



**Dear Friends,**

As we enter October we traditionally think about Harvest, although depending on the crop harvest has been going on for well over five months from June strawberries and will continue through October with grapes and potatoes!

Even in Staplehurst the effects of climate change and global markets affect the crops we see growing around us. Thirty years ago, we would have seen a lot more hops being grown and a lot more apples and pears. Many of those fields are now turned over to grapes and by all accounts this year looks set to break all records with a bumper harvest. English wine is growing in reputation and popularity and the jobs it creates are a major contributor to our local economy.

As any farmer or farm worker will tell you getting a good crop doesn't just happen. A lot of planning goes into selecting the right crop for the right land, preparing the soil and planting at the right time. The crop then needs to be nurtured. Growth is encouraged through pruning, watering and if necessary, pest control. All before the need to harvest and then store the crop to maximise what can be sold. Once the harvest is gathered in the farmer will then think about whether to plant a follow-on crop or what needs to be done to the ground to prepare it for next year's cycle of planting and harvesting. Is more drainage required? Was the ground too dry? How did the wind affect the crop? Was the yield what was expected – was it lower or higher? What budget is there to make any of the desired changes?

Christians believe that we are formed in God's image and that care of the land, animals and the world around us reflects how God sees and cares for us. Each of us are unique, special, individuals who should be shown consideration and respect whatever our background or circumstances. We also believe that despite what the world may say about individualism, humans are designed to be part of communities, to support one another, to care for one another, to help one another grow in faith and love. Just as the farmer plans and thinks about every aspect of his farmland, Christians believe that we have a heavenly father who cares about every aspect of our lives. He wants the best for us, and he gives us free will, to make our own choices.

At Staplehurst Free Church much of what we do each week is around our choice to serve God through serving our community, be that through Free Bees, Warm Room, Community Fridge, Badminton, Interest Group, Friends together, Debt Advice, Care Home Visits, Youth 24, House groups or our Sunday services.

Each activity is about connecting with one another, sharing time and responsibly sharing the earth's resources, encouraging one another, sharing a smile, a conversation, being there for one another.

Whichever way you choose to spend October I hope that it will help you reflect on our amazing planet, a world of opportunity and potential, filled with people just like you that need love, respect and dignity. Despite what the newspapers and media choose to focus on – the world actually isn't a miserable place, it's a place of joy, wonder and happiness. Many of us may face challenges due to health, or finances, or grief or relationships – but those challenges are better faced with support from others. With a church supporting us and a Heavenly Father who loves us we can achieve wonderful things, we can build a vibrant community of hope.

Blessings to you and your family for October.

**Peter**

The next meeting of  
**Friends Together**  
will be  
**Tuesday 14th October**  
10am to midday - All welcome



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

### **Ladies - you are invited to a** **LADIES BREAKFAST**



With author, educator & inspirational speaker

**Emily Owen**

Theme: "Breaking the sound barrier!!"

**Saturday 11th October**  
doors open 9am for **9:30am** start

at **Staplehurst Free Church**  
Supported by Linton Road Free Church

Tickets £5  
Please book in advance using this QR code



RSVP by Sunday 5th October

**Please notify us of any allergies when booking**



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



Registered Charity No. 1127205



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



Enabling Everyone to Know Jesus

If you wish to attend this event please either sign up by  
Sunday 5th October on the corridor noticeboard or  
use this link to request a ticket [Ladies Breakfast \(11-Oct-  
2025\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

Please note the **Community Fridge will be closed on  
Saturday 11th for this event.**

**Surface Deadline** For inclusion in the November edition of Surface Magazine - Please send all copy to  
Kate M by **Thursday 23rd October.** Thank you

## Warm Welcome Hub

Our Warm Welcome Hub is now back up and running after the summer break. Designed to be part of the national Warm Welcome Spaces initiative, other venues in the village will also be open, so that somewhere will be open every day, although the times for each may vary. As the weather starts to turn colder we will be serving Mary's yummy homemade soup with rolls from Tuesday 25th November. This will be available between 1 and 2pm each week and will continue until 24th February. However, the main session will continue to be open as usual every **Tuesday 12:30 to 4pm**



## 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



## Welcome Rota - October

**Sunday 5th - David and Jo**

**Sunday 12th - Clive and Lynne**

**Sunday 19th - Paul and Sally**

**Sunday 26th - Brenda and Graham**



## **Fortnightly Fridays 6 - 7:30pm**

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**

**Dates this month**

**10th October**



## 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.



### **Amended Opening hours from 1<sup>st</sup> October**

Located at:  
Staplehurst Free Church  
Station Road  
TN12 0QQ

Wednesdays	9:00 to 11:00
Thursdays	9:00 to 15:00
Fridays	16:00 to 18:00
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



### **Why are we having a Church Gift Day?**

On Sunday 19th October we are holding a Church Gift Day – a chance to give towards projects that will strengthen our church's life and mission. The Lord has blessed our finances this year but there is always more that we want to do as a church.

