



# Easter Appeal

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EASTER 2025

# A REFLECTION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear friend, may I wish you the joy and peace of the risen Christ this Easter.

Hinde Street recently hosted a City-Centre Network conference. I noticed in the presentations how unique the city-centre context is. Churches in the suburbs or the inner city each have their own very distinctive and mostly local communities. 'City-centre' churches have different joys and challenges.

Hinde Street's 'city-centre' is one of high-end retail and people who sleep rough on the street. People travel to worship from across London - few live locally in Marylebone. We are visited by members of 12 Step recovery groups. Two 'communities' accommodate eleven young professionals on site. We frequently welcome visitors from overseas; our inclusive ethos attracts LGBT+ Christians from across the city. In worship, we have reflected Black History Month and Pride alongside the familiar festivals. The congregation and visitors are both long-established and transient, bringing gifts and needs. Hinde Street is unique; Methodist; city-centre!

This brochure will tell you something of our work. It will also tell you something of our financial position, which is challenging. We believe Hinde Street has something distinctive to offer the West End of London and is an inclusive, vibrant and caring church. But we need to find new sources of funding if we are to continue - and increase - our vision. I am aware that the cost of living affects many people and other churches and causes pull at your pockets.

However, I hope that as a friend of Hinde Street, you will enjoy hearing about the community as it is today and prayerfully consider whether you may be able to help us to ensure Hinde Street's future.

Our work and our appeal are mindful of the global crises. Whether that be the suffering we see on our TV screens in the various conflicts of the world, the hostility shown to refugees, or the concern about the climate, to name a few issues. All of these cause us to cry out to God in prayer and to be justice seeking. As a 'city-centre' church, Hinde Street affect the lives of regular worshippers, residents and visitors in a busy part of London. We have offered a thoughtful and challenging Gospel message for many years - we hope to do so in the years to come.

Thank you - for reading this brochure, for your prayers, and for anything you are able to give.

Bless you in the name of the risen Christ,



*Rev Canon*





# ON FINANCES

We have always been a self-sustaining church; however, our finances are beginning to look precarious. As you will know, everything seems to cost more at the moment, and Hinde Street is not immune to this. In recent years we were generating enough income to cover our costs, but it is becoming clear this is no longer guaranteed. As a friend of Hinde Street, this is why we are writing to you.

However, we have a plan to restore stability to our finances and are launching a year-long appeal from now until next Easter to raise an additional **£100,000** needed to help realise our vision.

Currently it costs around **£390,000** a year to maintain, heat and pay for all the things associated with running regular worship and activities within the church. Most of our income comes from letting out the building and from the rents from our two church communities, which many of you will be aware and have fond memories of. This is as well as the generous gifts received from our congregation. However, this year we do not think this will be enough to break even, let alone set aside money for future repairs.

We have also been informed that Hinde Street must complete around **£270,000** in repairs over the next 5 years to keep the building in a sound condition. Unfortunately, our cash reserves stand at around **£200,000**. As you can see, Hinde Street's financial situation is looking precarious.

Despite the negative financial picture painted, we

plan to restore stability to our church finances through increased lettings and have been looking at applying for one-off grants from church and civic authorities. We are shortly launching a new modern website called 'Hinde Street Venues', which will further our visibility and expand our reach. We also want to go further than before, offering the church as a potential Saturday evening concert venue. We think you will agree, Hinde Street is a truly beautiful building, and we see it as our best asset to increase revenue.

So how can you make a difference? Although we have a plan for stability, we are not in a place where it can be fully implemented. This is why we are asking for your help. With an additional **£100,000**, we can begin to make the much-needed repairs and improvements which will help Hinde Street reach its full potential and allow us to continue God's work within our congregation and the community around us.

This Easter, we invite you to join us on our journey of renewal and celebrate in the spirit of hope. While nobody would wish you to give more than you can afford, we ask you please to prayerfully consider making an Easter gift to Hinde Street to mark the beginning of our year-long appeal and help us achieve our **£100,000** goal. Your generous gift, large or small, will help us keep delivering God's message of love for generations to come. If you are able, we would love for you to visit us soon.

*Neil Littlewood on behalf of the Church Stewards  
and Finance Committee*

# WORSHIP

**9:30am Communion** This communion follows the traditional Methodist liturgy and was originally led by Lord Soper. Small in number, the regulars appreciate its timeless language and peace.

**11:00am Morning Worship** This act of worship is liturgical, features traditional hymn singing, and a thoughtful sermon with communion twice a month. Variations include the informal café worship.

**6:30pm Evening Worship** A peaceful, prayerful space, also with hymns and a thoughtful sermon or perhaps something different - a meditation or discussion.

