

# STAPLEHURST FREE CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT



**NEWSLETTER 4**  
**April 2008**

**HIS** Project  
People  
Building  
Purpose

## **Progress Report.**

Welcome to the fourth newsletter to keep you updated with the rebuilding project for the Staplehurst Free Church (SFC), in Kent. Thank you to everyone who has given money for this purpose. Since our previous newsletter last July, the Building Fund has increased by nearly £60,000 bringing the present total to £315,498. With an estimated cost of £1.4million, we are aware that we still have some way to go!

## **Going, Going, Gone!**

Since stepping out in faith from our familiar surroundings last September and moving church activities to other sites in the village, we have been patiently waiting for the demolition of the old building. Due to delays by the utility companies, this did not take place until March, but when the demolition team finally arrived it only took a short time to reduce the site to a pile of rubble! The delay was a blessing in that by the time the old building was levelled, we were settled into our temporary settings and watching the destruction of our old spiritual home was more interesting than sad. The site has now been made safe and secure and we wait on God's provision for the capital needed to start the rebuilding process!



## **The Next Step.**

As a free church, the SFC is not part of any national body for its operation or funding. A diversity of giving is therefore needed to provide funds for the new building. There has been considerable generosity expressed practically by members and friends and grants and gifts are being applied for. The Fundraising Committee has recently completed a formal Business Plan document for this reason. We intend approaching grant making bodies and charities

to appeal for funding for our project. This will provide a modern multi-purpose building in the centre of the village of Staplehurst, an added resource for the community and increased scope for our voluntary work within the area.

## **Why We Need A New Building?**

Although having been made welcome in other facilities in the village, they are mostly old and not easily adapted for our activities. All venues have to be hired. Numbers of those attending have fallen due to the sizes of these facilities and restricted term time's result from the need to fit in with other village users e.g. the Toddler Club had to celebrate Christmas with a party in November! Helpers need to work longer to continue to offer activities such as the Toddler Club, Badminton Club and Outreach Youth Club; previously all were run in the church building. The Cedars Fellowship Club for the elderly is now being operated in private homes due to the lack of a suitable venue and the Monday evening Youth Badminton Club and the Keep Fit Club have closed due to lack of facilities.

## **Local Businesses – Can You Help?**

This newsletter is being circulated to the local businesses. Please think about whether you could support this local community cause. Please consider whether you are able to help by donating either money or suitable building materials to our project?

## **More Information**

If you would like further information about the Staplehurst Free Church and the Building Project, including how to donate on-line by credit card, then visit the church web site at [www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.staplehurstfreechurch.org.uk) If you would like to make a donation but would like more information or a copy of our Business Plan, then please contact Pastor Clive Jones on 01580 890644 or by email to [clivelynnej@btinternet.com](mailto:clivelynnej@btinternet.com) Cheques can be sent to the church made payable to 'Staplehurst Free Church' c/o Mrs Beryl Mitchell (Treasurer), Staplehurst Free Church, Station Road, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 0QQ