



## Haverhill Methodist Church

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## Connect Issue 100

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

*Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.*

*1 Chronicles 29:11*

**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 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 [here](#).

**Hearing Loop:** We have a hearing loop, switch your hearing aid to the T position if available.

- Mothing Sunday 27th March 2022 10.30am

**Daylight Saving Time - Remember to put your clock forward one hour on Saturday night so you won't arrive late at church!**

Morning service led by Mr. Henry Wilson MBE (CEO REACH Community Projects, Haverhill)

- Funeral of Gweneth Steward

The funeral service of Gweneth Steward will be held on Thursday 31st March at 10.30am at Haverhill Methodist Church

Refreshments/buffet served in our church hall afterwards.

The service at our church is followed by burial at Birdbrook graveyard.

If anyone can please assist with either setting up tables and chairs in the church hall or putting them away afterwards, please speak to Peter.

- Music Exams

Music exams will be taking place in the Church, coffee lounge and vestry from 8am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Please DO NOT ENTER these areas.

If you are using other parts of the building, or the car park, please try to keep noise to a minimum.

- Prayer Walking prayer meeting

April 10<sup>th</sup> 1.30-2.30pm at the Methodist Church

Do please and attend if you possibly can so that we have opportunity to hear feedback, be encouraged together and collectively pray for Haverhill. You are also most welcome to invite anyone else along who may not be Prayer Walking but would still like to join us to specifically prayer for our town.

With every blessing

Bill

- Funeral of Paul Smith, son of the late Daphne Smith

Service of thanksgiving at Haverhill Methodist Church on Tuesday 12th April at 1.30pm.

(A private cremation took place on Thursday 17th March.)

Refreshments/buffet served in our church hall afterwards.

If anyone can please assist with either setting up tables and chairs in the church hall or putting them away afterwards, please speak to Peter.

- Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 10am

Haverhill & District Churches Together Service to be held at The Old Independent Church, Hamlet Road.

Afterwards, procession following the Cross down to the Market Square for service.

Our church providing musicians on the market square for the service.

Refreshments served afterwards in St Mary's Church.

- Find the Sheep Event Saturday April 16th

Thank you so much to the many people who have offered their help to make this event a success. The catering is almost completely covered now, we need 1 more large saucepan of Vegetarian Bolognese sauce please, can anyone help?

Here are the component parts that need volunteers please;

- Registration desk 1 person
- Run craft activities 4 people
- Preceding week visit shops to explain the event and ask if they would like to take part 2 people
- Take sheep into shops on Maundy Thursday 2 or more people
- Put up/take down small gazebo in market Square 1 person
- Put up/take down 2 large gazebos in front of church 4 people
- Support petting zoo representatives 1 person
- Marshall at front of the church 1 person
- Provide refreshments in church before activities begin 1 person.

If you are able to help with any of these vacancies you can either email myself ([charmainslade57@gmail.com](mailto:charmainslade57@gmail.com)) or Sarah Glasswell ([sasglasswell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sasglasswell@hotmail.co.uk)) or put your name onto the sign-up sheets which will be up in the hall this Sunday!

Thank you so much!

Cham

- Easter Offering Envelopes – Please take one

Each year the Methodist Church, in connection with Methodist Women in Britain, takes up an Easter Offering in support of God's mission.

The money raised through the Easter Offering goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain to be allocated for work among over 100 Partner Churches and organisations around the world.

Easter Offering envelopes for your donation are available in the church foyer. They may be returned in the offering plate on Easter Sunday or soon afterwards.

Later we shall hold our Easter Offering Dedication Service to which you are invited – more details to follow when known.

Thank you for your support and generosity once again.

NB The 2022 Easter Offering envelopes were out of stock, so we have adapted regular Gift Aid envelopes for this purpose.

- Ministers Synod

Our thanks go to all our volunteers who gave so generously of their time and energy yesterday to make cakes, provide biscuits, serve drinks, marshall at the car park, set up and clear away tables and chairs, play the organ, prepare bread and wine for Holy Communion and serve in Next Door bookshop. It could not have happened without your help. Thank you so much. It was a great success! From Peter – and on behalf of the East Anglia Methodist District.

- Join our Lent Group – it's not too late to join in!

Lent began on Ash Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Lent is a time for self-examination, penitence and repentance. It is a time set aside to deepen our life of prayer and faith in God as we journey towards Easter. We do this alone and together.

I invite you to come and join our Lent group which will meet in person at church on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm-9pm. The dates are: March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st & April 7<sup>th</sup>.

