



## Dear Friends,

I'll always remember when Boris Becker won Wimbledon in 1985, a glorious June full of sun, flowers and parched grass – at least in my parent's garden in the house I grew up in in Yorkshire.

June is one of those months that evokes strong memories of the past. Strawberries and cream, scones with clotted cream, garden parties, daisy chains and village fetes. In June the long daylight hours cause everything to grow and bloom, and our beautiful Kent countryside is alive with colour.

Here around Staplehurst, the vineyards and orchards are flourishing, giving us a beautiful, visual banquet of growth and abundance. It reminds me of the beautiful poetry of Song of Songs 2:12-13 (NLT):

"The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come, and the cooing of turtledoves fills the air. The fig trees are forming young fruit, and the fragrant grapevines are blossoming"

As well as the beauty of the early summer, this June is absolutely packed with opportunities for us all to make new memories, to gather, to celebrate, and to support one another through the rollercoaster of life.

### What's Coming Up at SFC

We have three major church highlights you won't want to miss:

#### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June: Filling Station with Graham Kendrick

We are delighted to host Filling Station an informal evening of ecumenical worship, praise, prayer and fellowship. This month the meeting will be led by the incredibly talented singer, songwriter and worship leader Graham Kendrick. Graham wrote Shine, Jesus Shine and many other well-known worship songs.

#### Sunday 21st June: Father's Day & Baptisms

We are looking forward to a fantastic Sunday service! Not only will we be honouring and celebrating fathers and the father figures in our lives, but we also have the immense joy of witnessing believers' baptisms. There is no better way to celebrate new life and dedication than seeing members of our community take this public step of faith. Everyone is invited to come ready to celebrate!

## **Saturday 27th June: The Bible Event – The Story Behind the Story**

Have you ever wondered about the historical context, the archaeology, the cultural backdrops, and the threads that weave the Bible together? What does this mean for us in Staplehurst in 2026? Join us for this special event where Dr Mark Hendley will guide us on a journey of Biblical discovery.

## **Praying for our Community**

### **Supporting Our Students**

June can be a high-pressure month for our young people. Many in our church and village are currently in the thick of sitting their GCSEs, A levels, and University exams. Let's surround them with prayer, asking for calm minds, clarity of thought, and a deep reassurance that their worth is found in Christ, not in an exam result. If you see a student this month, offer them a word of encouragement (or a bar of chocolate!).

## **Armed Forces Week**

This month we also mark Armed Forces Week. Many of us have friends and family that serve or have served in the Armed Forces. We pause to give thanks and pray for those from our community and across the nation who serve in the military. We pray for their safety, for the families who wait for them at home, and for their ongoing mission to protect our nation and work to keep the peace in a fragile world.

## **A Summer of Spectacle**

Beyond our church walls, June 2026 is shaping up to be an unforgettable month of sport! It feels like the whole world is coming together, which gives us a wonderful excuse to build bridges and share community spaces with our friends and neighbours:

Football fever kicks off early this year at the FIFA Men's World Cup in America (on June 11th)! Let's enjoy the companionship of supporting our team, the friendly rivalries, and the shared excitement. We hope that none of the teams we support end up coming home too soon!

The showcase of royalty, heritage, pageantry, fashion and horse racing that is Royal Ascot begins on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Or perhaps you are excited about the potential new Tennis champions at Wimbledon which begins on June 29th.

Whether you're hosting a World Cup party, studying for an exam, going to a royal garden party, risking a BBQ (with our fickle weather) or preparing to step into the waters of baptism, our prayer is that this June brings you closer to God and closer to one another.

And of course, amid all the excitement of these special events, all our normal community activities that happen at SFC will be running as usual.

We are looking forward to seeing you at SFC soon.

