

# GOD LOVES YOU!



## Haverhill Methodist Church

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**Connect Issue 253**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

*Psalm 119:105*

**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 200 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.

- [Messy Church – could you be involved?](#)

Our Easter Messy Church event is on Sunday 13th April, 4-6pm and we could really do with a bit more help! There are many ways you could be involved. If you haven't given it a try before, you would be most welcome! In particular, we could do with some more help in the kitchen this time. Please contact Claire if you would like to help. [Claire@evans-mail.co.uk](mailto:Claire@evans-mail.co.uk)

We are also in need of foil containers (round/square/rectangular), decorative pebbles and yoghurt pots to help us create some Easter gardens. Please pass on to any of the Sunday Club team.

Thank you! Claire

# Come and join our EASTER PARTY!

Free Easter event for all the family.  
Fun, games, arts and crafts, food!

Haverhill Methodist Church Hall  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 4.00-6.00pm

All children must be accompanied by an adult.  
Activities are mainly aimed at Primary age.

For more information or to book email:  
[HMCmessychurch@gmail.com](mailto:HMCmessychurch@gmail.com)



Please include any  
dietary requirements

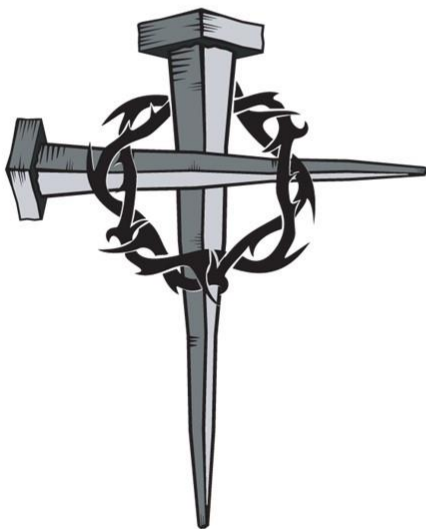


- Young at Heart

Young at Heart will be closed on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April.



*Working to express the Christian Gospel in word and action*



## Good Friday Walk of Witness

Good Friday ~ 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025

10am @ West End Church service

10.20am Walk of Witness

10.40am Worship on Market Square

11.15am Refreshments in St Mary's

(including hot cross buns!)

- Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday Breakfast will be served at 9am. We will be serving sausage and bacon rolls, fruit juices, tea and coffee. There is a sign up sheet in the front foyer for you to confirm your attendance. Please also note on the sheet any dietary requirements.

**At the moment we only have 16 people signed up for breakfast. *This Sunday is the last day to sign up.* Don't miss out, sign up straight away. If you prefer you can email me on [susanmarren568@gmail.com](mailto:susanmarren568@gmail.com).**

Thanks

Susan

- Funeral of Mollie LeRoy

Mollie's funeral will take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 12.30pm, here in church. All welcome!

- Food, Glorious Food!

We will be holding an "International Food Evening" on Saturday 14th June 2025.

Bring, share and experience a variety of food that represents and celebrates the various cultures that make up our amazing family of Haverhill Methodist Church.

So pop the date in your diary for this wonderful event. More details will be given in due course.

Susan Marren

- Car Park

To help relieve congestion in the church car park on Sunday mornings we have been given kind permission by the Haverhill Family Practice doctors' surgery and pharmacy to use their rear car park. This is located just down Camps Road from the church (NOT the one across the road).

Please take care and be considerate to other users, from the Baptist Church and Haverhill Pharmacy, or else this kind privilege could be withdrawn.

*Parking at any time other than Sunday mornings is prohibited.*

- Thanks

Dear Friends of Haverhill Methodist Church

Many thanks for your cheque for £100.00 for our general fund.

We will ensure this is passed on and suitable gifts bought.

Thank you for your continued support, we do appreciate this very much.

Every Blessing

Sandie Ross

Sponsorship Coordinator

Adopt-A-Child



Dear David

Re: Methodist Church East Anglia District Benevolent Fund

I am writing to acknowledge with thanks the donation of £100.00 for the above-named Fund, received from Haverhill Methodist Church on Wednesday.

For each of the past three years the amount of the grants made from the Fund have exceeded the level of the donations received, so please would you pass on my thanks to your Church Council for their generous support of the DBF. Your donation will enable the District Chair to continue to respond with financial support in situations where assistance is sorely needed and which is so very much appreciated.

Kind regards.

Paul R Hornsby

District Benevolent Fund Treasurer

- Lost Property

Our cleaner, Julie, found an earring in the front entrance when she was cleaning on Monday (see photo). If it is yours, please speak to a steward to claim it back.



- From Charmaine

As part of our Worship Leaders & Preachers training I was asked to write a newsletter about prayer, based on the content of the learning acquired in Module 3.1. I chose to write about when prayer isn't answered !

Our tutor Wendy Allen has signed it off as complete and she suggested I send it in for possibly including in Connect. My current church doesn't run a newsletter unfortunately.

It's attached at the end of this edition of Connect.

Every blessing !  
Charmaine

- 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.

