	2,463	-	6,622	4,322
Total Receipts		98,166	5,389	-	103,554	92,438
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities:						
Diocesan parish contribution		38,000	-	-	38,000	37,600
Clergy and staffing costs		1,768	-	-	1,768	2,327
Activities undertaken directly	3a	33,988	5,470	-	39,457	31,738
Mission giving and donations	3b	2,650	150	-	2,800	2,629
Support costs	3c	3,405	-	-	3,405	3,279
Costs of generating funds		-	-	-	-	125
Total Payments		79,810	5,620	-	85,430	77,697
Excess of receipts over payments		18,355	(231)	-	18,125	14,741
Transfers between funds	4	-	-	-	-	-
		18,355	(231)	-	18,125	14,741
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		37,252	12,953	-	50,205	33,433
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		55,149	12,722	-	67,871	50,205

device, allocated to us as a participant of Carlisle Diocese pilot scheme, has provided visitors and churchgoers with the opportunity to make card payments to the Priory by digital means as an alternative to cash donations. This is very simple to use and is proving effective.

Arrangements are also presently in hand to install an additional portable contactless-giving device in the Lady Chapel in a semi-permanent manner which would allow it to be temporarily relocated elsewhere for special occasions.

Priory Embroidery Team

This dedicated group have continued working, subject to social distancing, on a commemorative banner as part of the 900 years celebrations. Thanks to all concerned for their hard work. An appropriate display stand is to be provided by Alan Armstrong.

Priory Flower Arrangers

Thanks are due to all those who have who have agreed to take on monthly duties, following Mary Branford's retirement, and also to those who generously contribute to the flower fund. All efforts continue to be greatly appreciated.

B) COLLEGE HALLS

Old College Hall

Recently the troublesome external door handle/lock has been replaced, and also minor leaks from the fan assisted radiators have been rectified by Roland Hill and Malcolm Lightfoot.

Currently high-level downspouts at the NE end of the building are in need of clearing.

New College Hall

Tiles blown off/loosened during the storm in late November have been subsequently repaired by Younghusband.

All fluorescent tubes in the lower room were replaced in November.

Arrangements for long-term exclusive rental of the upper room for Sankaikuni Judo have recently been completed and the room is now occupied. A combination lock was fitted to the upstairs door and the room suitably cleared by R. McAndrew and others.

C) CHURCH GROUNDS

1. Interment of Ashes

Because space is no longer available in the lower section of the Lychgate cremation area, the previously unused upper area has been brought into use this year and a detailed layout plan prepared to ensure correct alignment of the

initial slabs which will set the pattern for the rest of the area.

2. Headstones

A survey of all memorial stones (i.e. checking on stability) was carried out in December 2021 by I. McAndrew, J. Haile, M. Lightfoot, D. Hope. Some 27 stones were identified as possibly requiring attention. Following that initial survey, Mark Hodgson from Cumbria Headstones (who has previously undertaken remedial work in the graveyard) was consulted at our request and recommended that a total of 22 should receive attention. The estimated cost of remedial work per stone ranges between £50 & £250 depending on the size and whether it would be buried to the level of lowest inscription or fully re-set.

To date, cautionary notices (as approved by EIG) have been posted warning that some gravestones/memorials may be unstable. In addition, hazard tapes with warning notices have been temporarily placed on several headstones considered to be potentially unsafe.

Arrangements are currently being made to prepare a list of living relatives to be contacted via a suitable letter from Becky. At the same time, a review with Cumbria Headstones is to determine priorities, appropriate actions and timing before proceeding any further.

Trees

Work on the cherry trees beside the lychgate path was undertaken after flowering in 2021 by

our approved contractor (KP Arborists) who also paid close attention to the poplar trees in the vicinity of Holly Mews and carried out light pruning as appropriate.

(Note - Because in the past, the Copeland consultant rejected an application for crown reduction etc, only light pruning is permissible within this area. Concerned local residents have been made aware of the situation.)

