



Haverhill Methodist Church

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Connect Issue 83

Friday 26th November 2021

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Psalm 95:1-2

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 80 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.

The link is <https://haverhillchurchestogether.wordpress.com/prayer-requests/>

- Next Door

Next Door will be open for ½ an hour after each morning service in November to allow those who can't get there during normal opening hours (Tue/Wed/Fri 10-12.30) to browse & make purchases. Christmas stock is now available (cards, candles, small gifts etc). Please remember Next Door does not have the facility to take credit/debit cards. You can pay with cash or cheque – please come prepared!

- Online Retreat Day 27th November

An online retreat entitled 'Renewing Sabbath' will be held on 27th November, hosted by the Northampton Methodist District and led by Dr Roger Walton. Please see the attached poster for further details.

- Haverhill Prayer Walk Project

This Sunday 28th November in our morning service we will hear about a new prayer walk project starting in the New Year.

Bill Reynolds, a leader in the River Of Life Community Church, will come to our morning service to speak briefly about it.

You will have the opportunity after the service to speak to Bill in the church hall and he will be asking for volunteers to get involved.

- Advent Carol Service at St Mary's

An advent carol service will be held at St Mary's Church Haverhill on Sunday 28th November at 4pm. All are welcome.

- Advent Tree Of Remembrance

This Advent and Christmas, in addition to our church Christmas tree, a small illuminated cherry blossom tree will again appear in our church entrance.

This will become our prayer tree of remembrance for our loved ones who have died whom we remember and think about at Christmas.

You are invited to write their name and any message on the label provided and hang it from one of the tree branches.

The tree will be lit up during our Advent and Christmas services. We receive the glad tidings of comfort and joy this Christmas.

- Funeral

Funeral for Mr John Steer of Haverhill will be held in our church on Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 1.30pm.

- Toy Service Sunday 5th December 10.30am

Once again you are invited to purchase new toys, which may be sourced in local supermarkets or online, to be given as gifts from our church to local families in need this Christmas.

They are to be brought to church at our morning service on Sunday 5th December please. Our town mayor Liz Smith and her husband will be in attendance.

Please note that **all toys must be brand new and unwrapped** (Social Services instructions) and it would be good if we can cover all ages, from babies to 18 year olds, so that all children in a family are able to be given a gift. We thank Kay Smith for her help in arranging this once again. We pray that many local families in need

will be reached and blessed this Christmas. Thank you all for your generosity.

- Beetle Drive and Pudding Evening

Saturday 11th December from 5.00pm in the Hall.

We will be holding a Pudding Evening, and invite you to bring along a pudding to share, either homemade or bought. If bringing along a bought one, could you please make sure it is already cooked, we will be able to warm it up in Microwave or Oven, but would prefer not to have to cook it on the evening.

We will also be playing a game of Beetle during the evening. All ages and abilities are welcome. Come along and enjoy a social evening, and enjoy sharing time together.

There is a list at the back of the church for you to put your name on and how many of you intend coming and what pudding you intend bringing. Further information from Janet or Mick.

- Big Christmas Card

There will again be a 'Big Christmas Card' available in the Church foyer during December, for everyone to write their messages to the fellowship. Donations from the money saved by not sending individual cards will be given to the REACH Winter Crisis fund.

- Christmas Events

This Christmas, for the first time, we are delighted to be working with all the churches of Haverhill, in creating 2 new community events that are ambitious and hopefully far-reaching. We hope that both become much-loved and much-anticipated events in years to come!

Dec 3rd in the evening

The first event takes place during the late-night Christmas shopping evening on December 3rd. Haverhill Silver Band is combining with Haverhill Singers and St Mary's choir and will be singing from several locations in the High St and Queen St. I hope that people feel enthralled by the familiar carols; we want to inspire the community of Haverhill to join in en-masse!

So I need your help! No surprise I'm sure!

Firstly, please come and lend your voices to the songs. The more singers that we have, the more of a joyful occasion we create. We need volume and enthusiasm!

Secondly I need a lot of people to be there as volunteers as the choir moves through town, to hand out carol sheets. These sheets are doubly-important because they will have details of the Christmas church services. Please tell me if you can commit for some if not all of the evening?

December 4th at 12noon

The 2nd event is an Outdoor Nativity and Carols parade beginning here at 12 noon at Haverhill Methodist Church, we travel through time as we take part in the Christmas story. We have both a real donkey and Geoffery the camel who is making an appearance on loan from Centre Stage! We begin the story inside our church then we all leave to process down Camps Rd to the Drabbet, where it is very likely there will be no room at the inn!! The nativity story will conclude at a specially designed stable outside St Mary's Church.

