

# GOD LOVES YOU!



## Haverhill Methodist Church

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**Connect Issue 257**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*Psalms 121: 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](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.

- **This Sunday**

Sadly, our Chair of District, Helen Hollands, will not be able to join us this Sunday as planned. Both of her parents are currently in hospital in North Wales, and her dad is now in end-of-life care. Please pray for Helen, her dad and all the family at this difficult time.

- **40 days of prayer for Haverhill at HMC**

From 30<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> June (Pentecost) the church will be open between 11am and 12 noon for people to come and pray for Haverhill.

Please sign up for a time slot on the sheets provided in church – multiple people per slot are



encouraged! If you can't get to church to sign up, please email [haverhillmethodist.info@gmail.com](mailto:haverhillmethodist.info@gmail.com) with your chosen date/s, to be added to the list.

- Electrician in Church

There will be an electrician in the hall and the church on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May and in the church for the rest of the week. Please do not enter these areas.

- 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.***

- 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 tonight, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 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.

- Haverhill & District Churches Together News and Events

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>

- The Torch Trust – Christian sight loss charity

The Torch Trust exists to help those with sight loss at any level to have a fulfilling Christian life. They offer a bespoke service helping you to find the right Bible, Bible reading notes, Christian book for leisure or study or the right Torch community event. They also produce a regular newsletter.

You can find out more at [www.torchtrust.org.uk](http://www.torchtrust.org.uk) or [www.sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk](http://www.sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk), email them at [info@torchtrust.org](mailto:info@torchtrust.org) or call them on 01858 438260.

You can also speak to Rev Ken Nicholls for more information.

- Lent Course Book Review: Communities of Hope

Like many folk, I wanted to make the time of Lent with its preparations for Easter something different for me. I chose to work through a lent Course for 1998. The book's title is Communities of Hope and certainly there are many people who are marginalised, feeling omitted from society. They may be poor, ill, in a war situation or handicapped in some way. All feeling they have nothing to contribute and they have no hope for the future that this will change.

In 'Communities of Hope there are 5 sessions, each featuring a well-known person and these are followed by questions to stimulate discussion.

The 5 are:

- Robin Eames as Anglican Bishop of Belfast was involved in reconciling groups and bringing a sense of hope where there had been none, for example in the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland.
- Jean Vanier – Founder of L'Arche communities which accepted anyone and everyone who was marginalised and excluded. Everyone was encouraged to make full use of the talents they had and which others often despised and rejected
- Kathy Galloway from the Iona Community which rejoices in finding new ways of seeing and struggles to make sense of new ways of worshipping and being God's people, essentially breaking down the barriers between the material and the spiritual
- Jim Thompson – Anglican bishop of Bath and Wells has not been afraid to face the hard and challenging questions of faith but this must be undertaken honestly and openly by a community
- Dame Cicely Saunders – founder of the hospice movement. After a time as nurse Dame Cicely wanted to give value and worth to the dying and to emphasise that every moment of one's life is of great worth and significance.

All 5 of these people were in situations where there appeared to be no hope but each set about creating an atmosphere of hope and worth to individuals who might otherwise be discarded and rejected.

Each of the 5, in their own way was inspiring and had a challenging story to tell and the word that keeps recurring is 'hope.' Each shows how the creation of communities that accept and support bring hope to those that society pushes to the margins. They encourage us to consider our own context in an attempt to find a way to be a community of believers who bring hope and purpose to all, especially those who have long been discarded and unwanted.

I shall be happy to lend my copy to anyone who would like to read it.

Rev Ken Nicholls

- Prayer of Sir Francis Drake

Some weeks ago I attended the Thanksgiving Service for the Town Mayor, David Smith, at St Felix Church. This prayer was part of the liturgy and it stayed with me. Kathy Cohen

Disturb us, Lord, when  
we are too well pleased with ourselves,  
when our dreams have come true  
because we have dreamed too little,  
when we arrive safely

because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when  
with the abundance of things we possess  
we have lost our thirst  
for the waters of life;  
having fallen in love with life,  
we have ceased to dream of eternity  
and in our efforts to build a new earth,  
we have allowed our vision  
of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly.  
to venture on wider seas  
where storms will show your mastery;  
where losing sight of land,  
we shall find the stars.  
We ask You to push back  
the horizons of our hopes;  
and to push into the future  
in strength, courage, hope and love.  
Amen

- A letter from our Church Treasurer

At our recent General Church meeting, it was encouraging to see how many people attended and heard what God has been doing in our church's life, especially as we consistently have new people joining our congregation. Glory to God! I can't wait to see what God has in store for our church in the future.

