

GOD LOVES YOU!



Haverhill Methodist Church

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Connect Issue 237

Friday 13th December 2024

*I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.
Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.*

Psalm 119:14,18

Prayer Chain: If you'd like to request a prayer for yourself, or for someone you know, please email kathy.cohen@btinternet.com (or phone 01440 762536) and your message will be forwarded to all those on the prayer email list (about 150 people).

Prayer Ministry: This is available after morning service each Sunday. Please approach someone wearing a lime green lanyard which has the words Prayer Ministry Team printed on it.

Please remember our Churches Together online Prayer Wall [here](#):

Hearing Loop: We have a hearing loop, switch your hearing aid to the T position if available.

Mobile Phones: Please make sure your phone is off or set to silent before the service begins.

- [Town Pastors](#)

The Town Pastors are on the streets **tonight**, Friday 13th December, from 8pm to midnight. Please keep them in your prayers and support those who bring this important ministry to our streets.

If you are interested in becoming part of this aspect of God's work in our town please speak to Kathy, Angela Proctor, David Payne, Phoebe, Mary Thake, Pat Shanks, Dot Parker, Sarah Glasswell, Paula Tappin or Jack Tappin, we can all tell you about our experiences as home prayers, base leaders or actually being out on the streets. Or contact the chairman, Ian Levett.



- The Big Christmas Card

The Big Christmas Card is available for you to send your Christmas message to the rest of the congregation. It will be in the foyer before the service and up in the hall during coffee time.

The idea is that you save money by not buying lots of cards for lots of people in church and then donate from the money you have saved into the charity pot by the card.

The stewards have decided that this year's charity is to be a small local one, namely Boomerang Pet Foodbank

(<https://www.facebook.com/boomerangspetfoodbank>)

Other charities suggested will be forwarded to the Tithing Fund for consideration.

- Next Door – Christmas Stock

We now have our Christmas cards and gifts available in Next Door. If you are new to the Church and have not had the opportunity to visit the café we would like to invite you to call in and see what is on offer. Apart from Christmas items, we do carry a good stock of greetings cards and gifts which carry a Christian message and also a range of books and Bibles. Our usual opening times are from 10.30 until 1pm from Tuesday to Friday each week.

Next Door is an important opportunity for our Christian outreach in the community and we would welcome new volunteers. If you are available and would be interested in becoming involved in helping, please speak to one of the Stewards who will introduce you to one of our team.

- Posada

Don't forget to send me a picture of the Holy Family in *your* home so we can have a gallery of photos on the Sunday Scroll, and maybe in here for the New Year edition!

Kathy

- Open Mind – Christmas

Open Mind will be closed on Christmas Day, New Year's Day and 8th January (due to electrical work in the hall), re-opening on 15th January assuming all works are complete. Service users will receive a note to this effect but if you know or hear of anyone planning to drop in please let them know.

- Car Park

The car park has recently been very congested and a few folk were unable to move their cars after the service as they were blocked in.

When parking please:

- Do not block other cars in the car park
- Do not park on the double yellow lines in front of the coffee lounge
- Do not park at the entry to the church between the church and next door.

Note: the car park by the council offices/library is free on Sundays and is only a short walk away.

- Weekly Offering & Gift Aid

We do not ask visitors for money, however should you wish to give there is an offering bowl just inside the main doors to the church at each service. If you wish to give by standing order/onlinebanking, please ask the duty steward (wearing a purple lanyard) for details of the appropriate church bank account. (This type of payment helps us avoid banking costs incurred by paying in cash/cheques.)

If you pay income tax you can fill in a form which allows the church to claim back 25p for every £1 at no cost to yourself. These forms are available from the duty steward on a Sunday morning.

The amount claimed back in recent years has approached £10,000 pa and has often prevented expenditure exceeding income in the annual accounts.

- Open Mind – Meaningful Support

Hello everyone,

Recently Open Mind was asked to give a presentation about this church's mental health outreach project to Synod, which was a great privilege. It occurred to us that with so many more people now attending our church it's quite possible that Synod know more about Open Mind than our own congregants! It's time to put that right!

Open Mind opened in January 2019 after 18 months of research, initially with a small team whose objective was to step in and (as far as possible) replace the NHS mental health service which had finally left Haverhill with no community services at all. We opened with the intention of being a safe place where anyone from the community could come and simply talk to a trained volunteer. Next Door Café was our home. We had no idea if anyone would come, but they certainly did. Before too long the café space became a little too small to keep conversations truly confidential.

Then, of course, covid-19 happened and everything stopped. A number of the original team decided that they would not return, and it was hard to see what our future was going to be? How would we recruit again, and the space was too small.

Then God did what God does, turning a tragic situation into one in which we could see his hands at work, one where we could witness his amazing glory. Twice in one day the Wrattling Rd was closed by the police as 2 different people were threatening to jump off the Tesco footbridge. Thankfully both people were saved but the local Facebook pages went into overdrive....why was there no mental health support for desperate people in Haverhill? One of our original team joined the conversation to say that actually, there was, and it was called Open Mind. By the end of that day 6 people contacted me and asked to join our team. The next day I was contacted to say that there was now a session available for us in the main church hall. So, the decision was made! It seemed that God paved the way for our return, when I was seriously doubting everything! Doh!

