

ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2025



# CHRIST OUR HOPE

Newsletter of Christ our Hope Liverpool

## A Vision for Transformation

WILL GIBBONS

This month I will spend a week in Zimbabwe with Tearfund learning how local churches can bring lasting change to their communities. Tearfund works through the local church in the world's poorest countries because they know their communities best. The local church is best placed to recognise challenges and release people's God-given potential to overcome them. Tearfund trains local churches to identify the resources they already have so that they can develop lasting solutions to the problem of poverty. This approach supports communities to rewrite their own stories and build a future filled with hope and opportunity.

My hope and prayer is that God will open my eyes to how he wants to bring transformation in our communities here in Liverpool too.



Photo Source: Rhiannon Horton/ Tearfund

## This issue:

A Vision for  
Transformation  
PAGE 1

All Saints Marching In  
PAGE 2

Rector's Update  
PAGE 3

Operations Manager,  
Supper & Speaker  
PAGE 4

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



**"This is an exciting next step for all of us at All Saints, continuing the great work that's gone before but also moving into the future with a renewed sense of zeal and of God's vision!"**

REV BECCA COTTRELL



## All Saints marching in!

PAUL CARHART

We were delighted at the end of October to hear that the further consultation about All Saints Stoneycroft joining Christ Our Hope had concluded, and that it was agreed without any opposition. We have been working 'as if' part of the new parish from the start, but the conclusion of this legal process was really welcome. Thank you to everyone who wrote in to the Church Commissioners supporting the proposal – your support really mattered.

The great news is that All Saints will now join the new parish on 1st January 2026, and we will start the new year with a bright new future.



The PCC at All Saints, along with the Local Leadership Team, will now bring all formal matters to a close including completing accounts for the full financial year, and working with the Support Services Team to integrate our insurance, compliance and administration functions in to the parish. Thank you to all of the members of the All Saints PCC who have served during this time and as we look towards the future, we're excited to play our part in building God's Kingdom across the parish of Christ Our Hope.

# Rector's Update

BY HELEN EDWARDS

Over the last couple of months, we've made important steps forward as the Larger Single Parish of Christ our Hope Liverpool. Significant developments include:-

- All Saints Stoneycroft to be fully part of COHL. The consultation period is complete, bringing to completion the pastoral reorganisation that has brought 10 original parishes together. As of 1st Jan 2026, we're all in!
- Welcomed Richard Sherratt as Operations (and Enterprise) Manager and Alice Hincks as Finance Officer, completing our Support Services Team.
- Receiving Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) grant funding, 80% of the funding for our Support Services Team over the next four years is coming from the SMMIB grant.
- COHL getting a charity number! COHL is now registered with Charity Commission, this also means we have been able to set up COHL bank accounts.

As Team Rector, it's a joy to see these developments and know the difference they will make to our churches. Christ our Hope foundations are bedding in, we're in better shape to focus on the four missional priorities, enabling us to grow Christ-centred communities that enable everyone to flourish, resourcing us to 'support centrally' so churches can 'act locally'.

For me personally, these are also signs that it's time for a new Team Rector to be appointed, somebody who will lead Christ our Hope into a new season of mission and growth. Over the last few years, I've openly spoken of my conviction that God called me to serve as Team Rector through these first years of change. I believe the time has now come, for me to step away from COHL and for somebody new to lead the parish as Team Rector. I've submitted my resignation to the Bishop, giving notice that I plan to step down in June 2026. COHL PCC has begun the discernment process for a new Team Rector.

Please join me in praying for God's guidance and provision.

## Micah 6:8

**He has shown  
you, O mortal,  
what is good.  
And what does  
the Lord  
require of you?  
To act justly  
and to  
love mercy  
and to  
walk humbly  
with your God.**

NIV



# Operations Manager

BY RICHARD SHERATT

I started as the new Operations Manager for COHL last month. My first month has been somewhat of a whirlwind, but it has been good to begin to get a handle on how COHL operates. Essentially, my role has two components. The first is to ensure that the operational side of the parish is running efficiently.



It has been wonderful to begin to get to know Alice, Angelika, and Sue who do an amazing job as the Support Staff Team. They are dedicated to what they do and want the best for all the churches in this parish. I have also enjoyed meeting your fantastic Clergy Leadership Team. Their enthusiasm is infectious, and they have made me feel welcome.

The second aspect of my role, and one which particularly excites me, relates to finance and enterprise, as I look to develop new income streams to resource our mission and ministry over the years ahead. A key focus currently is setting up a budgeting system. It was encouraging to meet with Finance Coordinators at the Finance Subcommittee in October and see their commitment as we begin to work towards creating a budget for 2026. I have also found it helpful to have a tour to get a sense of what is going on in each of the churches in the parish, and to begin to reflect on possible enterprise opportunities in the future. If this is something you'd be interested in getting involved with then I'd love to hear from you!

## Supper & Speaker

**CHRIST OUR HOPE LIVERPOOL**

**SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 6-8PM**

St David's Church  
Liverpool L16 1JA



**SPEAKER**

Bishop Ruth

**'What's all this stuff about Jesus?'**



"These were the words that entitled the speech I made when my teacher put me in for a schools' public speaking competition when I was aged 13. I will share something of my story of discovering a faith in Jesus for myself, having been brought up in a Christian home. Hearing God's call to me to live and tell the story of his love for the world and something of the journey of women in the Church."

**BOOK VIA LINK BELOW OR QR CODE**

<https://christourhopeliverpool.churchsuite.com/events/nuz8mush>

It's Scouse for Supper. Booking essential for this popular COHL gathering!  
When booking please advise us of any special dietary needs.



**CHRIST OUR HOPE LIVERPOOL**

IS THE NAME OF A GROUP OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHURCHES IN WEST DERBY DEANERY WORKING TOGETHER AS A LARGER SINGLE PARISH

**PAGE 4**