

# Surface

*May 2024*

## The Power of Prayer

*'Every prayer a powerful weapon  
Strongholds come tumbling down  
and down and down.'*

### Hi Everyone,

I thought I would start with a teaser, and see if anyone can remember which chorus these words come from. No prizes, other than the satisfaction of knowing you have a good memory, but you might like to tell me if you see me. Prayer is such an important part of our Christian walk. It develops our relationship with God and strengthens our faith. God has been putting prayer very much on our hearts as a Leadership Team. Peter Brook has been encouraging us to adopt Peter Greig's model of PRAY – Pause – Reflect – Ask – Yield, which is brilliant, and at Spring Harvest we were encouraged to speak Jesus over people and situations, and so to quote another song;

*'I just want to speak the name of Jesus,  
over ev'ry heart and ev'ry mind  
'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence  
I speak Jesus.  
**Your name is power, Your name is healing  
Your name is life.**  
Break every stronghold, shine through the shadows  
Burn like a fire.'*

Samuel tells us it's a sin not to pray (1 Samuel 12:23), Paul exhorts us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) and Jesus taught us how to pray (Matt 6:9-13), so it's not an option, it's a necessity.

I firmly believe that our prayers release power and blessing from God, so let's be channels of blessing and healing, let's speak Jesus over one another.

Yours prayerfully

Kate H

### 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



### 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 June edition of Surface Magazine - **Please** send all copy to Kate M by **Thursday 23rd May**.

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 14th May**  
10am to midday - All welcome



### The Filling Station

**Wednesday 15th May**

Come at 7pm for pizza!

**7.30pm** start.

Benenden Primary  
School, Benenden,

Kent TN17 4EH



## READING BETWEEN THE LINES

DISCOVERING GOD'S PURPOSES FOR OUR LIVES  
IN THE BOOK OF RUTH

MAIDSTONE BIBLE WEEK 2024

**MON 13<sup>TH</sup> - THURS 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
**7:30PM**

**MAIDSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
KNIGHTRIDER STREET, ME15 6LP

**SPEAKERS: ANGUS MACLEAY**  
**GARRY SHOEBOOK**

**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
(A COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN)

[WWW.MAIDSTONEBIBLEWEEK.ORG.UK](http://WWW.MAIDSTONEBIBLEWEEK.ORG.UK)

## A new musical "The Book of Life"

*'For such a time as this'*

by the  
AWARD WINNING  
Absolute Gospel Company Choir

Is  
YOUR  
name in the  
Book of  
Life?

**Friday 31st May 2024 7:30 p.m.**  
**Saturday 1st June 2024 3pm & 7:30 p.m.**

**Scotts Project Hall** Delarue Close,  
Shipbourne Rd, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9NN  
**FREE CAR PARKING**

*Complimentary Song Book & Birthday Card!*

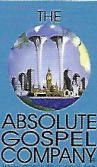
**Tickets £12 [£10 concessions]**

Not available on the door.

Available ONLINE at

[www.absolutegospel.org](http://www.absolutegospel.org)

Further info: 07549 830906 / 01732 364517



### Welcome Rota – May

**Sunday 5th – Clive and Lynne**  
**Sunday 12th – Brenda and Graham**  
**Sunday 19th – John and Mavis**  
**Sunday 26th – David and Nic**

### **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 1st, 15th and 29th of May, between 1:30 and 2:30 pm.

## Christian Aid Week 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Dear friends,

Greetings in Christ,

Lynne and I would firstly like to thank you all, for your help in efficiently delivering the 1200 Easter Cards allotted to our church, out of the total of 3,200 which were prepared for the village.

We now have a further request for your help. Once a year the churches work together to support the charity, "Christian Aid", by delivering their envelopes to every home in the village, in order hopefully for a good donation to be sent to this aid organisation.

We used to return to each home to collect these envelopes, but in recent years we have changed this method of collection. Each envelope now, has a special label attached, which encourages any who may wish to make a donation, to return them to either, Crouch Butchers, Kin Coffee, the Station Newsagents or any of the village churches, where "Christian Aid" buckets are available to receive such donations.

We shall have 1200 envelopes available for delivery after the first of May and we will be most grateful for your generous help, as at Easter, to ensure these envelopes get to the addresses for which our church is responsible.

Thank you so much for all your help.

Yours sincerely in the Lord Jesus,

Clive and Lynne Jones (On behalf of the CTIS committee)



Dear Friends,

We usually meet in the café area of the **Staplehurst Free Church, Station Road**, ready to start at **10am** until towards Noon on **Fridays**. We suggest making a £1 donation whenever you come to cover expenses.

Malcolm and Joan Buller

May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Would I lie to you?** *Everyone enjoyed our last session! True or lie? Make up some stories that are false or tell tales that are true. It's up to you!*
- 10<sup>th</sup> **An object for discussion** *We could guess what it was used for or maybe it just evokes a story. Bring some things along.*
- 17<sup>th</sup> **Cranbrook Museum** *Leave Free Church at 9:40 for a guided tour and refreshments. Cost £5 each to Joan in advance please.*
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Murder Mystery** *We'll try again to find out who did for Aunt Maud. Come and be a character or just be a sleuth.*





Staplehurst Free Church



**SFC  
Timeline**

**Saturday 18th May  
2 - 4pm  
Cafe Room**

**Please come along and share  
coffee, cake and your memories of SFC  
(for as little or as long as you wish)**



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 larder 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

**Memories of Staplehurst Free Church**

At our most recent church meeting, Peter mentioned that as part of our autumn weekend to remember the goodness and faithfulness of God to our church over the last 55 years, it would be good to have a film recording our memories of this time. Beni has kindly agreed to put this together for us but to lay the groundwork for it we are planning a coffee and cake session, when we can start to fill in the church timeline. The plan is to have sheets of paper on the wall to which people can add their memories. Please do come along and contribute your memories, whether you are a recent addition to our fellowship or been with us from the start, and everyone else in between! You are welcome to participate for as long or as short a time as suits you but it would be great if everybody in the church was able to contribute in some way to this.

Also as many of you know, over the years I have either taken or collected photos of the life of our church. However, as the move from "Church house" to the previous building on our present site was before my time, I have no photos of either the inside or outside of the church house building as it was at the time when the church occupied it, let alone any photos of church activities which may have taken place inside. If anyone has any and are either happy to lend them to me or better still can scan them into a computer and send them to me I would be very grateful. Thank you

Maggie

# WHAT'S ON AT SFC

## At-a-glance activities schedule



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>A.M.</b>							
<b>P.M.</b>							
<b>Eve</b>							

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

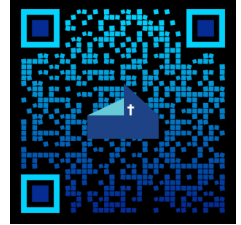
Detailed information at [www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk) and updates on Facebook & Instagram

**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 May**

<b>Sunday 5th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>All Age Connection - Family Church</b> <i>Theme: Aquila and Priscilla - Helping Hands</i> <b>Acts 18 (Rom 16)</b> <b>Led by: Ian MacDonald</b>
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Speaker: Peter Brook</b>
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Speaker: Chris Tolley</b>
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Speaker: Lizzie Gardiner</b>

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

