



Haverhill Methodist Church

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Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Phillipians 4:8

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 [here](#).

- Latest Coronavirus Guidance

As of Thursday 27th January 2022 there is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering.

The government suggest that face coverings are continued to be worn in crowded and enclosed spaces.

In response to this change and in the light of on going infection rates, it is advised that face coverings be continue to be worn on church premises for now.

Names of those attending church will no longer be recorded. Good ventilation will continue and hand-sanitizer will be available.

- Building Work next to church

Churchill Retirement Living have begun phase 2 of their Haverhill retirement homes project and this site is located adjacent to our church buildings. They are currently demolishing buildings and

garages and next week, week beginning 24 January, the wall by the church fire exits will be demolished and replaced by fencing.

Inevitably, this will result in noise and some disruption for users of the Hall and we apologise for any inconvenience caused. The contractors will make every effort to reduce disruption and maintain safe access in the event of evacuation, whilst ensuring security for our site.

If you have any concerns please speak to Peter or John.

Thank you for your forbearance during this period of transition.

John Loader

- Vegan 'milk'

A vegan alternative to cow's milk will be provided for drinks during refreshments served after Sunday worship.

- News from Church Council – from Peter Goodhall

At our meeting last Thursday time was given to consider whether or not at this time the church council does or does not want to register our church premises for same-sex weddings or offer same-sex marriage blessings.

This follows the 2021 Methodist Conference resolutions consenting in principle to the marriage of same-sex couples on Methodist premises, should the local church trustees wish to register their premises.

Our meeting decided that we were not in a position to make a final binding vote on the resolutions before us.

Instead, following respectful and prayerful discussion, we took an indicative vote to discover the mind of the meeting.

An indicative vote only indicates what views are held and is not conclusive. The votes were written and were private.

The results of the indicative votes were as follows, the wording of the resolutions was according to Methodist Church guidelines:

Indicative Vote on Resolution 1:

The Church Council of Haverhill Methodist Church, meeting on 20th January 2022 consents to the solemnization of marriages of same-sex couples and resolves to apply to register the building known as Haverhill Methodist Church, situated at Camps Road Haverhill, for

the solemnization of such marriages under section 43A of the Marriage Act 1949.

Those in favour: **7**

Those against: **12**

Indicative Vote on Resolution 2:

The Church Council of Haverhill Methodist Church, meeting on 20th January 2022 consents to services of blessing of a marriage of a same-sex couple which has already been solemnized being conducted in the building known as Haverhill Methodist Church, situated at Camps Road, Haverhill.

Those in favour: **8**

Those against: **11**

I believe that now is the 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.

There is no time-pressure for us to make a decision. If you would like to share your response or have questions please speak to myself or a church steward or a member of our church council. Lastly, at our meeting David Rinaldi was appointed as our new church treasurer from September 2022 and will take on the Circuit books too, for which we are thankful.

- 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.

- Lantern

Lantern is currently taking a 3 month break while its future is considered. Please pray for the leaders to be able to discern the right way forward for this group.

- Prayer Walking

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|---------------------------|--|
| February 13 th | 1.30-2.30pm at RoLCC in Chalkstone Community Centre |
| March 13 th | 1.30-2.30pm at the Salvation Army Church |

April 10th

1.30-2.30pm at the Methodist Church

Do please and attend these 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

- East Anglia Women's Conference at Sizewell Hall

Two conferences are planned again this year, God willing. Our speaker for March is Judith Mooreland and for October Amy Summerfield.

Unfortunately the eawc website cannot be opened at present so we have put the details on Facebook

Here are the links:.

Spring conference:

<https://ticketbud.com/events/27321d78-72f6-11ec-b73b-42010a717017>

Autumn conference:

<https://ticketbud.com/events/ddcf320e-7301-11ec-b4fe-42010a717017>

Just click on the link to access the tickets

It will be so good to meet up again after so long and to hear what God wants to say to us.

Every Blessing

Angela

- The Karen Hurrell Christian Lending Library

We're delighted to invite you to pop into the Next Door Café and take a look at an excellent Christian lending library. Categories include prayer, poetry, relationships, family and parenting, Bibles, world religions, reference books, CDs and DVDs.

There is also a small shop selling Christian greeting cards, books and gifts.

Everyone is welcome to use this resource freely and to contribute to the collection if they wish. Relax in the cosy reading corner to make your choice then sign out as in any library.

The books were donated to us by the Hurrell family after the tragic loss of Karen. Karen was an inspirational local Christian lady who would have been delighted to see her collection being used in this way.

- Update on Marian Crane

I spoke to Marian Crane this week and heard that she had an operation a couple of weeks ago. She is at home recovering and says the Surgeon is pleased with the outcome. Charles is not so well these days and at the moment is in a care home while Marian recuperates. I have bought a card to send to them and if anyone who remembers them would like to sign it please let me know.

Joyce

- District News

- Grapevine magazine

The theme of the next edition will be 'Transformations that inspire'.