We would love children to come in fancy dress and there will be prizes for the best angels, animals, shepherds and wise women and men! If any adults want to dress up, even better! There will be plenty of photo opportunities at our nativity stable.

The nativity story will conclude inside St Mary's Church and refreshments will be provided.

Will you please lend your support, ideally by coming along bringing your whole family, maybe encouraging your neighbours and friends? These are 2 really big and to be honest, quite experimental events and they succeed or fail by the number of people who join in! All the schools will be communicated with and there will be advertising in the paper, on social media and (hot off the press!) we are being interviewed on BBC Radio Suffolk on Sunday 28th !

These plans are still evolving so please read about us in Connect in the next couple of weeks, changes may need to be made.

So please talk to me? In person or on my mobile 07875 749441. If you can help on Friday evening that would be amazing !

God bless!

Cham – Lay Pioneer

- Church Membership

If you would be interested in exploring Church Membership, please speak to our minister Peter and he would be pleased to have a conversation with you.

- Request for help - update

Ken Nicholls and his wife Heather have found a place in Linton to rent before their move to Haverhill.

We look forward to welcoming Ken & Heather to our church in the future and we give thanks for God's provision.

- Prayer Diary for December & January

Apart from the Sunday services here are some other dates to pray for:-

December

3rd Late night shopping in the town with a Carol Sing Along. The Town Pastors will be on patrol. Please pray for them.

4th Outdoor Nativity & Carols starting at Haverhill Methodist Church & finishing at St. Mary's

5th Toy service followed by "Bring 'n' Share" lunch

11th Beetle Drive and Pudding Evening

12th Preacher – Chairman of the District – Julian Pursehouse

12th Family Carol service

24th Christmas Eve Holy Communion

25th Christmas Day Family Service

January 2022

2nd Bring 'n' Share Lunch

20th Church/Circuit Meeting

Extra Prayer Topics

Peter, Jo and family - Pray for Peter as he continues to lead us through this time of considerable change and uncertainty. Pray he will be guided by the Lord to bring us hope and to deepen our faith. Give thanks for the support he receives from Jo and ask the Lord to bless them as a family.

Church & Circuit Steward & Local Preachers Pray for those who support Peter in the practical and spiritual running of this Church

especially in this challenging time of change. Pray for those bringing the Word of God to us each Sunday that we may all be blessed and our faith will deepen. Pray for the need for an extra Circuit Steward.

Volunteers needed – There are many areas of church life where volunteers are needed:-

Next Door – to assist in café

Lantern – helpers needed

Sunday Club – more leaders needed

Illuminate – Illuminate has new members. Ages range from 11-18 years. More leaders needed so that this group can be split into smaller age groups. Also God's guidance is needed to know how to meet the needs of the 16+ group.

Coffee rota – to assist making coffee after morning worship

Town Pastors – More pastors and prayers are still required.

Open mind- Give thanks for those who have offered to be helpers. Open Mind meets each Wednesday from 10am -12noon

Reach – Volunteers needed to assist in various aspects of this work. Give thanks for recent funding promised. Pray the staff will not be overwhelmed as the workload increases and that the right staff will be found to fill new posts.

Please pray for the right people to come forward to fill each of these positions.

Revival - Pray for the Lord's visitation upon this Church in power as He has promised.

Our Fellowship - Pray for those in our fellowship who are going through difficult times. Pray the Lord will meet them at their point of need. Pray for peace and healing.

- Info needed

Please let me know when your meetings of various types are pausing for Christmas and when they are due to restart, so I can get the right information in the 'Dates to Remember'.

Thanks, Kathy (kathy.cohen@btinternet.com 01440 762536)



CAROL SING-A-LONG

*Come along, join in and
get that Christmassy feeling!*

**Late Night Shopping
Friday 3rd December**

6.00 - 6:15 pm outside the old NatWest bank

6.30 - 6.45 pm outside Saffron Insurance

7:00 - 7:15 from Queen's Square

**FEATURING
HAVERHILL SILVER BAND & THE COMBINED
CHOIRS OF ALL THE LOCAL CHURCHES
AND COMMUNITY CHOIRS**



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT
CHURCHES TOGETHER

Supported by Haverhill Town Council

Haverhill & District Churches Together

Mail

EST VERITAS IN EVANGELIO

Saturday, Lunchtime, 1 BC

1 Shekel

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Exclusive Interview
With the Wise Men, Page 6

