

ISSUE 9 • MARCH 2025

CHRIST OUR HOPE

Newsletter of Christ our Hope Liverpool



Our future together

BY HELEN EDWARDS

All around us, people are looking for meaning and purpose, longing for hope. I remember feeling like that and asking questions, such as; *who am I and (why) do I matter? Can I know God personally? Why does God allow suffering?* Ordinary people, friends, helped me find answers and my life changed forever.

Jesus commissioned the church to 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.' *(Continued overleaf)*



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“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

ROMANS 15:13 NIV



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However, we know that at times the church has been distracted, busy, and turned people away rather than shared this hope.

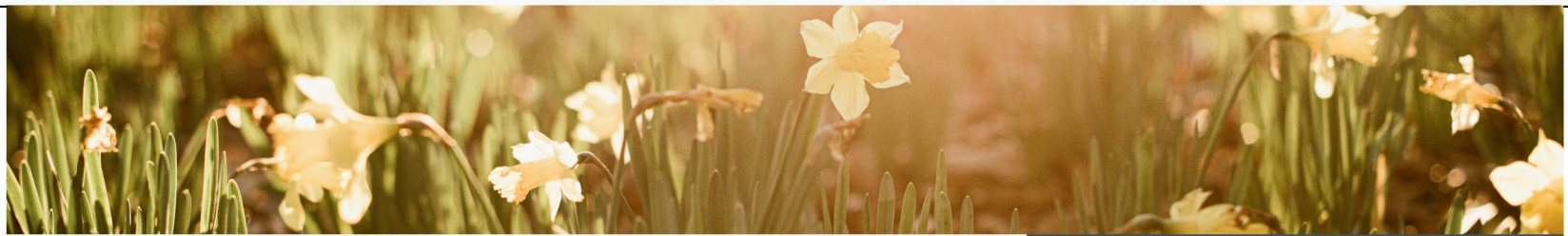
Our coming together as a team, is in part about dealing differently with some of the things have distracted us from commission of Jesus. It's about reprioritising:

- Introducing people to Jesus
- Deepening discipleship
- Growing Christian leaders
- Working for justice



It feels like we've lifted our heads out of the sand, acknowledged some of our shortcomings and committed to creating a better future for the church. It's not always been easy, so thank you for working together, praying and much more.

We must keep our focus on God, praying that by His Spirit, He will grow Christ-centred communities that enable everyone to flourish. Please, come and join with us as we celebrate and look to our future together at the new parish meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 18th March 2025 in St Andrew's Church, Adshead Road, Liverpool, L13 0AL.



Supporting finance teams

BY KATE HINDLEY

The treasurers and finance teams of the COHL churches started meeting last July and have met nearly every Thursday since. Initially meeting in person, and not knowing each other at all, this group now mostly meet online and have become a wonderfully supportive cohort of colleagues, supported by the Diocesan Fit For Mission Team. Blair at St Andrew’s writes: “A treasurer’s job can often be a very lonely existence. Working together as a group is so much better than working alone!” For my part, since joining them in November it has been great to get to know them and they have been immensely welcoming and supportive.



In their time together the Finance Team have chewed over reams of policy documents (which is as dry as it sounds and frankly they deserve a huge round of applause), but have now moved on to much more practical matters of working out agreed finance processes, such as how to log the Sunday offerings, which bank COHL’s account should be with, how volunteers will claim expenses, etc. For those of us who are called and wired to work with money this is actually a lot of fun.

I started in the new role of Support Services Finance Officer at the beginning of October. As with much of the day to day running of COHL, the exact remit of my role is still being worked out. I’ll be sending out invoices, running payroll, reconciling the bank statement, creating budgets, and a whole list of other finance tasks. But most importantly, I’ll be supporting the finance teams in the Worshipping Communities and they me.

“A treasurer’s job can often be a very lonely existence. Working together as a group is so much better than working alone!”

BLAIR BUSHNELL





Welcome Jacque

BY WILL GIBBONS

One of the greatest joys as Area Dean is to be involved in appointing and welcoming new clergy. On Sunday 19th January Rev'd Jacque Ayton was licensed as Vicar of Christ Church Norris Green. Jacque was born and raised in the U.S. and settled in England in 2015. She joins us following completing her curacy at St. Alban's Church in Stoke Heath, Coventry. Jacque is passionate about Jesus, social justice, and meeting people where they are. It's great to have her in the Clergy Leadership Team of Christ our Hope Liverpool.

**"We are
stronger and
better
together"**

JOAN POVEY



Joan Povey, member of All Saints Stoneycroft, delighted in telling me that at aged 79, she had been making new discoveries as she read her bible. Joan shared how 1 Corinthians 12, teaching about the Body of Christ, now made so much more sense in the light of our coming together as Christ our Hope Liverpool.

She then explained, and she said I could quote her, that she was "dead against FFM at first, but not now." Now, she could see that "we are stronger and better together, that we need each other" and she believes this was how God had made us to be.

Finance, Schools Assemblies, Churchwardens, Children's, Families, Youth, and Eco teams across all our churches have been meeting regularly to share in the joys and struggles of growing the church in strength and unity – and there is so much to be excited about. I think Joan is right, we are stronger together.

At the new parish meeting, we need to elect Churchwardens and PCC members. We believe that in the Body of Christ, God has provided us with the people we need for these roles, but we need to identify, nominate and elect them. So please do pray, do prompt, do nominate and do ask, 'Is it I, Lord?'.