



April 2025

Surface

Dear Friends,

April is the month when most trees start to show their new leaves, a process that started in February is finally complete as the countryside around us turns from brown to verdant green. With more daylight in the evenings and warmer temperatures we will all hopefully get a chance to spend more time outside. The name April comes from the Latin verb *Aperire* which means “to open”.

With all the new life springing up, the gardening and grass cutting has already started in earnest for many of us. I’ve already taken three carloads of garden waste to the tip to be recycled into compost!

I’m writing this article in the prayer room at church. It’s wonderful to be able to look out on our own church garden. Our volunteers have done an amazing job to transform it over the last few months and I’m looking forward to us being able to have social events in the garden later in the year. The other great thing about working in church on a sunny day is that I can see just how well our solar panel and battery system is working – we are currently generating over 10 kW of power, filling our storage batteries and exporting our excess energy to the grid. It’s likely that over 90% of our total energy needs will come from solar today. This saves our church money – meaning that money that we used to spend on electricity bills can be spent on other things, it also means our building can be open longer and provide more community activities, and we are also reducing our carbon and environmental impact at the same time.

As a community church we want to do more to protect the environment of Staplehurst and further afield, so we are investigating the assessment process for the ECO church award. This process will help us all think through our impact on the world around us – it won’t just be tied to our church building – it will also include practical steps we can take

as individuals – such as buying food and clothing that doesn't exploit or take advantage of other people. There will be more on this in future editions of Surface as we go through the assessment journey.

Talking of new life and rebirth, this April on Sunday the 20th Christians across the world will be celebrating Easter Sunday. This is the most important Christian festival in the year when we commemorate that Jesus died on Good Friday and then rose again on Easter Sunday. Traditionally in this country we share hollow chocolate easter eggs to remind us of the empty tomb, and that Easter represents a chance to be “born again” into God's family, to have a spiritual fresh start, a new life in Jesus.

I pray that you and your family will be blessed this April, and this Easter time with opportunities to enjoy our wonderful world and share some delicious fairtrade chocolate.

Amen

Peter

Welcome Rota - April

Sunday 6th - Paul and Sally

Sunday 13th - Clive and Lynne

Sunday 20th - Amanda and David

Sunday 27th - Brenda and Graham



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 2nd, 16th and 30th April

between **1:30 and 2:30 pm.**

Considerate Parking

Please, please, please can we ask that you do not park on the pavement or block (even partially) our neighbours drives. It makes it impossible for those with buggies or wheelchairs to use the pavement, forcing them out into the road, which is unsafe.

As our neighbour highlighted, this seems to occur if people are arriving late. We would prefer you arrive later having parked considerately than the present situation.

One possible reason people are parking on the pavement is concern for their vehicle so from this Sunday we are trialling the use of traffic cones to be placed at the front and back of the vehicles parked on the road. Please ensure these are returned to the foyer after use. Thank you.

Surface Deadline For inclusion in the May edition of Surface Magazine - Please send all copy to Kate M by **Thursday 24th April**. If you no longer wish to receive this magazine, please contact the church administrator to **unsubscribe**. *Thank you*

Staplehurst NEEDS YOU

on Saturday 5th April

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



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	9:00 to 11:00
Thursdays	9:00 to 16:00
Saturdays	9:00 to 11:00

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

All are welcome to Easter at Staplehurst Free Church

Palm Sunday

13th April 10:30am

Theme: Love & Forgiveness

Family Service with flags & marching

Good Friday

18th April 10:30am

Reflection and Communion

Easter Sunday

20th April 10:30am

All age Easter Celebration



Station Rd, Staplehurst, TN12 0QQ
01580 893993
contactus@staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk



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

Registered Charity No. 1127205

Enabling Everyone to Know Jesus

The
United
Reformed
Church

COFFEE MORNING

**SATURDAY 5th APRIL
10.00 - 12.00 noon**

Staplehurst United Reformed Church,
High Street, Staplehurst TN12 0AS

**EASTER EGG TOMBOLA / CAKE STALL
CHILDREN'S ART ACTIVITY**

**STAPLEHURST LADIES CHOIR
SINGING AT 10.30**

**80% of PROCEEDS TO
MAIDSTONE CHURCHES WINTER
SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Filling Station

Filling Station will meet at Benenden Primary School, Rolvenden Road, Benenden, Kent TN17 4EH on **Wednesday 16th April**. 7pm for pizza before a **7:30pm start**.



