

News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough

Sunday 11th May to Saturday 17th May 2025.

The work of our hands!

'May God establish the work of our hands, establish the work of our hands'. Some words from Psalm 90 which are on my bedroom wall accompanied by a picture of someone chiselling a piece of wood. My hands no longer have that degree of dexterity, but it reminds me of times happily spent creating things!

This week's passage from the Book of Acts brings to the fore those whose hands were skilled and earned them a living. A woman by the name of Tabitha was resuscitated after Peter prayed for her healing. She was a dressmaker by trade and very skilled at it. Her friends, not expecting her to revive, were keen for Peter to see examples of her excellent work. No doubt as a tribute to their friend. Afterwards Peter stayed a while in Tabitha's town, near modern day Tel Aviv, doing some amazing things for God. During this time, he stayed with a man named Simon whose occupation was that of a Tanner. Someone else whose hands were skilled, and worked very hard. In this case in making leather for working into shoes, sandals, harnesses and other practical things. Tanners were semi outcasts to the Jews of the time. They were usually gentiles, for one thing. More than this they dealt with dead animals making them ritually 'unclean'. Worse still the urine and dung that they utilised for aspects of their work, meant that their homes were rather smelly! Peter is in fact making a bold statement by lodging with a Tanner. The Gospel he is promoting is for all peoples. Jew, gentile, outcast and even the odour challenged!



And we know full well, that the message of the Gospel is for you and I too. Part of that message is that God wants to bless the work of our hands. Whether chiselling, cooking, ironing or digging, God is present. Work well!



Sunday Services



Sunday 11th May 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock

Sunday 18th May 09.30 a.m. All Saints Sudborough
11.30 a.m. St Pters Stanion All Age service

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

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

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

Mid-Week Services

Thursday 15th May 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion service St Andrews Brigstock

****Please note that on Ascension Day, Thursday 29th May, there will be no 10 a.m. morning Communion as there will be Deanery Service to mark the day. Details will be available soon.****

- **Recently Departed** - Our sympathies and condolences are with Freda Bell on the death of her husband Tony. The funeral will be Kettering Crematorium, The Albert Munn Chapel on Monday 19th May at 1.30 p.m.

- **This week's Mind** - Vera Shillaker 2020, George (Ray) Bird 2020, John Wilkinson 2022, Sheila Gaughan 2003, Audrey Corner 2009, Richard Brookes 1995, Barbara Johnson, Jeremy Glass 1988, Heather Bailey 2012, Alice Palmer 2000, Brian Jeffs 2014

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.

Thank you for your understanding.

Electoral Roll

- ✓ **Belong**
- ✓ **Participate**
- ✓ **Contribute**

Electoral Roll forms need to be returned to Electoral Roll Officers asap - Stanion - Sue Jamieson or Rev'd Heather, Brigstock - Liz Cobley, All Saints - Prue Vaughn and Lowick - Jo Boyers.

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.

Dates for your Diaries



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 (07753565080 kate.redding@sky.com) and we'll try and arrange some drive space or part of the church for you to use.

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



*****We are collecting items for the Tombola They can be left in church or given to Steph Beckett*****
Thank you

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.

Readings and Prayer **Fourth Week of Easter** May 11th 2025

Gospel Passage: Acts 9. 36 — end

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Collect

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen

New Testament Passage: John 10. 22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again;
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen