

News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough
Sunday 30th March to Saturday 5th April 2025.

Walking with God through Lent 2025

4. Walking away from it all!

When planning the Lent Reflections I had not allowed for Mothering Sunday. Please don't think this weeks title suggests abandoning this annual event! Indeed, at St Andrews we will be celebrating the occasion.

Back to Lent... I have become aware of how far our nation is walking away from the Christian way. I recently read an article which distilled what I was thinking, but I couldn't quite articulate. The writer suggested that the prevalent mood is one which wants to preserve the 'fruits of Christianity' whilst neglecting the 'source of those fruits'. In other words good things like 'compassion, justice, trust, stability, security, equality and social cohesion' are retained. On the other hand the God things like 'morality, accountability and self-sacrifice', to which I would add prayer and meeting together, are left behind as inconvenient.

What this means is that Christian witness should be as vibrant as it ever was. The good things mentioned above were instrumental in shaping our laws, our healthcare and the expected norms of how we relate to our neighbours. These things were far from 'self-evident' virtues they were things hard fought for. Whilst it may be honest to concede some of the ungodly ways that the Church has sometimes behaved, in our history, the positive aspects far outweigh them. On giving this issue some thought I was struck by something which I felt was rather telling. The turning away from the faith of Christ in Europe and the UK, has coincided with it's diminishing influence around the globe. Coincidence?

This week let's reflect on the positive outcomes of faith in Christ. His example of all the qualities outlined above, including self-sacrifice, are to be celebrated wherever God's Church puts them into practice.

Will I speak up when faith is openly criticised?
Do I have opportunities to tell of the positives
of my own faith/church?



Praise due to God, who in Jesus, refused to walk away from humanity!

Sunday Services



Sunday 30th March 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock Benefice Service for Mothering Sunday

Sunday 6th April 11.00 a.m. St Peters Stanion

3.30 p.m. All Saints Sudborough, Taize style service on Hope led by The Reverend Heather, Captain Alan and Lay Worship Leader Jeremy

Sunday 13th April 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock – Palm Sunday

****See Below for Easter Services.****

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

Mid-Week Services

Wednesday 2nd April - St Andrew's Church and Brigstock Latham Primary School invite you to their School Easter Services on Wednesday 2nd April. The Reception children and years 1 and 2 will have their service at 10.00 a.m. Years 3 and 4, and 5 and 6 will have their Service at 11.00 a.m. Both services will be at St Andrew's Church, Brigstock.

Thursday 3rd April 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion service St Andrews Brigstock

Easter Services

Monday 14th April to Saturday 19th April Stations of the Cross at All Saints Sudborough and St Andrews Brigstock during church opening hours (A self-help leaflet will be available.)

Maundy Thursday 17th April 7.00 p.m. St Peters Stanion – Last Supper service

Good Friday 18th April 2.30 p.m. St Andrews Brigstock – quiet reflective service

Saturday 19th April 7.30 p.m. All Saints Sudborough - Easter Eve service

Easter Sunday 21st April 9.15 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock Holy Communion Service by Extension

10.30 a.m. St Peters Stanion – Benefice Easter Day Celebration service suitable for all

➤ **This week's Mind** - David Bailey 2000, Eddie Franks 2009, Shirley Laundry 2018, Oliver Tiney 1989

Parish Notes

Rector: The Reverend Heather Lowe

Associate Minister (Church Army): Captain Alan Lowe,

Telephone: 07548 892020

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 – 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>

Please note that Rev'd Heather will be taking 3 months compassionate leave from May 26th - August 30th 2025 in order to spend some quality time with Alan.

Enquiries will be directed to either Allison, Jackie or the Church Wardens.

Rev'd Heather is working hard with others to try to have all of the Sunday and mid-week Holy Communion Services during this period covered by other Priests, so it could be a really interesting time for you all as you get to know and listen to other Clergy.

There will be opportunities for PCCs and the Benefice Council to ask any questions that they may have about this period and we will do our best to have a strategy for any eventualities that may arise during this time.

Obviously, this will inevitably mean that additional work will fall on Jackie, Allison and our Church Wardens so please do your best to help and support them.

Thank you for your understanding.

PEW BIBLES

St Andrew's, Brigstock and St Peter's, Stanion have agreed to purchase NRSV pew Bibles. These will replace the weekly Bible readings issued with the News Letter. It will give preachers more flexibility in which Lectionary Bible passages they preach on and will mean that Alan will not have to keep producing the weekly sheets, whilst ensuring that congregation members who like to follow the readings may still do so. Each Bible will cost £15.00 and we would like to purchase 20 for each of the two churches in the first instance.