Peter Brook – Church Leader

**The Vault will be open on 7th June**

**Surface Deadline** For inclusion in the July edition of Surface Magazine - Please send all copy to Kate by **Thursday 25th June**. If you no longer wish to receive this magazine, please contact the church administrator to **unsubscribe**. *Thank you*



## 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

Dates for this month are 12 and 26th June



The next meeting of

**Friends Together**

will be

**Tuesday 9th June**

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 10th and 24th June**

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

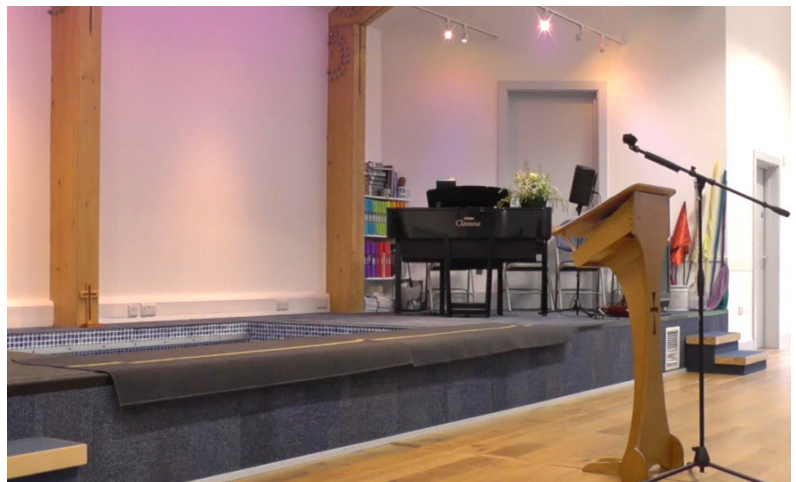


Please help us to demonstrate our Christian unity with the other village churches by joining everyone at All Saints Church on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June** at the earlier time of **10am** for a joint Churches Together in Staplehurst service.

## Baptismal Service

There will be a baptismal service on the **21st June.**

See elsewhere in Surface for further information!



## 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 - June

Sunday 7th - Paul and Sally

Sunday 14th - Brenda and Graham

Sunday 21st - Amanda and John

Sunday 28th - Alan and Jo



## Difficulty Seeing?

Do you have problems with:

- Cooking?
- Reading?
- Getting out and about?
- Using your phone or computer?

**We can help.** Come and meet the KAB team for free advice and support and to see a range of assistive technology and daily living equipment.

Staplehurst Free Church, Station Road, Staplehurst, TN12 0QQ  
**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> July, 10am - 3pm**



STAPLEHURST

UNITED

REFORMED CHURCH

Fun Quiz Evening



Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 7:00 pm

for 7:30 pm start

Teams of 6

Suggested donation £5 per person

*Please bring your own drinks & snacks*

Contact: [secretary@staplehursturc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@staplehursturc.org.uk)  
to book a table

### Important Dates for your Diary!

**Father's Day** is a wonderful day to recognise the influence of godly men who have shaped our faith and our spiritual journey. It is also a good day to recognise that God has joined us together in one family of faith, belief and fellowship. As part of our celebration of our church family on the **21<sup>st</sup> of June**, we will be blessed to be holding two baptisms and welcoming new members into our fellowship. If you would like to be considered for baptism or membership of the fellowship in future, please contact Peter for an informal discussion.

On **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> of July** we will have a family celebration service. After the service it would be good to have a short church meeting where we can give a brief financial update, and other updates about the building and our plans for the summer and autumn. If you have any questions that you would like to be answered by the church leader at this meeting please submit your questions by email to Maggie at the usual address. After the conclusion of the meeting, I propose that we share a BBQ lunch to celebrate all that God has blessed us with and to give us an opportunity for fellowship. Hopefully the weather will be kind and we will be able to enjoy our wonderful garden.

