

News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough

Sunday 9th August 2020 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

This Weeks Reflection



On occasions, our 'face to face' worship in our amazing buildings and our online worship utilising our amazing technology, will follow the same bible readings. On other occasions, including this week the services will follow different readings. Hopefully, these different formats will serve us well, the common denominator being that the Holy Spirit of God, who created all things, can and will come alongside us

through all things too.

Holding on to that which is comfortable and well known to us, can be a helpful thing, particularly when times are tough. Jesus himself knew this and sought to reassure his listeners that he had not come to abolish their sacred writings and traditions but to build upon them. His promise too was that when he returns God will continue that development on to something even better! Whilst treasuring what God has done we know that God's work is dynamic and continues onwards.

One of our readings this week is that of Jesus walking on the water followed by Peter. Peter matches his Lord for a while but then 'logic' enters his head. He thinks he really should be sinking ... and so he does. Another of our readings this week quotes the Apostle Paul telling us that 'all scripture is God breathed'. When we read the Bible, doubting Paul's assertion, we can be sure it won't have the same impact and like Peter we might just 'sink' as we read it. In doing so we miss out on the gems it contains.

God can influence and bless our lives in all sorts of ways, glorious buildings, wonderful passages, friendship, community and via Wi-Fi too.

May God who created all things, make his ways known to us in whatever way he chooses. And may we be alert, so, as to receive them gladly.

Face Masks Mandatory in Places of Worship



THERE is new Church of England guidance on face coverings in places of worship, which will be **mandatory** for congregations from **Saturday 8th August** but not for those officiating at a service.

The move comes after the announcement by the Prime Minister that the requirement to wear a face covering would be extended to “other indoor settings where you’re likely to come into contact with people you do not normally meet, such as museums, galleries, cinemas, and places of worship’.

Church of England guidance, issued on Wednesday, says, however, that there will be exemptions for those “who are leading services or events in a place of worship, and those who assist them (for instance by reading, preaching, or leading prayer)”. Other worshippers will be required to wear masks.

The exemptions will also cover the bride and bridegroom at a wedding and those “officiating/leading”.

They do not apply to “those observing the wedding, who should wear face coverings consistent with the requirements for any other public space”.

In line with government advice, children under 11 and people with disabilities or certain health conditions are also exempt.

The Government had previously stated that, from 24 July, face coverings were only to be “encouraged” in places of worship, while C of E guidance was that masks were “strongly advised”

Church Times

Sunday Services

9th August 2020 10.00 a.m. St Peter Lowick

16th August 2020 10.00 a.m. To be confirmed but hopefully St Andrew Brigstock

With effect from Monday 10th August, if you would like to attend any of our services, please request reservations by email or telephone to the Benefice Administrator, Allison Porter on beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com or 01536 373509. Please leave a message if there is no answer (please note that there is a ‘Call Guardian’ service on this telephone number and you may have to announce who you are, just follow the instructions given.)

You will need to provide:

1. The names of those wishing to attend.
2. If those attending represent more than one household, please clarify who belongs to each household.
3. The contact details, phone number or email of each person wishing to attend.

We will aim to respond to seating requests by the Friday evening before the Sunday that the service is on. If you have requested a seat but have not had any contact from Allison by 9.00 a.m. on the Saturday morning please do contact her, in case she has not received your request or has inadvertently missed your message. Thank you in advance for your patience. Should there be more requests than we can manage safely, those whom we cannot accommodate will be prioritised for the following service should they wish.

We all realise that the current restrictions run counter to our desire to be open to everyone, however we also acknowledge that the health of our nation currently takes priority.

We know that everybody does not feel comfortable to return to our church buildings at the moment and there is no pressure on anyone to attend a service. You remain an important member of God's family and our community.

For those who wish to attend "face to face" services we will provide hand sanitiser in the churches and ask that you use it on the way in and out of the church.

We will allocate you seats when you arrive.

If you require a cushion you will need to bring your own and remove it after the service.

There will be a service sheet and the readings on your seat when you arrive and they should be left there after the service.

The church door will remain open for ventilation. All conversations will need to take place socially distanced outside. There will be no hymns and no refreshments. The service will be between 30 and 40 minutes.

Unfortunately there will be no children's areas or toys at this current time.

