



**Dear Friends,**

August often arrives like a deep breath in the year's rhythm. The hustle of spring is behind us, the harvest is not yet fully gathered, and for many, this month brings a slower pace—school holidays, lighter evenings, time away, or simply a change in routine.

As a church many of our mid-week activities are reduced, and we switch to summer specials on Sundays to allow our volunteers and helpers to rest or have space to manage other temporary commitments.

By deliberately choosing to make space we can discover something vital for our faith: the spiritual gift of rest.

The Word of God is full of reminders that rest is not about laziness, but a divine and holy rhythm. God rested on the seventh day—not because He was tired, but to delight in creation and set an example of rest for us. Jesus often withdrew from the crowds to pray in solitude (Luke 5:16). He invited His disciples, "Come away... and rest a while" (Mark 6:31).

August is the month that invites us to do the same.

You don't have to go on holiday to find this rest. You can find it in a cup of tea in the garden, a quiet walk, a phone call with a friend you've not spoken to in a while. These can become holy moments when we slow down enough to become aware of God's presence.

You also may have had a rest forced on you, due to illness or an operation or bereavement and your need to recuperate.

In these pauses from normal life, it is good to remember that we are not defined by what we do—we are loved by God simply because we are. As Jesus told His disciples:

“You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16).

The love of God does not depend on our performance. It’s not seasonal or conditional. It is steady and true, like the sun rising each morning and setting each evening. Sometimes it takes a deliberate choice of rest for us to truly feel it.

So perhaps this August, we might consider:

What gives me rest—not just for my body, but for my soul?

What does it look like to rest in God’s love in this season?

Where have I seen God at work quietly, beneath the surface?

It’s also a great time to pray for those who can’t afford a break—those wrestling with the cost-of-living crisis, families struggling with childcare, farmers facing the pressures of harvest (and the ever-bizarre British weather), those who are unwell or bereaved, and those who find the stillness lonely. As a church with Jesus at the centre, we will always be a place of welcome, refreshment, and love during the summer and throughout the year.

Whatever this month holds for you - whether it’s sun-drenched sandals or soggy wellies, packed or peaceful, vital medical care or vitamins - remember: God meets us in the silence, in the shade, in the sun cream, in the stillness. His love never goes on holiday.

Take some time to rest. Take heart. And let your soul catch up with your body.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

**Peter**

**Surface Deadline** For inclusion in the September edition of Surface Magazine - Please send all copy to Kate M via email by **Thursday 28th August**. If you no longer wish to receive this magazine, please contact the church administrator to **unsubscribe**. *Thank you*

BOOK THE DATE

NEXT LADIES BREAKFAST

SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER

## Emily Owen

Author, educator  
& inspirational  
speaker



As the church has been offered a grant for our front doors from the Friends of Kent Churches I think it would be good if we supported them this year!

### **RIDE + STRIDE** for Churches

This year's Ride & Stride will be taking place on  
**Saturday 13th September**



This is an annual event organised by Friends of Kent Churches who use the monies raised to give building grants to help churches like us! Any sponsorship money raised on the day is shared equally between the sponsor's nominated church and the Friends of Kent Church's. Whilst most people undertake this as a cycle ride visiting as many participating churches as possible, some do a circuit of churches on foot not necessarily starting in their own locality! If you would like to participate please speak to Maggie

**Why not use this as an opportunity for exercise?  
Perhaps take the family with you and raise funds for  
a worthwhile cause at the same time!**

### Bright Alpha Soft Touch Pen with Stylus

Assorted colours - Blue ink

We have some of these pens available with our SFC logo and contact details available in the hall way by the card machine. You might like to give one to a non-church friend to invite them to a service or church activity or just use it yourself!





Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Both Community Fridge & Warm Room Closed
Wednesday	9 to 11am
Thursday	9am to 1pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	9 to 11am <i>except Saturday 26th July when closed</i>
Sunday	Closed

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

## Welcome Rota - August

**Sunday 3rd - Alan and David**

**Sunday 10th - Paul and Sally**

**Sunday 17th - Brenda and Graham**

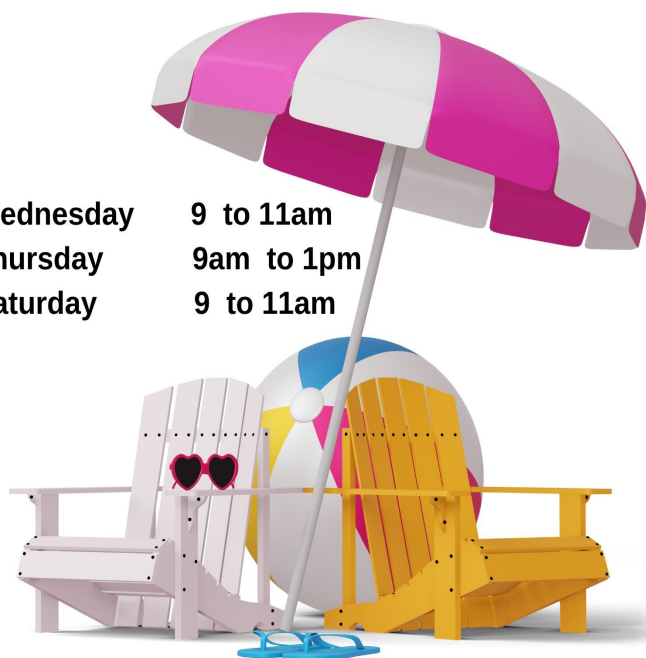
**Sunday 24th - Alan and Amanda**

**Sunday 31st - David and John**



## Build your own children's picnic lunch

Wednesday	9 to 11am
Thursday	9am to 1pm
Saturday	9 to 11am



## Staplehurst Free Church Summer Specials



**You are invited to join us as we explore the stories of a master story teller this summer**

**Sundays: 27<sup>th</sup> July - 31<sup>st</sup> August**  
**at 10:30am**



Yes, my soul, find rest  
in God; my hope comes  
from Him.

