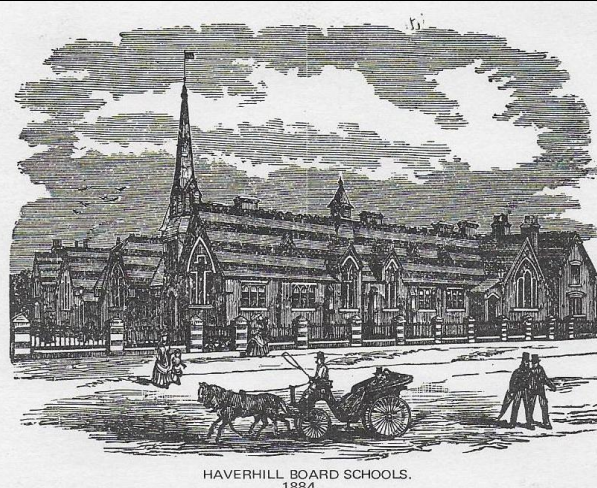




NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

SUFFOLK FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 1087748

Next Meeting: Thursday 11th December 2025 at 7.30pm

Old Independent Church Hall

Annual FUN Christmas Quiz –

A light-hearted social evening with refreshments.

Don't forget those Christmas jumpers!





Photo – Adrian Case

We were honoured to take part at the recent Remembrance Day parade and commemoration. Many thanks to Mick Denley for representing our group and laying a wreath on our behalf.



I got earache after the advert I included last year, so to even things up, this is one for the boys.

Just what I want for Christmas!



Suffolk Family History Society News:-

Upcoming zooms

Our next Zooms are as follows –

- 1-Dec-25 **Liz Yule** will talk about an **Ancestral Christmas**
- 19-Jan-25 **Penny Walters** will discuss **Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy**.

There are some changes to how they arrange Zoom meetings. Talks will now be for members only with the link to join in the members area of our website.

All at 7:30 pm UK time

Christmas Day 150 years ago

On Christmas Day, 150 years ago, the Reverend Robert Roberts died aged 88 years.

He had been the Vicar of the Parish of Haverhill for fifty-five years.



His obituary, which appeared in the Bury Free Press on Saturday 1st January, 1876, stated that "As a preacher, his voice was clear and his enunciation remarkably distinct. A gentleman in every sense, he had no difficulty in maintaining his proper position....

All can remember having acts of kindness at his hands and on the last day he left his house, in a bath chair, just about one week before his death he made enquiries about a sick neighbour and also whether there would be any Christmas distribution of coals for the poor."

Reverend Roberts will be the focus of the Haverhill Family History Group's project in 2026.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
You truly are a beauty.
I used to love to put you up,
Now it's a dreaded duty.

Lugging you out from storage
Gets more strenuous each year,
And assembling all your branchy parts
Does not fill me with cheer.

Then each and every little stem
I tediously unflatten.
Your artificial symmetry,
It doesn't...just...happen.

Next challenge is your tree lights,
Which I always have to wrangle.
No matter how I've coiled them,
They unwind in a tangle.

A few choice words escape me
As I clear the final knot,
Then turn to find the other end
Has formed another clot.

I string them from your branches,
Draping with the greatest care,
To find that I've run out of lights,
Your bottom third still bare.

After some more botched attempts
They're artfully arranged.
Your lights are nice and even
Though I'm feeling quite deranged.

These days the decorating
Doesn't hold the same appeal.
Now that the kids are all grown up,
It's left for me to deal.

I miss the days when they were young,
We'd trim your boughs together.
With Christmas carols playing,
They are memories I treasure.

Your ornaments now look just right
From every viewing angle,
But at your back against the wall,
The not so nice ones dangle.

At long last the job is done.
It's taken me all day;
Too worn out to appreciate
Your beautiful display.

On Christmas Day you play your part,
All twinkling in resplendence,
With family all gathered round
And opening their presents.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
A sight extraordinary;
Must steel myself to pack you up,
It's almost **February!**

Christmas Music Dingbats

Charles Edward George	Ilex + Hedera	Bethlehem	→ NOEL NOEL NOEL NOEL
1	2	3	4
INFANT Infant	Sn Sn	XMAS	Rockin Rockin Rockin Fraser fir Rockin Rockin Rockin
5	6	7	8
Dear Santa 1. Incisor 2. Incisor 3. 4.	AYERS	3218.688Km	XMSTEPAS
9	10	11	12
S	Mary Joseph ♂ ♀	#0000FF CHRISTMAS	WAR Happy Xmas
13	14	15	16
Christmas Christmas → Christmas	FIR ↓ ↓ ↓	December 25 - January 5	DONKEY → Donkey
17	18	19	20

To get you in the mood for Christmas and our annual fun quiz if you can make it.

