

# GOD LOVES YOU!



## Haverhill Methodist Church

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**Connect Issue 238**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

*Colossians 3:15,17*

**Prayer Chain:** If you'd like to request a prayer for yourself, or for someone you know, please email [kathy.cohen@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

**N.B. THERE WILL NOT BE AN ISSUE OF CONNECT NEXT WEEK**

- **Urgent! Cakes needed!**

22nd December) is Cham's last service with us (before she emigrates to Australia in January) and it would be good to make her last coffee time special.

If you are able to bring finger cakes to share on Sunday (home-made or bought) we would be very grateful

Many thanks, Heather xx

- 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 Christmas Day Scroll, and maybe in Connect for the New Year edition!

Kathy

- Next Door – Christmas Stock

Christmas cards and gifts are still 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.

- Open Mind – Christmas

Open Mind will be closed on Christmas Day, New Year's Day and 8<sup>th</sup> January (due to electrical work in the hall), re-opening on 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

- Electrical work in the New Year

Please be aware that the electrical work being carried out between 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January will affect the whole church building, not just the hall area. This includes the coffee lounge and the vestry. Please do not enter the building during this time.

- Storage Area Clearance

During the Christmas break period we are planning a clear out of the church storage areas in the Coffee Lounge, hall, half landing, Loft and vestry, which are full of clutter.

If you or your group store anything in the cupboards/drawers in our buildings and wish to retain it please tell me, Angela Proctor, Mick or Janet

Etherdge. *Anything not claimed will be thrown out.* If you are aware of items no longer required by you or others no longer with us, again please let us know.

There is continual and renewed pressure on storage space in our buildings from members and hall hirers and we need to dispose of all the old stuff - tables, chairs, lights, electrical, display equipment, bibles, hymn books, paint pots, play equipment etc. - that has accumulated over the years.

Thanks for your help.  
John Loader.

- 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.

- House Group resumes

David & Ann Frost's Kedington house group will be re-starting in the New Year. Please speak to David if you are interested in attending.

- 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.

- Town Pastors

The Town Pastors will be on the streets on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec, 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.

- Photowall

The Photowall has over 100 faces and names on it already – BUT – is your face among them? If not, you are bound to take some photos over the Christmas period so please choose a good one and send it to me to add to our collection (couples together, no kids, preferably head & shoulders but I can crop if needed) to [haverhillmethodist.info@gmail.com](mailto:haverhillmethodist.info@gmail.com).

The Photowall is really useful for getting to know who's who – not just those with particular roles but the whole church family, but for it to be really helpful we need as many people to be on it as possible.



Moses has been using it to get to know names and faces!

Many thanks, Kathy

- 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 Wratting 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](mailto: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

- 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](mailto:kathy.cohen@btinternet.com)

• Dates for your Diary

<b>December</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30-12.30	Men's Coffee Club (MCC) in Next Door
22 <sup>nd</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10am</b>	Christmas Day Celebration Service – Rev Moses John Church Christmas Flowers
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John Church Christmas Flowers Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
31 <sup>st</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
<b>January</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>		New Year's Day – Happy New Year!!
5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	All Age Worship: Ian Levett                      Flowers: Gill Wadeson Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	All day	Electrical work in the Church Hall, please do not enter
7 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer NOT in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30-12.30	Men's Coffee Club (MCC) in Next Door
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John – Covenant Service with HC Flowers: Win Franklin Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
14 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
15 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind resumes in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart resumes in the Church Hall
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30-12.30	Men's Coffee Club (MCC) in Next Door
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John – includes infant baptism Flowers: Joyce Rinaldi Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
21 <sup>st</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Vivien Sargeant Flowers: Joyce Rinaldi Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
28 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
29 <sup>th</sup>	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](mailto:harrys62@sky.com)