

News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough

Sunday 2nd August to Saturday 8th August 2026

See the birds of the air!

Having just placed a dish of dried mealworms out, they were soon being downed by a couple of blackbirds. In particular a female with a newly fledged chick in tow. The parent may quite possibly be on her third brood of this amazing summer. All with the support of a male, of course, as blackbirds make particularly good parents. Anyway, here was such a parent, being kept really busy trying to grab much needed nourishment, for herself, whilst appeasing her most persistent and insistent offspring.

A peaceful moment for me in the middle of an otherwise hectic day. Having just sat down to write this reflection I couldn't help but feel the spirit nudging me a little. What trust the young one places in the parent. What dedication the parent exhibits towards her charge. Couldn't help thinking of some of the words of Jesus when he said:

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unnoticed by your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 10. 29-31)

how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing" (Matthew 23:37)

God calls us all to rely on him for our inner needs just as our outer needs are provided for. And that level of trust can only come from a place of knowing God's great love. Just as our young blackbird knew how 'loved' they were and as such their trust was not misplaced.

My prayer for this week is that we would not fail to see the small things which are right under our noses, and which remind us of the love and care of the living God. Be that directly or which set our thoughts a wandering in those quiet moments. I can only play a small part in that by reminding you of the truth behind all things – God loves you!



Sunday Services



Sunday 2nd August 11.00 a.m. St Peters Stanion

Sunday 9th August 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock

Sunday 16th August 9.30 a.m. All Saints Sudborough
11.30 a.m. St Peters Stanion All Age service

Sunday 23rd August 10.00 a.m. St Peters Lowick

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



On Sunday 30th August we are having a Songs of Praise in the Education Shelter at Fermyn Woods Country Park. If you intend to be present and would like to choose a Hymn/Song please let Alan Know. Sharing a few words on why you have chosen that particular hymn/song, would be well received too.

Collect Prayer for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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

Post Communion Prayer

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole household of God:
in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mid-Week Services

Thursday 6th August 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock Holy Communion

- **This week's Mind:** Beatrix (Bee) Stopford Sackville 1990, J.C. Smith 1990, Guy Marshall 2001, Kathleen Dyer 2001, David Cork 2015, Florence Tansley 1988, Henry Ernest (Ernie) McCaughie 1995, Mary Moir 2014, Peggy Adams 2022

Notes

Rector: The Reverend Heather Lowe

Associate Minister (Church Army): Captain Alan Lowe,

Telephone: 07548 892020

heatherlowe020@btinternet.com

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

lowickchurchwarden@gmail.com

Sudborough – Jeremy Crouch 07990 651116

(Also Authorised Worship Leader for the Benefice)

Brigstock – Steve Sawford 07855 972268

s.sawford7@gmail.com

Stanion – David Lafferty 01536 200175

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

Pastoral Visitors -

Jackie Makepeace

Telephone: 01832 358978

Carol Short & Julia Quatrone 07894 261164 please be prepared to leave a message

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



SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB – 1st Sunday of the Month.

Sunday Lunch group meets monthly for good food and company for folk who would otherwise be eating dinner on their own. If you are interested, please contact Carol on the following number and leave your contact details 07894261164. If a lift is required it may be possible for people from the same locality to liaise with each other.

Church News and Dates for Your Diaries

St Peters Lowick

CHRISTMAS
in
Lowick

Featuring
The Tenor Joshua Daniel
and other guests

Friday 18th December
at
St Peters Church, Lowick.

Doors Open at 6pm | Concert Starts at 6.30pm

Tickets
Adult – £10 | Child – £5

Refreshments Included | Raffle on the night

♥ Raising Money for
St Peters Church, Lowick.
*A night of Christmas splendour with Carols
and your favourite Christmas songs.
Come for a night to remember.*

BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN!
Scan the QR Code to book
your tickets quickly and securely.

Bring your family and friends and celebrate
the joy of Christmas with us!

St Andrews Brigstock

**AN EVENING OF
LIVE CLASSICAL,
JAZZ & FLAMENCO**

WITH UKULELE VIRTUOSO
PAUL MANSELL

PLUS VERY SPECIAL GUEST ANNE CLARK

FRIDAY 2ND OCT 2026 7 - 9PM
BRIGSTOCK CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON

TICKETS £15 EACH - (INCLUDING WINE & TAPAS)
CALL ALLISON 07933 804432
EMAIL BENEFICEOFFICE5@BTINTERNET.COM
OR VISIT PAULMANSELL.CO.UK/SHOP

SPECIAL GUEST ANNE CLARK IS A POET, SPOKEN WORD ARTIST, SINGER & SONGWRITER WHO REGULARLY PERFORMS TO SELL OUT VENUES ACROSS EUROPE

Autumn Fair Saturday 28th November 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. There will be crafts, Tombola, raffle and much more including delicious refreshments.



