

Ministers:

Rev Stephen Willey
Deacon Sheila Dawson

<http://centralhall.info/>

September 2020

Dear Members of Central Hall Church Family,

The letter is being sent to all connected with our Church at Central Hall. We want to begin by saying, once more, that although we have been apart since March, each one of you is a valued member of our church family.

We know that many of you are concerned about the return of worship to Central Hall. The good news is that despite changes in the Government advice, at the time of writing we are still allowed to worship God in Church if we have a robust risk assessment and are limiting numbers attending. The church leadership team [Elaine, Naumi, John, Christine, Mark, and us two Ministers] continues to meet on Zoom to talk about the changing situation.

Hopefully you will have picked up two important pieces of information about church services. Firstly we have trialled two services with managing trustees and life group members. Both went as well as we could have hoped and we are ready to start attempting more services in the next few weeks. If you haven't already attended a service and if it is safe for you to attend, we expect to be able to worship with you in the near future.

Secondly for those who cannot attend the service in person, we now have the option to live-stream our services. This is, not least, thanks to John Bennett's IT work. So, if you have a smart phone, a tablet or a laptop, you can tune in by clicking on a link and you can take part in the worship live or after it has taken place.

Here's a summary of information about services and prayers during the next few weeks.

- **Safety** is very important which means we are limited in the number of people we can physically fit in the Hall for a service.
- **We do not want to turn people away** from any service so we are limiting numbers at the moment.
- We realise **Live Streamed Sunday's services** will not be a polished production but as a live act of worship we would love you to join us via the YouTube link provided each time.
- **Many in our church family** have not yet been invited to attend a trial service in person. If that applies to you, please let us know, as we hope to attempt a further service later this month.

- Every member of our church family is important and **we don't want anyone to feel excluded from worship** so we will continue to send out worship sheets to those who can't join us digitally and we will work towards increasing the numbers who can physically attend our services.
- Finally, we are not physically open for **private prayers** in the daytime yet, but we are considering opening one afternoon a week. If we do this, we will let you know.

Turning to the City of Culture plans, by now, hopefully, you are all aware that we intend to get fully involved in the year which will now start in May 2021.

The themes of **hope, faith and love** will be explored over the year with the help of three artists, themed events, through worship. We hope events to include a wide variety of themes using all sorts of artistic and cultural means.

Everyone can get in involved in the year, so if you haven't already done so, please fill in the survey which you received from the City of Culture strategy group. Even if you don't send it in, you can think, as you look at it, about how you might contribute to Central Hall's City of Culture celebrations. If there are any special days or cultural events you would like to organise or contribute to, please let us know.

As we are considering the year and its legacy we will continue to think about how we might improve our building to make it more useable and feel more welcoming. At October's Church Council we will be looking in more detail at the building and sharing thoughts and reflections from the City of Culture Strategy Group.

We're always happy to hear from you about any hopes or dreams you have for our church and how God is working amongst us. Do feel free to get in touch about anything you feel is impacting on our church. We have said before that it is hard to measure how the church is doing in the current crisis and we appreciate your prayers - your faith, your hope and your love which has its source in God, who is at the heart of who we are!

Finally, please remember, if you feel isolated or you'd like one of us to get in touch, you can contact our pastoral secretary, Doreen, or our senior steward, Elaine or Deacon Sheila, or Rev Stephen.

This comes with love and prayers from us both,

Stephen

Sheila