



## Haverhill Methodist Church

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## Connect Issue 98

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

*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.*

*Psalms 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](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.

### • 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-10 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.
- General Church Meeting- Sunday 13th March

Our next General Church Meeting will be held after morning worship on Sunday 13th March, commencing about 11.45am.

All are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

We shall appoint our Church Officers and share together about the work of God among us.

Reports of church activities are attached to this email, please read them before the meeting.

If you have an item of business for discussion under AOB, please inform Peter before the meeting. The agenda is also attached to this email.

We trust this meeting will be informative, full of good news stories and be an encouragement to us all.

- Pastoral Meeting

There will be a Pastoral Meeting for all Pastoral Friends on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at **7.45PM** in the coffee lounge.

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

Private cremation on Thursday 17th March.

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

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.

- Minister's District Synod – Updated Notice

On Thursday 24th March our church hosts the East Anglia Methodist District Ministers Synod meeting, from morning to mid-afternoon.

Thank you to Janet who is co-coordinating refreshments and to those who have kindly offered cakes.

We need volunteers to help with car park marshalling in the morning.

Specifically, we need someone willing to be at the Haverhill Arts Centre Car Park from about 9.30-10.30am to signpost synod members along the high street in the direction of our church. It would be good also to have a second person signposting at St Mary's Church to also guide synod members, again about 9.30-10.30am.

Visi-vests & a small A4 Synod sign to hold will be provided.

This marshalling will involve standing outside for a period of time in March weather, so this needs to be taken into consideration before volunteering.

We also need volunteers to help with setting up tables and chairs in the church hall and clearing away afterwards.

Please speak to Peter if you can help. Thank you.

**Please avoid using the church car park between 9am-4pm on Thursday 24th March to make it available for Synod officials & disabled parking. Thank you for your cooperation.**

- 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.

- 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 sign up on the sheet in the church foyer, or contact Peter if you would like to join the group so that sufficient 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.

- 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.

- 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

- Dates for your Diary

<b>March</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Peter Flowers: Mr & Mrs B Ellicott
	6.30pm	Come & Sing
14 <sup>th</sup>	8-8.45pm	Faithful Workout
15 <sup>th</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home)
16 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone!
17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30-9pm	Lent Course 3
18 <sup>th</sup>	10pm-2am	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them
20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Preacher: Peter Flowers: Mr & Mrs T Seljamae
	6.30pm	Come & Sing
21 <sup>st</sup>	8-8.45pm	Faithful Workout
22 <sup>nd</sup>	11am-12	Tuesday Prayer in the Lounge (or in your own home)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10am-12	Open Mind in the Church Hall
	1-3pm	Young at Heart in the church hall – for everyone!
24 <sup>th</sup>	7.30-9pm	Lent Course 4
25 <sup>th</sup>	10pm-2am	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them
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	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them
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	Town Pastors on patrol – please pray for them

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.