

Surface

November 2020



***In life, the end is often exactly that, the end.
With Jesus, the end can become the beginning.***

This is a quote from 'The Story of Heaven' by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. It's a study we have been doing in my Home Group and I thought it would be good to share a taste of it with you here.

Max says that we all love to know where we came from but it's even better to know where we're going. That's the main theme of the Bible and can be found in John 3:16.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (NIV)*

This is the headline of God's Story. He saves his people. The Bible says so.

Max goes on to say that Scripture assures us of Heaven. Because Jesus was raised from the dead we've all been given a brand new life and have everything to live for including a future in Heaven and the future starts now.

How do we know? Jesus said so.

This is what is written: 'The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sin will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.' (Luke 42:46-48)

Jesus also said

'My father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be where I am.' (John 14:1-3)

The angel said so.

The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here: he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place here he lay.’ (Matthew 28:5-6)

Witnesses said so.

After his resurrection Jesus was seen by Peter and the Apostles. After that he was seen by more than 500 believers at the same time.

Even the rolled away stone testifies to Christ rising from the dead. No barrier will keep us locked in the grave. Christ rose first as our example and those who believe in Him will follow.

This reminds me of a song from ‘Songs of Fellowship’ that we used to sing.

I live, I live because He is risen,
I live, I live with pow'r over sin.
I live, I live because He is risen,
I live, I live to worship Him.
Thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus,
Because you're alive, because you're alive,
Because you're alive I live.

Don't just wait until Easter to celebrate that Jesus is risen. Celebrate it every day.

Kate Henry xx

Gift Day

To date we have received a magnificent £2715 into the building fund and a further £2000 into the general fund specifically for outreach activities.

The full sum of the Interest Free Loan repayment for this year has been repaid following the decision of the Leadership to augment the shortfall from the General Fund.
Thank you, everyone.

Welcomers Rota for November

1st - Jo and Peter
8th - Brenda and Graham
15th - Nic and David
22nd - Kate and Bob
29th - Jo and Clive



Surface Deadline

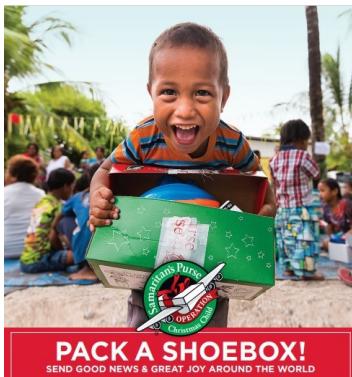
For inclusion in the December edition of Surface Magazine – please send all copy to Kate M via email to or hard copy to my home address by Thursday 19th November.
Many thanks!

Samaritans Purse

Despite the restrictions of Covid19, Samaritans Purse are still planning to run Operation Christmas Child and we will again be the only drop off point in the Weald during the week 9th to 16th November.

The current plan is that the office will be open each of the usual office days that week (ie Tuesday 10th to Thursday 12th) but is of course subject to change should the government change the regulations!

Pre-printed boxes and leaflets will be available soon but in the meantime you can find more information by clicking [here](#) and you might like to start looking out for suitable items for your box. Please remember we are no longer able to include either sweets or toothpaste due to changes in customs regulations. Thank you. Maggie



Thank you for being a part of reaching children in need through Operation Christmas Child.

I went to their South East Processing Centre in Tonbridge yesterday morning and collected our free Operation Christmas Child pre-printed shoeboxes. This year, the Lord has blessed them, with the provision of a massive modern empty warehouse, next to Screwfix on the Deacon Trading Estate, TN9 1SU.

I met their director Nick, who remembered our former pastor Ryan and he thanked us for our support, prayers and encouragement and for those of us who had helped them in the past, in processing the shoebox gifts. He said that they are well-prepared, with COVID-19 workplace risk assessments in place, to care for the volunteers, who will be checking all the shoeboxes, before they are loaded into the shipping containers.

If you are able to serve the Lord in this way and help in blessing children in need, either as individuals or as a group, please contact the centre via:
www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/volunteering

They use the Eventbrite booking system for tracking and tracing purposes.

