



Dear Friends,

There is a particular kind of wonder that settles over the Weald of Kent as April arrives. After the long, grey stretches of a British winter, the landscape seems to wake up all at once. If you take a walk through our local parks and lanes this week, you'll see the bright shock of daffodils against the hedgerows and the lovely pink and white blossoms appearing on the fruit trees. Even with all the building over the past few years, Kent is still the Garden of England and that garden is coming into season. So many people have mentioned to me recently how the warmer weather and longer days lift their hearts and improves their mood too. There is something joyful and encouraging about the Spring.

At Staplehurst Free Church, April isn't just about the improving weather; it is about the profound theme of personal and spiritual renewal as we celebrate Easter.

Easter is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. It is the ultimate story of hope blooming in the middle of darkness. Just as the natural world around us seems to come back to life after the cold and barren winter, Easter reminds us that God is in the business of making all things new. The empty cross and the empty tomb, signifying the renewal of life and the fulfilment of hope.

As Christians think about the Easter story, many of our Jewish friends and colleagues will be thinking about celebrating the Passover. The story of God freeing the Jewish slaves in Egypt and bringing them at last to the promised land (much of the book of Exodus). In the Jewish tradition, there is a wonderful song called Dayenu, which translates to "It would have been enough." The song lists the many miracles that God performed for His people - leading them out of slavery in Egypt, parting the red sea, providing manna in the desert when they were hungry and so on and so on. After each miracle is mentioned or sung by people around the table, everyone joins in by singing "Dayenu" – which means it would have been enough. If God had only done that one thing, it would have been enough to know that we are loved and chosen to be part of God's family. It is a song of profound beauty and gratitude.

When we look at the cross and the empty tomb, we see the ultimate "Dayenu." God's grace is so overflowing that He didn't just provide for our physical needs; He gave us His own Son to ensure we could be part of His family forever.

At this church, we believe that God's kingdom isn't an exclusive club; our church is a small part of God's kingdom, it's a small part of God's home on earth. No matter who you are, where you've been, or what your life journey looks like, you have a place here, there is a welcome for you here. The blessings of spring - the warmth of the sun, the beauty of the Weald of Kent, and the gift of new beginnings - are reminders of God's love for everyone.

As we move through this month, let's hold onto these words from the Gospel of John:

"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" John 15:11 (NLT)

Peter

Peter & Rosemary



Many congratulations to **Peter & Rosemary** who have now moved house. If you would like to know their new address please contact the church administrator Maggie.



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.

All private donations gratefully received



Easter Opening Hours

Located at:
Staplehurst Free Church
Station Road
TN12 0QQ

Wednesdays	9:00 to 11:00
Thursdays	9:00 to 15:00
Good Friday (3/4/26)	Closed
Easter Saturday 4/4/26	Closed

 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

Easter Trail

Can you complete the
Easter Trail?

Follow the trail of eggs and
explore the story of Easter
together.

Where?

Use the What3Words
app to find the first
poster:

[bleaker.likening.enclosing](https://www.bleaker.likening.enclosing)

When?

From 1.30pm on
Saturday 4th April until
18th April

Fun Easter activities,
crafts and
refreshments at SFC on
Saturday 4th April from
2:30pm to 5pm too!

For more information...
www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk/fcs/why-easter/
Freebees@staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk



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

Staplehurst Interest Group



Our Easter Break means that we meet again in the café area of the Free Church in Station Road on Friday April 17th when we will be enthralled yet again by the delights of Frank Page's photography and audio-visual productions. This annual visit is eagerly anticipated and Frank never fails to amaze us.

A week later we have another returning favourite when Jane Scotchmer shares with us her pictures and stories she gathered in Mexico. Both sessions will be well-attended so come along just before 10am for refreshments and friendly chat before the main events.

Our programme for May onwards will be formed from the suggestions we receive from those at our March planning meeting so, if you would like to be a speaker at one of our mornings, please get in touch to ask us for a copy of the new programme or better still, come along one Friday and join in the fun and laughter. We hope to see you there.

Joan and Malcolm Buller

Please note - Maggie will be taking the week off after Easter but Peter will be available during this time.



Fortnightly Fridays 6 - 7:30pm

Join us for fun, food, laughter and a chance to wind down at the end of a school week.

Year 6 and above - Term time only

No meeting in April



but the Vault
will be open
Sunday
19th April



The next meeting of
Friends Together

will be

Tuesday 14th April

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 April

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

STAPLEHURST FREE CHURCH

**Warmly invites you to join us at our
Easter Events**



Good Friday 3rd April 10:30am Communion Service

**Easter Saturday 4th April 1:30pm Easter Trail
2:30pm Crafternoon**

Easter Celebration Sunday 5th April 10:30am

Sunday 12th April 10:30am Family Church



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**STAPLEHURST
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Enabling Everyone to Know Jesus

Warm Welcome Hub

We offer free hot drinks and biscuits to all who attend on Tuesdays between 12.30 and 4pm. These free facilities are provided as part of our commitment to providing a safe, warm and friendly environment each week, for anyone in our community who wishes to join us.

Our Hub is designed to be part of the national Warm Welcome Spaces initiative, so other venues in the village will also be open which you might also like to support.



Subtitles on YouTube

I only recently learned that it is possible to view our services on YouTube with Subtitles. So whilst I am sure many of you already knew this, just in case there are few who like me did not, if you press the CC (for closed captions) button on the bottom right hand side of the screen it will bring up subtitles. If the CC is "greyed out" then this means they are not available. They are auto-generated which means there may well be the odd peculiar sentence which does not make sense but for those who are hard of hearing overall this facility may be of help. I generally extract the week's sermon (usually by the end of Wednesday) and include them on a playlist, so if you want to catch up with them again they are all listed under the heading of Playlists on YouTube on our channel which is <https://www.youtube.com/@staplehurstfreechurch1163>. The current playlist is for our new series on John's message and can be found at [John's Message - YouTube](#) Maggie

Lift

Hopefully by now you will all have noticed that our lift is now back in action, with grateful thanks to Roy for all his work in making this possible. 😊 Please note that for **health and safety reasons** there are some **sensible restrictions on the lift's use** as follows:

- **The limit for the lift is two persons** or one person in a wheelchair with a carer, as indicated on the lift panel.
- **Furniture should never be transported** in the lift.
- **Mobility scooters cannot be used in the lift** and anyone not mobile enough to walk in and out of the lift should be transferred to the wheelchair that normally lives at the bottom of the stairs.

Welcome Rota - April

Sunday 5th – Clive and Lynne

Sunday 12th – Amanda and John

Sunday 24th – Graham and Brenda

Sunday 26th – Paul and Sally

Filling Station

The next Filling Station is **April 15th**. Come at 7pm for pizza before a **7.30pm start**. There is plenty of parking available in Benenden Primary School car park. The address for your satnav is TN17 4EH.

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

Church Leader - Peter Brook

Church Administrator - Maggie Whalan

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 April

Friday 3rd 	10:30am	Good Friday Service <i>NB Will not be streamed</i> Reflective Communion Service Speaker: Terence Hawgood
Sunday 5th 	10:30am	Easter Sunday <i>NB Will not be streamed</i> Speaker: Peter Brook
Sunday 12th	10.30am	Family Connection <i>NB Will not be streamed</i> Theme: Fish Scales and Fabric Led by: Ian MacDonald
Sunday 19th	10.30am	Sunday Connection Worship, Word and Communion Speaker: Clive Jones
Sunday 26th	10.30am	Sunday Connection Worship, Word and Communion Speaker: Peter Brook

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