This Lent we shall be exploring The Prayers of Jesus using a study guide written by Amy Boucher Pye. Focusing on six of the prayers of Jesus as he journeyed to the cross, in each session we shall explore the scriptures, share in discussion and have a time of prayer.

Peter and Sarah will be sharing the leadership of the group. We hope you can join us.

*Please contact Peter if you would like to join the group so that study guides can be provided.*

We are meeting in the Loft above the Church Hall.

May God guide you through Lent and draw you to the wonder of Easter.

- General Church Meeting held on 13th March

Our thanks to all who were able to stay for our meeting, and our thanks to the children who waited so patiently until the end.

We thank those who were appointed as church stewards and as representatives to church council.

## Marriage & Relationships

An update from our minister Peter Goodhall given at the General Church Meeting:

Our church council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 decided that we were not in a position to make a final binding vote on the resolutions before us.

An indicative vote on the 2 questions showed a majority against changes in the current position.

We can take time to step back and reflect and pray further into this to hear what God is saying to us as a church, including listening to our wider church family, realising there is no time-pressure for us to make a final decision.

We invited responses to myself or a church steward or a member of our church council.

I personally have had several responses - both conversations and written responses, and others here have had conversations also. Some have been strongly in favour and some have been strongly against. To some extent, this reflects our church council who represent the church at the church council meeting.

This indicative vote has left some disappointed, some reassured and others still uncertain.

This has been done with humility & grace – for which we can be grateful.

We live with contradictory convictions, which is just where the 2021 Methodist Conference has placed us and has placed every church. 2 different avenues of understanding, to walk along with each other side by side, not trying to change one another's views, not the loudest voice wins, but journeying together, our views in tension, loving one another despite our differences.

One commonly repeated phrase to me is  
“Peter I would not want to be in your shoes” or  
“Rather you than me”

Why do people say this to me?

I am going to speak personally here:

As Shepherd of God's people in this place I am pastorally responsible for everyone, I hold all your views and pray for all of you, wanting us all to be led into God's truth.

(There are different understandings on what that means)

Wanting to lose no one. Wanting to keep the unity of the spirit.

Not wanting this church to be the church of one issue.

But pleasing God is my priority, knowing and doing God's will, and I trust it is yours also.

As leader and minister I bear the weight of responsibility when the church brings in new doctrines to weigh and test.

Hebrews 13:17 says

'Those who keep watch over you must give an account'.

There is a lot at stake.

That's why the weight upon my shoulders has been and remains great.

I have had sleepless nights over this question.

What next?

We have options.

We could take a binding vote on these decisions at our next church council, or at a church council meeting later in the year, and we might ask will the outcome be any different from January's indicative vote?

Or we can make a deliberate choice not to take a binding vote.

That doesn't have to be seen as a weakness or an opt-out but what is right for us right now as a church.

This latter path would seem to be the way forward to me.

The meeting intimated their agreement with Peter.

- Could you become a Pastoral Friend?

At Haverhill Methodist Church we seek to support one another through a network of Pastoral Friends.

A Pastoral Friend supports an agreed number of individuals. We are in need of new Pastoral Friends to support an increasing congregation.

If you are interested, please speak to Peter or to our Pastoral Secretary Janet Etheridge.

The Role of Pastoral Friend at Haverhill Methodist Church:

1. To offer friendship, caring support and encouragement particularly in times of special need.
2. To keep in contact with those you are a pastoral friend to. This contact may happen through Sunday worship, home visits, telephone conversations, email or text or letters/cards.
3. To pray for and perhaps with those you are a pastoral friend to.

4. To make available our Connect newsletter to those unable to access it.
5. To distribute the annual Methodist Church Membership Tickets and Adherent Tickets.
6. As appropriate, to inform the Pastoral Secretary and Church Minister of any serious illness, hospitalisation or if back up support is needed.
7. To inform the Pastoral Secretary of any changes in their contact details.
8. To attend the Pastoral Meeting.

- Vacancy for Safeguarding Officer

Paula Tappin has stepped down from her role as safeguarding officer. We thank Paula for her service to the church.

We take safeguarding seriously and we need to fill this appointment as soon as possible.

We need to appoint Paula's successor and we would value your prayers and consideration for this vacancy.

As a basic outline of this voluntary role, it includes promoting safeguarding practices, facilitating online DBS checks and renewals for those who require them in partnership with Peter and Sarah, attending online safeguarding training and providing safeguarding training for all Haverhill Methodist Church volunteers as needed, again with support from Peter and Sarah.

Good communication and administrative skills are needed.

Please speak to Peter if you are interested in finding out more.

- Coronavirus Guidance Update – from 24th February 2022

Though Covid restrictions in England have now lifted, we continue to help one another stay well by reducing the risk of infection.

