

ISSUE 10 • JULY 2025

# CHRIST OUR HOPE

Newsletter of Christ our Hope Liverpool



## A Legacy of Faith & Fellowship

### THANKSGIVING FOR ST CHRISTOPHER'S

On 22nd June 2025, the final service at St Christopher's Church in Norris Green marked the end of an era, celebrating nearly a century of faith, community, and cherished memories. The service brought together generations of parishioners, each with heartfelt stories of how the church shaped their lives.

Among the many voices, Howard Don shared how his grandfather Frank, seeking a place of worship for his young family, wrote to the Bishop of Liverpool—leading to the church's founding in 1932. Frank became the first Sunday School Superintendent, and his family's connection to St Christopher's has endured through generations.



## This issue:

A Legacy of Faith  
& Fellowship  
PAGE 1 & 2


Going for Gold  
PAGE 3

100 Days  
PAGE 4

COHL Prayer  
PAGE 4

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**“The Spirit of  
the Sovereign  
Lord is on me...  
the oil of joy  
instead of  
mourning,  
and a garment  
of praise  
instead of a  
spirit of  
despair.”**

ISAIAH 61:1, 3 NIV

Ray Murphy, a lifelong member and former Boys’ Brigade Captain, fondly described the church as a “Vicar’s Finishing School,” having welcomed several vicars in their first parish roles. He also recalled the Men’s Guild, a group of skilled tradesmen who maintained the church through fellowship and service.

Margaret Allan, who attended the church’s opening ceremony at age four, and her family have been deeply involved ever since. Her son-in-law, John Lally, reflected on decades of family milestones celebrated at St Christopher’s—from weddings to christenings—highlighting the church’s role as a spiritual home.



Ann Breen recounted her parents’ wedding in the 1940s and their service as churchwardens. Her father even founded a club for under-nines when her brother found no group for his age. Stories like these, filled with community spirit, were echoed by many others, including former Rose Queens, choirboys, and Sunday school teachers.

The service also honoured the legacy of Triple C Liverpool, a charity born from the church’s mission, and the beloved “Little Steps” toddler group led by Sue Wade. Former vicar Philip Burman, though unable to attend, sent warm reflections, reminding all that St Christopher’s was never just a building, but a community of “Christ carriers.”

As the final hymn faded, the memories shared and the lives touched stood as a testament to the enduring spirit of St Christopher’s. Though the doors may close, its legacy lives on in the hearts of all who called it home. In Christ our Hope the story continues for the next generation of people in Norris Green.







## Going for Gold!

BY LYNN FARRAM

At Christ Church we were awarded our Gold Eco Church Award in May. Many of you will be at churches who are somewhere along this path, I would encourage you to keep going, as every small good action for climate and nature added to the next makes a big difference.

It might seem we are up against the unfettered emissions of billionaires and huge businesses, but increasingly we can see we have power there too. Change comes from ordinary people. Jesus taught us that it is often the most unlikely people that truly make a difference. We are the second church in Christ Our Hope to receive Gold (beaten very fairly by St Cuthbert's) this shows that this parish is working for God's creation because there are only three gold eco churches in Liverpool, and as of 30th June 2025 a total of 100 in the country.

Some highlights for us have been:

- watching some of our young people grill our MP about Rosebank (controversial oil field in Scotland)
- planting a Gleditsia Triacanthos Sunburst Honey Locust tree
- using Pablo (the super-banana) to promote Fairtrade
- seeing church family of all ages getting involved.

If you haven't visited Christ Church do come, I recommend Apple harvest time, admiring our solar panels, or joining us at Pick n Pic a new initiative introduced by Rev Jacque litter picking in the community then a shared picnic.

# ECO FAIR

## 10AM-1PM 11TH OCTOBER 2025

Save the date! An exciting upcoming event held by West Derby Churches Together Eco Leads, with help from Faiths for Change, is an Eco Fair, still planning, on 11th October. We will be hosting a fun morning of outreach, activities, craftivism, and encouragement. We hope that you'll join us.

**'O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.'**

PSALM 104:24-25



# 100 Days

## COHL CELEBRATIONS

There's been so much to celebrate in the first 100 days of COHL...



+ Additional funding for Support Services meaning we can recruit an Operations Manager

+ New funding for a Deanery Youth Hub to appoint Children & Youth Lead in 2026 and two trainee students on placement from Emmanuel Theological College from September 2026.

## COHL Prayer

Generous God, we thank you for calling us together in the Parish of Christ our Hope. We praise for you for the blessings of the past. We seek the power of the Holy Spirit in the present. We pray for ever-growing Christ-centred communities in the future. Lord, by your Spirit, may we be renewed in hope and inspired to share the Gospel, as we serve Christ and each other. In Jesus name. Amen