

News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough
Sunday 27th April to Saturday 3rd May 2025.

Wanting to be sure!

Once one gets a reputation it can be so hard to change people's opinions. If someone gets known for gossiping, it won't be long before others are careful to tell them nothing of importance. If someone is known for being unreliable, well then, not relying on them to do what they promise, makes good sense. Hopefully we might become known for our good cheer, or a willingness to help out those in need if we can.

If I was to speak the name of Thomas, a disciple of Jesus, I can guess what you might think. A good proportion of you would have had the word 'doubting' flit across your little grey cells! 'Doubting Thomas' has become a celebrity for all the wrong reasons. His feelings of uncertainty about the Resurrection of Jesus are too well known.

Does he warrant such a place in history. Certainly! His refusal to believe betrayed a lack of trust in the words of his friends, dozens of them! And yet, the sadder thing is that he is often only remembered for those doubts. Yet there was more to Thomas than meets the eye. He was a man who was willing to die for his boss, when trouble threatened (see John 11. 7-16). And when he finally meets the Risen Christ he is the first to identify Jesus as being on a par with the living God. He didn't need to actually touch the scars of the Cross as he had demanded. Instead at the sight of his friend he proclaims 'My Lord and my God'.

As we enter this Easter season two things are worth acknowledging. On a very down to earth level, let's not be too swift to judge others. Like Thomas there is probably more to them than we may know about. On another level entirely let's not allow doubts to stifle our trust in God or inhibit our prayers. The experience of Thomas shows that doubt can be the way in to a deeper faith. Never be afraid to air questions of faith. Indeed if you need any help pondering the faith just text or email me your question, and I will try and help, if I can. (text 07480 113673 or email aloweca@aol.com)).

Go well. Happy Resurrection Season!



Sunday Services



Sunday 27th April 10.00 a.m. St Peters Lowick

Sunday 4th May 11.00 a.m. St Peters Stanion

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

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

Mid-Week Services

Thursday 1st May 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion service St Andrews Brigstock

- **Recently Departed** - Our Organist Jean Wignell's husband Cliff recently passed away. Do please pray for Jean. Cliffs funeral will be at Kettering Crematorium on Wednesday 30th April at 10.30 a.m. We continue to hold Jean in our thoughts and prayers.

Also 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 Jarvis 1998, Niven McMaster 2015, John Jaffrey 2011, Monica Mercer 2011

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.

PEW BIBLES

Can anyone who has kindly said they will purchase a Pew Bible and has yet to pay can you ensure that the payment is made at your earliest convenience as follows:

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.

Dates for your Diaries

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>



Bell ringing for 80th Anniversary of VE Day – On the 80th Anniversary of VE Day (Thurs 8th May) there will be bellringing nationwide. Our benefice team of ringers will attempt to ring at all four churches between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the evening so listen out.

On Saturday 10th May we are inviting all locals (from 1 to over 100 years of age) to pop in to either Brigstock or Stanion churches, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. to mark this important anniversary by tolling a bell. Everyone will receive a certificate and we will collate all names to display at the back of the church. If they wish, people can also have their name published in the weekly Ringing World newspaper, and purchase a copy - Proceeds to go to each church.



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 **Second Week of Easter** April 27th 2025

New Testament Passage: Acts 5. 27-32

When they had brought the Apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Collect

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Gospel Passage: John 20. 19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.