

GOD LOVES YOU!



Haverhill Methodist Church

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Connect Issue 311

Friday 29th May 2026

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
- Psalm 139:23-24

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 200 people).

Prayer Ministry: This is available after the morning service each Sunday. Please approach someone wearing a lanyard.

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.

- An Encouraging Poem

I found this on social media and wanted to share with you – Janet Etheridge

God's Plans Are Greater Than You Know

I had plans once, neat and folded, laid out like a map I was so certain of. I knew the road, I knew the timeline, I knew exactly where I was supposed to be and when and how.

And then life happened, and the map tore.

The thing I prayed for didn't come, the door I knocked on didn't open, the person I loved left anyway.

The dream I carried for so long slipped right through my tired hands, and I stood in the wreckage of everything I thought was supposed to be my story —and I asked,

God, where are you in this? Did you see this coming?

Did You know this road would bring me to my knees?

Did You know I'd be standing here with nothing left but a whisper of belief and a heart that's barely holding?

And from the ancient pages, from a letter written to the broken, to the exiled, to the lost,

to the ones who sat by foreign rivers and wept for what was gone

He answered.

"For I know the plans I have for you." Not —I had plans, once, before you wandered off the path.

Not —I had plans, but you've made too many mistakes.

Not — I had plans, but now we'll have to settle for something less.

I know, present tense, right now, in this moment in this mess,

in this grief you cannot name and this fear you cannot shake I know the plans I have for you.

He is not scrambling, He is not surprised, He did not turn away for one small moment

and miss the thing that broke you.

He was there when it fell apart,

He was there in the silence after, He was there in every tearstained night, when you couldn't find the words to pray and all you had was groaning, and

He counted every one.

His plans are not your plans.

That used to frighten me, now it is the only thing that gets me to my knees in gratitude,

because my plans were so small, my plans were built on what I could see, on what made sense.

On what the world told me success and safety looked like.

But He sees the end, from the beginning, He sees the doors behind the closed ones.

He sees the healing on the other side of the breaking.

He sees the person you are becoming, inside the pain you're in.

He sees what this is making you into — and it is more than you have dared to ask for.

Plans to prosper you, not to leave you in the ashes.

Plans to give you hope, not someday, maybe, if you earn it, but written into the blueprint of your life

before you drew your first breath, a future. when everything felt finished,

He was already writing what comes next.

So cry if you need to cry, grieve what needs grieving, sit in the not-yet and let it be hard

but do not let the enemy convince you that the silence is abandonment.

Do not let the waiting be mistaken for forgetting.

He has not forgotten you He knows your name, He knows this chapter.
He knows how many times you've read the promises and wondered if
they're really meant for you —
they are for you, the one reading this with the ache you haven't told anyone
about,
with the prayer you've prayed so many times you've almost stopped
believing — don't stop.
His plans are not on your timeline, His ways are higher than your
understanding.
And the story He is writing with your one, precious, painful, beautiful life —
is greater than anything
you ever could have planned for yourself.
Trust Him, Not because the road is clear, not because the pain is gone.
Trust Him because He is good when nothing feels good, trust Him because
He is faithful
when everything feels broken, trust Him because He said I know
and He has never once been wrong.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

- Open Mind

Please see below for a new poster about Open Mind- a free, confidential,
and judgment-free mental health drop-in service which runs from our
Church Hall on Wednesday Mornings. Have a read, and do pass it on if you
think it might help someone.

Speak to Claire Martin if you have any questions.

- Flowerheads and Candles

Debra Barrit is organising another bereavement support event on Friday
19th June from 10am at the EpiCentre. Please see the flyer below for more
information and do speak to Debra if you have any questions.

- Fancy a day out this summer?

The East Anglia Methodist District has a couple of things you might like to
visit.

- A Flower Festival at St Andrew's, Sheringham from 25th to 28th June
- And
- The Hive at Great Cressingham has lots of events over the coming
months.

Take a look at the posters at the end of this issue for all the details.

- Women's Conference

Join us for the 'Breathe' Women's Conference at the C3 Church in Cambridge. 'KNOWN BY GOD, KNOWN BY OTHERS, KNOWN BY SELF' On Friday 12 Jun 2026 19:30 (Evening session) Saturday 13 Jun 2026 9:00- 18:30 (Morning and Afternoon Sessions).

Inspired by Luke 2:52, where Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and favour, we'll gather to explore how we grow too — in our relationships, our wellbeing, our confidence, and our faith. You are not lost in the crowd. You are known.

For details and to purchase tickets go to <https://breathe.thec3.uk/>

Email Elizabeth if you plan to go so we can sit together as a church group.

Email: Elizabeth.Mitchell043011@gmail.com

- Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 4th July, 9am – 10.30am, at the Black Bull in Balsham. This will be in a private room/area with a short talk from an invited speaker.