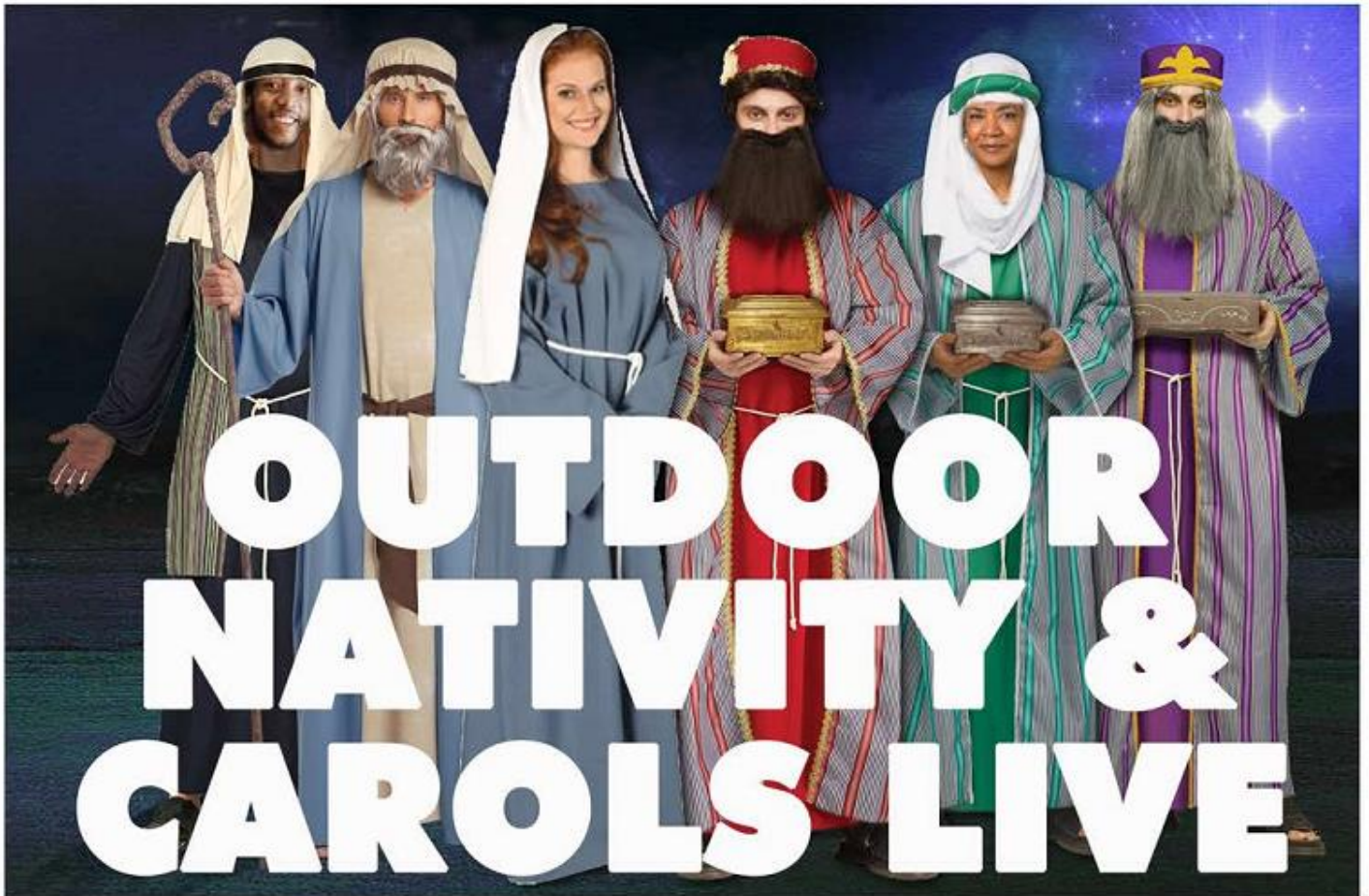
Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh
Full Reviews on Page 10

Breaking News
The Star of Bethlehem Spotted. Page 2

The Shepherd Supplement
For all your herding news.

BABY BORN TO SAVE THE WORLD!

**PRIZES GIVEN FOR KIDS FANCY DRESS
(SHEPHERDS, WISE MEN/WOMEN, ANGELS, & ANIMALS)**



OUTDOOR NATIVITY & CAROLS LIVE

Starting at Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road, CB9 8HF
12 Noon, SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER
finishing at St Mary's Church, Market Square, Haverhill

Christmas Carol Concert

come and sing your favourites!

**Thursday 16th December at 7pm at St Mary's Church,
High Street, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8AX.**

Also being broadcast live online, so if you can't be there in person,
sing along at home!

Find out more at www.stmaryshaverhill.org.uk/reachcarols.

We'll also hear how the lives of local families in need have been changed through local charity REACH Community Projects and their supporters and volunteers, with an opportunity to give to their Christmas appeal (or you can give at www.reachhaverhill.org.uk/christmas).

