

News Letter

**Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough
Sunday 1st September to Saturday 7th September 2024.**

They do it with mirrors!

It has always amused me when I see people looking at their reflections in shop windows. Just checking that all is presentable. I have been even more amused to find myself doing it from time to time!

One of our New Testament books was written by a man, name of James. Most probably the James who was the brother of Jesus, and a leader in the early Church. He is talking about the difference between being hearers and doers of the word. Perhaps akin to 'practice what you preach' in today's speak. In trying to get his message across he uses a little amusement, easily missed by us, as humour changes over the years. He delivers an absurd illustration to make his point, writing:

'For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on-going away, immediately forget what they were like. '

It is all too easy to be over serious when reading literature written a while ago. There is much humour lost to us with the

passing of time. Like good preachers today those authors, or those they wrote about, are just as capable of using witticisms to illustrate important concepts. Camels passing through the eye of needles comes to mind as I write. Ridiculous, but then that's the point.



And so back to the reason for the illustration in the first place. There is no sense in knowing what doing the best by God is, and then not putting it into practice. So, next time we look into a mirror perhaps be reminded that it's the love and creativity of God which has helped shape who we are. Our response is surely to be his reps among those with whom we share our lives.

By the way have you heard the one about ... Go well.

Sunday Services



Sunday 1st September 11.00 a.m. St Peters Stanion

Sunday 8th September 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock

Sunday 15th September 09.30 a.m. All Saints Sudborough
11.30 a.m. St Peters Stanion All Age Service

Sunday 22nd September 10.00 a.m. St Peters Lowick Benefice Harvest Service

For further information and updates please visit our website www.harperbrookanglicans.org.uk

Mid Week Services.

Thursday 5th September 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock Holy Communion

- **Recently Departed:** Annie Huntingdon, our prayers and thoughts are with Annie's family and friends at this sad time.
- **This Weeks Mind:** Stewart Rae 2013, Elsie Johnson 1989, Edward Loden 2013

Parish Notes

Rector: The Reverend Heather Lowe

Associate Minister (Church Army): Captain Alan Lowe,

Telephone: 01536 263550

Address: 14 Willow Lane, Stanion, Northamptonshire, NN14 1DT

Reader & Safeguarding Officer – Jackie Makepeace

Telephone: 01832 358978

Churchwarden Contact telephone numbers:

Lowick – Jo Boyers 07542 555249

Jo.boyers@btinternet.com or

lowickchurchwarden@gmail.com

Sudborough – Jeremy Crouch 07790 651116

Brigstock – Carl Hector 01536 373410

Stanion – David Lafferty 01536 200175

Benefice Administrator– Allison Porter email: beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com or telephone 01536 373509 or 07933 804432

Benefice website: <https://www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk>

St Andrews Brigstock

Saturday September 14th is the date for Ride and Stride this year. This is a sponsored event. Half the donations go to Northamptonshire Historic Churches and the other half to St Andrews.

When they give out grant's priority is given to churches who gave participated in the event

You don't need to Ride a bike! You can walk or even go round in your car.

Please contact Steph. sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk

Fund Raising

St Peters Lowick

Ride and Stride, Saturday 14th September - the church will be open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. (and possibly from 1-4). We look forward to welcoming lots of visitors, please call in and see us!

The Scarecrow Festival takes place on 21st and 22nd September throughout the village. Maps cost £5. The Church will be open with craft stalls and refreshments will be found in the Germain Rooms. On the Sunday there will be a Harvest Service at 10.00 a.m. in church. Please come to the service, support this fun event and enjoy a stroll around this beautiful village.

For all Lowick events which benefit St Peter's Church, the Germain Rooms (Village Hall) and Pocket Park, please check out www.lowickvillagehall.com.

St Andrews Brigstock



St Andrews Church will once again have a 'Surprise Box' stall at the Beer Festival **on 7th September**. We urgently need, boxes and items to include in them (none perishable). If you are able to wrap a box with a suitable item in it, please do so but if not donated items and boxes will be gratefully received. They can be taken to 9 Bridge Street Brigstock or arrangements can be made to collect by contacting Sue Phillips 01536 370144.

- ❖ **Saturday 30th November.** – Christmas Fair 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in church

St Peters Stanion:

- ❖ **7th September** 'Heads up' for growers, jam & pickle makers and crafters. Do keep in mind that there will be another 'Horticultural and Produce Fair' at St Peters Stanion
- ❖ **23rd November** Christmas Tree Festival, St Peter's Church



Community Produce and Flower Show

St Peters Church Stanion
Saturday September 7th

Your fruit and veg Your baking and preserves
Your flowers arts and crafts
Special childrens and young peoples sections

Serving lovely cream teas during viewing 12-4 pm

More details and/or Entry Forms from the Church
Entrance, the Notice Board in the Village Hall, 36, High
Street and outside The Rectory 14 Willow Lane
or visit www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk

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Sky Guide for September 2024

The highlight of this month will be a partial eclipse of the full moon on the 18th. The eclipse will begin at 01:42 from our location and end at 05:48, from first to last contact with the penumbra.

The penumbra is where some sunlight is passing through the Earth's atmosphere and causes the moon to turn redder. The first and last contact with the umbra, where all light from the sun is blocked and the moon only reflects light from the earth, are at 03:14 and 04:16. The greatest part of the eclipse, where some 8% of the moon's disc will be covered, will be at 03:45. The moon will be in the south-west at some 24° from the horizon during the eclipse. New Moon will be on the 3rd with crescents visible either side of this date and also on the 30th. Please be careful if attempting to view the crescents using any optical aids if the sun is above the horizon. The moon will be close to Jupiter on the 23rd and then to Mars on the 25th.

The Planets this month:

Mercury will be just visible but very low down, at around 10° above the horizon, from about the 6th to the 15th just before dawn and fade into the morning twilight.

Venus will not be visible from our location this month.

Mars will rise in the late evenings and climb to about 47° during the night and fade into the dawn at the start of the month. It will climb higher during the month to reach around 58° by month's end before fading.

Jupiter will rise in the late evenings during the month and climb to around 54° in the south-east at the start and gradually reach 60° in the south by month's end before fading.

Saturn will rise in the south-east and set in the south-west during the month reaching a height of around 29° in the south about midnight all month.

Uranus will rise in the late evenings and climb to a height of some 56° in the south and fade into the dawn all month.

Neptune will rise in the late evenings in the south-east, reach a height of some 35° about 01:00 in the south and set in the south-west before dawn.

The Autumn Equinox will be on the 22nd, where day and night will be equal. This is a good time to spend some time outside looking at the night sky before the nights start to get cold. If you have binoculars the milky way will be visible running from the south to north.

Clear skies

Peter

Readings and Prayers Sunday September 1st 2024

New Testament Passage: James 1. 17 – end

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Gospel Passage: Mark 7. 1-8; 14-15; 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles. So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines."

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.' Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.

All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

Collect

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

