

# GOD LOVES YOU!



## Haverhill Methodist Church

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**Connect Issue 187**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

*Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.*

*1 Chronicles 16:8*

**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.

- Midnight Holy Communion on 24<sup>th</sup> December

There will not be a Midnight Holy Communion service at our church on Christmas Eve but we are invited to join the congregation of St Mary's at 11.30pm.

- Christmas Day service – 10am

Request from Ken:

Please wear your Christmas jumpers (or Christmas hat/scarf so we can have a Parade of the Christmas Jumpers as we sing our first hymn.

Also, don't forget to bring a present to open all together during the service.

- Young at Heart Christmas break

This group will not meet on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, 27<sup>th</sup> Dec & 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, We'll be back on 10<sup>th</sup> January, so if you haven't tried us, make it a New Year resolution to pop in!

- Open Mind Christmas break

We will only be closed on 27<sup>th</sup> December. Open 20<sup>th</sup> Dec and then 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

- Bring & Share Lunch

It has been decided that for the time being Bring & Share lunch will take place once every 2 months. Therefore the next lunch will be Sunday 7th January.

Thanks  
Susan

- Ladies Meal 2024 - Friday 26th January

At the Red Lion at Wrating, **7.00 for 7.30pm**. Menu and sign-up sheet in the foyer. If you are intending to come would you please let me know by **13<sup>th</sup> December**. Cost will be: 2 courses £16.95 or 3 courses £22.95. I will need a £10 deposit please.

Janet

- After Service Refreshments

I will be producing a new rota to begin in January 2024. If you would be willing to be included, please let me know in the next couple of weeks.

We all enjoy this time of fellowship after the service and the more people willing to take a turn means that the duty does not come around so frequently for everyone.

Also, on Christmas Eve we have no-one on the list at present. I will be available but could use some help please.

Many thanks,  
Joyce Rinaldi

Email: [davidandjoyce@live.com](mailto:davidandjoyce@live.com)

- Message from a friend

As some of you will know, Heather Trocey (Darvill) has moved away from Haverhill but is still in touch. She has sent us a Christmas message:

*Here's hoping that your Christmas is a time set apart,  
A time that's filled with happiness and sunshine in your heart.  
And may the warmth and love you give return to you all year  
to brighten days in many ways and fill your life with cheer.*

Heather 07938 019921

- House Groups

There are 4 possible House Groups.

Two are now filled but there are spaces with:

- David and Ann Frost 3.30pm on 7<sup>th</sup> December and thereafter on the first Thursday each month at 3.30pm – room for one more person;
- Dot and Tom at 2.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.

Please see me on a Sunday to sign up for a group.

These Groups are a very good way to really get to know people and to study the Bible in greater depth. I very much recommend them.  
Heather

- Call for 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle to remain unlit for peace

To remember all those who have died in the Israel/Palestine conflict, Methodist churches across the country are being called upon to leave their second Advent candle unlit this year.

The call not to light the candle, which represents peace, on the second Sunday in Advent (10 December) and on subsequent Sundays, follows the news that celebrations to mark Christmas in the Holy Land will be subdued this year.

The Revd David Hardman, Methodist Liaison Officer, Jerusalem, is currently fulfilling his role from the UK and remains in touch with those living in the Middle East. David explained, "Our Christian colleagues in Bethlehem tell us that this Advent and Christmas the lights that normally adorn the birth place of Jesus will remain unlit in memory of those who have been killed in the current conflict. We are inviting Methodist churches in Britain to leave the second candle of

Advent unlit to serve as a reminder that we stand in solidarity with all who are suffering in the Holy Land."

Churches who participate are invited to take a photo of their Advent Ring on Christmas Day with the second candle unlit to be shared with local church communities in the Holy Land.

- Getting to know you!

I am still trying to build a photo wall for the church hallway. *Please* send me a head & shoulders 'selfie' for this purpose – couples, one photo of both of you together

Children are not included in these photos for safeguarding reasons and they do NOT go online.

If you're no good at 'selfies', speak to me and we can arrange to take your picture on a Sunday morning. Again, if you are not comfortable with this, just let us know, no problem.

So that my personal inbox is not swamped, please send photos to [haverhillmethodist.info@gmail.com](mailto:haverhillmethodist.info@gmail.com)

Many thanks,  
Kathy

- EDI Training

The Methodist Church is committed to justice, dignity and solidarity. A new online Methodist training programme on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) is now available and open to all. The 2021 Methodist *Conference agreed that this EDI training would be mandatory for those holding certain key roles in the church, including ministers, local preachers, safeguarding officers, circuit stewards, church stewards and pioneers. Those expected to complete the training are required to do this before December 31st 2023.* More information, including how to register for the training can be found on the Methodist Church website. Here is the direct link <https://mcb.theologyx.com/course/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-foundation-module/>

For those who are undertaking EDI training, please note that Jacqueline Stewart has agreed to keep a local record of those in our church who have completed this training.

It will be necessary to give Jacqueline a printed copy of the certificate of completion which is issued at the end of the online EDI training. Thank you.

- Book of remembrance

On the church communion table is a book of remembrance of loved ones who have died.

The book is a yearly diary.

The names of loved ones are recorded on the relevant page, along with the year of their death.

Each Sunday, the book is opened to show the current day's date.

If you would like a name or names recorded in the book of remembrance please write down the name/s and date/s and give them to Jacqueline. Thank you.

Please Note:

There will not be an issue of Connect between Christmas & New Year. The last edition for 2023 will be NEXT WEEK 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

*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>		
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Vivien Sargeant – Christingle service, you will have the opportunity to create your own Christingle. Church Christmas Flowers Prayer time from 10am in the coffee lounge
	<b>5pm</b>	Family Carol Service led by Sarah Glasswell & Sunday Club All welcome, children encouraged to come dressed as shepherds/angels/wise men etc.
19 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Next Door (or in your own home)
20 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Sarah Glasswell Church Christmas Flowers Prayer time from 9.30am in the coffee lounge
25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.00am</b>	Christmas Day Celebration: Rev Ken Nicholls
31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Steve Norris Church Christmas Flowers Prayer time from 10am in the coffee lounge
<b>January</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Next Door (or in your own home)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Charmaine Slade – All Age Worship Prayer time from 10am in the coffee lounge
9 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Next Door (or in your own home)
10 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Ken Nicholls Prayer time from 10am in the coffee lounge
16 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Next Door (or in your own home)
17 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Revd Andy Burrows – Covenant Service with Holy Communion Prayer time from 10am in the coffee lounge
23 <sup>rd</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Next Door (or in your own home)
24 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Ian Levett Prayer time from 10am in the coffee lounge