



Haverhill Methodist Church

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Connect Issue 94

Friday 11th February 2022

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 1:3

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](#).

- Hearing Loop

A new hearing aid loop has been installed, switch your hearing aid to the T position if available



- Funeral of Lily Rawlingson

The funeral service for Lily Rawlingson will take place at our church on Friday 4th March at 11am.

Refreshments will be served in the church hall afterwards.

We continue to uphold Lily's family in prayer.

- News from Church Council – from Peter Goodhall

At our meeting on 20th January 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.

- 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.

- Lent Group

A Lent Group will be held on the church premises on Thursday evenings 7.30pm-9pm.

The dates are: March 3,10,17,24,31 & April 7

Further details will follow but please reserve the dates.

We hope you can join us for Bible-focussed discussion, reflection and faith-building as we journey towards Easter.

- 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

- 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 ongoing infection rates, it is advised that face coverings 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.

- 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 Walking prayer meetings

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 10 th	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

- [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)

- Calling all knitters/crocheters



Join us as we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee St Nicholas Hospice Care wants to bring people together to create an afternoon tea with a difference.

We are calling on the community to join our staff and grab their knitting (or crochet) needles to help create a wool-inspired afternoon tea display that wouldn't look out of place at one of Her Majesty's Garden Parties.

We are hoping to be able to create woollen displays in our Haverhill Hub and Bury St Edmund's St John's Street shop, and we need everything from knitted quaint cups and saucers to crocheted tempting baked treats.

If you'd like to get involved please get in touch with Janet Etheridge (01440 423263) who will be co-ordinating our Church's efforts.

- REACH – job opportunity



Community Outreach Adviser

Details here:

<https://bit.ly/3oF8X49>

- Dates to remember:

February		
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
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25 th	10pm-2am	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them
27 th	10.30am	Preacher: Henry Wilson

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.