



Haverhill Methodist Church

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Connect Issue 84

Friday 3rd December 2021

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:19b-20

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 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.

The link is <https://haverhillchurchestogether.wordpress.com/prayer-requests/>

- Sound system issues

We are aware that some are finding it difficult to hear what is being said during Sunday services.

There are issues with the induction loop which need replacing. This is being actively looked into and a replacement will be installed.

Until that is possible, we value your patience. Thank you.

- Haverhill Prayer Walk Project

Thank you to those who have responded to the Haverhill Prayer Walking project which we heard about from Bill Reynolds last Sunday morning.

If you would like to be involved you can contact Bill at bill.reynolds@rolcc.org.uk

A reminder that the project will launch at the Salvation Army on Sunday 9th January at 1.30pm when the prayer walkers will be commissioned and sent out.

- Advent Tree Of Remembrance

This Advent and Christmas, in addition to our church Christmas tree, a small illuminated cherry blossom tree will again appear in our church entrance.

This will become our prayer tree of remembrance for our loved ones who have died whom we remember and think about at Christmas. You are invited to write their name and any message on the label provided and hang it from one of the tree branches.

The tree will be lit up during our Advent and Christmas services. We receive the glad tidings of comfort and joy this Christmas.

- Toy Service Sunday 5th December 10.30am

Once again you are invited to purchase new toys, which may be sourced in local supermarkets or online, to be given as gifts from our church to local families in need this Christmas.

They are to be brought to church at our morning service on Sunday 5th December please. Our town mayor Liz Smith and her husband will be in attendance.

Please note that **all toys must be brand new and unwrapped** (Social Services instructions) and it would be good if we can cover all ages, from babies to 18 year olds, so that all children in a family are able to be given a gift. We thank Kay Smith for her help in arranging this once again. We pray that many local families in need will be reached and blessed this Christmas. Thank you all for your generosity.

- Beetle Drive and Pudding Evening

Saturday 11th December from 5.00pm in the Hall.

We will be holding a Pudding Evening, and invite you to bring along a pudding to share, either homemade or bought. If bringing along a bought one, could you please make sure it is already cooked, we will be able to warm it up in Microwave or Oven, but would prefer not to have to cook it on the evening.

We will also be playing a game of Beetle during the evening. All ages and abilities are welcome. Come along and enjoy a social evening, and enjoy sharing time together.

There is a list at the back of the church for you to put your name on and how many of you intend coming and what pudding you intend bringing. Further information from Janet or Mick.

- Big Christmas Card

There will again be a 'Big Christmas Card' available in the Church hall during December, for everyone to write their messages to the fellowship. Donations from the money saved by not sending individual cards will be given to the REACH Winter Crisis fund.

- Christmas Events

This Christmas, for the first time, we are delighted to be working with all the churches of Haverhill, in creating 2 new community events that are ambitious and hopefully far-reaching. We hope that both become much-loved and much-anticipated events in years to come!

Dec 3rd in the evening

The first event takes place during the late-night Christmas shopping evening on December 3rd. Haverhill Silver Band is combining with Haverhill Singers and St Mary's choir and will be singing from several locations in the High St and Queen St. I hope that people feel enthralled by the familiar carols; we want to inspire the community of Haverhill to join in en-masse!

Please come and lend your voices to the songs. The more singers that we have, the more of a joyful occasion we create. We need volume and enthusiasm!

December 4th at 12noon

The 2nd event is an Outdoor Nativity and Carols parade beginning here at 12 noon at Haverhill Methodist Church, we travel through time as we take part in the Christmas story. We have both a real donkey and Geoffery the camel who is making an appearance on loan from Centre Stage! We begin the story inside our church then we all leave to process down Camps Rd to the Drabbet, where it is very likely there will be no room at the inn!! The nativity story will conclude at a specially designed stable outside St Mary's Church.

We would love children to come in fancy dress and there will be prizes for the best angels, animals, shepherds and wise women and

men! If any adults want to dress up, even better! There will be plenty of photo opportunities at our nativity stable.

The nativity story will conclude inside St Mary's Church and refreshments will be provided.

