

GOD LOVES YOU!



Haverhill Methodist Church

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Connect Issue 246

Friday 21st February 2025

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

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.

- Lent study

There will be a Lent Study called 'Living Faith', every Monday @ 10.30am in person at church beginning on 10th March followed by a soup lunch.

This will be repeated on Wednesday @ 7.30pm on Zoom

Please sign up asap on the form in church or, if you can't get to a service to sign the form, email haverhillmethodist.info@gmail.com with your name and whether you wish to attend Monday in person or Wednesday on Zoom.

- Young at Heart Group

Once again we have been asked by St Nicholas Hospice to take part in their knitting project, which should hit the shops around April/May, The

theme this year is flowers. Any shape any size any colour, knitted or crochet. We have plenty of oddments of wool. There are plenty of patterns on the internet, I have a few. We have been asked to do the larger display which will go in the windows – these are Sunflowers – they are all going to be the same colour, which means we have had to purchase quite a large amount of wool – if you are unable to knit or crochet, then maybe you could help by donating some money towards the cost of the wool.

Thank you - Janet



- Haverhill & District Churches Together News and Events

- World Day of Prayer

Friday 7th March at 4pm at St Felix's

Join with Churches Together to pray with Christians from the Cook Islands about important issues in the world today. Please contact Linda Pector if you would like to be involved. There is a poster at the end of this issue of Connect with more information.

- Prayer Conference with David Kunihira

Saturday 15th March from 9.30am at River of Life

A prayer conference with guest speaker David Kunihira and worship band Arc Sydenham, focusing on Isaiah's prophecy to build a 'house of prayer for all nations'. Please register for free tickets using the poster at the end of this issue of Connect.

- Induction of Chris Kemshell as Pastor of OIC

Saturday 22nd March at 2pm at the Old Independent

We welcome Chris Kemshell, pastor of Linton Free Church, to be also the new pastor of the Old Independent and work half of his time in Haverhill.

- Concert with Haverhill Singers: 'The Armed Man'

Saturday 22nd March at 7pm at St Mary's

The Haverhill Singers perform Karl Jenkins's 'the Armed Man: a Mass for Peace' alongside a small orchestra. Tickets and more details available via the poster at the end of this issue of Connect.

- The Nicene Creed - 1700 Years Old

The Nicene Creed is recited by Christians of all denominations world-wide. We use it throughout the year at our monthly Eucharist at Withersfield, and on Sundays in Eastertide at Haverhill. It is a statement of our faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The first draft was agreed at a council of bishops in 325, presided over by the Roman Emperor Constantine, in Nicaea in Türkiye. This was a critical



moment in the church's history, when leaders of the church were able to discuss openly the fundamentals of our faith. The words which we still use today have been spoken in one form or another by Christians for the last 1700 years.

"We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

A prayer for the unity of the Church, built on the faith described in the Nicene Creed:

Almighty God, you have called your church to give voice to the truth of your saving power in the words of the Nicene Creed: grant that we may always believe in you, our one Lord and Saviour, acknowledge your presence in the world today, and look for the signs of your coming kingdom, together with all the faithful of every age; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

- Update from REACH – *Together, Giving Hope*



Thank you for your amazing support for local people across our community. Many who have lost hope. Together, we really can make a difference.

Apologies for not being able to be present this evening, but here is a brief snapshot on what is happening at REACH.

The big news for us is the launch of our 'Welcome Spaces' from the beginning of February. Essentially, and having listened to our visitors, we

have merged the former 'drop-ins' and 'food collection points' into one afternoon session from 2-4pm at different locations across the town.

Mondays – The Link

Tuesdays – West Suffolk College (the old Provincial/AXA building in the High Street)

Wednesdays – Chalkstone Community Centre Thursdays – Haverhill

Methodist Church Hall Fridays – St Mary's Church

In other news...

The foodbank continues to see many requests for emergency food. Overall, we are seeing a rough increase of around 4% of people needing food parcels compared to last year. However, the amount of food coming in is still in decline compared to what it was over the last few years. That said, we are managing stock levels and are not struggling to meet the increased need – mostly down to a good harvest and Christmas food donations. It may get trickier as the year goes on.

The Community Advice Team made up of debt advisors and income maximisation advisors (IMA) are very busy. The debt numbers are still very high, but we are managing to meet a client within 3-4 weeks but sometimes varies. Overall, the numbers of people needing debt help is as high as it's ever been! E.g., for the first 4 months of our financial year, (October to January) we opened 124 debt cases compared to 76 for the same period last year! It remains very tough out there.

On a very positive note, the IMA team continue addressing one of our primary objectives – that is to put 'Pounds in Pockets'. For example, when someone comes to us for emergency food etc., we will often see if there is any additional support such as government benefit help, utility help, broadband (this is called maximising the person's income).

For example – a 72-year-old lady called us for the first time ever in November, she needed an emergency food box. She told us that she needed to collect the food from St Mary's on the Friday because of mobility issues. However, it was Tuesday, but she had '2 tins of soup' to tie her over until then, so she said she could wait! No surprises, but we delivered food that afternoon!

An appointment was made for a week later for Ann from the IMA team to visit her at her home. An application was made for Attendance Allowance and just after Christmas she started to receive an additional £72 per week (i.e., that's a financial gain in our world of £3,744 p/a which is £72 x 52 weeks). She is a very happy lady and no longer needs to make calls to the foodbank!

In total, the amount of financial gain recovered for local people from October 2024 to the end of January amounts to £261,312 in benefits reclaimed alone!

Sadly, so many people are not claiming what they are entitled to, this includes Universal Credit through to Child Benefit even!