Psalms 62:5

### Church Suite

If you are new to the church and would like to make us your spiritual home and/or join our mailing lists please use this QR code with your device to provide your details and grant us permission to contact you. This link takes you to our cloud-based system on Church Suite. If you have any questions or concerns please speak or email me (my contact details are on the back page of Surface). Thank you Maggie



## FIELDS AND THEIR SECRETS Before The Few

a Kent war presentation with PHILLIP DAY

In a nation's darkest hour, a special breed of warrior presents itself. This is the story of Wiggs and Zena



Peter & Maggie will both be unavailable at various times during August. If you need to speak with someone urgently please contact the leadership support team.

ALL THINGS  
work together

for

Good

to them that

LOVE GOD

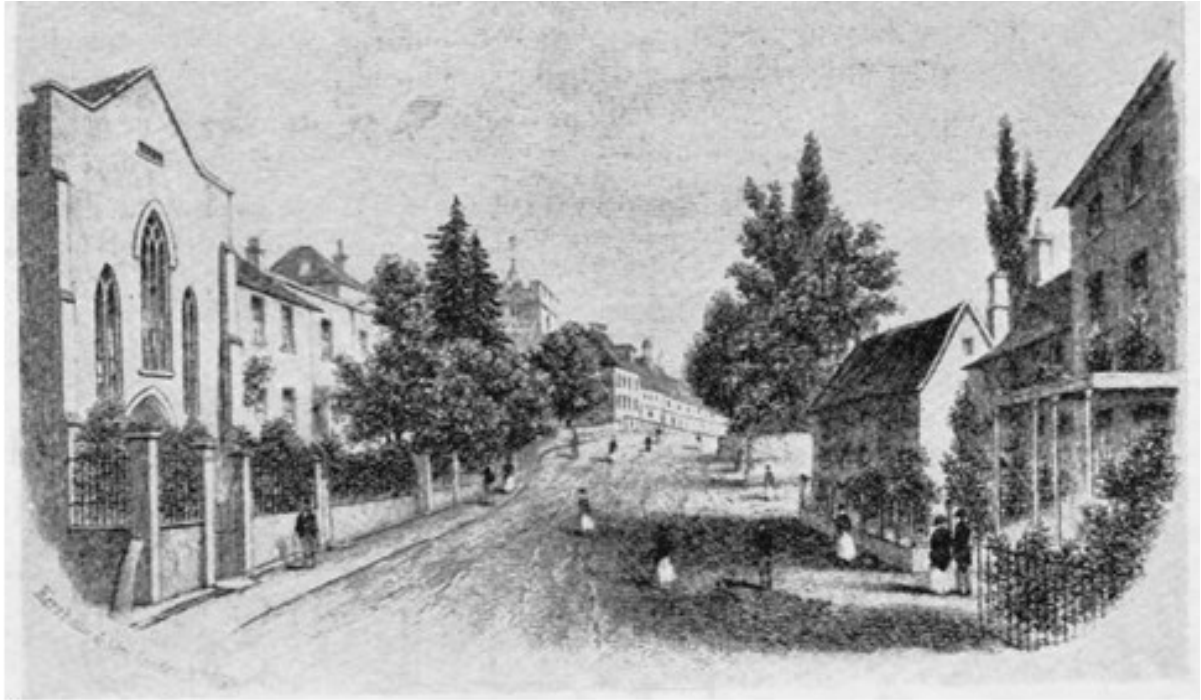
to them who are called  
according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

WHERE: Parish Room, The Hill, Staplehurst  
WHEN: Saturday, 2nd August, 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
DONATIONS FOR THE UPKEEP OF THE CHURCH

FREE ENTRY!  
REFRESHMENTS  
AVAILABLE!

# **Staplehurst United Reformed Church**



## **Open Day**

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Opening of the Present Building**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

**The church will be open with a historical display  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Short act of worship led by Revd Andrew Royal at  
10.30 a.m.**






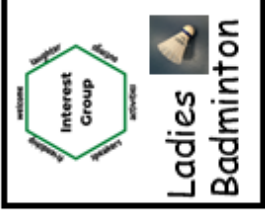





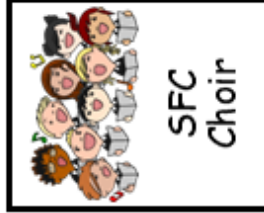





**Talks on the history of the church at 11 a.m. and  
3 p.m.**

**All Welcome. Refreshments.**

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

# 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 



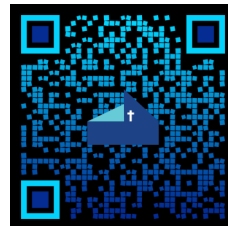
**Staplehurst Free Church Leadership Team**

**Peter Brook**

**Church Administrator - Maggie Whalan**

**Office Tel No.: 01580 893993**

**[www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk)**



**Sunday Connections in August**

<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Summer Special - The Wise and Foolish Builders</b> <b>Luke 14</b> <b>Led by: Alison Brook</b>
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Summer Special - The Talents</b> <b>Matthew 25 v 14– 30</b> <b>Led by: Paul Davey</b>
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Summer Special - The Sower and the Seeds</b> <b>Matthew 13 v 1-9, 18 - 23</b> <b>Led by: Chris Tolley</b>
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Summer Special - The Unforgiving Servant</b> <b>Matthew 18, 21-25</b> <b>Led by: Mel and Toby</b>
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Summer Special - The King's Banquet</b> <b>Matthew 7 v 24-27</b> <b>Led by: TBC</b>

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

