

Surface

November 2021

Hello to you all!

We (that is Judith and I and Graham and Brenda) recently spent a great few days in Paignton, Devon at "Time Out". The weather was amazing for the time of year and the ministry by David Coffey and others was excellent. We came away feeling challenged, refreshed and invigorated!

Apart from the ministry (obviously!!) and the fellowship with God's people, the Flame Trust family, one of my highlights was going to Dartmouth on the Dart Valley Steam Railway from Paignton to Kingsweir and then by ferry over the River Dart to Dartmouth!

As I said, the ministry was excellent. The theme was "Re-Imagining the Future" looking in particular at Matthew's Gospel chapters 24-25 – the second coming of Christ. A recording of the ministry sessions should soon be available on the Flame Trust website and I will share that with you in due course. I heartily recommend you listen to it.

A point that particularly spoke to me was on the final full day when David shared from Matthew 25 v 14-30 – Jesus' parable of the talents. We are told of three servants who were given five, two and one talent respectively "each according to his ability". The first two servants, doubled their "talents" by the time the master returned – we are not told how. However, the servant entrusted with only one talent was just too cautious – he wanted to "play it safe" and hid it in the ground, not wanting to risk losing it. When he dug it up (good that he remembered where he had hidden it!) he presented it to his master who was not too pleased – his talent was given to the one who now already had ten talents!

He is an example to us of living life too safely. I can think of a number of ways that can apply to us in these days. We need to take risks for the Kingdom of God. Perhaps you think you can't witness for Jesus because you are scared of what others might think of you - or reluctant to be involved in the life and work of the church because it might take you out of our comfort

zone.

So, next time when you say to someone "Take care", say instead "Take risks!" Don't waste risking the investment(s) entrusted to you by God.

A Memorable Quote

"God's call will never take us where His grace won't keep us"
God bless you all in your service for Him – and take risks!

Terence

Church Meeting

There is a church meeting on
Wednesday evening 10th November 2021 at the church at 8pm

All are welcome to it but only church members are eligible to vote at the meeting. An agenda and voting information have already been sent out. Members' voting papers are available from Maggie on Sunday.

Terence

Welcomers Rota - November

Sunday 7th - Jo and Kate

Sunday 14th - Mavis and Peter

Sunday 21st - Nic and Clive

Sunday 28th - Adri and David



Annual Gift Day

We received £3690 for our Gift Day Offering

We thank God for His continued provision through His faithful servants!



Surface Deadline For inclusion in the December edition of Surface Magazine - please send all copy to Kate by **Thursday 25th November**. If you no longer wish to receive this magazine, please contact the church administrator to **unsubscribe**. Many thanks!



Friends Together



**2nd Tuesday each month
10am to midday**

An opportunity to make new friends, maybe try a new activity over tea or coffee or just sit and chat if you prefer. Each month there is the option to participate in a light hearted quiz which always generates much interaction!



STAPLEHURST FREE CHURCH

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www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk



Staplehurst Free Church



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SFC Sunday Connection

Enabling everyone to know Jesus



Saturday 20 November

**Hundreds of churches.
Thousands of people.
One big quiz.**

Get together with your friends, family and community for an epic evening of poverty-ending fun.

A night like no other: people from every corner of the UK will be gathering online and in person for a quiz extravaganza, all in the name of ending poverty for good. And you can join in the fun!

7:30pm

**Staplehurst United Reformed Church
(opposite Lloyds Chemist)**

Tables of 6, £5.00 per person

Bring your own drink and nibbles

Contact Alison to book a table or a place

tearfund.org/quiz

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Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your overwhelming love shown to us with all the prayers (I know the Wednesday morning group have been busy), cards, letters, beautiful flowers, cakes, and phone calls since my operation back in September (missed getting this into October Surface). You're a smashing bunch!

The operation itself went well and the cancer has been removed and the lymph node was clear so no radiotherapy or chemo thankfully. An answer to prayer. The reconstruction is taking a while to heal with reaction to the mesh etc. but hopefully it will not be too long before we can join you again in church, covid permitting as cases in the village seem to be spreading.

A warm welcome to our new members: Jean and Paul, Ian and another Carole. We watched online. Also a dedication of a new baby, we have yet to meet. It is encouraging that new people are now part of SFC. We won't recognise the church!

Thank you again for you love, May God Bless you continually and thank God for answers to prayer.



Carole and Steve xx

Covid Symptoms!

As previously mentioned at the last church meeting, given the changing nature of Covid19 it is important that ***if you feel unwell for any reason that you consider the potential risk to others, and join us online rather than in person.*** The Zoe Covid19 study, with over 4 million participants worldwide and led by Kings College, London has highlighted the emergence of **new symptoms** in those **who have previously been double vaccinated**. These symptoms are:

- Headache
- Runny Nose
- Sneezing
- Sore Throat
- Loss of Smell

These are somewhat different from the previous 'traditional' top-three symptoms, of loss of smell, shortness of breath and fever (temperature). These rank way down the list, at 5, 29 and 12 respectively. A persistent cough now ranks at number 8 if you've had two vaccine doses, so is no longer the top indicator of having COVID. The Zoe study in particular states "Curiously, we noticed that people who had been vaccinated and then tested positive for COVID-19 were more likely to report sneezing as a symptom compared with those without a jab. **If you've been vaccinated and start sneezing a lot without an explanation, you should get a COVID test**, especially if you are living or working around people who are at greater risk from the disease."

Staplehurst Free Church 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

Sunday Connections in November

Sunday 7th	10.30am	Family Church Led by: The Family Trust <i>Theme : The Woman who touched Jesus' Cloak</i> Mark 5 v 25-34 <i>Refreshments will be served after the service</i>
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Sunday Connections - Remembrance Sunday Speaker: Clive Jones
Sunday 21st	10.30am	Sunday Connections - <i>Theme: "Born to Worship" - Exodus 32 v 1 - 20</i> Speaker: Paul Martin
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Sunday Connections - Worship, Word and Communion <i>Theme: "Even the Mighty Fall" - Numbers 20 v 1 - 13</i> Speaker: Chris Tolley
	6.30pm	Evening Service - Worship and Word Speaker: Ryan Ahern

Shoe Box Sunday will take place on 21st November. Shoe Box leaflets will be available in the foyer from 1st November. The church will be acting as a drop off point for shoe boxes in the week leading up to Shoe Box Sunday. Further details can be found at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoobox/>



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

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