

Minutes of the Deanery Synod held at Christ the Saviour, Ealing Broadway

on Wednesday 10 October 2018

Deanery Eucharist celebrated by The Bishop of London, The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally

The evening began with a eucharist service, with Bishop Sarah preaching. She stressed the importance of our prayer life to deepen our relationship with God, spending time each day in his presence to hear his voice. Just as Jesus found a specific place to pray, we should also turn aside and find those moments of prayer. Whether we are a Martha or Mary, Mary was commended for listening, so we too should pay attention to Jesus. Just as each of the disciples were loved because of their different characteristics, so we too are loved by Christ, but not because of what we do. So we are encouraged to be people of prayer in this deanery, so others come to know the love of God that we have come to know.

Election of Deanery Representative to LDBS

There was only one nomination, Kate Henry, who had represented for the last two years and was willing to stand for a further three. All agreed.

Reminder to Synod Representatives

Clergy and Synod reps were reminded to respond to the Deanery Mission and Ministry survey, required by 14 October

Question and Answer session with Bishop Sarah

In her 6 months as Bishop of London she had found it encouraging and inspiring visiting churches and schools who were following the calling from God. She compared Devon (where she had come from) with London. Devon had less people and resources, making it a harder struggle and the young people lacked aspiration. London, however, is well resourced, one clergy per parish, but not always easy. What can we do to better support clergy and their relationship with each other?

Bishop Sarah felt a key challenge facing London in the next 5 years was bringing Jesus to the wider community, especially 'millennials' who don't see the relevance.

A deanery of 34 different style churches, what would Bishop Sarah want from us? Each parish should ask, what is God asking us to do; share the hope we have found. Be creative, use one another's ideas.

Bishop Sarah had particularly been inspired by the call of Nathanael, in John's Gospel, who at first showed resistance.

When asked about tips for our prayer life in our busy lives, she said there were challenges as she found in nursing, but essential now for her to establish a routine, morning and evening. This is quite profound in the cathedral. Phone apps are helpful; other patterns through the year – retreats, walking the dog!

What is it that restores your soul? Times with God, silence, music and evensong.

The meeting ended with prayers for Bishop Sarah

Next Meeting

7 February 2019 at St Gabriel's North Acton - Youth work