

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2023

The Deanery Synod met thrice during the year.

11th January 6pm at St Botolphs without Bishopsgate. The new Lord Mayor Nicholas Lyons was welcomed. The main theme was the **Wren 300 project**. Commemorating 300 years since the death of Sir Christopher Wren. Neil Macgregor, Art Historian and former Director of the National Gallery and British Museum, spoke about Wren's theology, architecture and sacred space in the City. Wren's emphasis on making churches accessible and creating space for man to draw closer to God. Helen Vigors, Wren 300 Project Manager, spoke about the many initiatives running, and Kevin Rogers, Director Parish Property Support, spoke about the long term opportunities of bringing a wider group of people into the City. With the City of London's Destination City programme and the Diocesan 2030 Vision, it hopes to revive new interest in the City, its Churches and be a tool for mission.

10th July 6pm St Stephens Walbrook. Choral Evensong was held prior to the meeting. **Triennial elections** were conducted during the meeting. The Lay Chairman and five Standing Committee Members to the House of Laity and five Standing Committee members to the House of Clergy were elected. This was followed by drinks in the garden to celebrate the start of the new triennium. Canon Amon Jackson was visiting from the Diocese of Kagera, Tanzania.

10th October 6pm at St Botolph Church Hall, Bishopsgate. The Archdeacon of London Luke Miller spoke on the **Living in Love and Faith** (LLF) process. The breadth of opinion, theological position and lived experience is reflected amongst Synod. An opportunity was given for members to speak openly and in a safe, sensitive environment for all to listen. Some chose to share views by posting them on sticky notes that were displayed across the room.

Georgina Graham, Operations Manager Archdeaconry of London, then spoke about *Churchyards and the City Corporation* – the latter wanting to minimize their costs for maintenance of the same. Whilst churches want to maximize their usage through hiring out. Title deeds can be ambiguous so if there were any queries we can get in touch with her.

Cheryl Stafford 29.4.24