

Ministers:

<http://centralhall.info/>

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April 2021

Dear Members of Central Hall Church Family,

This month feels it like there will be a new beginning for our church and our city. Although we have been physically apart since March 2020, we will return to meeting for **worship in person** on **Sunday 2nd May 2021**. We realise that not everyone will feel able to attend the services at first, so services will generally be livestreamed and we hope to continue to provide Bible Study and Worship Sheets for any who cannot attend in person.

Wednesday's weekly **Bible Studies** will continue and so will the **Breaking of Bread**, at 9am on the first Sunday of each month. You will need to contact us direct for Zoom links, but our website <http://centralhall.info/resources/> usually has the most of the details. We now also have **Morning Prayer** every weekday at 9am on Zoom. We hope that this will also be open to all (on Zoom and in person) in the Aldersgate chapel from May 3rd.

The **Aldersgate Chapel** has been refurbished! This work has been overseen and done mostly by the stewards, but a special mention to Greg Byrne, who been very generous with his time and talents. The chapel looks lovely with banners on the freshly painted walls – so when we are open, please come and pray in that nurturing environment.

In the chapel we will have a memorial book set aside for anyone to write in the name of a loved one who has passed away in the last year – or indeed at any time more details about that will follow.

Mission and outreach

Since we last wrote to you we have adopted a new mission statement:

Coventry Methodist Central Hall:

Nurturing and celebrating faith, hope and love.

We hope you feel that describes the church you are part of. If you have any comments or would like to discuss how you could help in our mission please get in touch.

Our outreach and mission will be enhanced by the City of Culture year which fits in well with our mission statement. Artists have been asked to focus on the themes of **faith, hope** and **love** and they will be offering **celebrations** and events which **nurture** well-being and artistic expression. We were excited to appoint the artists we chose, as the best applicants, but there is a weakness in terms of cultural and ethnic diversity. If you have any thoughts about this please get in touch. Our artists want to work with all ages, and all backgrounds

during the year, and we want everyone to share in the hopes and dreams of the City of Culture at Central Hall.

Connection (the church magazine) will appear soon, with annual reports in it. Please look out for it and join us for our Annual Church Meeting on Sunday May 16th.

Property and mission

How things look can make a difference to how people feel. If you haven't seen the new play area outside our Hall, do have a look next time you are in the city centre. It's wonderful to have such a lovely area for families outside our front door. Please imagine how in the future this might benefit the mission and outreach of our church and share your dreams with others!

We hope that the property project will make the most of this opportunity and encourage people to enter our building by improvements to our entrance and also by beginning to futureproof our building with better heating infrastructure, for example. Our project team meets regularly, with Robert, our architect. Things are moving forward and Robert will want to share suggestions with as many of us as he can, so we end up with a great project, making Central Hall an even more inviting building to enter. Our job as a church will be to ensure that the welcome people find on entering is second to none. This will be a challenge for us as our welcome, as well as our follow-up, will be very important in sharing our message of our hope, faith and love, rooted in Christ.

Now we haven't got a caretaker, and as our lettings business starts to return, we will still face serious financial pressures. Fixing our main boilers and cleaning and tidying the building will present big challenges over the next few months. Your practical help could make a real difference and please don't wait to be asked – specific offers of help would be very welcome! The resources group oversees much of this work and meets on a regular basis. Especial thanks to those on this team, including Naumi, who has recently volunteered to join it. Please consider whether you could volunteer to be a part of it too.

Our Church Family

We both continue to appreciate your prayers for the church and your faith, your hope and your love! We want to remind you that each one of you is a precious member of our church family. Once again, please remember those in your community or the church who are struggling. If you feel we could help in some way please let us know, so we can respond.

If you'd like one of us to get in touch, you can contact our pastoral secretary, Doreen, our senior steward, Elaine, Deacon Sheila, or Rev Stephen (email addresses above).

This comes with our love and prayers,

Stephen

Sheila