



Dear Friends,

HAPPY EASTER to you all – Christ is Risen, Hallelujah!

As I write this just before the week the worldwide church designates "Holy Week", I have been discussing with Peter using the SJI YouTube playlist [The Week That Changed the World - YouTube](#) in the services over the Easter period, the first being "Day 1 – Palm Sunday" shown in church on Sunday 24 March, "Day 6 – Good Friday" to be shown during our Good Friday Reflective service. I recommend viewing all the videos in that playlist and draw your friends attention to them as well.

We recall the stories in the Gospels of the events of the week that did indeed change the world beginning with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday, but not on a white horse with a great procession but riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey, he came as the Prince of Peace in humility, as the Servant King. The striking thing is that the crowds who greeted him with such joy with palm branches shouting "Hosanna! – Blessed is the King of Israel" may well have included the same people who a week later would be calling out in the mockery of a trial "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!". The fickleness of human nature is exposed.

Jesus is indeed the true king who brings peace to a troubled world and to you and me whatever state or situation we find ourselves in today. We look forward to that great day when Jesus the Prince of Peace returns in glory and majesty as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and takes those who have believed and trusted in his finished work of salvation to be with Him forever! A day when there will be no more pain and suffering or wars.

CHRIST IS RISEN – HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Terence

Welcome Rota– April

Sunday 7th – Clive and Lynne

Sunday 14th – Brenda and Graham

Sunday 21st – David and Nic

Sunday 28th – Kate and Peter

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 3rd and 17th of April**, between **1:30 and 2:30 pm**. We have been assured by Nat West that their ***van is now back on the road*** following an accident, so these visits should take place.

Creche/Tiddlers

During the morning service on Sundays, with the exception of Family Church weeks (first Sunday of the month) the various children's groups function. For school-aged children the groups run primarily to provide age-appropriate Bible teaching. The creche and Tiddlers group runs primarily to ensure that the parents of little ones are able to access the communion and teaching slots in the main hall without worrying about their children.

When the service runs to the usual format, all of the children will be in the main hall for the first 10 minutes or so and will then leave for their groups. At this point the preschool children will join the Treasure Seekers upstairs for some singing and will then go to their own room downstairs to play. This may include a Bible story and activity but we are flexible and led by the mood and interest of the children.

Currently we only have 3 volunteers to take this group and on some weeks may not be able to provide cover or may need additional assistance.

If you would like to join the team, we would love to have you. The position requires a DBS check, the ability to interact well with young children and possibly the ability to sit on the floor (!!). Please speak to Corinne for more information.

On Family Church weeks there are no groups organised for the children as the service is designed to be more interactive and all inclusive. If your child is fractious and uncomfortable, please feel free to take them out to the creche room, next to the main hall. If your child is fidgety but happy, please don't feel that you need to remove them from the service. We love to have them trotting around, shaking shakers and doing what children do.

Corinne

Surface Deadline For inclusion in the May edition of Surface Magazine - **Please** send all copy to Kate M by **Thursday 25th April**.

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

The next meeting of
Friends Together will be
Tuesday 9th April
10am to midday - All welcome



The Filling Station



Wednesday 17th April
7pm for 7.30pm start

With **Graham Kendrick**

Benenden Primary
School, Benenden,

Kent TN17 4EH



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

   01580 893993
Station Rd, Staplehurst, TN12 0QQ
contactus@staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1127205



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

Enabling Everyone to Know Jesus

SFC Easter Celebrations

Good Friday Communion
29th March
10:30am



Easter Sunday Celebration
31st March
10:30am

Our family church will be led by
our new church leader Peter Brook

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Staplehurst NEEDS YOU

on April 13th 2024

It's the return of our Clean-Up morning.

Please come along to the **Youth Club** in the High Street at **10am**. Sign in, collect a litter-picker, a sack and a Hi-Viz vest. We recommend you bring your own gloves, although disposable gloves will be available. You will be given a road to clear of rubbish. Then just return your sack and equipment and enjoy some well-earned refreshments.

Let's be proud of our cleaner village!



STAPLEHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office
High Street
TN12 0BJ
Tel: 01580 891761
Email: admin@staplehurst-pc.uk

DAVID AND ADRI INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE

BENI'S 21ST BIRTHDAY

ON SATURDAY 13TH APRIL
FROM 7-9PM AT THE CHURCH



Offers of help gratefully accepted for the light refreshments served. To help us with catering numbers please RSVP by 30 March by texting David



The Staplehurst Interest Group will restart after the Easter Break on **Friday 12th April** in the Café room

With a "Who Dunit?"

Murder Mystery

From 10am to Midday.

All Welcome!



Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to Peter's Commissioning Service and contributed to making it such a special time of blessing. It was so lovely that Peter's family were able to come down from Sheffield to support him too.

Holidays

Both Peter and Maggie will be taking some holiday during the first two weeks of April.

- **Peter** will be taking the Tuesday and Wednesday off both weeks after Easter but will be available on the Thursdays.
- **Maggie** will be off from Good Friday 29th March until Monday 15th April inclusive.

Our next quarterly **church business meeting** will be on

Wednesday 24th April at 7:30pm

The main focus of this meeting will be the future of our children's work with the opportunity to discuss and contribute ideas of what the church would like to see happening, together with ideas on how to make it happen. So please come prepared to contribute your thoughts.

Hopefully we will have another get together time beforehand, from 7pm over hot drinks and nibbles.

If you would like to help with this please speak with Judith.

Thank you



New Surface Cleaner

To consistently comply with food hygiene requirements, we have purchased a 'fast-acting', British Standards compliant surface cleaner called Jantex which is the **only** product that should be used in the kitchen and servery areas and for table cleaning from now on. You will see some new spray bottles around which are refillable and which should not be thrown away when empty. A 5 litre bottle of ready-to-use cleaner will live under the sink in the kitchen from which the spray bottles can be refilled.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Roy



Don't Forget the clocks go forward Easter weekend! Lighter evenings but we lose an hours sleep Easter Sunday!



Rotary
Weald of Kent



Collecting Used Tools and Bikes

Do you have an old bicycle that you no longer use, or old tools cluttering up your shed, attic or garage?

They can be refurbished and become useful once more in the developing world. Weald Rotary work with charities who collect, recondition and provide bikes, tools and instruction to communities in Africa.

Declutter, avoid landfill and make a difference. What's not to like?

More information on our website wealdofkentrotary.org.uk or scan the QR code

Collection Point

Staplehurst
Community Centre,
High St, TN12 0BJ

Saturday 13th April
10:00am to 12:00

Supporting our Partners



Re-Cycle's mission is to provide sustainable transportation solutions in Africa through the donation of bicycles and empowering local mechanics with essential skills. Find out more at re-cycle.org



Tools with a Mission collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation. Find out more at www.twam.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.

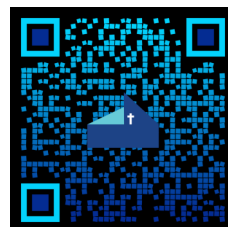
Detailed information at www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk and updates on Facebook & Instagram

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



Sunday Connections in April

Sunday 7th	10:30am	All Age Connection - Family Church - <i>Theme: Restoration - Peter's journey from denial to resurrection restoration.</i> Led by: Ian MacDonald
Sunday 14th	10:30am	Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion Speaker: Peter Brook
Sunday 21st	10:30am	Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion Speaker: TBC
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion Speaker: Terence Hawgood

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

