

News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough
Sunday 3rd March to Saturday 9th March 2024.

For Lent: Three Minute Theologies – Heaven

The concept of Heaven as the place where God is, has been around for at least 2,600 years. The Old Testament of the Bible has the greatest of its prophets, Isaiah, talking about it in his writings.

Interestingly, Heaven is not just a place we go to after finishing our lives on Earth. Heaven and Earth are dimensions which God has created separately – but connected. The problem being that for various reasons the connections have been corrupted (what we sometimes call 'sin') and now mere overlaps are all that remain.

These overlaps are the times and places where humans gain real insight into God. The clearest overlap being the thirty-three years that Jesus walked the Earth. This was the time of the greatest revelation because it was the time when God dwelt among us in human flesh. In my opinion

we are all capable of glimpsing some of these overlaps, and sensing the presence of Heaven in the here and now. Which is, after all, the same as saying that we feel the presence of God. Many of us will have experienced such moments, often of sheer contentment, when we perhaps wished that time would just stop.

These moments, I believe, are times when we find ourselves in that overlap between Heaven and Earth. Indeed, when Jesus talked about 'eternal life', such moments as I have outlined, are I suggest, tiny foretastes of that glory. When Heaven and Earth become fully connected again, that contentment will be a permanent feature. For that to happen a New Heaven and a New Earth need creating. This is precisely what the many Bible writers have gradually been revealing. From its earliest books e.g. in Genesis, through to its latest scripts in the sixty sixth book we call Revelation.

In summary Heaven is not just an ethereal place we float away to after death. It is one part of the new creation which is coming. Our fate beyond death, or when Christ returns, is to be raised to new life. Raised in the manner Jesus was, on a beautifully renewed Earth, which will be just as glorious as Heaven itself.



Sunday Services



Sunday 3rd March 11.00 a.m. St Peters Stanion

Sunday 10th March 10.00 a.m. Benefice Mother's Day Service St Andrews Brigstock

Sunday 17th March 09.30 a.m. All Saints Sudborough
11.30 a.m. St Peters Stanion All Age Service

Sunday 24th March 10.00 a.m. Palm Sunday Service St Peters Lowick

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

*****Details of Easter services can be found below*****

Mid Week Services.

Thursday 7th March. There will not be a Holy Communion Service at St Andrews Brigstock



During Lent there will be a weekly 'Three Minute Theology' on the website. These are Christian themes summarised in a short three minute read. Do please use them to prayerfully reflect on some of the important aspects of the faith we hold dear'

Easter Services

	St Peters Lowick	All Saints Sudborough	St Andrews Brigstock	St Peters Stanion
Monday 25 th – Saturday 30 th March During church opening times		Stations of the Cross for people to do in their own time. A self-help leaflet will be available.	Stations of the Cross for people to do in their own time. A self-help leaflet will be available.	
Maundy Thursday 28 th March			No morning Holy Communion service	7.00 p.m. Last Supper service
Good Friday 29 th March				2.00 p.m. Reflective service
Saturday 30 th March		6.30 p.m. Easter Eve service		
Easter Sunday 31 st March	10.00 a.m. Benefice service at St Andrews Brigstock			

Please Pray for

- **Recently Deceased:** Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Pamela King at this time. Pamela's funeral will be on Thursday 7th March at 11.00 a.m. at St Andrew's Church, Brigstock. **(There will be no Holy Communion service this day)**

Condolences and prayers go to Tim Holdsworth (husband) and Sam Stopford Sackville (daughter) of the late Sandra Holdsworth. Sandra's funeral will be at St Peter's Church, Lowick on Friday March 8th at 12 noon.