Will you please lend your support, ideally by coming along bringing your whole family, maybe encouraging your neighbours and friends? These are 2 really big and to be honest, quite experimental events and they succeed or fail by the number of people who join in! God bless!

Cham – Lay Pioneer

- Church Membership

If you would be interested in exploring Church Membership, please speak to our minister Peter and he would be pleased to have a conversation with you.

- Prayer Diary for December & January

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

December

3rd Late night shopping in the town with a Carol Sing Along. The Town Pastors will be on patrol. Please pray for them.

4th Outdoor Nativity & Carols starting at Haverhill Methodist Church & finishing at St. Mary's

5th Toy service followed by "Bring 'n' Share" lunch

11th Beetle Drive and Pudding Evening

12th Preacher – Chairman of the District – Julian Pursehouse

12th Family Carol service

24th Christmas Eve Holy Communion

25th Christmas Day Family Service

January 2022

2nd Bring 'n' Share Lunch

20th Church/Circuit Meeting

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.

Volunteers needed – There are many areas of church life where volunteers are needed:-

Next Door – to assist in café

Lantern – helpers needed

Sunday Club – more leaders needed

Illuminate – Illuminate has new members. Ages range from 11-18 years. More leaders needed so that this group can be split into smaller age groups. Also God's guidance is needed to know how to meet the needs of the 16+ group.

Coffee rota – to assist making coffee after morning worship

Town Pastors – More pastors and prayers are still required.

Open mind- Give thanks for those who have offered to be helpers. Open Mind meets each Wednesday from 10am -12noon

Reach – Volunteers needed to assist in various aspects of this work. Give thanks for recent funding promised. Pray the staff will not be overwhelmed as the workload increases and that the right staff will be found to fill new posts.

Please pray for the right people to come forward to fill each of these positions.

Revival - 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.



CAROL SING-A-LONG

*Come along, join in and
get that Christmassy feeling!*

**Late Night Shopping
Friday 3rd December**

6.00 - 6:15 pm outside the old NatWest bank

6.30 - 6.45 pm outside Saffron Insurance

7:00 - 7:15 from Queen's Square

**FEATURING
HAVERHILL SILVER BAND & THE COMBINED
CHOIRS OF ALL THE LOCAL CHURCHES
AND COMMUNITY CHOIRS**



**HAVERHILL & DISTRICT
CHURCHES TOGETHER**

Supported by Haverhill Town Council

Haverhill & District Churches Together

Mail

EST VERITAS IN EVANGELIO

Saturday, Lunchtime, 1 BC

1 Shekel

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Exclusive Interview
With the Wise Men, Page 6