# INCLUSIVE CHURCH

Being an inclusive and affirming Church is in the DNA of Hinde Street. Having been of this heart for many years, the church registered with Inclusive Church and is exploring different aspects of being inclusive so that this is truly a community where everyone is welcome to be and to participate fully. Read more here: <https://www.hindestreet.org.uk/inclusive-church/>



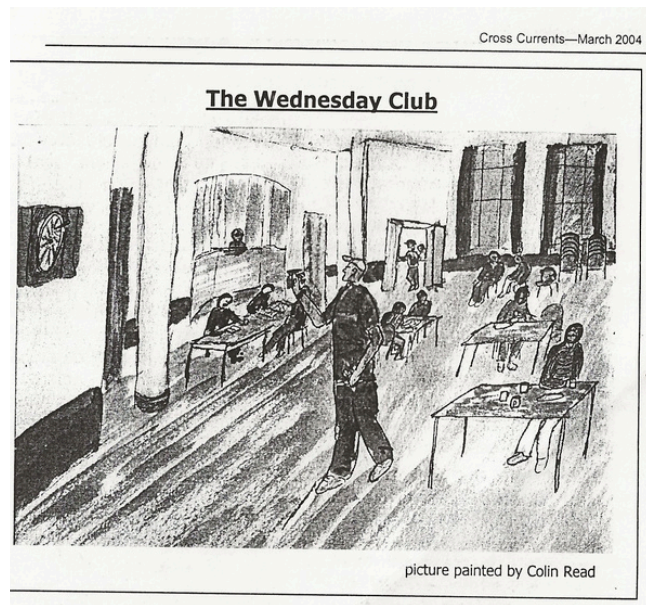


# WORK WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS OR VULNERABLY HOUSED

The Wednesday and more recently the Thursday Clubs welcome about forty people weekly. This has been a regular outreach service, hosted and led by Hinde Street since 1986. The guests value the sandwiches and soup, somewhere warm and unpressured and a safe space for chat and catching up with each other. The clubs are run by volunteers from both the church and the community and are a valuable indication of Christ's love for all people. The church also works with Westminster City Council's outreach team to support people who are homeless and living on the church steps. Our aim is to show mercy and compassion whilst working towards longer term solutions for all. Until the pandemic, the church was part of the Winter Night Shelter provision. Changes in policy in Westminster meant this project has not re-opened. Some Hinde Street members help regularly at the King's Cross Methodist Church Night Shelter.

## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Hinde Street offers two community flats where eleven young professionals live and work out what it means to live in Christian community. They are encouraged to worship and offer time to roles within Hinde Street including reception cover. Over the years, many have helped at Wednesday Club or, according to their gifts, volunteered on committees or as stewards. A number of former community members continue to be involved with Hinde Street; a testament to the spirit within the communities. Community visitors, class leaders, and the ministers offer pastoral care.



# ECO - CHURCH

A group are beginning to look at the Methodist Church's call to be 'net zero' and how we can respond. We have challenges being a Victorian, listed building, but how can we live and worship, and be more in tune with the earth and its environment?



# TAKING A STAND GROUP

This group seeks to bring current matters of social interest to the church's attention. Whilst many people support certain campaigns, what can we as a church focus on? The group recently hosted the film, 'After the Flood', followed by a panel discussing the issue of the church's response to slavery.



# LEIPZIG

Since 1986, Hinde Street has had a link with the Kreuzkirche in Leipzig. A number of visits to each other's cities have taken place, friendships forged; understanding strengthened. Started when Leipzig was in East Germany, the most recent exchange took place in the uncertainty of Brexit with a party from London visiting Leipzig. The forthcoming visit to London of our friends from Leipzig in May 2025 takes place amidst increased security tension in Europe. Creating friendship and peace continues to be an essential element of the link.





## 'SOCIAL WORK'

Since 1887 when the Rev Hugh Price Hughes and his wife Katherine, initiated work amongst London's poorest people, the West London Mission has operated various projects. Over the years, these projects have necessarily become professionalised. They continue today under the name of Strides with four residential sites housing vulnerable people and a counselling centre. Members of Hinde Street have long been supporters of the work, historically helping as volunteers. Today, with various restrictions, such volunteering is not as possible as it used to be. But members continue to help in the governing and direction of Strides. However, due to the increased regulatory demands and the diminishing pool of Circuit volunteers to act as governors, the Circuit made the decision to separate itself from Strides. Effecting this decision has proved a complex process which is ongoing.

## 12 STEP GROUPS

For many years, Hinde Street has provided hospitality to the 12 Step recovery groups. Groups for people with a wide range of addictions meet daily and are valued highly by those who participate. The groups by their nature are run by the participants. We see this hospitality as an essential part of our outreach. Around 30 groups meet every week. The ethos of the groups is to pay a rental for the rooms. However, the rental in no way covers the staffing we need to accommodate the meetings, which have halved in number since the pandemic.



# A GUIDE ON HOW YOU CAN GIVE



Thank you for taking the time to read through this brochure. We hope we have conveyed to you the reasons as to why we think Hinde Street is a church truly worth supporting.

Below, we have given details on various ways in which you can donate and help Hinde Street.

When giving directly through your bank, we ask that you please quote 'Easter Appeal'.

Once more - we thank you for your support, whether through donation or prayer.

Whilst you may or may not be local to Hinde Street now, we appreciate our wider community of which you are part.

Have a very happy Easter season!

*Hinde Street Methodist Church*



**We accept cash  
and cheques.**

Anyone attending worship in person will be able to place their offering in the boxes provided at the exit. Please note that if you register your donation for Gift Aid, you can add 25p to every £1 you give.



**Donations can be made  
by BACS transfer.**

You can easily set up either a recurring or one-off payment with the following details:

HSBC  
Sort code: 40-04-25  
Account no: 51007416



**You can also donate via  
credit card or PayPal.**

Through our online portal, you can set up a recurring or one-off payment:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/19243#!/DonationDetails>