

News Letter

Brigstock with Stanion, Lowick and Sudborough
Sunday 7th July to Saturday 13th July 2024.

Strong in the Lord!

Paul, who wrote a fair chunk of what we call the New Testament had a big problem. Even those chosen for a crucial role in God's plans were not, and are not, immune from the vulnerabilities of being human. There has been much speculation around what Paul calls his 'thorn in the flesh'. Annoyingly he doesn't tell us exactly what this is. We only know of some ailment of his body which he had repeatedly beseeched God to heal. This had been a prayer which God had chosen not to answer in the way the pray-er hoped. However, he had come to realise why. To have been healed would have only fed his pride in being a special man of God. In fact, he goes on to suggest that when he is at his weakest, his strength grows!

'When I am weak then I am strong' seems quite a paradox. Not so when we realise the nature of faith. It is like a tender plant. A wild tomato plant from last year's seeds, left in the ground, may grow well for a while. However, without some TLC it usually flags in our climate (especially this summer). Paul had realised that when things are going our way, we feel it's all down to our own efforts alone. When things are tough, we remember that's not the case, because we are all influenced by many factors. Finance, health, friendships and family circumstances are all beyond our control, some of the time. A good illustration of this is the human cry of 'why me?'. When trouble strikes it's easily on our lips or in our minds, but when good fortune is ours it's the last thing we are thinking. God really can't win! Even Christ himself had moments of weakness and failure. The power of God which he called on repeatedly for the good of others, failed him at home. His own family, friends and neighbours, in his home town, were so sceptical of him that he could do very little.

Let's be thankful to the Lord for all that life gives us, and then reach out for strength if things turn sour. That is almost a summary of what being a faithful Christian is all about.

Paul knew it. Jesus himself knew it. We can know it.



Sunday Services



Sunday 7th July 11.00 a.m. St Peters Stanion

Sunday 14th July 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock

Sunday 21st July 09.30 a.m. All Saints Sudborough
11.30 a.m. St Peters Stanion All Age Service

Sunday 28th July 10.00 a.m. St Peters Lowick

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

Mid Week Services.

Wednesday 10th July 6-7 p.m. At St Peter's Church, Stanion,

The past events of Srebrenica are only one of four genocides recognised by the UK Government. Srebrenica Memorial Day is 11th July.

The Srebrenica Memorial group invite you to join them for a Memorial Service Event and Prayers for current conflicts i.e. Gaza, Israel and Ukraine as well as others.

Thursday 12th July 10.00 a.m. St Andrews Brigstock Holy Communion



- **This Weeks Mind:** Ann Osmond 2009, Catherine Bush 2000, Colin Bright 2020, Mary Hector 1998, George Knight 2017, Julie Jeffs 1991, Timothy (Tim) Rathbone

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 – Jeremy Crouch 07790 651116

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>

St Andrews Brigstock

Saturday September 14th is the date for Ride and Stride this year. This is a sponsored event. Half the donations go to Northamptonshire Historic Churches and the other half to St Andrews.

When they give out grant's priority is given to churches who gave participated in the event

You don't need to Ride a bike! You can walk or even go round in your car.

Please contact Steph. sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk

Fund Raising

St Andrews Brigstock

- ❖ **Saturday 30th November.** – Christmas Fair 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in church

St Peters Stanion:

- ❖ **7th September** 'Heads up' for growers, jam & pickle makers and crafters. Do keep in mind that there will be another 'Horticultural and Produce Fair' at St Peters Stanion
- ❖ **23rd November** Christmas Tree Festival, St Peter's Church



Readings and Prayers

Sunday July 7th 2024

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 12. 2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Collect

Creator God, you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Gospel Reading: Mark 6. 1-13

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag; no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.