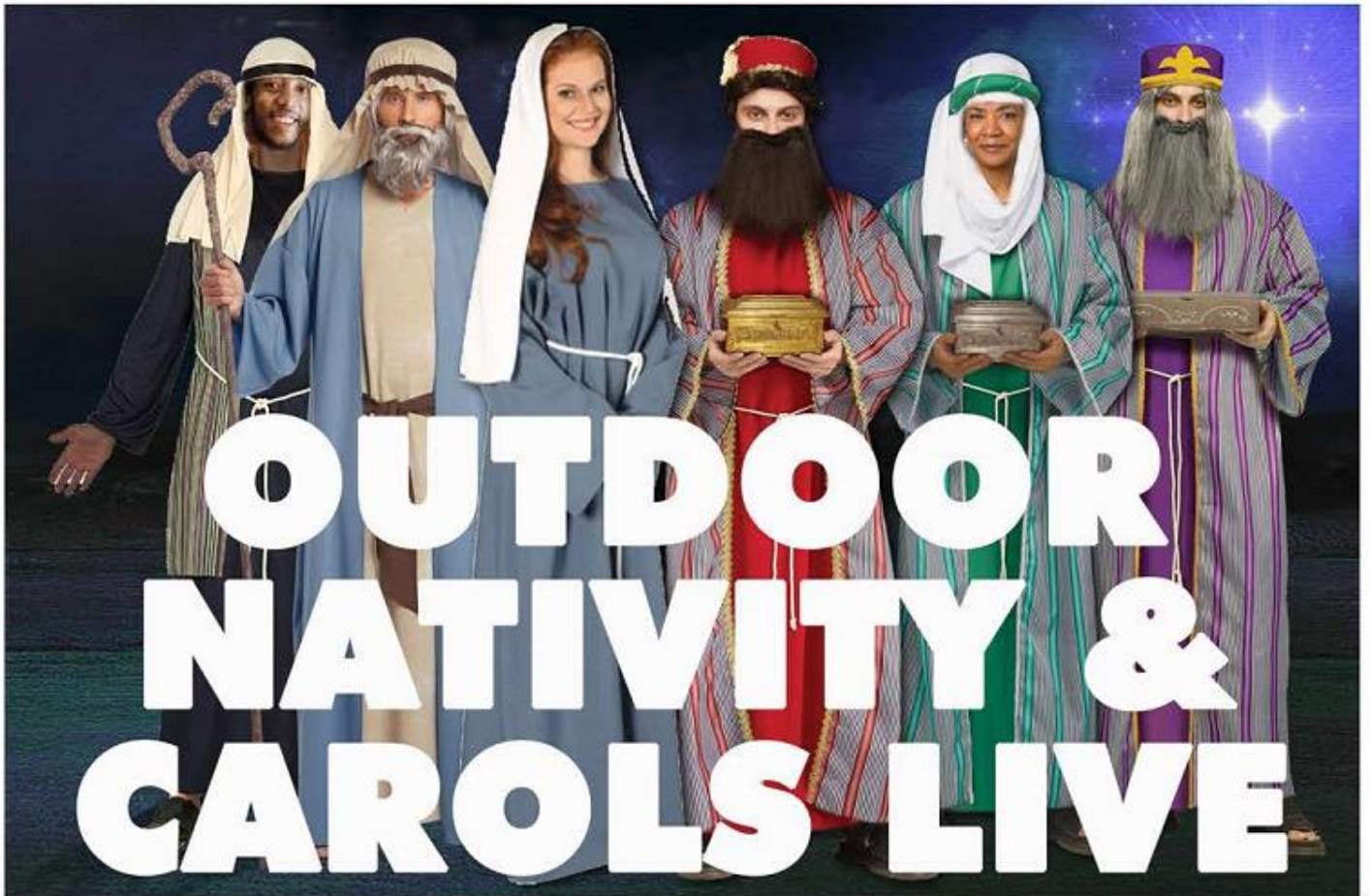
Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh
Full Reviews on Page 10

Breaking News
The Star of Bethlehem Spotted. Page 2

The Shepherd Supplement
For all your herding news.

BABY BORN TO SAVE THE WORLD!

**PRIZES GIVEN FOR KIDS FANCY DRESS
(SHEPHERDS, WISE MEN/WOMEN, ANGELS, & ANIMALS)**



OUTDOOR NATIVITY & CAROLS LIVE

Starting at Haverhill Methodist Church, Camps Road, CB9 8HF
12 Noon, SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER
finishing at St Mary's Church, Market Square, Haverhill

Christmas Carol Concert

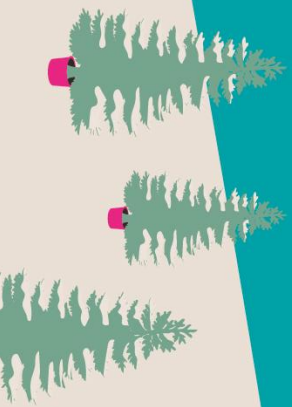
come and sing your favourites!

**Thursday 16th December at 7pm at St Mary's Church,
High Street, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8AX.**

Also being broadcast live online, so if you can't be there in person,
sing along at home!

Find out more at www.stmaryshaverhill.org.uk/reachcarols.

We'll also hear how the lives of local families in need have been changed
through local charity REACH Community Projects and their supporters and
volunteers, with an opportunity to give to their Christmas appeal (or you
can give at www.reachhaverhill.org.uk/christmas).



REACH



The news seems to be full of problems at the moment – problems that most of us don't have the power to do anything about. But I've got some good news for you:

You may not be able to change the world – but you can change the world for one person!