In late Autumn, the overgrown Portuguese Laurel bush in the North graveyard, which was proving troublesome for grass cutting, was suitably cut back to a low level.

Clearing OCH courtyard

As one of the projects for which money was made available from the Cultural Recovery Fund, and with the approval of the Archdeacon, this unsightly area has been cleared. Historic stones have been re-arranged against East wall and gravel spread. An explanatory notice board has been installed on the nearby wall and the site of St Bees Man delineated by inlaid markers.

Thanks are particularly due to Chris Robson and Colin Wadey.

Railings

The iron railings between the main entrance and the first bush on the Priory drive were successfully refurbished last summer (by Miami Lights). It is intended to continue work further beyond this in 2022

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)

Respective responsibilities of members and independent examiner

As the charity's members you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's members consider that an Audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
J Spires FCA DChA
Independent examiner

robinson+co
Chartered Accountants
72 Lowther Street
Whitehaven
CA28 7AH

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory
Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)

Future plans

This year has seen the introduction to the Priory of 'digital giving', principally via a contactless giving device located in the Priory and also via the Priory Web site, our aim is to further promote digital giving routes to generate income. Increasing income by; additional hiring of the Priory and the New and Old Collage halls, considering broader commercial activities and, continuing to support the stewardship campaign are all themes for the near and medium term future.

Work to maintain in good order the fabric of the Priory, associated buildings and grounds deferred from recent years still needs completed. Of particular note is addressing rainwater ingress to the South Transept for which a cost in the region of £15,000 is anticipated for 2022.

Statement of members' responsibilities

The members are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year.

In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Reverend Becky Gibbs Priest in Charge and PCC Chair

Independent examiner's report to the members on the unaudited financial statements of the Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory.

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory for the year ended 31 December 2021 set out on pages (12 to 20 in original doc.)

Gates

Following the disappearance of the combination lock on the West gate of the graveyard, a replacement lock has recently been fitted and details circulated as appropriate and also recorded in the Vestry key press.

The dilapidated condition of the gate into churchyard from Priory paddock has recently been brought to the attention of the B&W committee.

Grass cutting

Annual servicing has been carried out on the grass cutting equipment by Lloyds at Carlisle.

Work by the enthusiastic grass cutting team carried on until late Autumn, in full compliance with Covid 19 issues.

Other maintenance work

During the year, work carried out by James Skelton includes clearing of medieval drain, low level gutters, ground drain covers, various downpipes, leaves from paths and areas, weeds from various overgrown paths, replacement of rotted edging on West gate path, repairs to sections of graveyard wall, etc. All appropriate debris was taken to compost.

In addition, we owe thanks to all the dedicated volunteers, and partners, who have continued to ensure that our church grounds are kept in good order - it's a demanding task but much appreciated by visitors and locals alike.

E) HEALTH & SAFETY

Policy

We have continued to take all reasonable measures to ensure compliance with St. Bees PCC Health & Safety Policy.

Care & maintenance arrangements during restricted access due to Covid

Special attention has been given to ensure strict adherence to up to date Government guidance

and the latest versions of the Church of England guidance documents.

Special thanks are due to Malcolm Lightfoot for carrying out risk assessments for church and halls - an essential and ongoing task which he has painstakingly fulfilled.

Safety Inspections

The following Fire Risk Assessments were carried out in August:

Church & Vestry, NCH, OCH & Bell Tower

Portable Appliance Tests (PAT)

Various electrical devices in common use have recently been tested and appropriately recorded. Thanks to IMcA & R.McA.

Those living near to the Priory are encouraged to keep an eye on the property and inform Becky or a Church Warden of any suspicious activity.

F) Other Matters

2022 Quinquennial inspection

The timing of this essential inspection has yet to be finalised with our Architect.

Priory Spaces Meeting

In early November 2021, a meeting was held to consider how the Priory and halls might be made more welcoming whilst the Priory remained primarily a place of worship. This was attended by Chloe Granger, Becky, ICR, WM & JRK. A summary of the suggestions with estimated cost is awaited.

