

Surface

March 2021

Dear Friends,

GROWING THE KINGDOM

Paul Martin's inspirational sermon on Mark 4, on 14 February 2021, really caught my imagination. His message was so simple and yet so profound. Like the farmer, in the Parable of the Sower, as Christians, we should be scattering the seed of the Gospel. Don't worry where the seed falls. Be encouraged, the principle of the Kingdom of Heaven is:

YOU SOW IT – GOD WILL GROW IT.

That takes a bit of the pressure off us doesn't it? Nevertheless, you might say I'm not good with words. Take heart from St Francis of Assisi who said;

PREACH THE GOSPEL ALWAYS AND IF NECESSARY USE WORDS

So how do we do it without words?

Well, Galatians 6:10 is a good starting point.

'Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.'

Your actions, your behaviour, every smile, every act of kindness will be like a lamp and people will notice. Every day brings opportunities to witness.

Don't waste time worrying over any you miss. God will give you plenty more. Like everything else in life, the more you practise the better you become.

Our job is to spread the Gospel. God will bring in the harvest. What a wonderful partnership! God has chosen you as a co-worker.

How cool is that?

God does not change. His message of love and forgiveness has always been the same. He loves us and wants us to be part of his family. That's a message the world needs to know.

Do your part – however you can - **SPREAD THE WORD!**

From a fellow sower
Kate H. xxx

Churches Together in Staplehurst

For those of you that live in Staplehurst, Churches Together in Staplehurst have started delivering messages of hope from all five churches connected with the village, plus details of contacts with others in the surrounding areas. Should you see a 'Sold' sign from an estate agent, you have two options: advise Peter Jeffery, who will deliver a card, or deliver a card yourself. The initial sale by the three building agents are dealt with by a different method. Please advise Peter accordingly if you wish to be included in this scheme.

Peter Jeffery

Reminder: New Year Challenge

Roy would also like to receive your favourite photos of the week to use as a backdrop for song words etc. in our weekly services. Please email your photo to Roy at:

As before, please only use photos which have been taken in "landscape" mode i.e. when your phone has been turned horizontal rather than the usual vertical. You will also need to think carefully about the composition of the photo as words will need to be readable over the picture - think of all those times in church when you couldn't read the words on the screen because the contrast between the colour of the words and the background was insufficient - that is what you need to avoid! So as a generalisation the photo colours therefore all need to be quite light so that Roy can use a dark coloured font or vice versa.

To make life easier for Roy rather than sending him many photos please choose just one and see whether Roy selects it for the week!

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.

Moderator

As mentioned at our church meeting, the Leadership and Trustees are reviewing the governance of the church and part of this is to identify an independent experienced third party outside of the church who could be asked to intercede should difficulties arise between any new pastor, trustees and leadership team. We are delighted that Paul Martin, the current chair of trustees of Tonbridge Baptist Church and who has been guest speaker at a number of our services over the past few years, has after praying about this confirmed he is open to serving SFC in the way we have set out. We will be discussing further with him our thinking as leadership and trustees how such a role would work in practice.

Paul has a wealth of knowledge as a lawyer and in trustee matters and this is a great encouragement to us as we further review our roles in leadership and board of trustees.

Terence on behalf of the Leadership and Trustees

23:02:21

Return to Church

The leadership are considering and praying as to when it would be right to return to the building for services. Many of the services are now being broadcast live via YouTube with contributors having the opportunity to either take part live or to record prayers, readings and songs if they prefer to do this.

We will let you know as soon as a decision is made with details of how a safe return can be arranged and what measures may still need to be observed in line with government guidance.

Thank you for your patience with us!

Terence on behalf of the Interim leadership team

23:02:21

Lent course

It's not too late to join the Lent course which All Saints Church is running via Zoom.

There is a choice of sessions for 45 minutes every Thursday either at 9:30am or 5pm to suit different availability. The morning sessions will be different to the evening ones. The current schedule includes our very own Lynne speaking on the 18th March.

To connect via Zoom you will need the following information:

Meeting ID: 836 578 3814
Password 424158

After Church Fellowship

The leadership will be hosting an informal church get together over zoom after the All Age service on the first Sunday of the month.

The first one will therefore take place Sunday 7th March immediately after the service at 11:30am.

To join it please contact the church administrator for further information

World Day of Prayer

This years annual world day of prayer service will take place over zoom on **March 5th at 8pm.**

The URC are hosting this on their Zoom account if you wish to join it please contact the church administrator

This year the theme "Build on a Strong Foundation" has been created by the people Vanuatu.

Did you know Vanuatu is a series of 80 islands in the Pacific 2000 miles East from Australia?

No? Neither did I!

For more information on Vanuatu please click [here](#)

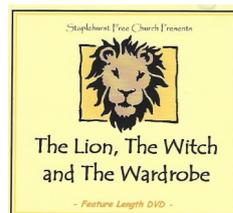
This year the format for the World Day of Prayer seems to be less prescriptive than previously and the Church Together team have been busy putting something suitable together for this time on zoom, so lets make a conscious effort to support them?



The Lion , the Witch and the Wardrobe Showing

We will be hosting a private viewing of the video online on **Friday 26th February at 7pm.** To keep this "in-house" we are asking you to book your tickets vira the church administrator. On the evening of the showing you will be sent the online link half an hour beforehand. Whilst we can't be together physically we can create a sense of unity by all watching this at the same time together virtually.

To make it more of an event we will then be holding a **Zoom get together starting at 8:30pm** which will give us a chance to laugh, chat together and reminisce about it. Those involved in the production, who for whatever reason are no longer within the church, have also been invited to join with us for both the film show and subsequent Zoom session. If you wish to join us please contact the church administrator. Please be patient with Mary as she may be trying to admit quite a few people at the same time!



Surface Deadline For inclusion in the April edition of Surface Magazine - please send all copy to Kate M via email to by **Thursday 25th March.** Many thanks!

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

Sunday Connections in March

Sunday 7th	10.30am	All Age Connections <i>Theme: Naaman the Leper 2Kings 5</i> <i>All Age Team</i>
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Worship, Word and Communion <i>Theme: "The Power of Faith" Mark 7</i> <i>Speaker: Dennis Nolan</i>
Sunday 21st	10.30am	Worship, Word and Communion <i>Theme: "The Revelation of the Cross" Mark 8</i> <i>Speaker: Clive Jones</i>
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Worship, Word and Communion <i>Theme: "Long Story Short"</i> <i>Speaker: Andy Frost - Share Jesus International</i>

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

**STAPLEHURST
FREE CHURCH**