Since then, we have provided 1:1 time to 1,800 local people and delivered approximately 6000 hours of mental health support. There are 16 in the team with 4 leaders from different local churches. Our faith is central to everything we say and do, without it we would not be able to function. It is that core of faith that gives us the courage and strength to do what we do. We help people with a vast range of disorders including depression, anxiety, addiction, domestic abuse right through to schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and personality disorders. Also, earlier this year we were approached by Haverhill Family Practice and we now run a satellite clinic every week within that practice, for their patients. We collaborate with many partner organisations such as REACH and the NHS. We are an extremely busy service!

Some of you may know that in January I am emigrating to Australia but this important church outreach project is left in very capable hands and I would like to ask for your prayers in this period of transition please. A wonderful lady called Jodie Claydon is taking on what has been my role of overall Team Leader and she is ably supported by 3 other co-team leaders. Debra Barritt from our congregation will be the Link member who will represent Open Mind on the Church Council.

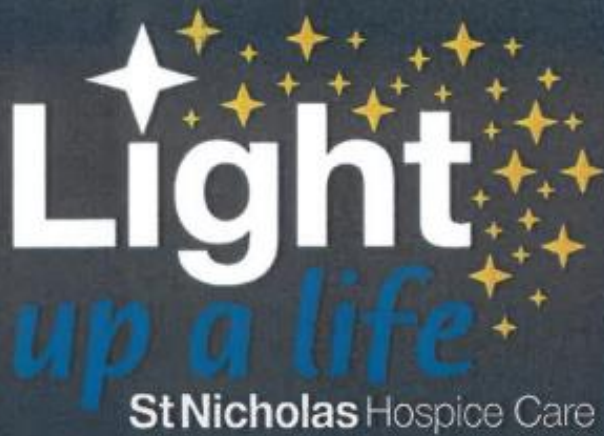
Thank you for taking time to read this article. If you would like to know more about this project or are considering applying to join our amazing team please either speak to Debra at church or send an email to openmindinfo8@gmail.com.

Many thanks for your support for Open Mind over the last few years, God bless you, take care

Charmaine



The Open Mind Team



St Mary's Church
Haverhill, CB9 8AX
14 December, 3pm

Please join us for our special remembrance event, where we will celebrate the love, joy and happiness that those we miss brought into our lives.

Remember and celebrate the special people in our lives who have died

You are invited, should you wish, to have the names of your loved ones read out at an event.

You can do this by visiting our website:
stnicholashospice.org.uk/lightupalife



Or call Supporter
Care on
01284 715566

because
you matter

St Nicholas
Hospice Care

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- An idea for Advent

Taken from the United Methodist Church website:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/advent-photo-a-day-2024>

Advent Photo-a-Day 2024

Advent is the season leading up to Christmas. It is 24 days of preparation. This year, we're inviting you to prepare by looking for the visual reminders of God's presence... daily.

Each day during the season of Advent, we'll post a word for reflection (see list below) on both [The United Methodist Church's Facebook page](#) as well as [The UMC Instagram account](#). Take a moment (or several moments) of pause and reflection, then share a response to that word through a picture posted on social media – no explanation necessary. Post your picture on social media with #AdventPhoto--or tag us [directly on Facebook](#) with @TheUnitedMethodistChurch.

ADVENT 2024

PHOTO-A-DAY CHALLENGE

DECEMBER	
1 - PROMISE	15 - HOME
2 - FULFILL	16 - FEAR
3 - TIME	17 - GROW
4 - JUSTICE	18 - GLADNESS
5 - RIGHTEOUSNESS	19 - VICTORY
6 - LIVE	20 - RENEW
7 - CALLED	21 - GATHER
8 - HOPE	22 - AWE
9 - MESSENGER	23 - AMAZED
10 - PREPARE	24 - TREASURED
11 - SEEK	CHRISTMAS DAY
12 - DELIGHT	25 - WORSHIP
13 - ENDURE	
14 - OFFERING	

#ADVENTPHOTO

Don't worry if you miss a day or two--there's no failing this challenge!

Information for publication in Connect, or on the Sunday Morning Scroll may be emailed to: kathy.cohen@btinternet.com

• Dates for your Diary

December		
13 th	10.30-12.30	Men's Coffee Club (MCC) in Next Door
14 th	3pm	St Nicholas Hospice Light Up a Life service at St Mary's See attached poster for full details
15 th	10.30am	Preacher: Sarah Glasswell – D-I-Y Christingle Service Church Christmas Flowers Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
17 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
18 th	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
20 th	10.30-12.30	Men's Coffee Club (MCC) in Next Door
22 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship: Rev Moses John Church Christmas Flowers Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
	5pm	Candlelight Family Carol Service led by the Worship Team
24 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
25 th	10am	Christmas Day Celebration Service – Rev Moses John Church Christmas Flowers
29 th	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John Church Christmas Flowers Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
31 st	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
January		
1 st		New Year's Day – Happy New Year!!
5 th	10.30am	All Age Worship: Ian Levett Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
6 th – 10 th	All day	Electrical work in the Church Hall, please do not enter
7 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
10 th	10.30-12.30	Men's Coffee Club (MCC) in Next Door
12 th	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John – Covenant Service with HC Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
14 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
15 th	10am-12	Open Mind resumes in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart resumes in the Church Hall
17 th	10.30-12.30	Men's Coffee Club (MCC) in Next Door
19 th	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John – includes infant baptism Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
21 st	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
22 nd	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall

* If you would like to join the Flower Rota, please contact Sue Symonds
01440 763613 or harrys62@sky.com