See poster below for details.

Jon Barnes

- Women's Community Health Event

Taking place in our church hall this Saturday.

See poster below for details.

- 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 regularly by standing order/online banking (which helps us avoid banking costs incurred by paying in cash/cheques) the account details are as follows.

Account name: Haverhill Methodist Church.

Account number: 00060578

Sort code: 30-93-99.

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. The amount claimed back in recent years has approached £10,000 pa and has often prevented expenditure exceeding income in the annual accounts.

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

Haverhill Methodist Church

MEN'S BREAKFAST

4TH JULY, 9:00-10:30 AM

AT THE BLACK BULL, BALSHAM



Full English Breakfast:

- Scrambled eggs
- Sausage
- Bacon
- Tomato
- Mushroom
- Toast, Tea or Coffee (cafetiere)

£16.50 Inc service charge. **Sign up now!**

The hardest part is often walking through the door

At Open Mind, you will always be welcomed with kindness, understanding, and a **safe space** to talk.



WHEN YOU ARRIVE:



A member of our team will greet you, offer you a drink, and show you to our waiting table.




You will have time with a trained volunteer who can support you with whatever you may be going through.



Afterwards, you are welcome to return to the waiting table to finish your drink and reflect before leaving.



If you would like to continue socialising or access peer support, Next Door Cafe warmly welcomes Open Mind visitors into their friendly space, where affordable drinks and light bites are available (*small change needed*).

 A member of our team can accompany you there if helpful.



In line with the Methodist Church policy, **only trained assistance dogs** are permitted during sessions.

We understand that dogs can be a very important source of emotional support. However, due to:



allergies and phobias



the nature of our busy drop-in environment



the needs of all service users

we are unable to allow other dogs into the space.



Thank you for your understanding and continued support of



EAST ANGLIA PILGRIMS

Walking in Faith

**Come and join the new, exciting
pilgrimage days across East Anglia**

2nd May: An 8 mile pilgrimage around Fen Drayton Nature Reserve focussing on caring for the environment. Starting with bacon butties at Over Methodist Church, Cambs (10am start)

13th June: Walking in the footsteps of former pilgrims from Wells to Walsingham, Norfolk (10am start)

11th July: A ten mile walk starting at The Hive, Great Cressingham at 11am. This pilgrimage takes in South Pickenham round tower church and Houghton Hill church with its medieval wall paintings. Bring a packed lunch.



All are welcome to any or all of the events where you can enjoy times of fellowship, chat, quiet and companionship. Dogs welcome.

To book your place email: danielle@eangliamethodist.org.uk



Flower Festival

“My Favourite Book”

25th. - 28th. June

Thurs/Fri/Sat 10am - 4.30pm

Sunday: 10.30am Morning Worship

12noon - 4-30pm Festival Open

5.00pm Festival Praise

Stalls, Light Refreshments
Prayer activity and Childrens` activity

**N.B. Cafe closes at 4pm daily*

Admission Free

Proceeds for Church Funds
and a donation to `Nelsons Journey`
a Norfolk charity supporting bereaved children

**St. Andrew`s
Methodist Church
Sheringham NR26 8SA**

www.sheringhammethodist.org.uk

registered Charity No: 1212809



Flowerheads and Candles

Free Bereavement support event*

Short Presentation on bereavement
Small group sharing
Act of remembrance
Free refreshments



The EpiCentre in Haverhill
Friday 19th of June
From 10.00 to 12.00
Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome.

Contact:
Debra Barritt 07563 841813

*Donations to East Anglian Ambulance



Dates for your Diary

May		
31 st	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John Prayer time 10am in Coffee Lounge Flowers: Sue and Stephen Symonds
June		
2 nd	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
3 rd	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
7 th	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John Prayer time 10am in Coffee Lounge Flowers: Denny Letcher
9 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
10 th	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
14 th	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John, Communion Prayer time 10am in Coffee Lounge Flowers: Angela Proctor
16 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
17 th	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
21 st	10.30am	Preacher: Kim Moses Prayer time 10am in Coffee Lounge Flowers: Tracey Creasey
23 rd	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
24 th	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
28 th	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John Prayer time 10am in Coffee Lounge Flowers: Jenny & Bryan Ellicott
30 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
July		
1 st	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
5 th	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John and Elizabeth Mitchell Prayer time 10am in Coffee Lounge Flowers:
7 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in Coffee Lounge (or in your own home)
8 th	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the Church Hall
	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Moses John, Communion Prayer time 10am in Coffee Lounge Flowers: Dot and Tom Parker

* If you would like to join the Flower Rota, please contact Sue Symonds
1440 13 or harrys62@sky.com