

Ministers:

<http://centralhall.info/>

Rev Stephen Willey
Deacon Sheila Dawson

December 2020

Dear Members of Central Hall Church Family,

We hope that you are all keeping relatively well and managing to have some meaningful contact with your family and friends during these unsettling days of the pandemic. We also hope that you are sensing our Lord's tender presence with you each day and, despite many of us not being able to gather in the Hall for worship, we hope you still know that you are a valued part of our Church family. Thank you once again for the support, care, and prayer that you are continuing to offer one another.

Many of us are struggling in various ways at this time but knowing of the love and prayers of others, and that the vaccine is now available, will hopefully aid us all. Since Lockdown 2, Central Hall has been closed to most room bookings and some of our CCH business staff have had to be furloughed. Please remember all those impacted by this situation (as well as the financial implications for Central Hall) in your prayers. And let us also keep praying for our government and international leaders at this critical point of seeking a Brexit deal - they have such important decisions to make which will inevitably impact our nation's stability and economy.

From the beginning of December, we are planning to have 'physical services' at Central Hall every Sunday morning (at 10.30am). These services will be livestreamed so that those of you who have the technology will be able to share in our worship, online, from your own homes. Strict Covid 19 safety restrictions will continue to be in place in the Hall and we encourage each of you to seriously consider your individual risk and only attend physical services if you feel safe and comfortable to do so. Please rest assured that 'worship at home' sheets will continue to be sent out to those who do not have access to the internet. NB We will not be having physical services in the Hall on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day but hope to have zoom services on those days.

Our Covenant Service is planned for Sunday 10th January and we hope that each of you will be able to share in this special act of worship. If you would like to partake of the communion elements but will not be able to attend the physical service please let a minister, steward, or a member of the church leadership know and we will endeavour to supply you with an individual portion of ready-prepared bread and wine for you to take, as you read the words of the Covenant Service at home.

An 'Advent Reflections' group is currently meeting via zoom on Monday evenings, which all of you are invited to attend. Our 'Breaking Bread' zoom services (at 9am on the first Sunday of each month) and Zoom Bible Studies (at 1.30pm on Wednesdays) continue as before and you are all very welcome to share in them.

Central Hall will be joining in a Nativity Trail from 13th Dec to 3rd January when, like at Halloween, Coventry Churches will be displaying pictures of different characters from the Christmas story in their windows. If you (or any of your family or friends) might like to participate in this Nativity Trail further details can be found on the Queen's Road Baptist Church's website.

Things are gradually moving forward with our proposed building project at Central Hall. We would like to thank all of you who offered your ideas and dreams of how our building might be sensitively improved to make it a sustainable, inviting, and flexible place where it is possible to encounter God. We pray that God will keep working with His Church, amongst our city centre communities, for many decades to come. A key feature of your vision is that the Aldersgate Chapel will remain a sacred space that anyone can use to sit quietly and, hopefully, find God's presence. A draft brief of our combined vision for Central Hall has been sent to several architects and we are awaiting initial meetings with them over the next few weeks. If you would like more details please contact us.

We are really looking forward to Coventry's forthcoming City of Culture year. Our COC strategy group continues to work hard preparing for Central Hall's part in this exciting year (beginning in May 2021) and we hope that many of you will want to lead, alone or as a group, or be actively involved, in a variety of different cultural events and projects.

May we reassure every one of you that you are precious to God and an extremely valued member of our Church. However, if you ever feel lonely or distanced from God, or the Church, please let someone you trust (from the Church) know how you are feeling, and we will try to support you better. Please feel welcome to contact our pastoral secretary, Doreen, our senior steward, Elaine, (Deacon) Sheila, or (Rev) Stephen.

Once again, thank you all for your loving support and prayers for one another and, if any of you are struggling and would like someone to talk to, please let us know.

With our love and prayers for each one of you, and wishing you and those you love a very happy, blessed and joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Sheila

Stephen