

ISSUE 12 • FEBRUARY 2026



CHRIST OUR HOPE

Newsletter of Christ our Hope Liverpool

Into the Desert

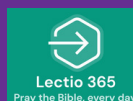
RUTH HASSALL

Lent invites us into a different rhythm—one that is slower, quieter, and more honest. This year, we step into Lent through the wisdom of the Desert Mothers and Fathers, early Christian seekers who withdrew into the desert not to escape the world, but to encounter truth more fully. For them, the desert was not a place of emptiness, but of clarity: a landscape where distractions fell away and the heart could be laid bare before God.

In the starkness of the desert, there was nowhere to hide. The Desert Mothers and Fathers learned that transformation does not come through spiritual striving or impressive discipline, but through attentiveness—listening deeply to God, to oneself, and to the realities of human weakness and longing. They discovered that God meets us not when we have perfected ourselves, but precisely as we are.

This Lent, we are invited into that same posture. Rather than measuring success by what we give up or achieve, we are called to stillness, to patience, and to courage. Lent becomes a space to sit with our struggles, resist easy answers, and allow God's presence to do its quiet work. In the desert, change happens gently, honestly, and from the inside out.

Wisdom in the Desert: 40 Days in the Wilds of
Faith with the Desert Fathers and Mothers
Available via Lectio 365 App from 18th February



This issue:

Into the Desert
PAGE 1

Youth & Children's Hub
PAGE 2

Annual Meetings
PAGE 3

Supper & Speaker,
Appointments
PAGE 4

CONTACT US
hello@COHL.org.uk



**Start children
off on the way
they should go,
and even when
they are old
they will not
turn from it.**

PROVERBS 22:6



Youth & Children's Hub

The Youth and Children's Hub is a new concept which seeks to create a joined up, supported plan in deaneries to ensure that there is opportunity for children, young people and their families to access discipleship, worship and faith communities in a range of styles, places and times.

Youth Hub Leader

We are seeking a faith-filled Christian leader who is passionate about bringing hope to youth and children, and who will lead on mission and discipleship across West Derby Deanery as part of our Youth and Children's Hub strategy, which is in its early stages of development.

For more details and to apply via CharityJob please visit our website <https://christourhopeliverpool.org.uk>

Deadline: 13 March 2026, 12pm

Interviews: Tuesday 24th March 2026

Youth Scholarships

Are you passionate about working with children and young people? Do you want to study theology and gain hands-on ministry experience in a supportive and growing team? The Diocese of Liverpool is offering two fully funded BA scholarships to study Theology and Youth Work at Emmanuel Theological College, alongside a practical placement in West Derby Deanery Youth & Children's Hub.

We are taking applications for our 2026 intake now.

Deadline: April 10th 2026

Interviews: April 21st 2026

If you're interested or have any questions, please contact: Yana Rusina 0-18s Project Assistant on Yana.Rusina@liverpool.anglican.org

Annual Meetings

BY RICHARD SHERRATT

On 26th April at All Saints Stoneycroft at 6pm we shall be holding our Annual Meetings. This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the life of our parish as we look back over the past year to reflect and give thanks for all that has happened. We'll also look forwards as we share our hopes for the future, excited for where God is taking us next. As part of our time together we will elect churchwardens and PCC members, as well as learning more about how we have been caring for our buildings, stewarding our finance, and strengthening our safeguarding.

This year we will be electing:

- 9 Churchwardens
- 5 PCC Representatives (3 for three-year terms, 2 for casual vacancies)
- 12 Deanery Synod Representatives

Everyone is welcome to attend; however, only those on the Electoral Roll can vote.

As we prepare for the Annual Meeting we are revising our Electoral Roll. If you attend a church in Christ our Hope please join our Electoral Roll. Not only will you be able to vote for church officers and stand for election yourself, by joining the Electoral Roll you will be demonstrating your commitment to your parish. Paper forms are available in your church, or you can sign up online using this QR code.



2026 Annual Meetings

26th April, 6pm

All Saints Stoneycroft

Broad Green Rd, Old Swan, L13 5SH

Proverbs 3:5-6

**Trust in the
Lord with all
your heart and
lean not on
your own
understanding;
in all your ways
submit to him,
and he will
make your
paths straight.**

NIV



Supper & Speaker

Sunday 22nd February 6-8pm

The Good Shepherd
Liverpool L11 2SF

 **SPEAKER** Ruth Hassall

"Into the Desert: Learning to listen and letting ourselves be changed"

Step into Lent through the wisdom of the Desert Mothers and Fathers. Come and explore the desert as a place of truth, stillness, and transformation—where distraction falls away and God meets us as we are. Rather than striving for spiritual success, Lent becomes an invitation to listen, to sit with our struggles, and be gently changed.

BOOK VIA QR CODE

A Lent Supper with soup, cheese and bread. Booking encouraged for this popular COHL gathering. When booking please advise us of any special dietary needs. Tea and Coffee will be provided but feel free to bring your own drinks if you prefer.



At Supper and Speaker, we'll be celebrating Revd Irene Tuzio completing her curacy and continuing with us as an SSM Associate Vicar in COHL, based at The Good Shepherd — a wonderful milestone to give thanks for.

Licensing & Installation

On Monday March 2nd at 7.00 pm
Rev'd Kate Johnston will be licensed and installed as Team Vicar at St Cuthbert's, Croxteth Park, Langley Close, Liverpool, L12 0NB.

Clergy and Readers are asked to robe in the Community Room. Congregation please be seated by 6.45pm. Refreshments will be served after the service so please RSVP to June Simm – June.Simm@cohl.org.uk



Team Rector Designate

Alongside these announcements, we are currently advertising for a Team Rector, and we ask for your ongoing prayer. June Simm, Churchwarden on the PCC has shared this prayer for us to use together:

"We pray for the person we believe in faith that you will choose to be our next Rector of COHL. May that person respond gladly to your call and work with us all to grow your kingdom here. Amen."