



Hello Everyone!

Life seems so full of waiting! We have to wait with impatience when the train or bus is late, we wait with trepidation for our test results, we wait for work on the house to be completed so we can get on with our lives, we wait for the end of the current covid restrictions so we can take that long overdue holiday abroad!

The Bible often tells us to wait on the Lord. What does that mean? Does it mean do nothing? We have prayed so long for something and we are tempted to just stop and do nothing about it. Then there are times we face a crisis and jump straight in and try and fix things ourselves and suddenly realise we have not prayed about it and wonder why we don't see a resolution.

**Psalms 106 v 13** - "They soon forgot what he (God) had done and did not wait for his counsel!"

Waiting certainly does not mean doing nothing! The first action in waiting is "Prayer". Paul says in **1 Thessalonians 5 v 17** "Pray continually". Before we do anything - however small or great - whisper that prayer!

Sometimes the Lord does tell us to wait and rest - just stop and see me acting! - **Exodus 14 v 13 - 14** - Moses answered the people "Do not be afraid, stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today ..... the Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Then there is the waiting and acting! **Psalms 33 v 20 - 22** "We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you." Here we don't stop "waiting" but we **GO** in the strength of the Lord - we **wait** on God while we **act** in reliance on Him.

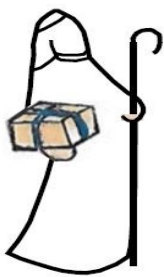
So, let's cultivate in our daily life and especially in the work of the church a

spirit of expectancy that even though we may feel totally inadequate for the task God is calling us to do, the final result is in God's hands and He loves to work for those who are totally reliant on Him. **Waiting, Acting, Resting.** The victory belongs to the Lord!

God bless you all in all you are doing for Him.

Terence.

## THE SHEPHERD'S PANTRY HUG IN A BOX



Do you know of someone who is in challenging or changing circumstances such as loneliness, bereavement, illness, anxiety, a new baby, moving into the area or other situations?

If so then please get in touch. Hug in a Box is a discrete, confidential and personalised support service for people in our local community.

Telephone: 01580 893993

Email: [contactus@staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:contactus@staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk)



**STAPLEHURST  
FREE CHURCH**  
*A heart for our community*

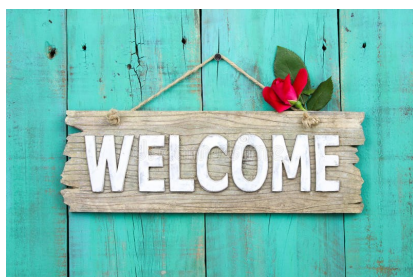
### Welcomers Rota

Sunday 2nd - Graham and Brenda

Sunday 13th - Jo and Nic

Sunday 20th - Bob and Clive

Sunday 27th - David and Adri



### Christian Aid Week

The final total raised for Christian Aid for the village this year was **£1696.27** which includes a gift from the church. Our thanks to everyone involved in distributing the envelopes, collection boxes and counting the monies received afterwards.



**Surface Deadline** For inclusion in the July edition of Surface Magazine – please send all copy to Kate M by **Thursday 24h June**. Many thanks!

### Miracles still Happen!

I am overwhelmed by God's amazing grace and mercy. On the 14<sup>th</sup> April, after waking up and getting ready for the day, I got a tightening and crushing feeling in the middle of my chest.

I called 999 and was taken to hospital. After doing some tests on me the doctors said that through the blood tests that I had had a bad heart attack. I texted lots of my friends and family and asked them to pray and straight away I felt this amazing peace.

Two days later I went for an angiogram and some other tests, they all came back clear. Despite of the results the doctors were convinced that something was wrong and insisted that I was put on some new medication. They sent me home and within two days I had two more heart attacks so went back to a different hospital. Again I asked everyone to pray and the peace was even more amazing. I was sent for more tests, two of which were C.T. scans, one for my heart and one for my lungs and again they came back clear. The conclusion was that I was very allergic to the Ramipril medication. The doctors stopped all new medication except the Aspirin. They are still baffled and convinced that the first chest pains was definitely a heart attack and yes I think they were right and what happened was a miracle and an answer to prayer. The other two were real but it was because of the medication, my body is exhausted but recovering nicely.

Thank you all for your faithful prayers and most of all thank you my awesome God and Father who listens to every prayer and still performs miracles!

