

News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough

Sunday 3rd May to Saturday 9th May 2026

Finding ones voice.

My voice has been very important in my line of work. We had to pass Verbal Communication Skills in my ministry training. Having spoken to groups ranging from half a dozen to many hundreds my voice has had to be flexible and dependent. As it has become less reliable, due to a health condition, I have found that difficult to cope with. I have been assisted by Speech and Language Therapists, helping me to best use what I still have. Indeed the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, to which they belong, have something they call **Giving Voice**. A prominent campaign to help people with all kinds of speech and language needs get appropriate support.

One of this weeks passages continues the post Easter highlights of the Book of Acts. Passages which record the early believers finding their public voice to begin the sharing of the Jesus message. This weeks aforementioned passage sees the first death for the Gospel. Stephen, one of the early community ministers, refuses to back track on his message of love and redemption in Christ. He was surrounded by people grappling with which voice to listen to. Some undoubtedly heard Stephen and responded. Others grew angry, refusing to question other voices telling them contradictory things. Indeed some used their voices as ways of silencing Stephen by shouting over him. Yet even as they stoned him Stephens voice could be heard, pleading for their forgiveness and commending his soul to the God he loved.

Stephen was the first of many who refused to have their voices silenced as they shared the truth. He was also among the first generation to hear the voice of God, in Jesus, spoken in plain English ... sorry Aramaic.

Stephen is reported in Acts as being 'filled with the Holy Spirit'. May we who have the Spirit at our elbows be like the Stephens of this world. Able to hear the voice of God among the noise of modern life. And never be afraid to voice our support of the Gospel of Christ, that unites us all.

Go well!



Sunday and Easter Services



Sunday 3rd May 11.00 a.m. St Peters Stanion

Sunday 10th May 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock

Sunday 17th May 09.30 a.m. All Saints Sudborough
11.30 a.m. St Peters Stanion All Age Service

Sunday 24th May 10.00 a.m. St Peters Lowick

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

Collect Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God,
who through your only begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and forever.

Mid-Week Services

Thursday 7th May 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock - Holy Communion

****There will not be a Thursday service at Brigstock on the 14th May.****

- **This week's Mind** – Monica Mercer 2011, Iris Mabel Rita Howl (Rita) 1990, Ethel Bradford 1997, John Wise 2000, Stan Thompson 2017, Ian Cundy, Bishop 2009, Mary Waterworth 2014, Richard Mann 1998, Ada Mickley 2011, Robert Cobley 2015

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 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

Pastoral Visitors -

Jackie Makepeace

Telephone: 01832 358978

Carol Short & Julia Quatrine 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.



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 over 6 months £1.00 each.

Concessions for those on Universal Credit.

Church News and Dates for Your Diaries

St Peters Lowick

Once more we were very pleased to welcome a room full of friends to the monthly Coffee Morning last Tuesday. Judging by the level of chatter we hope everyone enjoyed themselves and we very much look forward to greeting you again next time, on May 25th.



We are in the advanced planning stages of two more village summer events. June 20 is the PARTY IN THE PARK, at which we aim to raise money for St Peter's by selling Mexican themed treats. The church tower will also be open to visitors for a small charge. Watch out on Lowick village social media for more details.

Sundays in July see the return of our afternoon tea and cake extravaganza in the Village Hall. 'Summers Sundays' proved extremely popular last year so we hope to repeat the experience this year. Please put the dates in your diaries and look out for more details in the following weeks.

A very small group of us have a lot planned and are very busy as you can see. If anyone would like to join us to spread the load - and have fun - get in touch. As the saying goes, every little helps!



St Andrews Brigstock

Spring Fayre



*St Andrews Church
Brigstock*

Saturday May 1st

10 until 1

*Plants, Crafts,
Refreshments, Tombola,
Raffle, and more!*



Do join us!

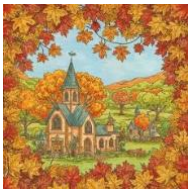


GARDEN PARTY

'Great news' – a new date has been fixed for this exciting event. Saturday the 13th June 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Come along and join in a tug of war, cake competition and much more. Further details to follow.



Friday 2nd October in church guitar and ukelele recital by Paul Mansell. Further details to follow.



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

WHAT'S ON

Make a note of these event dates in your diary. There is sure to be lots of fun to be had at them all!



9th May – Stanion Community Garage Sale 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. If you would like to take part, please contact Kate Redding 07753 565080. If you don't have a garage and would like to sell items, please speak to Kate



4th July – Stanion School, Church and Community Centre Fete. 1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. at Stanion Village | Hall



12th September 11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. St Peters Church Produce and Crafts Show with Cream Teas.



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

Sky Guide for May 2026

Not many planets are on show again this month but we do have another meteor shower, the Aquariids.

The Moon and Planets:

The Moon will be full on the 1st and new on the 16th and full again on the 31st. The second full moon in a month is colloquially called a Blue Moon. The 3 day old crescent Moon and Venus will be close together on the 19th in the west at dusk and set about 3 hours later. The Moon and Jupiter will be close on the 20th in the west.

Mercury is not visible from our location all month.

Venus will be bright in the evening sky in the west all month but will set after a couple of hours. It will reach its highest point in the sky at 22° on the 22nd.

Mars is not visible from our location all month.

Jupiter will appear at dusk at around 40° in the west at the start of the month and gradually get lower as the month progresses, setting in the early hours of the morning.

Saturn is not visible from our location all month.

Uranus is not visible from our location all month.

Neptune is not visible from our location all month.

The Aquariids meteor shower will peak on the morning of the 6th. The Radiant will be below the horizon until the early hours of the morning in the east so the best time to view will be just before dawn. As usual, look away from the radiant by some 30 to 40°.

Our Sun is a typical smallish star some 5 billion years old with another 5 billion years or so to go before it leaves the main sequence of stars (where hydrogen is being fused into helium) to ultimately become what is called a White Dwarf. The process it will go through is something like this. Once it enters the phase where helium burning has started it will expand, possibly as far as the Earth, to become a Red Giant. The outer layers will be shed periodically forming shells of material and become what astronomers call a Planetary Nebula. Fusion will stop and the core will collapse, since the energy needed to fight against gravity has ceased, to form a white dwarf star about the size of the Earth. The remaining material will cool down over a billion years or so and slowly stop shining.

Next time the dramatic endings of more massive stars.

Clear Skies

Peter