To help everyone feel safe and welcome, the following simple guidance is offered:

- If you are unwell with a risk of infection, please consider others and stay at home, and if you have Covid-19 symptoms take a test.
- We shall continue to keep our premises ventilated to let fresh air circulate

We shall continue to provide hand sanitizer and encourage good hygiene practice, especially around shared objects, food and drink. Face coverings in church are now a personal choice. There is no requirement to wear a face covering when singing.

# **Easter Breakfast Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April**



**If you wish to come to our Easter Breakfast please put your name on the list in the Church Foyer**

- Invitation

Hi church family,

This year is my 70th birthday and I would like to celebrate it with my church family. I have booked the Haverhill rugby club for the 28th May. If you do wish to attend please could you let me know towards the end of April as I need to know the amount of food to order.

Hope to see you in church this Sunday

Keith Barker



- Prayer Diary

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

### April

3<sup>rd</sup> Bring & Share Lunch

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Music exams in church

7<sup>th</sup> Final session of Lent Course

10<sup>th</sup> Prayer Walking prayer meeting at our church

12<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving service for the life of Paul Smith

14<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service

15<sup>th</sup> HDCT Good Friday service at OIC, Walk of Witness, service on Market Square

16<sup>th</sup> 'Find the Sheep' outreach event

17<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday - Holy Communion, Easter Breakfast, Celebration Service

### 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.

*Worship Band* – Give thanks for those who lead our worship each Sunday through music.

*Volunteers*- Give thanks for those who have volunteered to work in various aspects of Church and Outreach life.

*Sunday Club* – more leaders are still needed

*Town Pastors* – More pastors and pray-ers are still required (people to pray in their own homes)

*Reach* – Volunteers needed to assist in various aspects of this work. Pray the staff will not be overwhelmed as the workload

increases and that the right staff will be found to fill new posts.

*Illuminate*- Give thanks for the people who have come forward as leaders. Please keep praying for wisdom for leaders to know how to meet the needs of the 16+ age group.

*Youth for Christ*- Please pray for Sarah as she does Chaplaincy work at Castle Manor School on Wednesdays and one to one mentoring on Thursdays. All lessons and after school clubs are suspended for the time being because of covid.

*Lantern*- Lantern is currently having a 3 month break for the winter season as numbers have dropped very low and the opportunity to communicate gospel truths is increasingly limited. Ask the Lord to show the leaders His direction for the future.

*Open Mind*- Give thanks to God for His provision of so many able and gifted volunteers who are a blessing to each other and the residents of our town. Please pray for them in this challenging role and for residents to be released from their torments.

*Revival* – Give thanks for the new people coming into our Church. 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.

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Information for publication in Connect, or on the Sunday Morning Scroll may be emailed to: [kathy.cohen@btinternet.com](mailto:kathy.cohen@btinternet.com) or handed directly to Kathy. Please try not to leave it to the last minute to send things.

- Dates for your Diary

<b>March</b>		
27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Henry Wilson                      Flowers: Mr & Mrs S Symonds
	6.30pm	Come & Sing
28 <sup>th</sup>	8-8.45pm	Faithful Workout
29 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in the 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 – for everyone!
31 <sup>st</sup>	7.30-9pm	Lent Course 5
<b>April</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	10pm-2am	NO Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for the town
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Sarah – All Age Worship                      Flowers: Miss M Shipp
	6.30pm	Come & Sing
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Music exams: no entry to Church, Coffee Lounge, Vestry from 8am.
4 <sup>th</sup>	8-8.45pm	Faithful Workout in the Church Hall
5 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home)
6 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone!
7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30-9pm	Lent Course 6
8 <sup>th</sup>	10pm-2am	NO Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for the town
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Peter                                      Flowers: Rev & Mrs P Goodhall
	1.30-2.30pm	Prayer Walking prayer meeting
	6.30pm	Come & Sing
11 <sup>th</sup>	8-8.45pm	Faithful Workout in the Church Hall
12 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home)
	1.30pm	Thanksgiving service for the life of Paul Smith
13 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone!
14 <sup>th</sup>	7 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion service
15 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Meet at Old Independent Church to begin Walk of Witness
	10pm-2am	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them
16 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 1pm	‘Find the Sheep’ event
17 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion
	9am	Easter Breakfast – sign up in the Church foyer
	10.30am	Easter Celebration Service – All Age Worship Preacher: Peter                                      Flowers: Mrs F Parker
19 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home)
20 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone!
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10pm-2am	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: tbc                                      Flowers: Mrs M Hayes