God bless,
Bob x

Hi everyone,

We are so pleased that In these challenging times, Samaritan's Purse feel able to continue sharing God's love by distributing our Christmas shoe box gifts. So, if you have lots of goodies only awaiting a box, never fear - you will be able to pick up one from the church. Of course, feel free otherwise, to decorate and use your own!

I would commend the Samaritan's Purse website to you for more detailed information on their various initiatives. Thank you for your continued support.

Mary x

Maintaining a Covid 19 Secure environment

As mentioned In the last two Sundays, the leadership encourage everyone to abide by the Covid19 regulations by wherever possible holding conversations outside of the building. To encourage these to happen in a safe environment, they are requesting that at the end of the service everyone leaves via the garden exit unless you either need to use the disabled toilet or have difficulty in walking or have a specific role to carry out after the service or will be not stopping to chat! By using our garden for conversation, in groups of 6 or less please, we are of course not only ensuring we comply with the regulations but are setting our children a good example to stay safe and away from the car park.

Hand Sanitiser

On a practical front, just a reminder that in addition to our fabulous portable hand sanitiser unit very kindly made for us by Gordon, there is also a fixed hand sanitiser unit on the wall between the disabled and main toilet doors and another just inside the entrance of the main hall from the corridor on the right hand side (non kitchen hatch side). In addition to this there are small portable units in the café room, foyer, upper room and office. Please try and keep them in the rooms specified, or return them to their original location after use! If any of the units need refilling or you think there should be one placed somewhere else please let me know.

Thank you

Church Office hours this month

The Church office will be open next **Monday** 2nd November (although Maggie will be working from home) and then closed for the remainder of the week.

The following week Maggie will be based in the church building Tuesday 10th to Thursday 12th so that members of the public, schools, and other organisations can drop off their Shoe Boxes as per usual, prior to collection by Samaritan's Purse early the following week. After that I am hoping life and church office hours will get back to normal!

Maggie

John Whalan

Maggie would just like to thank everyone for all the love and care shown to her since the death of her Dad (John Whalan) from Alzheimer's on 6th October.

Strange as it may sound the funeral last Thursday was an enjoyable occasion! Enabling us as a family to not only celebrate Dad's character and life, as well as all that he meant to us, but to rejoice in the fact that he is now in a much better place, free from his worn out body to worship his Lord and Saviour Jesus in whatever way he wishes to.



Ruby's 90th Birthday

My Mum, Ruby Lacey will turn 90 on 24th November. Since December last year she has been a resident of Abbotsleigh Care Home, George Street, Staplehurst TN12 ORB. Sadly due to the restrictions in place to protect the Home against Covid 19, the family will be unable to celebrate this milestone as we might have wished.

I will be able to visit for 30 minutes on the day, in a special room with a Perspex wall - however none of the rest of the family will be allowed in. Thankfully in a way, due to Mum's declining health, I feel she will not suffer unduly because of this but would ask anyone who would like to, to consider sending a birthday card to her for the day. The Home will be holding a party for her and there will be cake!

Many thanks,

Kate Minett and family x

Mum at Charlotte and Jack's wedding - July 2019



Staplehurst Free Church Interim Leadership Team

**Terence Hawgood
Bob and Mary Howse
Clive Jones
Kate Henry**

Treasurer: Roger Bashford

Staplehurst Free Church

Church Administrator - Maggie Martin

Email: churchadmin@staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk **Office Tel No.:** 01580 893993
www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk

Services in November

Sunday 1st	10.30am	All Age Connections - ' <i>Text Messages x 10'</i> <i>Theme: The 10 Commandments</i> <i>Speaker: Judith Hawgood</i>
Sunday 8th	10.30am	Remembrance Day Worship, Word and Holy Communion <i>Speaker: Clive Jones</i>
Sunday 15th	10.30am	Worship, Word and Holy Communion <i>Speaker: Paul Martin</i>
Sunday 22nd	10.30am	Worship, Word and All-Age Holy Communion <i>Speaker: Jon Knight</i>
Sunday 29th	10.30am	Worship, Word and Family Communion <i>The Soldiers', Airmen's Scripture Readers Association Video</i>

Enabling everyone to know Jesus
and grow in a personal relationship with Him

**STAPLEHURST
FREE CHURCH**