

City Deanery Report - 2019

The Deanery Synod met thrice in the year. All meetings were good opportunities to fellowship, learn together, and see how each Church has its own particular calling, and together we form one body, serving Christians in the City and promoting Christ's teaching.

The first meeting was held 6pm 9th Jan 19 at St Botolph without Bishopsgate Hall. The Rt Hon Lord Mayor Peter Estlin and the Lady Mayoress, Sherrifs and their consorts, were in attendance for the first half of the meeting. The focus was on **Ministry to children and young people**. A 10 year old pupil from Sir John Cass School (where Beverly Ryan is governor), spoke about her experiences of being in Church and school in the City.

We also heard about the work of St Giles Cripplegate (Barbican) with children and their creative use of plastic waste to create works of art.

We then heard about some great work among the older children 7 – 9 years, and 10 – 13 years at St Helens Bishopsgate.

The second half of the evening was devoted to a very comprehensive presentation of **Safeguarding**, based on the revised policy published in Nov'18. It focused on the principle that Safeguarding is *everyones* responsibility.

Stephen Priddle spoke briefly that the Diocese is committed to increasing stipends by 2%; costs are up 3% and common fund increase was expected to be 2.7% There are plans to either cut Diocesan costs or increase income.

The second meeting was a joint City Deanery Synod and Westminster (St Margaret's) Choral Evensong held 5.30pm 19th Jun 19 at Temple church, followed by refreshments indoors due to the weather!

The third meeting was held 6pm 8th Oct 19 at St Botolphs without Bishopsgate Hall. The main topic for discussion was **Bringing your whole self to work**.

The Area Dean highlighted that 1 in every 58 of the UK workforce, and 10% of the Greater London workforce, work in the City! What an opportunity for us here at St Margarets with our focus on City workers.

The panel was very informative and consisted of: Robert Hughes-Penney, Alderman and Investment Director, Chair of City Prayer Breakfast, and occasional worshipper at St Margarets; Mark Bainbridge, Exec Dir Lawyers Christian Fellowship; Douglas Johnston, sponsoring partner Ernst Young Christian Network; and Paula Gooder Canon Chancellor St Pauls Cathedral.

R Hughes-Penney pointed out that the City of London motto “Domine Dirige Nos”, which means “Lord guide us”, is to be found on practically every street corner in the square mile. And that where cities go, nations follow. Again, a timely reminder for us at St Margarets and our role here in the City.

It would be worthwhile for the PCC to consider holding similar panel discussions at St Margarets.

Interestingly, Paula Gooder redirected the discussion, on what it would look like for us to take our work self to Church and the responsibility we have as a church in meeting those needs.

Also, the concept of ‘sacred space’ in the City was examined. Churches being a ‘space’ for reflection, fellowship, respite and care.

Finally, there was acknowledgement and thanks to Stephen Priddle, who after decades of working in the City and serving in several capacities, was leaving the City. Stephen commended the post of school governorship to Synod members describing it as most worthwhile, enriching and rewarding. He will be sorely missed.