Please Pray for:

- **Sick:** Jim Clarke

- **This Weeks Mind:** Timothy (Tim) French 1987, Frederick Noel Stokes 1917, Marion Brudenell 2013, Maggie Holloway 1977, Robert Stopford 1976, Robert Hatsell 2016, Rowland Escombe 2009



Parish Notes

Rector: The Reverend Heather Lowe

Associate Minister (Church Army): Captain Alan Lowe,

Telephone: 01536 263550

Address: 14 Willow Lane, Stanion, Northamptonshire, NN14 1DT

Reader – Jackie Makepeace

Telephone: 01832 358978

Churchwarden Contact telephone numbers:

Lowick – Sarah Vogele-Hake 01832 358704

Sudborough – David Sparks 01832 730039

Brigstock – Carl Hector 01536 373410

Stanion – David Lafferty 01536 200175

Benefice Administrator & Safeguarding Officer – Allison Porter email:

beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com or telephone 01536 373509

Benefice website: <https://www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk>

Volunteer Readers Required



Whilst we are slowly reopening our churches for Sunday worship we will continue to do an online service for those who are unable to attend. If you would like to do an online Sunday service reading, I can send it to you. You will have to be able to record it and send it back to myself or Alan by email or mobile. Just let me know. (heatherlowe020@btinternet.com or 01536 263550) It's great to have as many different folk as possible doing the readings and people of all ages.

Many thanks Heather

Financial Gifts for the Church

I know that a lot of folk who normally give on the plate in church or in the envelope scheme have been unable to do so (or you may like to make a one off donation). I am pleased to tell you that if you do so Money for St Andrew's Church, Brigstock, can now be delivered (or ask some one else to deliver) to Mike Simpson or make cheques payable to St Andrews PCC, Brigstock. Please put all donations in a marked envelope. There is also a Just giving page on the benefice website (www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk), on St Andrew's Church, welcome page

For St Peter's Church, Stanion Rob Singlehurst is now also able to accept cheques for the church (but not cash). Please make cheques payable to St Peter's Church, Stanion PCC. Again there is a Just giving page on the benefice website (www.harpersbrookanglicans.org.uk), St Peter's Church welcome page.

News Update:

The videos we have put together in recent weeks are available to back view on YouTube. We realise that some of us have found them difficult to access at times and so if you go to the link below and click **SUBSCRIBE**, you can view them and others to come at your leisure.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSF7745DRm8eiwpdh0TDEAQ?view_as=subscriber

Also on the website you will find that Alan has put up some very useful material to help us make the most of reading our Bibles. It's called "Bringing the Good Book to life". It includes a Bible passage. I cannot recommend it enough. There will be new material each week on a Thursday. You can obviously do it in your own time and it is easy to access.

RIDE+STRIDE



Calling all cyclists and walkers

Ride and Stride

Northamptonshire Historic Churches are hoping that subject to government regulations, the yearly Ride and Stride sponsored event will take place this year on 12th September. If you would like to take part and would like to support St Andrew's Brigstock, please contact Steph Beckett.

If you would like to take part and would like to support All Saints, Sudborough, please contact Church Warden David Sparks

If you would like to take part and would like to support St Peter's, Stanion, please contact Sue Jameson, 01536 204393

If you would like to take part and would like to support St Peter's, Lowick, please contact Church Warden, Sarah Vogeale Hake



Meteor and Meteorites

August is the traditional month for observing meteors due to the appearance of the Perseid Meteor Shower. You can usually see odd meteors on any night during the year if you go outside to a dark area for an hour or so. There are number of regular meteor showers during the year of which the Perseids are one.

The number of meteors you can see during a shower is variable due to the position of the

stream of particles that produce them and how much moonlight there is which can drown out the less bright trails. The particle streams are produced by periodic Comets, ones that return on a regular basis, as they approach the Sun. Comets are basically dirty snowballs, so when heated by an approach to the Sun the ice melts and streams of particles and gas are ejected and left behind. The particles are around the size of sand grains but can be much bigger, the larger the particle the brighter and longer the meteor trail. These particles burn up in the atmosphere, which produces the light we see. It is only when a meteor is large enough to not be completely vaporised and reaches the ground does it become a Meteorite. It has been estimated that the Earth gains some 40,000 tons of material a year from meteors.

The peak of the Perseid Shower will best be seen in the early mornings of the UK this year on the nights between the 11/12 and 12/13 August. The name of meteor shower comes from the position of where the trails appear to come from, known as the radiant. The trails will originate in the Constellation of Perseus but radiate in all directions from this point, so you can see trails in any direction but not directly at the radiant itself. If you go out to see the shower for any length of time a sun lounger will give your neck support and wear warm clothes or take a blanket.

The Noctilucent Cloud season is basically now finished due to the sun going lower below the horizon as the nights lengthen. On the 13th August Venus reaches its highest position in the sky in the mornings just before sun rise and will be 50% lit. Mars will be bright during the middle of the month, low in the east, as it reaches its closest point to the Sun.

Clear skies

Peter Makepeace

If you would like to add to the weekly notices or to have this sheet emailed to you can contact Allison Porter 07933 804432, beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com. Entries need to be with Allison by Thursday evening to ensure they will be included in the next News Letter. Written consent is required if you want any personal details to be included.