Amanda

### Churches Together in Staplehurst

SFC will be hosting the first united service between the churches on Sunday 30th May at 6.30pm. Mary and Bob will be leading the worship and Clive will be the speaker. If you would like to make the most of this opportunity of worshipping the Lord with those in the other village churches, please book via Eventbrite by clicking [here](#).



## Thank You!

It is now one month since I had the stroke, fortunately I was within sight of several people who helped me, Praise the Lord. There were a couple of occasions when I wanted to come home early, but God intervened and I stayed in hospital for about a week before release back into the world.

Since then I have been out and about with Rosemary and the dog, slow but sure and Mark has taken on the late walk.

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for me, or sent cards or other things that I will cherish, it has certainly helped having God on my side. I get cold quite easily, and am forgetful about certain things but generally my health is improving. Praise the Lord.

See you all soon.

Peter



## Free Bees Pamper Evening

Over the last 9 months, Sue Twort, Susie and Corinne have been involved in running the 'Free Bees' group for new parents with their non-mobile babies. It has been a real treat, meeting all those young mums and the occasional dad and seeing them make friends.

On Thursday 8th July we are arranging a 'pamper evening' for the mums, to give them a bit of a treat - a night out with some nice drinks, nibbles, chat and some simple pampering. We also have Charlotte Rawlings - a member of the leadership of the Ashford Vineyard Church, coming to talk to the mums about ways to protect and boost their own mental health.

If you would like to help at the evening we would love to hear from you. You may be a whizz at opening a bottle of fizz, a dab hand at a shoulder massage or just great at being friendly and welcoming.

Please speak to Sue or Corinne if you would like to volunteer!





### Eventbrite links for Sunday Services

Currently the Eventbrite booking system is only set up to the 20th June, as hopefully the current "Indian variant" will not mean the Government needs to retain the current restrictions. However, should this change, the Eventbrite system will be updated and the links included in future Enews and booking will continue to be available via our website. In the meantime please click below on the dates to book your free tickets for the next few Sundays

[Sunday morning 30th May](#)

[All Age service Sunday 6th June](#)

[Sunday morning Communion services for 13th & 20th June](#)

### Kidz Church Helper

Many thanks for those of you who have shown an interest in helping with Kidz Club. We have been blessed over the last few weeks with the need to hold an older group ☺. Mary has kindly stepped in to fill the breach, but we would really appreciate help on a regular basis. Ideally this would involve a commitment of only one Sunday a month.

If you think you might like to help with the older group, please get in touch with Mary.

Best wishes, the Kidz Club Team!

### Sunday Morning Tech Issues

As you may have been aware, last Sunday the tech team were experiencing problems with the church internet. Whilst we are hoping they are fixed by Sunday, please bear with us if this is not the case.

The service will be recorded even if we are unable to live stream it, and uploaded to YouTube later on.



### Library Painting Party

The Parish Council are attempting for the 3rd time to organise a painting party for **this Saturday 29th May & Sunday from 9:30am**. The weather forecast is looking more favourable this time and the preparation work has already been done by the Community payback team. Paint, equipment and hi viz vests will be provided. All volunteers are very welcome, for however long they can stay and help. They will be complying with Covid requirements but there is lots of outdoor space, so lets see if we cannot make this an opportunity to show our care for our village?



### New & Nearly New Baby, Toddler & Children's Items Sale

**18th September 10am**

We are currently starting to plan to hold a new and nearly new table sale for baby, toddler & children's items in mid September. If you would like to either purchase a table or have items which could be sold on the SFC stall or would like to volunteer to man the stall please speak to Maggie or Mary. If you would like to help out with the café which we will run alongside it then please speak to Corinne or Roy.

**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**

**Office Tel No.: 01580 893993  
[www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk)**

**Sunday Connections in June**

<b>Sunday 6th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>All Age Connections</b> <i>Theme: "The Woman at the Well" John 4</i> <b>Led by Corinne and Roy</b>
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship, Word and Communion</b> <i>Theme: "The Innocent found Guilty" Mark 15</i> <i>Speaker: Clive Jones</i>
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship, Word and Communion</b> <i>Theme: "Jesus is Alive" Mark 16</i> <i>Speaker: Lizzie Gardinder</i>
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship, Word and Communion</b> <i>Theme: "It's Now or Never....the call to build the house of God" - Haggai 1:1-15</i> <i>Speaker: Clive Jones</i>
	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Evening Worship and Word</b> <i>An evening with Peter and Kay Goodchild sharing in praise and worship - the work of Emmanuel Press in White River, South Africa.</i>

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

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FREE CHURCH**