Although the church has been growing rapidly, this growth comes with a bit of responsibility for all of us because the needs also get bigger. Obviously, we would rather be in this situation than the other way around. This is great news, as the needs arise, it becomes our responsibility to support our local church financially.

In the Bible, there are many things that challenge our daily lives, which sometimes we do without paying too much attention; But Jesus paid more attention to one particular issue: money. More than half of Jesus' parables are about money and possessions. On many occasions, Jesus challenged the people on how to use the God-given resources wisely, and they should be shared among his people. People found it hard to accept the teachings even in Jesus' days because this is a very sensitive and difficult issue to deal with. But it is a necessary issue that all Christians have to address.

In Matthew 6:21, it says, 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'- Jesus revealed the truth by saying, "What a person values most is where their heart is at." So, the question is, is our heart in the right place? If not, what is meant for a blessing can become a stumbling block to our real blessing! For this reason, Paul also warns us by saying money can be 'the root of all evil' (1 Timothy 6:10).

That is why God taught us the spiritual discipline of giving a Tithe: 10 per cent of our income. According to Deuteronomy 14:23, the purpose of tithing is to teach us to always put God first in our lives and give what rightfully belongs to Him. In that way, we are not only sharing God's goodness with others but also honouring God by recognising that all the blessings we have are from God bestowed upon us by His grace (James 1:17).

Our generous giving reflects our love for God in action and also shapes our worship of our generous God. We don't give out of obligation, but as God blesses the cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). We only give what God has already placed in our hearts. Obviously, we are NOT asking for more than you can afford. This will not only not be good for the church; more importantly, it wouldn't be pleasing to God either.

We, as a church, strive to be fully transparent. We have a good property and finance team that makes decisions on how we spend money, and their accountability is open for every church member to see.

As I mentioned in our recent general church meeting back in March, our current situation is that we have a minister of our own, which is not common for Methodist churches around the UK. Although this is a great thing for our church, where we can have our own minister, it also increases our costs, including housing and other expenses. Currently, we are facing a shortfall of £1250.00 per month.

Although it may sound significant, if every church member increases their giving by at least £10 per month, we can resolve this issue. We are very grateful for those who are already tithing and for some who are giving more than 10%. May God bless you and your heart for God's kingdom.

### How can I give?

The best way to support is by setting up a standing order, which allows us to know how much is coming each month and makes it possible to plan the church's mission accordingly.

You can also help without increasing your current giving: if you already have a standing order and pay tax to the Inland Revenue, you can sign the Gift Aid declaration, which will boost your donation by 25%. The Gift Aid Declaration form can be requested from any steward, David Rinaldi (Treasurer), or David Frost. If you have any queries regarding this request or need further details, please speak to me or David Frost. We would be

more than happy to assist you. If you wish to set up a Standing order the bank details are

Account Name; Haverhill Methodist Church  
Account number: 00060578  
Sort Code: 30-93-99

God bless you.

Yours in Christ's service,  
David Rinaldi (Treasurer)

*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

May		
9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall
	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
10 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John Prayer time 10am in Coffee Lounge      Flowers: G Wadeson
12 <sup>th</sup>	All week	Electrician in church and hall (Monday only) – do not enter
	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
13 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
14 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
15 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
	2-4pm	Reach: Welcome Spaces in Church Hall
16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall
	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
17 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John – Holy Communion Prayer time 10am in Coffee Lounge      Flowers: Hilary Curtis
19 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
20 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
21 <sup>st</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
	7.30pm	Property Meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30-11.30am	Little Tots Baby & Toddler group in Church Hall
	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
24 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John Prayer time 10am in Coffee Lounge Flowers: Bryan and Jenny Ellicott
26 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
27 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
28 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
	7.30pm	Property Meeting
29 <sup>th</sup>	11am - 12	40 days of Prayer for Haverhill in church

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