In the next few months, we will need resources for the following expenditure:

A new automated front door – welcoming, secure and safe, that will also reduce drafts.

A replacement lift – ensuring full accessibility to our upper floor once again.

Resources for Treasure Seekers & Free Bees – helping children grow in faith.

Support for Youth24 – encouraging our young people.

Getting the resources to run “The Bible Course” – the new course from the Bible society introducing what the Bible is and why it is relevant to each of us.

Following the sudden closure of Spurgeon's College, Peter has enrolled with Westminster Theological College – we need to invest in theological training to equip leaders for effective gospel ministry.

Projects in development that we would like to start in 2026:

A Parish Nursing pilot in conjunction with the medical practice in Staplehurst

A digital literacy group helping people with phones, tablets and technology in general

A “chairobics” group to help us keep all active as we age and possibly an second group without chairs for people who want more!

Please join us in praying for the day and consider how you might share God's abundance with others. Together we can invest in our church's future, so it remains a place of welcome, growth, and mission for all. If you have any comments or suggestions or would like further details of these initiatives please contact Peter, Church Leader.

## **Eight Areas for Prayer in the month of October**

As Christians we believe that our God is a God of abundance, not scarcity - he blesses his people and holds nothing back. He saw that his creation was good and takes delight in our happiness. Let the Holy Spirit guide you and pray that God's will be done as it is in heaven in the following areas:

### **1. Economic hardship & cost of living in the UK**

- UK retail sales have fallen for many months, reflecting weak consumer demand and financial pressures.
- Rising costs, inflation, energy bills - pray for those under financial strain: low-income families, the unemployed, pensioners.
- Pray for wise and just leadership in government making decisions that affect the most vulnerable.
- Pray for families affected by growing levels of child poverty, for policies to protect children, and for churches/charities working in relief.
- Pray for fair working conditions, for those unemployed who are seeking work, for those working in difficult, low-pay, or insecure jobs.
- Pray for the work of Green Pastures - helping people out of homelessness into supported living.
- Pray for the work of our debt advisors - encourage them as they support people struggling with the burden of debt.

### **2. Health: mental, workforce well-being, public health**

- There is a growing concern in business and society about workforce health, mental health, and people leaving work due to health issues.
- Pray for the NHS, mental health support services, and for pastoral care to have wisdom to support people in the right way.

### **3. Social regeneration & community cohesion**

- Over the summer there have been many protests and counter protests, we've had flags and roundabouts painted - pray for community cohesion - for neighbours to get on with each other and seek the common good.
- Pray for areas that are in need of investment and regeneration: that initiatives reach and help those in need, that projects are inclusive and build healthy community life.

### **4. Prayer for migrants, migration policy, human rights**

- Pray for compassion, justice, wisdom and fairness in migration policy; that genuine migrants and refugees would find safety and acceptance; for Christians to represent Christ in how they respond.

### **5. Environmental care & climate concerns**

- Pray for our rivers and seas, that our water companies would put environmental protection ahead of profit, for sustainable practices, and for the church's witness in creation care.



## 6. Prisons, justice, human dignity

- Pray for all those working to take the gospel into prisons - encourage and protect them.
- Pray for the rehabilitation of offenders that they might make a success of their release and not return to crime.

## 7. Food, hunger, international aid, peace

- Pray for the work of Tear Fund and its partner churches throughout the world. Pray that relief work and capacity building work is impactful and supports those in need.
- Pray for food security globally, for local hunger issues, for charities and agencies tackling food poverty.
- We pray for peace in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank. We pray for peace in Ukraine. Protect the work of Hope Lebedyn and Tear Fund in these places.

## 8. For our own church

- We pray for those we know who are sick or suffering.
- We pray for unity, holiness, courage in sharing the Gospel. For continued spiritual renewal.
- For activity leaders, volunteers and trustees for strength, discernment and wisdom.
- That we will continue to be a Bible and prayer focussed fellowship, welcoming to others, being the hands and feet of Jesus in or community.
- We pray for the success of Emily Owen's visit for the ladies' breakfast and our Family Service on the 11th & 12th October.
- We pray for the success of our gift day on the 19th October.