Peter

### Staplehurst Interest Group



Our June sessions start on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> when we invite everyone to tell us about "Heroes and Villains" that have inspired or horrified them. A week later we gather again in the café area of Staplehurst Free Church in Station Road to see "Every picture tells a story". Members' snaps will be projected and their tales revealed. We welcome Mel Alesi on the 19<sup>th</sup> to talk about the "Staplehurst Emergency Help Team", from its concept to now and the development of emergency preparedness. Our final June session on the 26<sup>th</sup> is the chance to make a simple greetings card via the craft of "Origami". This subject used to feature regularly in our programme, but had disappeared for years. The materials will be provided, but 10p for any extra cards made would be appreciated. If all or any of the sessions appeal to you then just come along ready for a warm welcome, hot cup of tea or coffee, or cold water and a 10am start. We ask for a £1 contribution to cover outgoings. The free laughter is guaranteed. For any more details please speak with us.

Joan and Malcolm



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



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

### The Filling Station

Filling Station will next meet on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**. The evening will be led by Graham Kendrick and due to expected numbers will be held at SFC. Any offers of help with refreshments would be gratefully received by Clive & Lynne!

**Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start!**



# Good News for Everyone

Formerly known as the Gideons UK

Maidstone Branch Established in 1976

## Celebrate 50 Years of the Goodness of God

We warmly invite you to celebrate with us on

Saturday 13th June 2026

2.00 - 5.30 p.m.

### Allington Baptist Church

76A London Road Maidstone ME16 0DT

### Guest Speaker Ian Mair

Executive Director of Good News for Everyone National Office

Join us for some light refreshments after the meeting

Please let us know if or not you will be able to join us

To access the car park from the London Road, turn into Leafy Lane (at the side of the retail park) the car park is the first gate on the right.  
Coming by Bus 71 and 72

# The story behind The Story

## Staplehurst Free Church warmly invites you to:

### A Day of Biblical Discovery

*How Time, Space & Culture shape our understanding of The Bible*

*Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> 10am to 4:30pm*



*Sessions will cover:*

*Rebellion on a Cosmic Scale:  
What Jesus Really Came to Deal With*

*The Land of the Book:  
The Theology of Geography*

*To Hell and Back:  
Why Easter Saturday Matters*

*Is God a Moral Monster?  
Handling the Dark and Shady  
Corners of the Old Testament*

*Speaker: Rev. Dr. Mark Hendley from The Stones Cry Out*

Tickets £15 per person & includes tea/coffee

Book via the QR code

*Doors open at 9:30am*



**STAPLEHURST  
FREE CHURCH**

*A heart for our community*



Station Rd, Staplehurst, TN12 0QQ  
01580 893993

[contactus@staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:contactus@staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1127205

**Enabling Everyone to Know Jesus**

Link to book is [Bible Discovery Day \(27-Jun-2026\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

# WHAT'S ON AT SFC

## At-a-glance activities schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>A.M.</b>		 Debt Advice		 COMMUNITY FRIDGE	 COMMUNITY FRIDGE	 Ladies Badminton	
<b>P.M.</b>			 Warm Welcome Hub		 COMMUNITY FRIDGE		
<b>Eve</b>						 Worship Group Rehearsal	

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

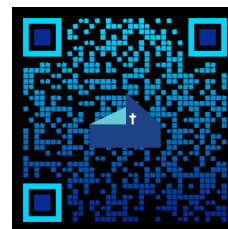
## [Staplehurst Free Church](#)

Church Leader - Peter Brook

Church Administrator

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 June**

<b>Sunday 7th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Speaker: Peter Brook</b>
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Family Connection</b> <b>Theme: Here. have mine!</b> <b>Led by: The Clarks and the Tolleys</b>
<b>Sunday 21st</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship, Word and Communion</b> <b>Baptismal Service</b> <b>Led by: Peter Brook</b>
<b>Sunday 28th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Joint Churches Together Service at <b>All Saints Church</b></b> <b>Worship &amp; Word</b> <b>Please note this service starts at 10am!</b>

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

