

News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough
Sunday 25^h May to Saturday 31st May 2025.

Celebrate what God is doing!

I once led a team arranging events for the celebration of the new Millennium, We hired the town cinema for a week, showing of the life of Jesus. We also put on a production of a musical called 'Hopes and Dreams', in which I played the devil in one particular sketch. My favourite event was a celebration of songs and worship in the Town Hall, with nearly a thousand of us in attendance. We had Cannon and Ball as our special guests sharing their recently found faith in Jesus. I remember about a week after the event someone telling me they had been disappointed because they didn't know all of the songs! I was so deflated ... thankfully not for long. I realised that they themselves had missed out by focussing too much on what they were used to. Take this week's Gospel for example. John reports how Jesus had just healed a man who had been unwell for thirty eight years. A man seemingly without family or friends, as no one was willing to carry him into the waters of a local pool, said to have healing properties. From the words Jesus spoke to the man we get the famous phrase 'take up your mat and walk'.

Now you would have expected that everyone would be delighted and excited and even euphoric for the man. No. One of the religious leaders was actually annoyed because the man was carrying his mat, deemed to be work, on the Sabbath. Hard to imagine I know. I hope that we would never be such killjoys.

Recent surveys are showing that younger people are becoming more interested in faith and the Bible. The Bible Society are calling it a 'quiet Revival'. Let's pray they are correct and that it will grow. Indeed the recently released Church of England attendance figures for 2024, were up a little, for the fourth year in a row. Something is brewing and the Spirit seems to be at work in a new way. Perhaps the church may need to tweak and adapt things a little to welcome these new believers. When that time comes may we be very different from that religious leader, who couldn't cope with change, even when God was at the centre of it.

Have a great week and Go Well!



Dear Parishioners

I'm sure you will know that I am starting my 3 months compassionate leave on Bank Holiday Monday and that I will be returning to my clerical duties from 1st September. Thank you for all your good wishes to Alan and I for our time away from "the norm". We appreciate that you have all been most kind and gracious about us having this time off together. Please rest assured that you will still be in our thoughts and hearts and we will be praying for you all. We really hope that it will be a good time for you all as well as us as you have services led by other clergy and receive spiritual nourishment from others. If you feel during this time that God is saying anything to you about the future of our churches and/or the way forward I would be pleased to hear from you and I will of course do likewise.

May God bless and keep you all and make his face to shine upon you and we look forward to being with you again very soon.

Rev'd Heather and Captain Alan.

Sunday Services



Sunday 25th May 10.00 a.m. St Peters Lowick

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

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

Sunday 15th June 09.30 a.m. All Saints Sudborough
11.30 a.m. St Pters Stanion All Age service

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

Mid-Week Services

Thursday 29th May Please note that on Ascension Day, Thursday 29th May, there will be an Ascension Day Service at St Peter and St Andrew, Corby at 7 p.m., so we will not have a Morning Communion at St Andrew's on that day. Please try to go to this service, I'm sure it will be great and you will have an opportunity to hear and meet Shakeel Nurmahi - the new minister here in our Deanery.

Parish Notes

Rector: The Reverend Heather Lowe

Associate Minister (Church Army): Captain Alan Lowe,

Telephone: 07548 892020 – **During Rev'd Heathers absence this number will be in use and monitored by Jackie Makepeace**

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

(Also Lay Worship Leader for the Benefice)

Brigstock – Vacant

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>

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.



Little Treasures Baby and Toddler Group meet at Stanion Village Hall on a Friday in school term time from 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. For Parents and Carers with their children.

Craft, sensory play, toys, jigsaws, drinks and snacks. £3.00 for first child and siblings £1.00 each (the increase is due to an increase in the village Hall rental cost). Concessions for those on Universal Credit.

Fundraising Thanks

A huge well done and thank you to the immense fund-raising efforts which have been taking place across our Benefice. **Stanion Church** had a wonderful hot sunny day for their garage sale and raised approx. £600 as well as being a great community and eco-friendly event and get together, as folk buy already "used" articles rather than "new".

The bacon sarnies went down a treat. Thank you so much to Kate, the refreshment team and all others who helped and supported.

All Saints Church, Sudborough then had a wonderful evening of Jazz in the Church provided by Oundle School and raised well over £1,000. Many thanks to all who worked hard to make that happen and/or attended.

St Andrew's Brigstock followed that with their Spring fayre and raised a whopping £2,225+ and our plant purchases from that are loving their new homes in our garden! Huge thanks for all the hard work that went into that as well.

Dates for your Diaries

St Peters Lowick -



The next monthly Coffee morning offering refreshment and a chance to catch up with friends is happening on Tuesday 27th May, at the Village Hall (Germain Rooms), from 10 a.m. to midday. £2 per person, children and dogs free! All welcome. Future monthly 'morning' will be on 24th June. Come along and join in!



Stanion Village Fete (Church, School and Village Hall) will be on the 5th July, more information to follow. For further information please contact kate.redding@sky.com



St Peter's, Stanion - Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 29th November 10.00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

New Testament Passage: Acts 16. 9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptised, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us..

Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy,
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

Gospel Passage: John 5. 1-18

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, 'It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.' But he answered them, 'The man who made me well said to me, "Take up your mat and walk." They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, "Take it up and walk"?' Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, 'See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.' The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is still working, and I also am working.' For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.