

ISSUE 8 • DECEMBER 2024

# CHRIST OUR HOPE

Newsletter of Christ our Hope Liverpool



## The meaning is in the waiting

BY WILL GIBBONS

Advent is a precious gift. We live in a culture that demands immediacy. We get frustrated when our fast-food isn't fast enough, when our parcel isn't delivered the next day as promised, or when the internet browser stutters as it loads.

In the rush of life, we can fail to see our place in God's plan that spans across history. Advent is the opportunity to pause and remember that we are waiting. Advent is an invitation to consider our coming King and prepare for his arrival. *(Continued overleaf)*



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CONTACT US  
[hello@COHL.org.uk](mailto:hello@COHL.org.uk)



**“Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.”**

ISAIAH 64:4 NIV



*(Continued from front page)*

Celebrating Advent can seem at odds with the frantic pace of the ‘Christmas season’ that landed in our shop windows and television commercials as soon as Halloween was over. The patient waiting of Advent enables us to slowly self-reflect and examine ourselves in such a way that leads to sincere repentance.

As we lift up our eyes in expectancy of Jesus’ return, we discover a holy discontentment in the brokenness of our world. Advent encourages our hearts to yearn to see the glory of God.



We are still waiting for the official decision for the new Parish of Christ our Hope to begin. The Church Commissioners agreed with our proposals but one of the representors has submitted an intention to seek leave to appeal against the decision. This means that we won’t officially become the new single larger parish on 1st January 2025.

Whenever I’m forced to wait I see it as an opportunity to grow as a disciple of Christ, to seek God, to find meaning in the moment, however much it drags. As the Welsh poet and priest R.S. Thomas wrote in his poem Kneeling, “The meaning is in the waiting.” May we wait expectantly for all that God is going to do as our hearts yearn for Him.





## A bite-sized review of the year

BY LAURA HUTHWAITE

**Supper and Speaker** - we had an opportunity to socialise, eat and get to know each other but also be inspired, and attendance at these has really grown as word has got round.

**Daily Advent Videos** - a perfect example of the difference working together can make. No single church alone could have achieved these short reflections on various bible verses, shared through social media and on You Tube.

**Thursday Night Prayer** has provided a weekly, peaceful space for worshippers to pray together, supported across the churches and led by various clergy.

**Lent Course** - several churches followed the same series, delivered on different days and times meaning we could attend whichever session suited our often busy timetables best each week.

**Generous Harvest** - shared sermon series content and resources on Ruth during October.

**Youth events** - such as pizza night and dodgeball. Great opportunities for our young people to meet others with a shared belief over pizza or dodgeball.

**Youth Alpha & Alpha** - well attended and lives changed.

**Buildings** - recommendations from the Buildings Team brought improvements; a new kitchen and improved toilet at St Annes, funding for St Andrew's Hall refurb design plans. Holy Spirit sadly held their final service in their church building in October. We hope members of the congregation have found a home in one of our other churches. The Church Commissioners are also considering our request to close St Christopher's church building.

**Prayer Walks** - led by Irene Tuzio have opened the eyes of those who took part to what is on our doorstep resulting in a greater understanding of the opportunity for mission right outside our doors.

There is already an attitude of working together and this is proving transformational. I'm excited about the future, the new things we can do together and all the people we can reach and share God's great love with.

**"An astounding list of all the missional events and discipleship activities that have happened in the last year, and that's BEFORE we officially become one parish of Christ our Hope!"**





**Christ our Hope is working, alongside other faith communities and organisations, to make our area a more just place to live,** as Andrew Edwards explains...

In January, 30 people gathered at St David's to talk about their passion and action for social justice. Since then we've established a regular meeting of Eco champions, and we are meeting to pray together.

Our next step is to work with Together Liverpool in 2025 to help develop existing social justice projects (and launch new ones) by hosting four Learning Communities, exploring:

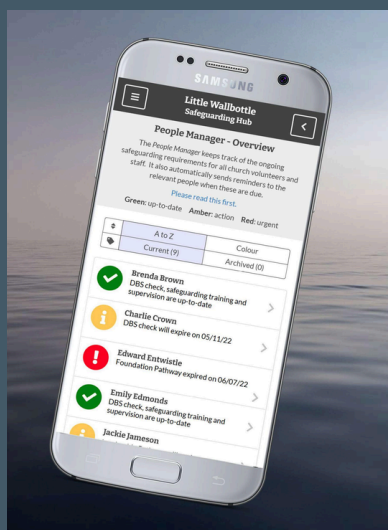
- The strengths and needs in our community
- The root causes of poverty
- What difference we want to make and how to measure it
- Ways we can help participants to become involved in volunteering and leadership
- How we can work for justice more broadly



At the end of these sessions we'll have clear ways that we're developing our existing justice work and positive plans for new initiatives.

If you're passionate about social justice and want to be part of this then talk to your church leader. The first session is on Tuesday evening 11th February and we'd love you to join us. Do contact Andrew for more details on 07515287013 or [andrew.edwards@liverpool.anglican.org](mailto:andrew.edwards@liverpool.anglican.org).

## Safeguarding Dashboard



Liverpool Diocese is rolling out the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, this will help each worshipping community to become a safer place, as **Sue Chambers** explains...

The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is a simple to use, online tool, accessed via computer or smart phone, which helps the PCC keep track of safeguarding. Authorised users, normally the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), can see the status of safeguarding at a glance. Dashboard members can be added and view the progress but are unable to edit like the PSO. It uses a traffic light system, green lights mean all is well, amber means that action is needed, and red means it's urgent. It has an information section below the questions which contains links to other useful resources, giving examples of what is needed. There are 3 levels to work through and the aim is to provide PSOs with everything they need in one place. Please chat to your PSO if you want to know more or to check where they are up to!