One more story: A couple who are of pensionable age, called us when they heard that the Winter Fuel Allowance (WFA) could only be claimed by those on Pension Credit. They called us at REACH to see if we could help. Helen, another from the IMA team visited, carried out the calculations only to discover that they did not qualify for Pension Credit – by just 75 pence! Undeterred, Helen made several enquiries and discovered that they were entitled to cheaper water, a council tax reduction and Attendance Allowance. By November last year, when they should have been expecting their WFA, they were now receiving a further £500 per month in unclaimed benefits!

It's fair to say, that this couple would never have contacted us, but as a couple that were 'just about managing' did make the call and discovered that there were a number of things that they were entitled too, but they, like many other people across our community, just didn't know about!

We have many more stories of families that together, we have helped and are so grateful to everyone for their support both in terms of prayer, food, finances and of course, volunteering hours! We really couldn't do this without the amazing support of the community.

Thank you

Henry Wilson

Henry.wilson@reachhaverhill.org.uk

- Supporting others at no cost to you!



If anyone is shopping in Tesco over the next few weeks, please consider putting your blue tokens in the Haverhill Scout and Guide HQ fundraiser. We are hoping to get some money to go towards finishing the new building. Many thanks, Abi, Stuart, Jack & all the leaders and young people!

- A new venture in our Church Hall



- 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/online banking, 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.

- Photowall

The Photowall has over 100 faces and names on it already – BUT – is your face among them? If not, you must have taken 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.

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

- Town Pastors

The Town Pastors are on the streets this Friday 21st February, 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.



- Advance Notice

On 27th & 28th March there will be Music Exams taking place in the Church, Vestry & Coffee Lounge These areas will be unavailable for access.

Friday 18th April 10am – Walk of Witness from OIC, Hamlet Road to Market Square. More details nearer the date

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 Friday 7 March

A service for everyone!

"I made you wonderful"

You are invited to the World Day of Prayer Service

in **ST FELIX CHURCH,**
PRINCESS WAY, HAVERHILL, CB9 9BP
on **FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025 – 4.00 P.M.**

followed by light refreshments.

*Please come and share in this global ecumenical service
written and produced by the women of the Cook Islands.*

*We would appreciate it if one or two members of your church
community would be willing to read in the service.*

*If so please send their contact details to Linda Pector at
linda.pector@gmail.com by February 24th so that we can send
the readings to give the readers time to prepare. Thank you.*

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*



RIVER OF LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH



MARCH 15TH, 2025



Guest speaker

DAVIS KUNIHIRA

Prayer Conference

**“My house shall be called a house
of prayer for all nations”.**

Isaiah 56:7



**WORSHIP BAND,
ARC SYDENHAM**



From 9:30-1 pm
Chalkstone Community Center
CB9 0JB

For more details please
contact:

henry.wilson@rolcc.org.uk



Haverhill
Singers

and



PRESENTS

Karl Jenkins'
extraordinary opus:

The ARMED MAN

A Mass For Peace

**St Mary's Church, High St,
Haverhill, CB9 8AX.**

22nd March 2025 @ 7pm



scan to book
on-line

Tickets on the door at £15*

Or book on-line

@www.haverhillsingers.org

Call: 07702 310044

or 07765 087424

***Accompanied children under 16 F.O.C.**

Welcome Spaces

A place where you can stop by to speak to our advice team

Open 2-4pm each weekday

Monday @ The Link

45A High St, Haverhill CB9 8AE

Tuesday @ West Suffolk College Building

Provincial House, 32 High St, Haverhill CB9 8AR

Wednesday @ Chalkstone Community Centre

Millfields Way, Haverhill CB9 0JB

Thursday @ Methodist Church Hall

28 Camps Rd, Haverhill CB9 8HF

Friday @ St

Mary's Church

High Street, Haverhill,
CB9 8AX



We can help with:

Council tax reductions

Additional financial help for pensioners

Highlighting unclaimed support

Options for those working or unemployed

Free childcare/other

support for parents

Utility reductions

Emergency food

SCAN ME



0800 009 6710

info@reachhaverhill.org.uk

ReachCP.org.uk/Welcomespaces

Registered Charity No 1169108



Community Projects

February		
21 st	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall – see poster
	8pm -12	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them
23 rd	10.30am	Preacher: Sarah Glasswell Flowers: Sandra & John Loader Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
25 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
26 th	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
27 th	2-4pm	Reach: Welcome Spaces in Church Hall
28 th	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall – see poster
March		
2 nd	10.30am	All Age Worship: Rev Moses John Flowers: Jill & Nick Wray Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
4 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
5 th	All day	Ash Wednesday – beginning of Lent
	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
6 th	2-4pm	Reach: Welcome Spaces in Church Hall
7 th	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall – see poster
	4pm	World Day of Prayer at St Felix Church – see poster
	8pm -12	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them
9 th	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John – Holy Communion First Sunday in Lent Flowers: Keith Barker Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
10 th	10.30am-12	Lent Study in Church
11 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
12 th	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
	7.30pm	Lent Study on Zoom
13 th	2-4pm	Reach: Welcome Spaces in Church Hall
14 th	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall – see poster
15 th	9.30am-1pm	Prayer Conference at River of Life Church – see poster
16 th	10.30am	Preacher: Gavin Payne - Lent 2 Flowers: Jo & Tom Seljame Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
17 th	10.30am-12	Lent Study in Church
18 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
19 th	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
	7.30pm	Lent Study on Zoom
20 th	2-4pm	Reach: Welcome Spaces in Church Hall
21 st	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall – see poster
22 nd	2pm	Induction of Chris Kemshell as pastor at OIC – see above
	7pm	Haverhill Singers present ‘The Armed Man’ – see poster

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