St Peters Stanion

Stanion and Little Stanion Flower and Produce Show 2026

Coming soon

12th September 10am — 3 pm

Categories will include vegetables,
flowers, crafts and produce.



Entry Sheets highlighting the various categories
available from August 8th

Collect your Entry Sheets from:

The Rectory 14, Willow Lane Stanion
36, High Street Stanion

or download from:

www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk

St Peters Church Stanion and Little Stanion

WANTED - bottles for a bottle tombola. Please drop off at
Kate's, 36 High Street, Stanion or The Rectory.

Bottles may contain anything. They do not have to contain
wine or alcohol. They may contain shower gel or shampoo or
be an empty drinks bottle! So long as it's a bottle you are only
limited by your imagination!!!



28th November – St Peters Christmas Tree Festival at St Peters church Stanion from
10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Sky Guide August 2026

On the 12th of this month there will be a total Solar Eclipse across northern Spain, see below for what we can expect to see from our location.

The Moon and Planets:

The Moon will be New on the 12th and Full on the 28th. As usual, take care if trying to spot the new crescent moon in daylight hours. The Moon will be close to Saturn on the 3rd and 31st and close to Mars on the 9th.

Mercury will briefly be visible from the 9th to the 12th just before dawn low down in the north-east.

Venus will not be visible from our location all month.

Mars will be visible from around 01:00 in the east at about 21° at the start of the month and rising to 35° by the end before fading into the dawn.

Jupiter will become visible from the 19th; it will be low in the east just before dawn and fade into the twilight.

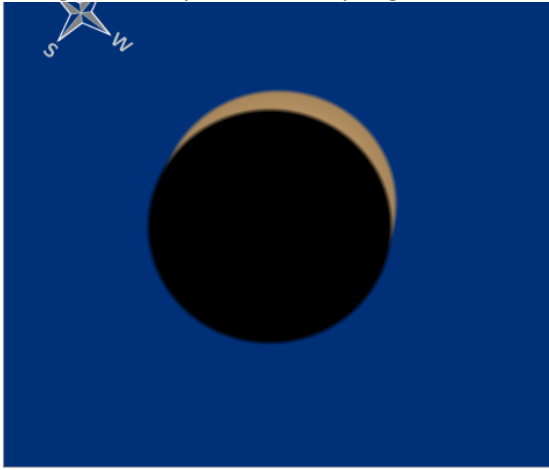
Saturn will be visible before mid-night in the east, reaching a height of around 40° in the south before fading into the dawn.

Uranus will be visible around mid-night in the east, reaching a height of around 24° at the start of the month and rising to 51° in the south-east by the end before fading into the dawn.

Neptune will be visible from around 23:00 in the south-east and reach a height of about 37° in the south before fading into the dawn.

From our location the solar eclipse will reach a maximum of 86% as shown below.

Image courtesy of In-the-Sky.org



The sun will be low in the west and the eclipse will start at 18:27 at a height of 19°, reach maximum by 19:14 at 10° and finish at 19:57 at 2°. It is essential that you use proper eclipse glasses or a certified solar filter if viewing the eclipse.

By the end of the eclipse the sun could easily be below our horizon. One way of safely viewing the sun is by using a colander to cast a shadow which will produce lots of small images of the eclipse or a Pin Hole camera.

The peak of the annual Perseids meteor shower will be just before dawn on the 13th. The Radiant point, in the east, will be visible all night. It should be worthwhile staying outside after the eclipse to see some meteors when the sky has darkened.

Last month I wrote about massive stars going Supernova and how their mass dictates how they are classified into Types 1 or 2. For

stars over 8 solar masses what remains afterwards is again dependent upon their original mass. Some of these supernovas will leave behind a Neutron Star where the protons and electrons are crushed together to form neutrons and consequently are much smaller and denser than the White Dwarfs left by lower mass stars. Neutron stars are highly magnetised and spin rapidly which means they produce beams of radio waves from their poles which sweep across the cosmos much like a lighthouse. These beams of radio waves define what is called a Pulsar, first discovered by Jocelyn Bell et al in 1967.

If the star is very massive then the infalling mass of the remaining material will crush the core material through the neutron star stage to form what is called a Black Hole. Black holes are so concentrated they do not shine like stars because their escape velocity is greater than the speed of light. Since gravitational force falls with distance from the centre of mass there is a sphere called the Event Horizon outside of which light can escape but nothing can escape from inside this horizon. At the centre of the black hole is a singularity where the density (mass divided by volume) is considered to be infinite. The first black hole candidate to be found, called Cygnus X-1, was identified in 1971. This was discovered by seeing the X-Rays produced by super-heated material spinning around the black hole pulled from a star circling around it.

More on super massive black holes next month.

Some clear skies with rain would be good.

Peter