

# Surface



March 2024

## Hello again!

Last night, our plot was perhaps more reminiscent of being a tall ship at sea than a cottage on a hill. Although our postman's garden bell was fairly muted, the shaking conifers and the constant percussion of our house sign on the wall must have given the roosting magpie family a headache. (Still, I doubt that it caused them to sleep-in; flapping at the peanut feeder they will again resemble ungainly humming birds - their breakfast time really is the stuff of cartoons)

Today's news items remind me that in fact, our whole world is 'stormy' at present, so I am feeling grateful for the passages in the Bible that remind me that there is One Who is still infinitely more powerful than any worrying storms we will encounter.

For me, the Phillips translation of 1Peter 5:7 is very special.

*"So humble yourselves under God's strong hand, and in His own good time He will lift you up. You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon Him, for you are His personal concern"*

Our part, as always, is to keep our conversations going with God - they make a difference.

May you be greatly encouraged and blessed this March, whatever the weather may hold!

Mary



You are invited to the Commissioning Service for  
Peter Brook

As our church leader on  
Saturday 16th March at 3pm

*Followed by refreshments -*

*Please RSVP by 1st March to Peter or*

*Maggie for seating and catering purposes.*

### Could you be a trustee for the Falconer Trust?

At a recent meeting of the Falconer Trust, succession planning was on their agenda. Currently there are three trustees - Dennis Webb, Geoff Webb and Terry Martin. However, they are very aware that with their advancing years, there is the need to bring new people on board, who will inject some fresh ideas and energy into the work, and help to ensure its long-term future. Neil Starling who is their General Manager, advocate speaker and administrator, whom many of you have met during his visits to SFC, will be retiring in two years which will no doubt result in some changes in the way the Trust operates at that point too.

As our church has always taken a particularly keen interest in their work, they wondered whether anyone would be interested in learning more and consider taking on this role. Distance doesn't have to be a problem, as meetings can be conducted via Zoom, and mutually convenient venues can be found when face-to-face meetings are required.

A visit to the Home is planned for next May/June, so perhaps anyone who is interested in getting involved in the work may want to consider joining the trip, to get a better understanding of the Home and its needs and challenges.

This of course is unlikely to be an instant decision but if you are interested, please do pray about whether the Lord is calling you into this ministry. If you have any questions Neil on behalf of the trustees would be delighted to hear from you and can be contacted by email to [info@thefalconertrust.co.uk](mailto:info@thefalconertrust.co.uk)

More information on the Falconer Trust can be found on their website

<https://www.thefalconertrust.org.uk/>

### Nat West Mobile Banking

The fortnightly visits of Nat West's mobile banking unit to our car park are due to take place on **Wednesday 6th and 20th of March**, between **1:30 and 2:30 pm**. However the van was recently damaged and is presently off the road so these visits may not take place.

### Welcome Rota – March

**Sunday 3rd – Clive and Lynne**

**Sunday 10th – Donald and Jo**

**Sunday 17th – David and Nic**

**Sunday 24th – Kate and Peter**

**31st – John and Mavis**



You may have noticed that unfortunately the lift is out of order. Please bear with us whilst we investigate the options available to replace it. It is likely to take some time to resolve the issue. If you would normally need to use the lift in the course of a church activity, please notify the relevant activity leader so we can move the session to an accessible room.

Thank you!



**Fridays 10am - Noon**

*We start each session with a cuppa and a catch up.*

*All are welcome, so why not bring a friend?*

**March 2024 Programme**

**1st** *Would I lie to you? Can you discern the fact from the fiction?*

**8th** *Countdown Back for another airing or words and numbers*

**15th** *Franks Mystery Magic An opportunity to see some delightful photos set to music*

**22nd** *Planning Plus! Your opportunity to contribute ideas for the months ahead*

**29th** *Good Friday - no session*

   01580 893993  
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contactus@staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk  
Registered Charity No. 1127205

 **STAPLEHURST  
FREE CHURCH**  
*A heart for our community*  
Enabling Everyone to Know Jesus

**Surface Deadline** For inclusion in the April edition of Surface Magazine - **Please** send all copy to Kate by **Thursday 21st March.**

If you no longer wish to receive this magazine, please contact the church administrator to

**unsubscribe** Thank you





**3.00 p.m.**

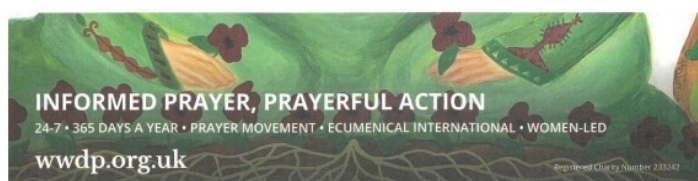
**Staplehurst United Reformed Church**

**Followed by refreshments**

**Everyone is very welcome**

**Further information**

**[secretary@staplehursturc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@staplehursturc.org.uk)**



# COFFEE MORNING!

**SATURDAY 16th MARCH 2024**

**10am - MIDDAY**

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, STAPLEHURST, TN12 0AS**



## RAISING MONEY FOR THE STAPLEHURST COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTRE

*We are always seeking ways to support our community in Staplehurst. Therefore, our coffee morning is supporting The Staplehurst Community Music Centre with 75% of all proceeds raised.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



