



## Peace and Unity?

The New Testament of our Bibles contains a number of letters written by the Apostle Paul to Churches he had worked alongside. In a number of them he shares what he thinks the Gospel of Christ means. One of his biggest themes is 'peace with one another' and 'unity' as being the marks of Christian faith and friendship.

The old saying goes that there is strength in numbers. Around the world today there are around 2.2 billion people who declare themselves Christians, which is about 1 in every 3 people on the planet! What a thought that faith in Christ unites so many people.

Christians of course are only human along with the other 4.8 billion on the planet. United by a faith in Christ does not always guarantee unity in how things are done. Variety of course is good and brings about great creativity except when it downplays the ways of others. The Church has been as guilty as anyone else in descending into factions, all believing their way is the best way and sometimes even worse, believing their way is the only proper way!

In our Benefice (that's our group of Churches) of Brigstock, Stanion, Sudborough and Lowick we have 4 churches with slightly different ways of going about things, which is good. Three or four times a year all 4 churches get together to praise and worship God. One of these happens next week on the 29<sup>th</sup> July at St Peter's Stanion. Do come along and join us and let's really show our support for one another. We all have our own ways, but we also need that visual reminder that we are all united in following Christ. In a divided country signs of unity are never more needed.



## Promise Programme 2018

Over the last couple of weeks we have launched our **2018 Promise Programme** at Brigstock and Stanion. The aim is to encourage us all to reflect on our stewardship and consider our financial giving to God's Church of which we are a part.

If you were not around at these services please do take a leaflet from the back of church. What you need to know is summarised in the leaflet although if you have further questions please contact ourselves, your treasurer or any of the contacts mentioned. If you know of others who may want to support our Churches please pass a leaflet on to them too.

As Churches we do need to raise our regular giving and so we are hoping that July will be a month for us all to prayerfully reflect on this and consider whether we can help a little more. This is of course between ourselves and God but whatever you decide it would be very helpful indeed if you can let our Treasurers know by filling out the form. This will enable us to plan ahead and budget, knowing what we can and can't do. As we work out our vision(s) for the next few years this will be very helpful. God has great plans for our villages!

Heather and Alan

# News Letter

Brigstock, Lowick, Stanion and Sudborough

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 – Mary Magdalene

## Services Today

	Holy Communion	All Age worship
09.30 a.m.	St Andrews Brigstock	
11.00 a.m.	St Peters Lowick	
11.00 a.m.		St Peters Stanion

## Services on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018

10.00 a.m. Benefice Service St Peter's Stanion

## Services on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018

	Holy Communion
09.30 a.m.	All Saints Sudborough
11.00 a.m.	St Peters Stanion

## Services on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
09.30 a.m.	St Andrews Brigstock	
11.00 a.m.	St Peters Lowick	
5.00 p.m.		St Peters Stanion

*If you normally take Holy Communion in your own church you are welcome to receive Communion in any of the churches in the Benefice. If you would prefer a blessing please bring this sheet with you as you kneel at the altar rail.*

## Weekday Services Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July                      09.15 a.m.        Holy Communion All Saints Sudborough  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July                      10.00 a.m.        Holy Communion St Andrews Brigstock

## Please Pray for:

➤ **The Sick:** Wendy Adderley

*Please note that if you want prayers to be said in church for someone you know there will be a notebook placed on the lectern at church services including the Tuesday morning communion at Sudborough and Thursday morning at St Andrews. You can write the name of the person to be prayed for and the reason, although this is optional and does not have to be restricted to those who are sick. It is important that you have asked the person who is named, as not everyone feels comfortable with having his or her name read out. Names will remain in the notebook until there is no longer a need for prayers, it will be the responsibility of the person entering the name to remove it at that point. The notebook will not be kept out once the services have finished.*

➤ **This Years Mind:** Kathleen Barratt 2015, Francis Palmer 2004, Edwyn Frandsen 2010,

Ann Gladwell 1804, Alex Brimfield 1991

## 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

(Please note that The Reverend Lowe and Captain Lowe's day off is Monday so if you do not get a response from them on that day please do not be offended. If it is urgent leave a message and they will get back to you as soon as they are able, alternatively contact your churchwarden or Allison Porter the Benefice Administrator. )

**Reader** – Jackie Makepeace

Telephone: 01832 358978

### **Churchwarden Contact telephone numbers:**

**Lowick** – Edna Hallifax 01832 733267

**Sudborough** – David Sparks 01832 730039

**Brigstock** – Carl Hector 01536 373410

**Stanion** – David Lafferty 01536 200175

**Benefice Administrator** – Allison Porter email: [beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com](mailto:beneficeoffice5@btinternet.com) or telephone 01536 373509

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### **Brigstock:**

**Summer Fun Morning:** St Andrew's will be holding a Summer Fun Morning in the church on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. for folk of all ages 0 – 99 years (and over.) There will be activities, refreshments and chat. If you are able to help by providing an activity or craft or can help with serving refreshments, talking to folk, baking cakes or helping children to enjoy any of the crafts/games provided please let The Reverend Heather know. This is a community event, rather than a fundraiser so it will be free of charge.

**Craft and Chatter** – The next craft and chatter will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August hosted by Linda Ellison, Plum Tree cottage Park Walk. Please feel free to come along with your craft project for a cup of tea/coffee with cake.

**Ride and Stride** -The Ride and Stride for Northamptonshire Historic Churches takes place on Saturday September 9th.

St Andrews usually has 3 riders but there may be less this year as it clashes with the Brigstock Beer Festival and many village groups are involved with that. If you are asked to sponsor somebody please do!

If you would like to take part please contact Steph on 373422 or [sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sbeckett13@yahoo.co.uk). The distance you walk, ride or stride is entirely up to you. Half of the sponsor money goes to St Andrews and the other half to Northamptonshire Historic Churches

**St Andrew's, Brigstock, Vision Evening Wednesday 12th September 7.30pm.** Come and chat about the Churches Vision and possible ways forward. We'll be looking at the suggestions that have been made and thinking about where we believe God may be leading the church. Please do try and come even if you normally do something else on a Wednesday evening. This is your church and your community!

## Stanion:

**Summer Fun Afternoon** - St Peter's will be holding a Summer Fun Afternoon in the church on 11<sup>th</sup> August between 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. for folk of all ages 0 – 99 years (and over.) There will be activities, refreshments and chat. If you are able to help by providing an activity or craft or can help with serving refreshments, talking to folk, baking cakes or helping children to enjoy any of the crafts/games provided please let The Reverend Heather know. This is a community event, rather than a fundraiser so it will be free of charge.

**St Peter's Stanion Vision Evening 7.00pm. Wednesday 25th July.** Come and chat about the Churches Vision and possible ways forward. We'll be looking at the suggestions that have been made and thinking about where we believe God may be leading the church. Please do try and come, even if you normally do something else on a Wednesday evening. This is your church and your community!



## Future Events:

**Brigstock - Belcanto Female Voice Choir** – At St Andrews church – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30 p.m. Tickets will be £10 per person including refreshments.

The choir sings a wide range of music covering all styles and periods, including classical and contemporary works, gospel and musicals, both a capella and accompanied by their pianist. The members love singing and aim to bring joy to all those who come to their concerts, always striving to uphold the tradition of Bel Canto (Italian for 'beautiful singing').