If you would like to purchase a Bible in memory of someone, please write your name and the name of the person it is in memory of on the list in the church in which you would like the Bible to be placed.

If you would like to purchase a Bible without putting who it is in memory of this would also be welcome. We would like to purchase these Bibles in the week following Easter. **So please could you fill in the list by Easter Day - 20th April 2025.**

We will buy Bibles which are all the same edition so that there is only one page number to be given out for the readings.

How to pay –

For St Andrews Brigstock - please put your payment in an envelope with your name on it and if applicable the name(s) of the one(s) to be remembered then put it through Allison's letter box at 5, Stable Hill Brigstock NN14 3HN

For St Peters Stanion - please put your payment in an envelope with your name on it and if applicable the name(s) of the one(s) to be remembered then put it through Rev'd Heathers letter box at The Rectory, 14, Willow Lane Stanion NN14 1DT

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.

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 Judith on 373367.

Dates for your Diaries



St Andrews Brigstock – There will be a fund-raising meeting on Tuesday 1st April at 10.00 a.m. in church. Do please come along if you have any ideas for fund raising events or if you are available to help out with any events that we may have.

All Saints Sudborough - On Friday 2nd May All Saints Sudborough is pleased to welcome the Oundle School Jazz Orchestra who will be performing an eclectic mix of jazz for us on a Spring evening in the run up to our VE Day 80th anniversary celebrations on Monday 5th May

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Concert starts at 7:30pm

Tickets are £15 for adults and £10 for children and are available from the TicketSource website (see link below) or by contacting the Churchwarden, Jeremy Crouch (details above).

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/northamptonshire/all-saints-church-sudborough/osjo-sudborough-2025/2025-05-02/19:30/t-xmkykoy>



St Peters Stanion - There will be a Stanion Garage Sale on 10th May between 10.00 a.m. and 2 p.m. If you don't live in Stanion but would like to sell items please speak to Kate and we'll try and arrange some drive space or part of the church for you to use. Help is needed with distributing leaflets around the village – these will be back from the printers shortly. Also required help on the day selling refreshments in the church. Please contact Kate Redding on 07753565080 or email kate.redding@sky.com



St Andrews Brigstock -The Spring Fair will be on the 17th May in church between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. There will be stalls selling home-made crafts, plants, cakes and refreshments along with a tombola and raffle. Watch this space for further information



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 Peters Stanion - Horticultural Show on Saturday 13th September



Christmas Tree Festival

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

Sky Guide for April 2025

This month we will be only able to see two planets unlike the end of February when it was possible to see all the visible naked eye ones. This being an apt illustration of how everything in the cosmos is always moving.

The Moon will be full on the 13th and new on the 27th. It will be close to M45 Pleiades star cluster on the 1st in the western evening before setting around midnight. Mars will be close to the Moon on the 5th. Jupiter and the Moon will be close on both the 3rd and the 30th this month in the west.

The Planets:

Mercury will not be visible from our location all month.

Venus will also not be visible from our location all month.

Mars will become visible in the evenings at about 55° in the south-west and set in the early hours of the mornings all month.

Jupiter will also become visible in the evenings at about 35° in the south-west and set just after midnight all month.

Saturn will not be visible from our location all month.

Uranus will not be visible from our location all month.

Neptune will not be visible from our location all month.

The Lyrid meteor shower will peak just before dawn in the west south-west on the 22nd but because the Radiant point (the place in the sky where the meteor trails appear to originate from) is circumpolar it never sets. This means the trails should be visible all night and a few days either side of the peak. The trails are produced by a trail of dust and debris left by the Comet C/1861 G1 (Thatcher), not the famous one. This comet has a long period of some 415 years and was last closest to the Sun (at Perihelion) in 1861 when it was first identified by a certain A.E. Thatcher after whom it was named. The G1 means it was observed in the first half of April. The Lyrids is one of the oldest meteor showers known, having been recorded by Chinese observers in 687 BC, some 2700 years ago.

If you have access to a pair of Binoculars the Globular Cluster M3 is well placed high in the south at midnight on the night of the 18th. It is positioned some 10° north of the bright star Arcturus, at the base of the kite shaped constellation of Bootes and by following the curve of the handle of the Plough.

Hope you all managed to get a sight of the partial Solar Eclipse on Friday the 29th of March. Clear skies.

Peter

Readings and Prayers **Mothing Sunday** **March 30th 2025**

New Testament Passage: Exodus 2. 1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Gospel Passage: Luke 19. 25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Collect

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

