



Vision & Mission Statement – March 2019

Our Context

The Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area (HAEBEA) was formed by the coming together of a Circuit and a United Area in 2006.

Denominationally, we are Methodist, United Reformed and Church of England including several LEP's, with combined membership and community rolls of 1,100.

There are 16 places of worship in a variety of buildings with various congregation sizes and styles of worship, situated in the towns of Hertford, Ware, Hoddesdon, Cheshunt, Harlow, Epping, Ongar and the villages of North Weald, Hatfield Heath and Watton-at-Stone.

Geographically, we cover an area north of the M25 roughly sandwiched between the A10 and the M11. Much of the Area is in the 'extended commuter belt' for London.

Our Belief & Ecumenical Commitment

We confess our Faith in One God,
The Father, Creator,
The Son, Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Saviour,
The Holy Spirit.

We rejoice in the riches of the traditions we have inherited and seek to share them more fully with one another in the unity, which is the will and gift of God.

We seek a deepening of our communion with Christ and with one another and repent of all that is sinful in our past histories and present attitudes.

We covenant to seek visible and organic unity, even though in our pilgrimage together we cannot foresee the form it will eventually take.

We believe that all are loved and have the opportunity to have a living relationship with God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our Calling

To live out our lives in faith and worship and to share the love of God with all who live in or visit the area.



Our Structure

Our churches grouped geographically into 4 Clusters, each cluster having a minister with pastoral oversight.

HAEBEA is served by:

- Two URC and two Methodist presbyters.
- A lay pastor working at one of the village churches.
- One active supernumerary Methodist presbyter.
- A fulltime administrator.
- A Baptist minister and three Church of England priests working in partnership with HAEBEA through the various LEP's.

Our Mission Statement

Area Mission Statement – This Ecumenical Area is called by God to encourage and inspire its churches and denominations to work together, to further the Christian witness in their communities and the wider world.

In fulfilment of the Mission Statement

- We will support one another in love and fellowship, and provide leadership to enable the churches to use their spiritual, financial and material resources to bear robust Christian witness.
- Each church has a Mission Plan, specific to their setting and resources, and are actively encouraged to build and nurture links with the communities in which they are set.

Our Area Mission Plan

We commit ourselves to fulfilling our collective missional work through the following;

1. We will **encourage churches in evangelism and outreach project by;**
 - a. Encouraging the sharing of knowledge and gifts amongst the churches.
 - b. Sourcing external support resources – course material, training, etc.
 - c. Providing financial assistance from the Area Mission Fund.
2. We will **encourage churches to grow together in faith and worship** and in those months with a 'Fifth Sunday' we will hold **one Joint Sunday Service as the main act of worship**, in a church with the following cluster groups.
 - St Andrew's MC, Hatfield Heath URC, David Livingstone URC, Trinity URC, Roydon URC. (St James LEP and Church Langley LEP to be invited).
 - Leaside LEP, Hoddesdon MC, Hertford MC, Watton-at-Stone MC.



- Epping MC, Epping URC, North Weald MC, Ongar URC.

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders within each cluster will be encouraged to put together a service with input from each church.

The Joint Service will be hosted by a different church on each subsequent '5th Sunday'.

3. HAEBEA covers a wide geographical area with large and small churches each facing challenges in their efforts to share the Gospel. We believe that all we do should be underpinned with prayer and praying for each other is something we can do regardless of church size or location.

We will **encourage churches to support each other through a 'Prayer Chain'**.

- Each church will be asked to pray each week for a **'prayer partner'**
- Each church will be asked to provide a **'prayer contact'** whose job will be to contact their 'prayer partner' church each week to see if there is anything that needs to be particularly prayed for.

Our Vision

Our vision is for each of our churches to be the heart of their community and that in we will see both a growth in church attendance and greater depth in our discipleship.

Our Values

We value our Christian heritage and respective denominational traditions as a movement for mission.

We seek to be honest, transparent and welcoming in all our activities, serving all to whom we are called.

We are committed to honouring the dignity of all people we meet and through our safeguarding practices provide a 'safe place' for children and vulnerable adults.