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CHRIST OUR HOPE

Newsletter of Christ our Hope Liverpool



Prayer Makes A Difference

BY TOM LANGDON-SMITH

The memory of prayer that sticks in my head from my childhood, is waiting for a school eucharist service to start, and resting my elbows on knees, head in hands, and talking to God. A teacher came along and interrupted thinking I was unwell... I think I was most confident praying in my head when I was a child.

Growing up and going to a home Bible study, I remember the anxiety as the group moved from person to person around the circle. I could barely concentrate on holding a thought. I felt like I didn't have anything worth contributing...

I have learnt that this isn't true for *anyone*, and I love to encourage others to take the next step on their faith journey as they grow in confidence.

These days I will take any opportunity to pray!
I LOVE PRAYING....!

Whether by myself, leading a small group, or holding the space during a service in person or in our Night Prayer on Facebook Live. I always feel lifted, more alive, more aware of God and his creation, and the ripples that lap against my life.

As followers of Jesus we know He told us to do it, He gave us the Lord's Prayer as a pattern. We know it makes a difference as we see more 'God coincidences' when we pray, more answered prayers.

The hard part sometimes, is actually committing and doing it! So, I challenge us all, this Easter, and beyond to spend a little more time with God than we do now. If you spend 1 minute praying, why not try 2? If its 10 minutes, why not try 15? Or how about using the 30 Day Prayer Challenge on the back, or join us on Thursdays at 9pm for Facebook Live Night Prayer facebook.com/ChristOurHopeLiverpool. I pray you take the next step on your walk with Jesus. Amen!

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Addressing Injustice Together

BY ANDREW EDWARDS & KERRY DODD

Thirty people came together from across Christ our Hope for our 'More Justice in the World' event at St David's in January. We shared what we're passionate about. We celebrated our wide range of social action initiatives, and we talked together about how we can make a bigger difference to the lives of



people around here. We already work together with other local churches (e.g. in debt advice, foodbanks and homelessness) so it was great to have ecumenical friends joining in the conversation.

We have brilliant continuing support in all we do from Together Liverpool and their Network of Kindness. The January event was held on a stormy night that prevented people joining us who'd planned to. But those who did make it, amply confirmed our view that we can offer a stronger platform for social action and addressing injustice together.

Coming up in the next three months from the Social Justice Portfolio Team. A first event to bring together Eco Leads in our congregations to support one another, to move one more step along the Eco Church journey. We hope to encourage one another from where each of us is on this, challenging and rewarding path.

We're looking to host another prayer justice event. This follows up a climate action focused hour of prayer last month (using a Christian Aid resource), hosted by one church member but with a wide open invitation taken up by members of other churches. And we're exploring whether there's further potential for sharing volunteers between congregations, building on what happens currently in foodbanks.

Get in touch if you'd like to say COUNT ME IN too!

togetherliverpool.org.uk/initiatives/join-the-network-of-kindness-members-sign-up

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Pancake Hospitality

BY LAURA LEATHERBARROW

We wanted to make our pancake party accessible. So we did it after school on the Friday before the school holiday. It was even better attended than ever before! With our volunteers struggling to keep up serving pancakes and toppings.

We had the joy of new non-church family coming and sharing this Lenten tradition. We were able to use this as a missional opportunity to start a relationship with people over the age old way of hospitality and food. Sharing the meaning of Shrove...

...Tuesday in a fun way. The children had a great time flipping pancakes and doing races while the parents had a cuppa and natter.

We provided fresh fruit toppings, as well as age old lemon, sugar, syrup, chocolate spread, which the children all helped themselves too.

On Shrove Tuesday we then worked with the residents association to provide another fun day of crafting etc and we offered pancakes (again!) and drinks in hospitality to our estate. We built on these community relationships, which continue to gain in strength.

It was great to hear of other pancake parties across our churches too, because events like these are golden opportunities to show Christ's love to our neighbours while also bringing the good news to people who might not usually come through our doors.