SWOT Analysis

A team comprising T. Kelly (leader), G. Gilmour, M. Lightfoot, J. Kennedy have recently conducted a detailed SWOT analysis which has been warmly welcomed by the PCC. This is currently being actively progressed

Live streaming from the Priory

This continues to be in successful operation and a second camera is under consideration. There is still an urgent need for further volunteers to assist in setting up and operating the system. (Hands-on familiarisation and a simple step guide are readily available.)

External P.A. Equipment

In order that either of the two devices in our possession can be made serviceable for future outdoor use, a suitable dynamic microphone has been purchased at a cost of around £80.

G) THANKS

Before ending, and at the risk of some duplication, sincere thanks are offered to all those dedicated and often unseen church workers who have contributed in any way towards the upkeep of the church fabric or grounds.

Grateful thanks must go to the Building & Works committee (that is: - Grant Gilmour, Ian McAndrew, Malcolm Lightfoot, Jack Hale, Rosalie McAndrew, Tom Kelly, David Hope, Frank Bowler).

Also, to Alistair Hewetson, Kevin Todhunter, Derek Todhunter, Huw Lewis, Vladimir Funtak, John Bushby, Charles Yule, Chris Ward, Dougie Sim, Mary Branford, Debbie Bowler, Neil Bettinson, Colin Wadey, the Friends of St Bees Priory and all others not listed here but who are nevertheless really appreciated. As always, there is a lengthy list of DIY jobs to be done and volunteers are always welcome. Anyone interested is invited to contact a Warden or John Kennedy. New faces on the Building & Works committee would also be welcome.

John Kennedy

Parochial Church Council of St Bees Priory Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021 (continued)

ringers, who are positive and pragmatic.

We rang the New Year in, though the public was excluded, but judging from facebook, this caused great interest in the village.

Ringling nationally rose from the ashes very quickly in 1944, when the wartime ban was lifted, and despite prophets of doom it has done so again.

Onwards and upwards!

Doug Sim, Tower Captain.

Financial review

The PCC's total funds at 31 December 2021 were approximately £27,600 (including liabilities) higher than at the start of the financial year (2020: increase of approx. £11,178).

The surplus for 2021 reflects the £20,000 growth in value of the invested funds (2020: gain £9,000) while also charging £10,100 depreciation on the New College Hall.

The PCC remains in a satisfactory position with free reserves being sufficient to cover four months' recurring expenditure even should all income streams fail. This buffer is in line with the position at the beginning of the year, which was four months' worth of recurring expenditure.

This year has again been a year in which actual spends were less than predicted when setting the 2021 budget. Availability of suitable contractors to undertake the Building and Works planned schedule of work to the Priory and grounds together with reduced cost for a Parish administrator being the principal contributors.

Reserves policy

The PCC does not currently have a reserves policy.

Principal funding sources

Aside from the income generated by church hall lettings and other activities for generating funds, the principal funding continues to be voluntary income through planned giving £46,935, service collections £3,170, gift aid on donations £13,770 and general donations £8,800, which together represents 70% of incoming resources; additionally, three grants totalling £13,138 supplemented 2021 income increasing the overall percentage of income to 82% from these sources.

Risk management

The members have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the PCC faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

EMBROIDERY GROUP

The decision to embroider "something" to mark the 900 year celebration of worship in the Priory was taken in June 2019, when we were given the all clear from the Archdeacon on a mock-up of ideas put before the P.C.C. Never did I think that almost 3 years later we would still be stitching. I hesitate to predict a finishing date, we live in such uncertain times - but one thing is certain - there will be a celebration when the last stitch is sewn.

Our numbers have fallen somewhat so whilst progress is slower, the work continues to grow, it has proved to be a challenge in size and complexity, but we are certain it will prove worthy of display in the Priory to commemorate such a momentous occasion.

