

# News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

## THE TRUE MEANING OF HOPE

A very Thoughtful, Prayerful and Happy Advent to us all. No one who has a Television with a news channel could possibly deny the absence of sin in the world. Many might ask 'how can a loving God allow bad things to happen?' It's very often a question, which falteringly tries to deflect the blame away from the obvious truth. Jesus did not promise any quick fixes from on high. However, what he had done was enter into our history and left us with his teaching and inspiration. This example held all the tools required for people to love one another, respect differences and take care of the planet! Whether we feel we have succeeded in that calling is for each of us to answer for ourselves. The greatest mystery of all is that whether we answer 'yes' or 'no' to that question, God's responsibility did not end with the giving of those tools for living. So I arrive at the Advent hope. It is not a wishful thinking kind of hope, or indeed a desperate 'Lottery Ticket' kind of hope either. It is in fact a hope that goes to the very heart of what it means to be human.

H

**Heavenly.** Our hope is held in Heaven deposited on account as it were. The fulfillment of Christ mission is held in Heaven awaiting the day of his return. We need not worry if we are no longer around at that date in history. No, in the twinkle of an eye we shall awake as from sleep to God's re-creation Wow!

O

**Ordinary.** Within the mystery outlined above is the everyday hope. Each and every day we are accompanied through life by the Spirit of Jesus. Sometimes we 'know' it in our very souls and at other times we can doubt it. Whatever we are feeling, the truth is God is always faithful and present on a daily basis. Immanuel!

P

**Purposeful.** We are all called to 'DIY' in the here and now! Called to work towards building the Kingdom of God by our words and actions, freely chosen. All Godly actions are a 'wee' glimpse of Gods Kingdom here and now. Today!

E

**Everlasting.** Past, present and future all together, as Dickens so beautifully put it, one time. All three held together by the greatest gift God chose to give, the gift of love. As a man named Isaiah once wrote. 'God holds you in the palm of hand'. Loved!

## Sunday Services



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 11.00 a.m.** St Peters Stanion

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 a.m.** St Andrews Brigstock

For Christmas and New Year services please see table at the end of the News Letter

We welcome **all** who wish to come to any of our services.

For further information and updates please visit our website [www.harperbrookanglicans.org.uk](http://www.harperbrookanglicans.org.uk)

## Mid Week Services.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 a.m.** St Andrews Brigstock Holy Communion

## Please Pray for

- **This Weeks Mind:** Audrey Tew 1993, John Gray 2004, Mary Lean 2009, Peggy Buckle 1996, Ann Gough 2022, Joy Thompson 2022, Ken Barlow 1998, Constance Issitt 1998, Alan Hector 2003, Gwendolen Pakenham Walsh 1990

## 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** – Vacant

**Sudborough** – Sara Dixon 07970 597017

**Brigstock** – Carl Hector 01536 373410

**Stanion** – David Lafferty 01536 200175

**Benefice Administrator**– Allison Porter email: [beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com](mailto:beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com) or telephone 01536 373509 or 07933 804432

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

*'Due to rising costs and new technical requirements the Harpers Brook App (HB Anglican Benefice), will be discontinued in March 2024. You may also see some reduction in what it provides between now and then.*

*As the App closes those using it will need go directly to the website at <https://www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk> where the Churches Calendar and much else can be accessed easily.'*

Alan Lowe

### **Brigstock Warm Space -**



Save your heating and come along to the June Small room Mill Lane every Thursday from 11.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Anyone is welcome and there is no need to book. There will be refreshments, a soup and a roll lunch or bring your own packed lunch. Bring a book a newspaper, puzzle, knitting etc. or just enjoy the company and a chat. If you are interested and need more information please contact Sheila on 373225 or Barbara on 373240



**St Peter's Church Baby and Toddler Group** - Little Treasures will be on Friday each week of the school term in Stanion Village Hall. 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Toys, snacks, craft, songs, sensory play and chat. £2.50 per session. £1.00 for each additional sibling.

### **St Andrews Brigstock Christingle Service**



Please note that this year there will only be one Christingle service on Christmas Eve at 5.30 p.m. For Health & Safety reasons admission will be **strictly** by ticket (free of charge).

Tickets will be available from:  
Barbara Platt 4 Bridge Street 373240,  
Allison Porter 5 Stable Hill 07933 804432

**Please note:** The Living Advent Window trail will end at church at 6.15 p.m. not 5.30 p.m. as advertised on the maps and in the Brigstock News.

**Sky Guide for December 2023** The planets for this month: Mercury is not visible from our location all month. Venus will rise in the mornings in the south-east from 03:36 to 26° at the start of the month and at 05:00 to 16° by the end before fading into the dawn. Mars is not visible from our location all month. Jupiter will rise around 16:20 in the east to about 50° in the south by 21:30 and set around 03:50 in the west at the start of the month. The setting time will be around 02:00 by month's end. Saturn will only be visible in the evening sky after dusk in the south for a couple of hours, rising to about 23°, before setting. Uranus will rise in the east/south-east in the early evenings to about 54° and set in the west in the small hours of the morning. Neptune will rise and set in the evenings all month reaching a height of some 34°.

The Winter Solstice will occur on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December and the nights will begin to draw out and the noon sun will be at its lowest point.

The Ursid meteor shower will run from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> with the peak occurring on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

The Radiant (where the meteor trails seem to appear from) in Ursa Minor is circumpolar (visible all year round) so readily observable. The best time will be just before dawn when the moon will have set enabling the fainter trails to be seen.

The Ursa Minor constellation's main star is Polaris or North/Pole Star. Polaris itself is actually a triple star system. The largest star is some 5.4 times the mass of the sun which is in orbit with another star some 1.26 times the mass of the sun and these two together orbit with a third star some 1.39 times the mass of the sun.

Polaris is where the earth's rotational axis currently points to in the sky. This was not the case in the distant past or will be in the distant future. This is because the earth's axis wobbles or precesses much like a toy spinning top. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century the axis will point near to the star Gamma Cephei and by the 91<sup>st</sup> century it will be near Alpha Cygni (Deneb), some 15° and 45° respectively away from where it is now.

	<b>Brigstock</b>	<b>Stanion</b>	<b>Lowick</b>	<b>Sudborough</b>
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>		6.00 p.m. Stanion School Carol Service in church		
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	2.00 p.m. Brigstock School Keystage 1 Nativity in church.			
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	2.00 p.m. Brigstock School Keystage 2 'panto' in church.			
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	4.30 p.m. Candlelit Carols led by All Saints Sudborough	11.30 a.m. All Age Christmas Story		No Service
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>		7.00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service – a quiet Christmas service without the razzmatazz.		
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>				6.00 p.m. Carols in the Brewery Yard
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	10.00 a.m. Holy communion service			
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	5.30 p.m. Christingle - strictly ticketed event 10.00 p.m. First Holy Communion of Christmas	3.30 p.m. Christingle 8.30 p.m. First Holy Communion of Christmas	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion	
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>				09.30 a.m. Holy Communion
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	No Holy Communion service			
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)</b>		11.00 a.m. Spoken Holy Communion service.		

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## Readings and Prayers

## Advent Sunday

3rd December 2023

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64. 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>[a]</sup>  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered <sup>[b]</sup> us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people!

### Gospel Passage: Mark 13, 24-end The Coming of the Son of Man

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and  
glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four  
winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

#### *The Lesson of the Fig Tree*

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender  
and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you  
see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very  
gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things  
have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not  
pass away.

#### *The Necessity for Watchfulness*

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor  
the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when  
the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home  
and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the  
doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not  
know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at mid-  
night, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he  
comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

### Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you, in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ  
**Amen**