Together We Can Do More

BY LAURA HUTHWAITE

At St Andrews, I was part of a group called Switch, reaching out to young people in the local area through the Message Bus (state of the art mobile youth centre) that came once a week. Sometimes we'd have 30-40 kids. Unfortunately, that work had to end when team members left and we just didn't have enough people or the finances to carry on the work.

When I remember the conversations we had with the young people, the connections we made and the fun we had, I realise there is still a need for this and it would be great to start that up again. Then I think about something for new parents, a dad's group, a dementia cafe, gardening club, a group for the socially isolated. The list goes on....

If only we had more people, more time, more resources, more skills, more leaders in my church that we could do all these things. I get excited about the reach we could have, the lives we could change and the good we could do in our community!

This is one of the reasons I'm excited about becoming part of the new parish of Christ our Hope. We will be better connected as a group of local churches and there will be more people, more skills, more leaders, more time and more opportunity to join together and action some of these ideas.

And the great news is that a lot of these groups and ways to connect with people are already happening in some of our other churches.

Here's a snapshot of some...

- **Vintage at St Andrews** for the over 60s, Tuesdays at 10am
- **English language at Christ Church** Norris Green for adults where English is an additional language, Fridays at 9.15am
- **SEND cafe at St Cuthberts** for parents and carers of neurodiverse children, Mondays at 9.15am

We can't do everything as one church, but together as a Parish we can do a lot more!



30 DAY Prayer Challenge TODAY'S ONE THING

We want to encourage everyone to pray about the things that matter to our churches and communities. We are inviting you to choose just 'One Thing' each day and to spend some time in prayer, bringing this one thing to God. You could do this on your own or with others in your worshipping community.

Wedding, baptism and funeral families; that God may meet them and continue to walk with them going forward	St Anne's, Church and School and the communities they serve	People starting out in their journey of faith and relationship with Jesus	All Anglican churches and communities in West Derby Deanery	The opportunities to serve children, families and young people and for churches to share Christ our Hope	That God would meet the people in a community that you are part of (e.g. work, sport, reading, your street)
Holy Spirit Dovecot as they explore their mission and ministry together in Dovecot	Readers and wardens who strengthen ministry and mission across the churches	Local MPs, Councillors and government - for wisdom and for compassionate and fair decisions	Our journey towards becoming the Parish of Christ our Hope, supported by FFM	All Saints Church and people living in the locality	For all who serve our communities in the public sector, for schools, health centres, housing and more
The agencies and individuals advocating for justice and serving in social action	The opportunity to share the love and kindness of Jesus with one person today	Support groups including Celebrate Recovery, AA and NA that run in our Churches	St David's Church, the schools and all who live and work Childwall	People in need of God's healing and longing for fullness of life for God in his grace and mercy to meet with them	Opportunities for deepening discipleship, living out our faith 24./7
The Good Shepherd Church and all those who live and work in Liverpool 11	Racial justice, and for every person in our parish to feel that the Church is a safe place to be loved and known	St Cuthbert's Church and Emmaus School and the local community	All who are called to live out their faith in their workplace - think of one person at work today and pray for them	Ecumenical partners worshipping and and sharing the Gospel locally	Local schools, uniformed organisations and all who use our church buildings and halls
Lay leaders across our churches and for all who offer their gifts as the body of Christ	St Christopher's Church as it moves forward towards consultation around closure	Ordained clergy and those in training. May God equip and resource them to serve the church	St Andrew's Church and the Network and the people who live in Clubmoor	Those who oversee finance in our churches, giving thanks for them and praying for wise stewardship	Christ Church, Triple C and the communities in Norris Green



Gracious God, as we seek to become Fit for Mission, we pray for **boldness** in our vision, **wisdom** in our decision making, **compassion** in our actions and **unity** as we work together to meet the needs of your people now and in the future. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen**

Growing Christ-centred communities that enable everyone to flourish