

Dear Friends

Re: Giving Sunday

I am writing to you on one of those topics that Ministers least like to write about! So let me start honestly and openly and let you know that what follows is a letter which asks you to consider what you can give to Central Hall, in terms of money, but also in terms of time.

Coventry Central Hall is a unique and wonderful expression of what the heart of Methodism truly is – inclusive of all, working with the community to provide a space to meet, and enabling a wide range of groups and individuals to offer care, education, support and encouragement to an even larger group of people.

To me, Coventry Central Hall is a place where we not only see the very essence of the Methodist movement on display, but, most importantly, where the Gospel is lived out and the image of God in all people is sought and seen and celebrated. It truly is a beautifully brilliant, and brilliantly beautiful, example of what people who love Jesus can offer to a City when the conditions are right!

Like the proverbial iceberg, much of what happens in order to be able to maintain the building here, and keep Central Hall safe and open for business is very well hidden.

To those who are at the heart of the decision making, planning and wrestling with our complex beast of a church, I want to offer my sincerest thanks, particularly as it has not been an easy year since I arrived. In particular, it has not been easy since we have taken a close look at the financial forecasting for next year (26-27) and you have been patient, diligent, honest and committed

to our task in what has felt like thankless work sometimes.

To all of you, the worshipping folk of Central Hall, I now need to be honest with you that the next year looks more than worrisome. I'll be brief, and to the point.

We are currently facing an estimated deficit in the budget for the year ahead of around £90,000.

Let me reassure you there has been no mismanagement here, but a variety of factors have conspired to create a bit of a perfect storm, and the picture is bleak.

We cannot absorb a deficit of £90, 000. You might wonder if we can meet this shortfall from our reserves, but our reserves only total around £40,000 at the moment. As such, there's a very real possibility that Central Hall simply runs out of money within the next 6 months or so.

We are of course looking for financial support from different places, and we are hopeful that this help will come. However, it's right that we come first to our own community to ask for any support you may be able to offer. In normal circumstances, I would probably be writing now to ask for you to consider how you might be able to increase your regular giving, and I do hope you might consider this too. But in this case, I'm inviting you to consider if you could give a one-time gift towards church funds, as part of a Giving Sunday which will be held on **Sunday 9th August** at the usual 10:30.

If you feel able to give something, whatever that might be, please see below for instructions on how best to do so.

If you can't be here on 9th August, we are still very pleased to accept anything you can give before or after this date, using the same giving instructions.

In addition to financial giving, I also want to ask if you can give some of your time. There are several areas of work across the church that I want to invite you to consider, but in particular, I raise these areas to your attention:

- Property maintenance
 - do you have any experience, or perhaps you'd like to learn how to take care of all the various nooks and crannies of our amazing building!
- Supporting children's work on a Sunday morning
 - Could you help our young people to learn more about God, even once every couple of months on a rota?
- Front desk volunteering
 - one of the best places to be during the week is on the front desk of Central Hall! To make things run as safely and smoothly as possible, we're looking for people to be part of welcoming, signposting and helping our clients, visitors and guests throughout the day.
- Community Space 'Chaplain' Volunteering
 - the community space is often filled with a wonderful mix of people who come to spend time in our building. We're looking for some people who might be able to give time during weekdays in particular to be ready to speak with and be present with those who come along, working with me to provide some pastoral support and to ensure the community remains calm and kind throughout the day.



I'm keenly aware that in terms of finance and time, I'm writing to people who already have too many calls on both. Let me assure you that, if you cannot give either, your prayers for how we manage the coming months are also hugely valuable.

I feel sure that God is not finished with Coventry Central Hall yet!

In the next fortnight, I'll be sending out more detailed figures and explanations about finance and volunteering. But for now, I ask that you prayerfully and consider whether you can offer anything towards our Giving Sunday.

with my thanks and continued prayers for each of you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Becki".

Rev'd Becki
revbecki@covnunmethodist.org.uk

To donate:

You can make a bank transfer:
Coventry Central Hall
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account No. 00028245
Reference: 'Giving Sunday'

Or make a cheque payable to 'Coventry Central Hall' or bring cash in an envelope. See below for a Gift Aid form too, if you pay taxes in the UK.

Charity Gift Aid Declaration – single donation

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ to:

Name of Charity Coventry Central Hall

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Full Home address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.