### Staplehurst Interest Group

With five Fridays in October, we have five opportunities to welcome everyone to join us for a morning of friendship and laughter in the café area of the Free Church in Station Road. We gather for a chat and refreshments and a 10am start in this warm inviting environment.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> we welcome our Staplehurst Early Responder, Patrick, who will give us a short chat about the 'Raynet' safety communication system and 'Defibrillators'. That will be followed by a chance to exercise our brains in a fun way. Another short talk by Jo Meredith on the 10<sup>th</sup> will tell us about her work with 'Hi Kent', the support network for those with reduced hearing. We'll then chat about 'Funny things that happened at work (or elsewhere)'. Another chance to share stories comes on the 17<sup>th</sup> with 'Early days'. Perhaps some toys, games or other keepsakes may be brought to trigger memories. 'The History of Cranbrook in Ten Objects' promises an intriguing morning as we welcome the Chairman and Curator of the wonderful local museum that some of us enjoyed visiting in 2024. Come and find out more on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Our fifth session is simply titled 'Food'. What are your favourite (or least enjoyed) meals or individual tastes?

There are four more treats in store for us in November so for more information, give us a call, or better still, come along one Friday and join in the fun.

Joan and Malcolm Buller



## **Proposed changes to Maidstone Borough Council**

Government ministers want councils in Kent and Medway to deliver the services they provide in a different way. In the biggest shake up of local government in almost 50 years, they want to merge councils across the historic county of Kent to create a number of unitary councils serving roughly 500,000 people each.

This is known as **Local Government Reorganisation, or LGR for short.**

To enable the council to do this in the best interests of the residence they really want to know what's important to you when they think about setting up the new councils.

It would help the council if everyone would contribute their thoughts by filling in their short survey using the link below **before 9am on Monday 6th October 2025.**

[LGR Survey](#)

**Thank you**



Churches Together in Staplehurst have just updated their Welcome pack. If you know of anyone moving in or new to the village such as a new neighbour, please take one of the packs on the blue foyer table to give them. Thank you



**The Big Quiz Night**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November**  
**7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start**  
**Staplehurst United Reformed Church**  
Teams of 6  
Bring your own drinks and snacks. £5.00 per person  
To book a table or for more information  
please contact Alison Alderson  
secretary@staplehursturc.org.uk

tearfund.org/quiz  
Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom  
+44 (0)20 3906 3906 [info@tearfund.org](mailto:info@tearfund.org) [@tearfund](#)  
Registered office: Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE. Registered in England: 994339. A company limited by guarantee. Registered Charity No. 283444 (England & Wales) Registered Charity No. SC037624 (Scotland)

**tearfund**



*... back by popular request*  
**"The Book of Life"**  
*'A musical for such a time as this'*  
by the  
INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING  
Absolute Gospel Company Choir

*"Absolutely brilliant"*  
*"Your best musical yet"*  
*"This musical, moved me to tears"*

Is YOUR name in the Book of Life?

**Saturday 11th October 2025**  
**3:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tonbridge Parish Church,**  
Church Lane, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1DA  
**PUBLIC PARKING NEARBY**  
*Complimentary Song Book & Birthday Card!*

**FREE Admission by ticket**  
*[donations gratefully received]*  
**Print your ticket ONLINE at**  
**[www.absolutegospel.org](http://www.absolutegospel.org)**  
Further info: 07549 830906 / 01732 364517



**Don't forget the clocks go back one hour on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 2am**


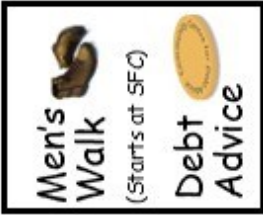

















*Why not use the following American mantra to help you remember?*  
*"Spring Forward Fall Back"*



## 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**

**Church Leader - Peter Brook**

**Church Administrator - Maggie Whalan**

**Office Tel No.: 01580 893993**

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



If you are unable to join us in person for any of our services, with the exception of family church on the 2nd Sunday of the month which is not streamed, you can watch the service live via our **YouTube channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/@staplehurstfreechurch1163/streams>

**Sunday Connections in October**

<b>Sunday 5th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Speaker: Paul Martin</b>
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>All Age Connection</b> <b>Led By: Emily Owen</b>
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Speaker: Peter Brook</b>
<b>Sunday 26th</b> <i><b>Clocks go back one hour at 2am today!</b></i>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Speaker: Pastor Peter - Green Pastures</b>  <b>Homelessness Charity</b>

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