- **This Weeks Mind:** Stan Druce 2019, Wilfred Pakenham Walsh, Priest 1974, Bob McGregor 1994, John Sumpter 1994, William Hardwick, Priest 1994, Joseph Goodson 2004, Kath Wills 2019, Reg Minton 1999

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 & Safeguarding Officer – Jackie Makepeace

Telephone: 01832 358978

Churchwarden Contact telephone numbers:

Lowick – Vacant

Sudborough – Sara Dixon 07970 597017

Brigstock – Carl Hector 01536 373410

Stanion – David Lafferty 01536 200175

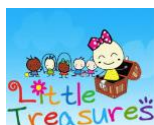
Benefice Administrator – Allison Porter email: beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com or telephone 01536 373509 or 07933 804432

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

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 Barbara on 373240



St Peter's Church Baby and Toddler Group - Little Treasures will be on Friday each week of the school term in Stanion Village Hall. 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Toys, snacks, craft, songs, sensory play and chat. £2.50 per session. £1.00 for each additional sibling

Fund Raising

St Andrews Brigstock

Huge thanks to everyone who made last Fridays slide show such a success, including those who made the delicious refreshments and of course to Carl for his interesting and entertaining look at Brigstock since the 1900's.

Race Night Saturday March 16th Brigstock Village Hall doors open at 7.30 p.m. first race at 8.00 p.m.

Tickets available from Barbara Platt £10.

Further details to follow.



Rutland Big Band - A return visit by request on Monday April 8th in Brigstock Village Hall

Further details to follow.

St Peters Stanion:

Dates for your diaries 2024

- ❖ **11th May** Stanion Garage Sale. For further details contact Kate Redding 07753 565080
- ❖ **8th June** Combined Summer Fete with Stanion Village Hall, Stanion Primary School and St Peter's Church at Stanion Village Hall.
- ❖ **7th September** Horticultural and Produce Fair, St Peter's Church
- ❖ **23rd November** Christmas Tree Festival, St Peter's Church

Sky Guide for March 2024

This month we will have the Spring Equinox on the 20th and only two planets to see with an unaided eye. The Moon will be New on the 10th It will be Full on the 25th and if you are vigilant, you could see it slip into the Earth's penumbral shadow just before it sets around 06:12, colouring it a reddish brown, from our location. Mercury will be visible from our location from 16th low in the West around 18:30 before setting about 2 hours later. This will continue until around the 25th when it will not rise high enough to be readily seen. Venus and Mars will not be visible all month from our location. Jupiter will dominate the evening skies in the West all month but set earlier and earlier as the month progresses. Saturn will not be visible all month from our location. Uranus will be in the South-West at about 43° and set around midnight at the start of the month. Then progressively get lower and set earlier during the month until by the end it will not rise above the horizon from our location. Neptune will not be visible all month from our location. The constellation of Orion the Hunter is still visible low in the South after sunset for most of the month. Orion is depicted holding a club in his right hand and a shield in the left. The four stars defining the outline are Betaleguse (right shoulder) and then clockwise: Bellatrix (left shoulder), Rigel (left heel) and Saiph (right knee). Mintaka, Alnilam and Alnitak are the belt stars (from upper right to lower left), Hatysa is the tip of the sword hanging from the belt, Meissa is in the face and Tabit is the brightest shield star. Rigel is the brightest and is a triple star system with a main star of some 17 solar masses. The next brightest is Betelgeuse which is a red supergiant star at around 15 solar masses and is one of the candidates for the next nearby star to go "supernova". This will make it visible during the day time.

Orion also has two well-known Nebulae namely the Orion Nebula (M42), located in the sword and the small dark Horsehead Nebula which is near the star Alnitak. Dark Nebula are where the dust and gas clouds in space are thick enough to obscure starlight or bright nebula situated behind them.
Clear Skies. Peter



Readings and Prayers **Third Sunday in Lent** March 3rd 2024

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17. 1-20

Then God spoke all these words:

- * I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.
 - * You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.
 - * You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
 - * Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath and consecrated it.
 - * Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
 - * You shall not murder.
 - * You shall not commit adultery.
 - * You shall not steal.
 - * You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
 - * You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to them..
- When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.' Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.' Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Gospel Reading: John 2. 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**