Answers at the end of the newsletter

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR @ OIC

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER AT 2PM

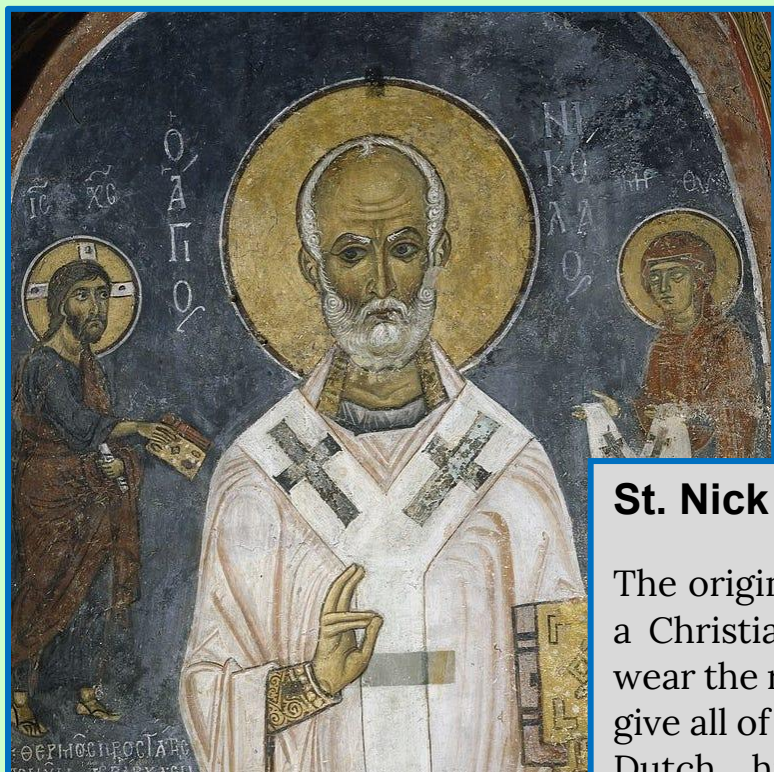
OLD INDEPENDENT CHURCH HALL,
HAMLET ROAD, HAVERHILL

EVERYONE WELCOME DO POP ALONG & BRING A FRIEND.

- Christmas Red Raffle Hamper
- Main Raffle
- Christmas Cake Raffle
- O's and 5's Stall
- Festive Items & Competitions
- Assorted Jars of Jam or Pickle
- Refreshments and Cakes available

ADMISSION FREE

You might like to attend if you are in the area?



St. Nick was more generous than jolly

The original Santa Claus was actually St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop in the 4th century. He didn't wear the red suit that's so famous today, but he did give all of his inheritance to the poor and needy. In Dutch, his name is Sinter Klaas, which later morphed into Santa Claus.

(Taken from Good Housekeeping)

Haverhill Family History Group

2026 Programme of Meetings & Events

8 Jan	Ten-minute talks by members (Any subject)	Ourselves
Sat 17 Jan (TBC)	OPEN DAY at Haverhill Library (CB9 8HB) 10am – 3pm	Ourselves
12 Feb	East London	Peter Tatam
12 Mar	Snapshots from the life of Lee Miller	Derek Adams
9 Apr	A Sign of the times	Sarah Doig
14 May	AGM The change in your pocket	Charmian Thompson
11 June	“The Development of Helicopters”	Duncan Bickley
July	Visit (TBC)	Must Book
10 Sept	Paranormal East Anglia Suffolk	Mike Wabe
Sat 19 Sept (TBC)	OPEN DAY at Haverhill Library (CB9 8HB) 10am – 3pm (TBC)	Ourselves
8 Oct	A glimpse into the life of a Registrar of Births Deaths & Marriages	Kim Case
12 Nov	Restoring a Lancaster	Kelly Bennett + 1
10 Dec	Christmas Quiz A light-hearted social evening with refreshments	Ourselves

Wednesday afternoons, help with your Research at Haverhill Library 2 - 4pm

Guided use of the Internet, especially for newcomers or those ‘stuck’

telephone 01440 848095 to book your place

Answers

- 1 - The Three Kings
- 2 - The Holly & The Ivy
- 3 - Bethlehem Down
- 4 - The First Noel
- 5 - Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
- 6 - Silver Bells
- 7 - White Christmas
- 8 - Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
- 9 - All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth
- 10 - Jingle Bell Rock
- 11 - 2000 Miles
- 12 - Step into Christmas
- 13 - Snowman
- 14 - Mary's Boy Child
- 15 - Blue Christmas
- 16 - Happy Xmas (War Is Over)
- 17 - Last Christmas
- 18 - Underneath the Tree
- 19 - The Twelve Days of Christmas
- 20 - Little Donkey