Dorothy Smith

PRAYER GROUP

The prayer group did not meet from the beginning of the first lockdown until 24th February 2022. The members have continued in private prayer. Some of the members have kept in contact by phone, email or social media.

There were four members at the meeting on 24th February. It was decided to meet once a month on dates chosen to suit the members. Thursday 24th March was chosen for the next meeting in NCH at 2pm.

New members would be most welcome. It is possible for those with responsibility for meeting primary school children to attend if they forgo the refreshments and social time after the meetings, which is what I did when I joined at first. The group has always welcomed people of other denominations.

Susan Sanderson

LADIES BIBLE STUDY GROUP

During the pandemic the Ladies' Bible study group set up a WhatsApp group to keep in touch and encourage one another. We began meeting in person again in October 2021, looking at the stories of Elijah and Elisha in II Kings. In March 2022 we began looking at Spiritual gifts using a Lifebuilder series study guide. As we are a small group we have been unable to meet every week due to illness, appointments and family commitments. We pray individually and together at our meetings in members' homes. With the ongoing Covid situation we have not invited anyone else to join us.

Susan Sanderson

BELL RINGERS

I will forego a litany of ups and downs in the belfry, other than to say it was mainly up. Church bell ringers nationally had their own guidelines from the House of Bishops; it was regarded as a regulated activity in a non-public place. Further advantages at St Bees are the large Norman Tower (probably the 2nd largest in the Diocese) which means ropes are better spaced and there is a large air space which can be well-ventilated. Plus, we have a very active band of

MUSIC REPORT

Because of Covid restrictions/limitations there is not a lot to report on through the Summer of last year. From September the choir began to grow back to its normal size and, with careful regard to spacing and seating in the choir stalls and chancel, it was possible to return to fully sung services once again (the choir being particularly privileged to be allowed to sing without masks!).

With this in mind, it was possible to resume normal "service" and we had a full Carol Service on the afternoon of Advent Sunday followed, on the Sunday before Christmas, by the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. We were fortunate to have Margie Simper to conduct the choir in their solo pieces on this occasion.

It proved impossible for the orchestra to give its usual concert at the end of the players first term but after Alison Morris's safe recovery they were able to perform at the end of January to a very appreciative audience. We wish Alison sustained good health.

Covid seemed to avoid the Priory but then decided to have a concentrated onslaught and the organist joined several members of the choir succumbing to the virus and, for the first time, there was nearly no live music in the Priory (on the first Sunday of Lent). Fortunately, we had a visiting organist that Sunday morning so the day was saved.

May I thank the members of the choir for their continuing hard work and dedication. Their contribution to Sunday worship is very much appreciated.

Finally, a word of welcome to Gill Barlow, our latest recruit to the sopranos. She is an experienced singer and holder of the RSCM Gold Award – it's great to have you with us.

Frank Bowler

THE FRIENDS OF THE PRIORY

The Friends have had another successful year and have raised funds for the upkeep of the Priory. We are very grateful to all our members and to that loyal band of supporters who attend our events. We thank all who donate their time and energy in giving talks and providing their expertise for other events. For such a small group, the amount of funds we raise is quite remarkable. We await requests from the PCC for the financing of future projects.

The activities of The Friends have been somewhat constrained by the pandemic. We had to cancel a planned concert by Egremont Town Band at short notice in March 2020. Committee meetings and events were suspended for several months. There was no AGM in 2020 and at the AGM in 2021 two long-standing officers handed in their resignations.

We are immensely grateful to them for their past contributions to the work of the committee. We were sorry that Tom Rice has left both his post as Treasurer and the committee. His meticulous book-keeping and amusing votes of thanks at events will be difficult acts to follow. Philip Barratt has been an efficient

chairman for the last few years. He and his wife, Maureen, continue to serve on the committee. We welcomed a new member to the committee, Chris Robson.

