

News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough

Sunday 25th January to Saturday 31st January 2026

Dear Friends, Happy New Year!

Sadly, as I'm sure you know mine has not been either as I had envisioned or wanted. In the 4 weeks since I have broken my leg, close to my knee joint, KGH have been undecided about whether to operate. My leg has been kept completely straight in a brace for most of this time, so now I have to get the knee joint moving again, a little at a time. I have started physio but am still not allowed to weight bear on the leg at all.

I wish I could say that I have enjoyed resting but this is not the case and I am desperate to be able to walk again. I think however this experience is giving me a rare insight and opportunity into understanding the frustrations of limited mobility and being dependent on other people. Being mobile is something we can take for granted. Getting things in and out of the fridge, doing the washing and drying of myself and my clothes, not being able to get a meal for myself and so on. Many of these things I have taken for granted. I have realized how much harder it must be for my husband Alan and my friend from University, Caroline, (both living with motor neuron disease) to have to rely on others. Independence is highly valued by our society, but inter dependence is of greater value to God. We were created to live in relationship with each other, to help, support and love one another.

In Matthew's gospel Jesus was asked, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'"

And we know the story of the good Samaritan follows. Being able to receive love and care can be hard. It can make us feel vulnerable. It can make us feel that we owe the giver something in return, and we may feel indebted to them, but this is not the case when a gift is freely given. Both giving and receiving love through the people we meet – whether we know them or not, whether they look like us or not means we live in love and when we live in love we live in God. (1 John).

During this trying and difficult time many people have shown both myself and Alan God's love. We have received cards, messages of kindness, visits from family and friends both locally and further afield, flowers and home cooked meals as well as promises of prayer.

All these kindnesses remind me of God's love for me and God's presence with me.

I know my accident affects your services and I'm sorry that this is the case. Please know that our Benefice is in my prayers and I pray that you will know I have not abandoned you but am asking God to hold you together.

The apostle Paul exhorted the churches he was responsible for while he wasn't there, to keep meeting together, praying, supporting one another and holding each other. I encourage you to do likewise.

There may be an odd Sunday when Communion is not available but there will be a service of some sort. Be brave - try it. Support our Lay Leaders who also care for you and show them your love and gratitude. You may learn something totally new and unexpected.

My understanding is that Thursday morning Communion services at Brigstock will be covered – but check the weekly newsletter to be sure.

The surgeon and I are hoping that in another 4 weeks (possibly 6) I will be able to start weight bearing again (i.e. standing on my 2 legs!) This means that at some point between 20th Feb - 6th March I will start weight bearing which I am hoping will mean I'll be able to be back in time for the Holy Week and Easter Services. If I am not driving by then, I will need someone probably from a church where there is a service to drive me to and from the service.

Hang on in there. All is well and all manner of things shall be well. My challenge to us all is to make our goal this week to show love to someone you wouldn't normally!

God Bless and Love in Christ, Rev'd Heather

Sunday Services



Sunday 25th January 10.00 a.m. St Peters Lowick – Service will be taken by The Reverend Tim Alban Jones, Vice Dean of Peterborough Cathedral

Sunday 1st February 11.00 a.m. St Peters Stanion
3.30 p.m. All Saints Sudborough - Evening Prayer

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

18th January 09.30 a.m. All Saints Sudborough
St Peters Stanion All Age service to be confirmed.

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

Collect Prayer for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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 forever.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Mid-Week Services

Thursday 22nd January 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock – Holy Communion service to be taken by The Reverend Joe Griffiths, Curate at St Johns Corby.

➤ **Recently Departed** – Leonard (Len) Hallifax

Many of you will have already heard the very sad news of Len's death on 10th January. Len was born and lived most of his life until retirement in Lowick. He worked on Drayton Estate Farm for almost 50 years and was a strong and loved member of the village community. He was a loyal member of the church congregation and bellringing Tower Captain for many years. A very accomplished ringer, he taught numerous people from the village and wider area to ring in his calm and confident manner and continued to support ringers and ring himself until his final days. Len was an enthusiastic photographer and many of you will also know him from his membership of Corby Photographic Club which met at Stanion. Len will be deeply missed. We send our most sincere condolences to Lesley, Peter, Sophie and Len's wider family and many friends. His funeral will be at St Peter's, Lowick on Friday, 13 February at 12.30pm.

➤ **This week's Mind** – Annie Fletcher 1996, Daphne Smith 2018, Mary Alice Short 1983, Grace Smith 1987, Kathleen (Dolly) Gray 1989, John Poole Sandlands (Priest) 1915, Len Evans 2014

Notes

Rector: The Reverend Heather Lowe

Associate Minister (Church Army): Captain Alan Lowe,

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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

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.

Dates For your Diary



St Peters Lowick - The first COFFEE MORNING of the year will take place in Lowick Village Hall on Tuesday 27th January from 10 a.m. to midday. A chance to banish the winter gloom for a couple of hours with friends, refreshments and a raffle. What more could you ask for? £2 per person, children and well-behaved pet's welcome.