It would be good to have articles that share examples from around the District where there have been imaginative refurbishments of church property - where risks have been taken and resources used well - in order to make places fit for purpose and attractive places for fellowship, mission and worship. This could include ones from other denominations.

We would welcome stories that focus around transformations that have inspired you; this could be around the use/adaptation of buildings or land (imaginative refurbishments of church property - where risks have been taken and resources used well in order to make places fit for purpose and attractive places for fellowship, mission and worship) that you may have encountered on your travels around Britain or it could be a personal transformation that you yourself have gone through (perhaps related to the pandemic) that you think might inspire others.

If you would like to contribute an article on this theme please send it to office@eangliamethodist.org.uk Articles should be around 400 – 500 words and photos may be included (sent separately from the

text). The deadline for articles is **Sunday 27th February** but it would be great to receive them before then!

We really appreciate all the contributions we receive and I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks and kind regards

Ms Danielle Gravestock (District Administrator)

- Partnership link between East Anglia District & Harare West District

The launch event for this will take place on Saturday 29th January at 11 am (GMT), on Zoom and in person at Chapelfield Road, Norwich and in Zimbabwe. This will be a celebration of the two Districts embedded in an act of worship. There is a flyer attached to this email with all details and a clickable link for the zoom meeting. There is also a video attached with more information.

- Learning Opportunity

A new short-course being run by **The Revd Dr Paul W. Chilcote**, Director of Global Wesleyan Theology at Wesley House, throughout March 2022. There is an **Early Bird Registration offer until 31 January.**

Paul has produced a short invitational video which you can [VIEW HERE](#)



Based on Paul's book *Active Faith* - that you receive e-access too - this four week course helps participants learn how to resist the dangerous ideologies and toxic forms of faith in our age that sap energy and create barriers between God and people.

It introduces four Wesleyan practices that help renew and restore truth, joy, peace, and love to the soul.

Further details and registration can be found here:

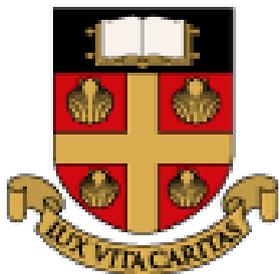
<https://bit.ly/3y9mxA3>

Please feel free to forward this information to anyone you think might be interested.

If you have any queries don't hesitate to get in contact.

With best wishes,

Dan



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Prayer Diary - February

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

February

3rd Churches Together meeting

6th "Bring 'n' Share" lunch

13th Town Prayers Prayer Meeting at River of Life Church,
Chalkstone

Community Centre – Everyone welcome to join in (1.30 to 2.30
pm)

27 Peter Barton from "Adopt a Child"

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

Sunday Club – more leaders needed

Coffee rota – to assist making coffee after morning worship

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. 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.

Illuminate- Give thanks for the people who have come forward as leaders. However, more male leaders are still needed. Please keep praying for wisdom 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 - 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.

- Dates to remember:

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| January | | |
| 28 th | 10pm-2am | Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them |
| 30 th | 10.30am | Preacher: Peter Flowers: Mrs K Cohen |
| February | | |
| 1 st | 11am-12 | Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home) |
| 2 nd | 10am-12 | Open Mind in the Church Hall |
| | 1-3pm | Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone! |
| 4 th | 10pm-2am | Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them |
| 6 th | 10.30am | Preacher: Sarah Glasswell - All Age Worship Flowers: Mr C Smith |
| 8 th | 11am-12 | Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home) |
| 9 th | 10am-12 | Open Mind in the Church Hall |
| | 1-3pm | Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone! |
| 11 th | 10pm-2am | Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them |
| 13 th | 10.30am | Preacher: Peter – Holy Communion Flowers: Mrs K Strowger |
| 15 th | 11am-12 | Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home) |
| 16 th | 10am-12 | Open Mind in the Church Hall |
| | 1-3pm | Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone! |
| 18 th | 10pm-2am | Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them |
| 20 th | 10.30am | Preacher: Peter Flowers: Mr & Mrs M Etheridge |
| 22 nd | 11am-12 | Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home) |
| 23 rd | 10am-12 | Open Mind in the Church Hall |
| | 1-3pm | Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone! |
| 25 th | 10pm-2am | Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them |
| 27 th | 10.30am | Preacher: Peter Barton – Adopt-a-Child Flowers: Mr & Mrs J Loader |
| March | | |
| 1 st | 11am-12 | Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home) |
| 2 nd | 10am-12 | Open Mind in the Church Hall |
| | 1-3pm | Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone! |
| 4 th | 10pm-2am | Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them |
| 6 th | 10.30am | Preacher: Peter-All Age Worship |
| 8 th | 11am-12 | Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home) |
| 9 th | 10am-12 | Open Mind in the Church Hall |
| | 1-3pm | Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone! |
| 11 th | 10pm-2am | Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them |
| 13 th | 10.30am | Preacher: Peter |

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