### WHAT TO EXPECT

**10.15am - MUSIC CENTRE CHAMBER GROUP**

**11am - STAPLEHURST LADIES CHOIR**

**HOME MADE CAKE STALL**

**EASTER EGG TOMBOLA**

**SATURDAY 16TH MARCH**



## Spring Performance and Easter Crafts

**Saturday 23rd March, 2pm**  
**at All Saints Church, Staplehurst**

**Performances from students at the Staplehurst Music Centre**



**Cakes**



**Children's Crafts**

**Chamber Music Group**

**Staplehurst Community Choir**



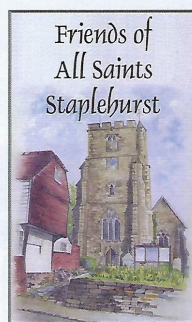
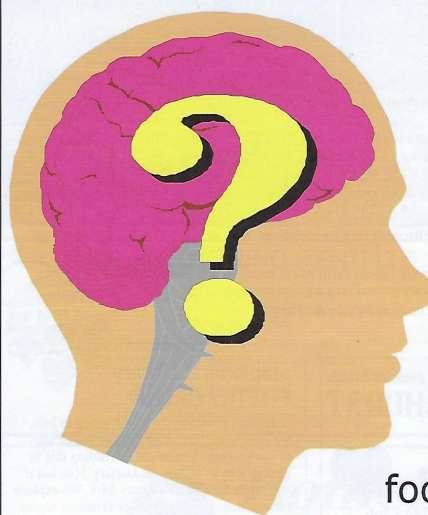
**Tea & Coffee**

**for the benefit of ALL SAINTS CHURCH STAPLEHURST**



# BRAIN GAME

**Quiz Night for teams of 4 - 6 people**



Registered Charity no. 1037964






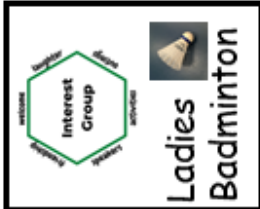













**£6 per head**  
**Please bring your own food and drink**

**Saturday 23rd March**  
**7.30 for 8pm**  
**in the Parish Room**

**To enter a team ring Andrew Brady**  
**on 01580 891840 or email**  
**[friends@allsaintsstaplehurst.co.uk](mailto:friends@allsaintsstaplehurst.co.uk)**

## WHAT'S ON AT SFC

### At-a-glance activities schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
A.M.							
P.M.							
Eve							

All activities are weekly unless otherwise stated. Some activities are seasonal or may pause if volunteers are unavailable.

Detailed information at [www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk) and updates on Facebook  & Instagram 



The next meeting of  
Friends Together will be

**Tuesday 12th March**

10am to midday - All welcome



**You are invited  
to join us  
for a time of  
grateful thanks  
for all those  
who have cared  
for us  
in a mothering role**



**Sunday 10th March  
10:30am**



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



Enabling Everyone to Know Jesus



THE SHEPHERD'S  
PANTRY

**COMMUNITY  
FRIDGE**

A selection of shop surplus food is available to be shared by the local community who in turn, share garden produce or larger excess.

Any private donations, intended as urgent food support, are used to fulfil that purpose discreetly.



Located at:  
Staplehurst Free Church  
Station Road  
TN12 0QQ

Tuesdays	12:30 to 16:00
Wednesdays	10:00 to 13:00
Thursdays	10:00 to 16:00
Saturdays	10:00 to 12:00



## Filling Station

Filling Station meets every 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next session will be on

**Wednesday 20th March** from 7pm at

Benenden Primary School

Rolvenden Road

Benenden

Kent TN17 4EH



**Staplehurst Free Church Leadership Team**

**Peter Brook  
Terence Hawgood  
Kate Henry  
Mary Howse**

**Staplehurst Free Church  
Church Administrator - Maggie Whalan**

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



**Sunday Connections in March**

<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>All Age Connection - Family Church - Dynamic Duos</b> <i>Theme: Loyalty Naomi &amp; Ruth</i> <b>Led by: Mel and Toby Hughes</b>
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> <b>Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Speaker: Peter Brook</b>
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Speaker: Clive Jones</b>
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Speaker: Paul Martin</b>
<b>Friday 29th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Good Friday Reflective Communion service</b> <b>Led by: Terence Hawgood and Peter Brook</b>
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Easter Sunday Family Easter Celebration</b> <b>Led by: Peter Brook</b>

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