Paper Hand Towels

Following neatly on from Peter's lead article and our desire to where possible reduce our carbon footprint, the decision has been made that now we have the solar panels it makes much more sense to return to just providing the hand air driers in the toilets. For those with a long memory, you will know that the paper hand towels were only introduced as we came out of the Covid-19 pandemic, following government advice as a way of reducing the risk of spreading disease. However, since that time as the building is now used far more than before the pandemic and consequently the number of towels we use has steadily increased, as well as the actual cost of the towels themselves. So once the current batch of paper towels in the toilets has been used up we will be removing the holders. This is one small example in which the installation of the solar panels can make us more environmentally friendly whilst also reducing our costs, thereby freeing the money up to be spent on other things. *Maggie*



Fridays 6 - 7:30pm

Fortnightly on the 2nd & 4th Friday

*Join us for fun, food, laughter and a chance to wind down at the end of a school week!
Key Stages 3 & 4
Term time only*

Only on 25th April for this month



A date for you diaries:

All are welcome to Maidstone Bible Week meetings which will be held from Monday 12th to Thursday 15th May at Maidstone Baptist Church
Knightrider Street
Maidstone ME15 6LU

Theme: Jeremiah - Prophet for Today
Speaker - Rev Chris Wright, Global Ambassador for Langham Partnership

Invitation

We, Beni and Maria, warmly invite you to join us in celebration of our marriage at 12:00 on Saturday 26th July 2025 at the Staplehurst Free Church.

For the ceremony, we ask that you attend in an all-black outfit. This doesn't have to be a black suit or dress, a casual smart aesthetic; for example, a plain black shirt and trousers will be just as effective. We are aware that this is untraditional, but we are trying something a bit different. Please trust us on this one...

The pleasure of your company is also requested for the afterparty at 18:00 at the Staplehurst Free Church.

We look forward to celebrating with you.

Répondez S'il Vous Plait if you can attend either or both, by emailing Beni at beni@netvis.plus.com **by 13th April**

Thanks

Beni + Maria



The next meeting of
Friends Together
will be
Tuesday 8th April
10am to midday - All welcome



Holiday Dates

Peter will be unavailable from **7th to 11th April and Tuesday 15th April**

Maggie will be unavailable from **Good Friday 18th April to Monday 5th May** inclusive

Staplehurst Interest Group



Our March programme started with a visit from Kent Police's Fraud Prevention Officer who had many sensible pieces of advice and information. If you lose your bank card, or have it stolen, you obviously haven't got it to find the phone number of your bank. Don't panic, just phone 159 and you will be asked which bank you wish to contact. None of us had ever heard that before!

On April 4th we will play our version of 'Countdown'. We give ourselves 60, not 30, seconds although that's still not enough! Lots of strange words are suggested so our usual laughter erupts. Friday 11th will be devoted to planning for the summer where those present will suggest their good ideas to put on to the programme. There should be time for a bit of entertainment as well. With Easter being late this year, we will be away from the Free Church in Station Road for a two-week break, meaning we do not meet again until May 2nd.

As always, all are welcome to our fun and laughter mornings. Tea and coffee with biscuits are available from just before 10am and we are packed up and away before noon. Whatever is on our programme, we share the pleasure of each other's company in a warm, comfortable environment. Give us a call for more details or just come along one Friday morning.

Joan and Malcolm Buller

Israel Palestine: The story of two peoples in one land

Staplehurst URC will be hosting a talk by Duncan Warmington on "Israel Palestine: the story of two peoples in one land" on **Wednesday, 30th April at 7.30 p.m.** The one-hour talk will be followed by a Q&A session and refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact secretary@staplehursturc.org.uk

The NHS are currently undertaking a **national survey** to help prioritise services. You can read about the purpose of the survey by clicking [here](#) and have your say by clicking [here](#). **Deadline for responses is 5pm on Monday 14th April**

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

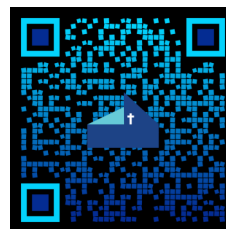
Staplehurst Free Church Leadership Team

Peter Brook

Church Administrator - Maggie Whalan

Office Tel No.: 01580 893993

www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk



Sunday Connections in April

Sunday 6th	10:30am	Worship, Word and Communion Speaker: Peter Brook
Sunday 13th	10:30am	Palm Sunday All Age Connection - Family Church Theme: Love and Forgiveness Led by: Judith Hawgood
Friday 18th	10:30am	Good Friday Service of Communion and Reflection Speaker: Peter Brook/Terence Hawgood
Sunday 20th	10.30am	Easter Sunday Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion Speaker: Peter Brook
Sunday 27th	10.30am	Sunday Connection - Worship, Word and Communion Speaker: Paul Martin

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