- Town Pastors

The Town Pastors will be on the streets on Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April, from 8pm to midnight (as well as marshalling the Walk of Witness in the morning!). 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.

- Haverhill & District Churches Together News and Events

- Walk of Witness, Good Friday, starting from OIC @10am
- Dates of Haverhill Praise at West End Congregational Church, all at 4pm:

May 11<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, Sep 28<sup>th</sup>, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

- Charmaine's Article

"When all you hear is an echo"

How does one ever write an article about prayer with any authenticity when countless notable authors have written learned essays over the centuries, when every Christian has a different view themselves? I can only offer you my own thoughts and hope that they are helpful, based on my own experience.

I'm certain that many of us have, at times, experienced times when it feels like God hasn't heard our prayers at all, the silence has gone on for too long and we, maybe, have begun to doubt. Doubt our ability, our capacity to continue praying, maybe to even doubt that God is listening at all. It's very common and maybe we don't talk about it enough?

There are many people in the Bible who experienced these feelings. Think about Job 30:20

*"I cry out to you, God, but you do not answer; I stand up, but you merely look at me."*

In Mathew 26: 39 Jesus Christ himself knew what it felt like more than anyone when he himself prayed that his father would spare him from crucifixion

*"Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'"*

Whether you are aware of the presence of God at any given time does not matter. God is there, whatever your feelings, just as Jesus knew God was there even when He felt abandoned on the cross. What total confidence in the Father's love; to feel abandoned and yet stay content before Him, saying, 'Father, into your hands ...'

As believers ,prayer is one of the most sacred and vital elements of our relationship with God. It is our direct connection with him when we speak to him, express our needs, seek guidance and offer our gratitude, but sometimes it seems like God is silent. We are encouraged through scripture to ask, seek and knock, with the promise that God hears us and answers our prayers. However, what happens when our prayers seem to go unanswered? It can be a deeply unsettling experience that raises questions, doubts and even frustration.

I recently read a book by Pete Grieg called "God on Mute" which touched me deeply. Pete describes himself as "the bewildered founder of the 24-7 Prayer movement, an author of 9 books and the co-host of Lectio365 daily

devotional.”. In this book Pete addresses this dilemma and points us to a deeper understanding of prayer in the midst of unanswered prayers and suffering. He was moved to write it when his wife had a brain tumour and was not expected to survive.

He writes, “The silence of God is the hardest thing to endure, especially when we are desperate. But the silence is not the absence of God, it’s the beginning of a deeper conversation.” This profound insight can demonstrate that when we hit the wall of silence, God is definitely still there, drawing us into a more intense relationship, inviting us to trust him even more when we don’t see the answers we desire.

Pete suggests that we reframe our understanding of unanswered prayer. We can instead lean in to God and trust him even more, knowing that prayer isn’t just about getting the answers we are praying for but, instead, aligning more with God’s purpose, his heart. He says “Prayer is not about getting answers, it’s about growing in love.”

So, let’s look for a minute at what relationship we have with God. In “When The Well Runs Dry; Prayer Beyond The Beginnings” written by Thomas Green , the author describes how our journey of faith and prayer usually develops through 3 key stages. He suggests they can be thought of very much in human terms as we journey through the very human relationship of love.

Firstly it begins with the “falling in love” with God. We feel overwhelmed with a dopamine rush much as when we first fall in love with another person. It’s passionate, intense and overwhelming, but not ultimately sustainable but it is in this stage we learn more about Him and start to put in place a rhythm of prayer life. The next stage occurs when we begin to respond to Him using our heads rather than just our hearts and our prayers become less abstract, more with intention. We are getting to know the Lord more deeply, profoundly which helps us to grow and mature. We become able to love God because we understand more about him. We begin to see that prayer helps us to nourish our relationship with God, much as when we water our gardens the flowers grow.

But what happens when the water runs dry? As it does in periods of our lives. What are we to make of that? Perhaps we feel there is no response to our prayers, no sense of His presence? Although they call it by different names, using different metaphors – the dry well of Teresa of Avila, the dark night of John of the Cross, all the great masters of prayer whom we quote recognize that the time will come when our intellects, our imaginations, our feelings dry up and cease to be of help. It seems then that we have lost God.

Yet it is here that we can really find him. Once we let go of any preconceived ideas of Him that we constrain Him with, our mere-human abilities to imagine Him, to picture Him (the God who is beyond human comprehension!) then we can truly find Him.

Think of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:9-12 who found God not in the storm or the earthquake but in the gentle whisper. He wasn't expecting that ! It is entirely normal for people of faith to go through periods when it feels like the water runs dry, but what if it carries on and we begin to despair? This can be an awful time but what if we think about it this way? Could it be that our God, the master potter, is moulding us into something better, refining us into something new? Should we, instead of being in despair, learn to let go and let God? Where is this period of darkness leading us to??

Green suggests that this dark period can lead us into a third phase which he describes as "floating". He suggests that we should now let go of the steering wheel, give up trying to steer the ship, after all, what do we know? And start to float, allowing God to steer and take us where he needs us to go. It isn't easy to give up control is it? It is human nature after all. Yet it is only when we do it can we honestly say not my will but yours?

