



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear Friends

Our reaction to the arrival of the new year may be one of relief that 2020 is over – surely 2021 has the promise that the new vaccines will result in us getting back to “normal” – or perhaps a “new normal”. However, we need to beware of putting our trust in man-made solutions but instead to put our trust in God who reigns over the events of 2020 and who will continue to reign over the events of 2021. Jesus is King and **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13 v 8)**. Presidents and Kings alike come and go but God’s kingdom remains for time and eternity.

We, part of the church of Jesus Christ in Staplehurst, have had to adapt to the closure of the building and the restrictions when it did open and then close again and we are truly grateful to those who have helped to stream services and to help us to keep in touch with one another. Praise God we have been able to reach many more people than if we had simply remained in the building. Church was never closed – why? - because we trust the God with whom nothing is impossible, the God of the miraculous!

Let’s say together **“I can do everything through him who gives me strength”**

(Philippians 4 v 13) and take that into this new year. Who knows the plans God has for us in 2021?

God does – let's trust the God of miracles in this coming year and see what God can do!

Thank you for all you do for HIS church – keep trusting, keep praying, keep praising God in 2021 – whatever....!

Terence

28 December 2020

Notice of Church Meeting: Wednesday 27 January 2021 at 8p.m.

By Zoom and/or private YouTube (Exact method to be finalised – Links etc will be sent nearer the time together with an agenda). All members and regular attendees are invited to join us when the Leadership and Trustees will be presenting their thoughts under God's guidance as to future plans over the next 2 to 3 years including governance of the church.

Our Treasurer will also report on the financial position of the church following the year end 31 October 2020.

This will be a vital meeting and we would like as many as possible to be able to attend this meeting so we can all be aware of our plans and so that everyone can share their own thoughts as to the purpose and direction of the church. SFC is our church under God's purposes and we want everyone to feel involved.

If you really cannot join us there will be the opportunity to view the proceedings subsequently either by recording or private YouTube.

Surface Deadline

For inclusion in the February edition of Surface Magazine - please send all copy to

Kate M via email or hard copy to my home address by

Monday 21st January. Many thanks!

The Alpha Course



Alpha

Alpha is Back!

Clive is planning to run an online Alpha course via Zoom beginning on Thursday 21st January at 8:00 pm.

If you would either like to participate, invite a friend to join in or assist in the running of it please could you contact Clive directly. In the meantime please would you start to pray that the Lord will bless both individuals and the wider church through this initiative.

Thank you.

Staplehurst Free Church Services have moved online

In view of the increasing infection rate of Covid particularly in the south-east of England and even though under existing rules of tier 4 (as at 29 December) we are allowed to hold church services under social distancing rules, the leadership have decided to move all services on-line.

This will be the case at least during January and probably longer but we will see how things go and adjust accordingly in the coming months.

We are incredibly grateful to both Roy and Beni for their help with broadcasting services on-line via YouTube etc. It takes time and effort on their part. I am sure that they would welcome any help from anyone who would like to be involved in this.

The Leadership Team

Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Just a reminder **to join the Zoom prayer meeting via the internet**, the online zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/96423522696> this will be the same each week or click [here](#) to be taken to it automatically

To join by phone

The telephone number is:
0203 481 5240

When prompted use your phone key pad to enter your meeting ID
which is:

964 2352 2696 # (remember to enter the "hash")

IGNORE the request for a further number

Press # (hash) again and you will enter the meeting

If you experience any problems please contact Bob & Mary.

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 January

Sunday 3rd	10.30am	All Age Connections - A New Beginning <i>Theme: Our Plans or God's plans?</i> <i>Speakers: Leadership Team</i>
Sunday 10th	10.30am	Worship, Word and Communion <i>Theme: "Jesus is the Messiah" Mark 1</i> <i>Speaker: Lizzie Gardiner</i>
Sunday 17th	10.30am	Worship, Word and Communion <i>Theme: "A Friendly Saviour" Mark 2</i> <i>Speaker: Clive Jones</i>
Sunday 24th	10.30am	Worship, Word and Communion <i>Theme: "A Family of Disciples" Mark 3</i> <i>Speaker: Dennis Nolan</i>
Sunday 31st	10.30am	Worship and Missionary 5th Sunday <i>Speaker: Brian Carter - Open Doors</i>

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

**STAPLEHURST
FREE CHURCH**