

Dear Friends,

May 2024

I hope that in the coming year everyone in the life of this church will be able to express their faith more fully through participation in our mission action plan, included in this booklet. All of us have ministries within (and outside) the life of the church and our mission action plan can help us to express those ministries more fully.

I know several people are also living out part of their vocation in work and community settings. In terms of our church life, as I said last year, one of my prayers is, "God send people to support your work at Central Hall, so we can flourish and grow your kingdom". I invite you all to join in that prayer with me. I have found this prayer to be answered in many, often surprising, ways. And still there is much for all of us to do in the life of this church, within our congregation and beyond it.

When Jesus saw that the fields were ripe for harvest he asked the disciples to pray for more labourers (Mathew 9:35-38). Our work is expanding within and beyond our walls in a city, where so many are under pressure. Over the coming year we need to focus on our ministries within the church and continue as a people and a place of hope for those outside our congregation.

We rely on your generosity in terms of your time as well as financial giving. We have no income outside the offertory and net income from room bookings and commercial activity. Currently that is not sustaining us, and it would be a great sadness if all the groups including our church groups had to leave this building because we couldn't sustain it. That isn't our plan – and I really don't think it is God's plan either, so this year is critical as we seek a way forward. This includes our property project which is ready to proceed, but needs people who are willing to do detailed work focusing on our building.

Thanks to all those who have sent reports in for our Annual Church Meeting and to the editors for producing the reports booklet.. and please talk with me, or others in the congregation if there's something more you feel called to do in our church's life.

With love to you all,

Stephen

