City Deanery Synod Report 2022

The Synod met thrice in the year.

Meeting 1: **Caring for God’s earth**. **Responding to the City’s Climate Action Strategy. What can City Churches Do?**

Synod target, in line with the national C of E commitment, is to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030. We heard from:

**Eco Church** and **A Rocha UK** as to how we as a church could commit to this.

St James’ Piccadilly – as to how they have got the entire Church on board with this

Rothschild & Co. MD James Laing. Who challenged us to ask our fund managers about their green policy. Msci.com is a good way to check. To be aware of ‘Green Washing” (Companies divesting off fossil fuels to other Companies who are not ethically minded).

City of London Corporation (whose aim is to reach net zero by 2027 and 2040 for the Square Mile) Catherine McGuiness mentioned the challenge of older building (like ours). Private company resources are being evaluated to generate a climate action fund to support decarbonisation efforts. She also spoke about *biodiversity* of open spaces – of which the City Churches are a major stakeholder.

Meeting 2: Was the annual Summer Garden Party, held in the Masters garden at Temple Church following choral evensong.

Beverley Ryan was confirmed as Aldgate School Governor (for her second 4 year term). The Area Dean congratulated Beverley with a glowing report of her commitment and excellence.

Meeting 3: **Ministering to the Unseen City**

We heard from the ‘Tamar Project’ – an outreach to sex workers and victims of modern slavery. St Helens Bishopsgate (with their large Chinese speaking congregation) in conjunction with City Police. Offering help with legal documents, befriending, teaching English and support.

We then heard from Revd Josh Harris, St Katharine Cree providing a space for the City’s shift workers. Many Spanish speaking (cleaners). Providing English lessons, help and advice – many contracts are in English which is not understood - childcare and a safe, supportive environment.

Lastly, we heard from Warm Banks for the City Rev Paul Kennedy & Simon Cribbens, City of London Corp and their work to support the marginalized and rough sleepers in the Square Mile.

There then followed a discussion on how the City Churches can spread ‘life’ in the square mile with projects including art and wellbeing projects. Grants could be made available via City of London Corp.

Cheryl Stafford 14.4.23