Unanswered prayers are no fun yet remember you are not alone. Many of us have known what it feels like and have lived through it. And there are no easy answers, they all require us to double-down and trust God even when it threatens to break us. I have howled on the floor and cried in despair "Why me?". Yet I am here and writing this newsletter.

Do not feel ashamed or lonely, speak to someone within your church family about it. Speak to the minister and ask for support.

Don't stop praying but remember to dedicate times of silence to God. He can't speak if you spend all the time talking! Having said that, silence is a difficult discipline that requires a lot of practice so it's helpful to practice.

Praying doesn't just mean the spoken word, there are many other ways to pray! Consider, drawing and painting, sewing, making anything, singing, appreciating art and music, gardening, walking in nature, the list is long! Try to find a rhythm of prayer that works for you but don't beat yourself up about it. Not everyone's life is regimented so finding a routine might be difficult but do try to find something that works for you.

Consider incorporating passages from the Bible into your prayers. This can help you to shape a conversation with Him



Consider joining a prayer group. There are several at HMC but there are quite a few online and you may prefer that to hear different perspectives.

Maybe keep a prayer journal. Sometimes it helps you to see patterns emerging, ways in which God is working in your life, especially if your thoughts are muddled or conflicted.

And remember, God's timing is not the same as ours. In the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, in a culture where we are used to everything having an immediate answer and we expect God to respond in similar ways, remember ;

<sup>8</sup> *'For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,'  
declares the LORD.*

<sup>9</sup> *'As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*Isaiah 55*

God's plan is always perfect and His timing is always right. He may be answering you in a way you don't expect, it may well be because the timing isn't right or there is something better planned for you. This may look very different from what we actually pray for. Trust in His absolute sovereignty, He is in control of every single aspect of our lives, remember that He is working all things together for our good, even if we can't see it in the moment.

Don't give up praying! Especially when it feels like He isn't responding. This will teach us the rare skill of perseverance. Think of the parable of the persistent widow, where she keeps asking a judge for justice. Despite initially refusing he eventually grants her request because of her persistence. Jesus is teaching us to always pray and never give up!

Check that we are praying for the right thing. Is our prayer consistent with what Jesus would have prayed for? Is it kind, just and respectful? Appropriate? Or are we basically presenting God with a shopping list of our desires, which aren't reasonable.

To finish I would like to offer one more quote from "God On Mute" this time written by Sammy Grieg, wife of Pete. *"I don't always understand God's ways in my life, But I'm absolutely certain He can be trusted!"* This from the woman who was having multiple seizures daily, with 2 toddlers, and not expected to survive brain surgery, this is humbling, powerful and so helpful! Amen!

information for publication in Connect, or on the Sunday Morning Scroll may be emailed to: [kathy.cohen@btinternet.com](mailto:kathy.cohen@btinternet.com)

# 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](mailto:info@reachhaverhill.org.uk)

[ReachCP.org.uk/Welcomespaces](http://ReachCP.org.uk/Welcomespaces)

Registered Charity No 1169108

**Reach**  
Community Projects

# Downs Baptist Chapel Haverhill

[downsbaptisthaverhill.org.uk](http://downsbaptisthaverhill.org.uk)

Service of Thanksgiving to the Lord  
for 1975-2025 pastoral oversight

God willing on  
Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>  
at 2.30pm

when  
Mr Peter Chapman  
(Baldock Baptist Church)  
will lead worship

There will be refreshments afterwards  
in the Garden Annexe

Offerings of the day for the Salisbury Reformed Seminary

**A warm welcome awaits you**

Would appreciate a call to Daphne  
on 07570 101104 if you are thinking  
of coming as it will be helpful for catering!

- Dates for your Diary

<b>April</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Sarah Glasswell – Palm Sunday Flowers: Liz Garwood Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
15 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
16 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
17 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Reach: Welcome Spaces in Church Hall
	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion - Moses & David Frost
18 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Good Friday Walk of Witness from OIC to Market Square
	8pm - midnight	Town Pastors on patrol, please pray for them & the town
20 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Easter Morning Holy Communion - Moses
	9am	Easter Breakfast – all welcome, don't forget to sign up
	10.30am	Easter Sunday Celebration Service – Moses If possible bring a few flowers to transform the Lent Cross Church Easter Flowers Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
	12.30pm	Funeral of Mollie LeRoy in Church
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
24 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Reach: Welcome Spaces in Church Hall
25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall
27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Henry Wilson Church Easter Flowers Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
29 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
30 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
<b>May</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	2-4pm	Reach: Welcome Spaces in Church Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall
4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	All Age Worship: Sarah Glasswell Flowers: Linda & Ron Walker Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge
6 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
7 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
8 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Reach: Welcome Spaces in Church Hall
9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall
11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Helen Hollands – District Chair Flowers: Gill Wadeson Prayer time from 10am in the Coffee Lounge

\* If you would like to join the Flower Rota, please contact Sue Symonds  
01440 763613 or [harrys62@sky.com](mailto:harrys62@sky.com)