For local families struggling to even afford the basics and put food on the table, when an unexpected problem hits, they don't have any safety net in the form of savings. The problem becomes a crisis.

But when you make a donation and we combine it with our expertise, we can often get a family back on their feet again quite quickly.

And, if you give to our Christmas appeal, a generous local company could double your donation, meaning it will do TWICE as much good!

Will you help someone else like Jerry to get back on their feet again?

Jerry, one of our clients, longed to get a job. He's young and enthusiastic – but as he applied for dozens of roles and got rejection after rejection, he started to feel like he was a failure, that he'd never get anywhere. He felt like he was on the scrap heap at only twenty-two.

Finally, a local company emailed him with the offer of employment. Jerry was elated!

But there was a problem. They were based four miles away. There was no bus service there and he had no transport of his own. What he needed was a bike – but he had no money to buy one. His benefits barely covered the basics of food, bills and rent as it was.

For the want of a few pounds, he was in danger of losing this precious chance he'd waited for so long.

In desperation, Jerry contacted REACH to see if we could help. We managed to get hold of an old bike, and local company Aerocycles kindly serviced it for free! Generous people like you helped to buy Jerry a cycle helmet and lock.

The total cost was under £50 – but to Jerry, that support was priceless. It changed his life.

Now he's got that job, he can afford to do more than just survive. He can afford to dream a few dreams and make some plans for the future.

Give a gift today - and your donation could be DOUBLED!

When you donate to our appeal, a generous local company will match your donation so that it will do TWICE as much good. (See terms and conditions below.)



A VERY BIG THANK YOU
for helping local families in need this Christmas!

Terms and conditions:

- *Single gifts up to the value of £100 will be matched (e.g. if you give a gift of up to £100 it will be doubled, if you give over £100 the first £100 will be doubled).*
- *If you set up a monthly gift for the first time, it will trigger the release of an extra £100 from our matched pot.*
- *If you already give monthly, and increase your monthly gift, it will trigger the release of £100 from our matched pot.*
- *Applies to gifts made online, direct to our bank ((account 90193717, sort code 60-10-21, Reach Community Projects) or cash or cheques dropped in at our main office (Wisdom Facilities Centre, 42 Hollands Road, Haverhill CB9 8SA) before 1st January 2022.*
- *Matched funding will continue until all the 'matched funding' pot has been used up (and we'll announce that by email and social media and on our donation page).*

- Dates to remember:

3 rd	6-8pm	HDCT Carol Sing-a-long – see poster for details
	10pm-2am	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them
5 th	10.30am	Preacher: Peter – All Age & Toy Service + Bring&Share lunch Flowers: Alf Coe
	6.30pm	Come & Sing
6 th	8-8.45pm	Faithful Workout
7 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in the 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 – for everyone!
10 th	10pm-2am	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them
11 th	5pm	Beetle Drive & Pudding Night in the Church Hall
12 th	10.30am	Preacher: Julian Pursehouse – District Chair Holy Communion Flowers: Church Christmas Flowers
	5pm	Family Carol Service followed by refreshments
	6.30pm	Come & Sing
		Deadline for next issue of Faithtime
13 th	8-8.45pm	Faithful Workout
14 th	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home)
15 th	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone!
16 th	7pm	REACH Carol Concert @ St Mary's Church
19 th	10.30am	Preacher: Sarah Glasswell All Age & Christingle Flowers: Church Christmas Flowers
	6.30pm	Come & Sing
21 st	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home)
22 nd	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
24 th	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion (till 12.15am)
25 th	10am	Christmas day family Service
26 th		No morning or evening services
January		
2 nd	10.30am	All Age Worship followed by Bring & Share lunch
9 th	10.30am	Preacher: Peter Covenant Service with Holy Communion
22 nd	5.30-8pm	Church New Year Party in hall

- Info needed

Please let me know when your meetings of various types are pausing for Christmas and when they are due to restart, so I can get the right information in the 'Dates to Remember'.

Thanks, Kathy (kathy.cohen@btinternet.com 01440 762536)