

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2017 APCM

Tuesday 18 October 2016 at All Hallows, London Wall

A VISION FOR THE TWO CITIES

The Venerable Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London, gave a spirited description of the new set up. He spoke on the vision for the 2 cities. He is attempting to work this as a single Episcopal area. SO, he is full time and Rosemary Lain-Priestley is part time. When Richard Chartres resigns, Bishop Peter of Willesden will take over as acting Bishop for a year

Bishops Mission Orders: Luke explained that these are a form of permissive legislation. They serve to facilitate church business, for more things to be done, to help churches thrive and grow e.g.: the re-opening of a closed building for worship, OR for the planting of churches, to facilitate the sharing of congregations within a church etc etc. BMOs can also be targeted towards increased church provision and to reach people in a different demographic.

CREDIT UNIONS

The Rev'd Sophia Acland who works with LONDON CAPITAL CREDIT UNION, explained that the Archbishop of Canterbury wanted to put WONGA out of business. Banks were less willing to work with people on low incomes so the archbishop set up the Church Credit Union network, now taken over by the Church Urban Fund. This has been a huge success. But still only 2% of the population belongs to CUs. Rob James explained that they are member owned legal organisations or micro-banks. They lend money and take in deposits; they are regulated by the FCA (so deposits are protected). There is a cap on £15K on loans. There are no shareholders. No profits are being made.

They need capital in order to survive. There are 340 of them in the UK and they aim to promote sound financial behaviour, encouraging saving rather than spending. They are willing to lend even small amounts of £100 which can make all the difference to people. Case studies were provided. London Capital Credit Union: the common bond is that its members are people who live and work in London. The saver loan is the best product. 12.7% APR and it means people are saving at the same time as taking money out.

We can help by investing in a Credit Union ourselves. We can join as members. We can also encourage people to volunteer to work for a CU. Volunteering looks good on a CV. Returns are 2%. EVERY PCC should invest in a CU. Returns are good – better than banks. This marks a revival of mutualisation.

LONDON DIOCESAN BOARD FOR SCHOOLS

In the report, we learnt that School-centred initial teacher training (SCITT) was now part of their policy in teacher training. The Government is putting pressure on schools to become academies within 4 years; however, the LDBS are lobbying for a 10 year window. Recruiting teachers for LDBS schools is difficult, and finding accommodation for them is problematic.

Kate Price

17 November 2016

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DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2017 APCM (continued)

Friday 10 February 2017 at St Botolph Bishopsgate's Church Hall

This meeting was originally planned for February 2nd, which coincided with the Bishop of London's Retirement Farewell, so was re-organised with the Lord Mayor for Friday, 10th February. This did mean that not everyone was able to attend the meeting but 38 Synod members were present

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Alderman Andrew Palmley and The Lady Mayoress attended, along with the Sheriffs and their consorts.

The Lord Mayor and The Lady Mayoress were welcomed by the Area Dean

The main topic focussed on Music in the City Churches, being that the Lord Mayor has been Organist at St James Garlickhythe in the City. The first part was presented by Jonathan Rennert, Organist at St Michael's Cornhill for over 25 years who gave a lively and interesting account of different aspects of being Organist and Director of Music in the City

Rory Anderson, Synod Lay Chair presented the Lord Mayor with a copy of the King James Bible and the Mayoral Party departed after an engaging response by the Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor gave a brief, amusing and insightful response highlighting the wide diversity of Music in the City Churches

The main topic continued - Music in the City Churches, with different speakers expressing the diversity of the music tradition in the City, including a mention of Taize

In the business part of the meeting a motion was passed regarding elections as the Triennial elections approach:

"This Synod decides that the next Standing Committee elections shall be conducted at a meeting rather than by post."

Looking ahead, an Extraordinary Deanery Synod meeting has been added in on Tuesday 25 April 2017 for the Deanery synod members to respond to the Vacancy in See consultation following the Bishop of London's retirement

Di Robertshaw
11th March 2017