



Dear friends and supporters

As you know, Wallspace has recently reached a crossroads. After four very successful years, we face serious funding issues. We are not alone among arts organisations in struggling to secure the stable finance we need to ensure our future. In our case this is particularly acute as Meryl Doney is due to step down as Director and we cannot undertake to search for a new full-time Director without being sure that realistic funding is in place.

As you will know, we recently made an appeal to our supporters. Over a long period, we have also been making applications to trusts and corporate bodies. This has met with a generous response, particularly from many individuals, for which we are enormously grateful. However, we are still significantly short of our target.

As a result we cannot, in all conscience, carry on in the way that we have been. It's not sustainable. So, as of 28 February 2011, Wallspace Arts will cease to operate as a charitable company, and we will close our offices at All Hallows on the Wall.

Obviously we are sad that Wallspace is to cease to exist in its original form - we had ambitious and exciting plans. There really isn't anything else quite like Wallspace, with its dedicated focus on contemporary art that explored rich and challenging spiritual territory, in its spectacular 18th century sacred setting. We are proud of everything we've achieved since we began in March 2007. From our opening exhibition of Damien Hirst's *New Religion*, which examined issues of truth and human obsessions, to our final show *Commission*, which showcased the extraordinary breadth and depth of art in churches across the UK. Wallspace has established a benchmark for quality, variety and vigour.

However, in the current economic climate, we simply cannot afford to carry on as we are. So we will fold our tents. Director Meryl Doney, will become a freelance curator and arts consultant, and continue the work she is already doing in advising churches, organisations and corporate bodies, and mentoring emerging artists and curators. She also hopes to take on one or two of Wallspace's planned exhibitions independently.

If you made a donation as part of the recent appeal, thank you very much. We appreciate your support a great deal. We are hoping to be able to return your gift in full. If you pledged money as part of the appeal, many thanks, but you can now put your chequebook away. We will close in good order, with no debts to our name.

As we said, Meryl, the founder of Wallspace, will continue to embody the spirit of Wallspace as an independent. She is keen to let you know of the new exhibitions and ventures that she will initiate.

Thank you once again for your support, your enthusiasm and your company. Thanks go especially to the artists who have made Wallspace come alive. Finally, of course, to the clergy, administrator and Guild Council of All Hallows, who have generously allowed this wonderful experiment to take place. It has been a terrific four years, and we've loved it.

Best wishes

Peter Delaney (Chair), Meryl Doney and Wallspace Trustees.