Our new officers are Rosalie McAndrew, Chair and Norman Killip, Treasurer. Our thanks go to them both for taking on these roles and we welcome Norman as a new member of the committee.

Since the delayed AGM, which was held on 14th July 2021, the Friends have hosted two events in the Priory. Our church organist, Frank Bowler, gave a recital with a varied repertoire on Friday 15th October. The audience enjoyed the music and Philip Barratt gave an entertaining vote of thanks. The traditional Christmas concert was held on Friday 17th December. In a programme organised by Maureen Barratt with the title Waits and Measures 2021, Neil Bettinson and members of the church choir led the singing of carols. There were a variety of readings appropriate to the season. St Bees Mummers rounded off the evening with their traditional play updated for Covid times.

We were unable to serve refreshments at either of these events due to Covid, but our audiences were generous in their donations to the Friends. The organ recital raised £245 and the Christmas concert raised £175.

For the first time St Bees Priory held a Christmas Tree Festival from 12th December to 2nd January. The Friends entered a Christmas tree decorated with a streamer printed with The Friends of the Priory, and stars with photos of projects supported over the years all produced by Dr Ian McAndrew. There were also baubles and bells lent by members of the committee. Rosalie McAndrew and our secretary, Ruth Edgar decorated the tree. Our thanks go to all involved. The tree raised the profile of the Friends even though the voting public preferred a tree disguised as the Grinch!

Those of you who look at the Friends' Facebook page may have seen photos of the Christmas trees. It is hoped that the Priory will hold another Christmas Tree Festival at the end of this year. The donations received from visitors to this year's festival were shared between The Priory and the RNLI.

During the first year of the pandemic the Friends made a donation to the Priory Church to help with their regular expenditure at a time when services were being held on line and finances were affected by this.

We are hoping that 2022 will be a year in which more events may be held safely. We have a number of speakers willing to give talks and hope to have concerts and other events.

Unlike other organisations we voted to keep the subscriptions for membership of the Friends at the same rates as at its inception in 1999.

Subscriptions are due annually in January. We are grateful to all our supporters. Payment by standing order is helpful to our treasurer; if you already do this, thank you. If not, please would you consider doing so?

Our events are open to members and non-members alike, but subscriptions provide a minimum income, which can be used in support of the history and

work of the Priory.

The annual subscriptions to The Friends of The Priory are due. These are modest, £5.00 per annum for single membership and £8.00 for family membership, and have not been changed since The Friends was started in 1999. We ask all members to publicise our activities and try to persuade more to join us. The Treasurer thanks all who pay by standing order and would like to receive outstanding payments from any who inadvertently forgot to pay last year. Monies should be sent to Mr Norman Killip, HoneyBee House, Seamill Lane, St Bees, CA27 0BH or by Bank transfer to The Friends of the Priory Sort code 01-09-54 account no. 83846999 with your name as the reference.

RMcAndrew

THE COMMITTEE WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS

HEALTH AND PROSPERITY IN 2022

POP IN CAFE

The times have been challenging and our intrepid ladies and gentlemen volunteers have risen to the occasion. When restrictions were lifted it was decided to restart pop in in the priory. Although it posed a few problems solutions were found and for a number of weeks refreshments were safely served and friends were reunited after months of isolation.

Recently we have returned to the New College Hall, to the joy and relief of many! With the removal of all restrictions and cases of covid increasing exponentially all practical measures are being taken to lessen the risk of spreading the virus.

The pop in groups of volunteers are also responsible during lent for providing lent lunches, for the Saturdays leading up to Easter.

Pop in and lent lunches have been running for several years now and is a way of raising money for the upkeep of the church and other charities. More importantly it is the church's outreach to villagers and visitors alike providing a welcome to all, a warm place to meet and fantastic food.

No praise is too great for the bakers and brewers, the washer uppers, the furniture removers, who work to put it all together, week by week. Thank you.

PS. We are always happy to welcome more volunteers. You do not have to be a baker - just a willing, cheerful pair of hands.

Sally Kennedy