

Report on Weekday Ministry 2016
for the APCM on 2 April 2017

The regular pattern of weekday services – Morning Prayer, the Wednesday evening Taizé service and the Thursday morning Eucharist was maintained. Evening Prayer at 5.30pm (4.30pm during winter) was trialled.

The Taizé service went well: there was some growth in congregation, and new volunteers came forward to help with the music (two guitars and one clarinet). New fabrics were bought and we began using a projector to project Taizé images onto boxes and white surfaces to enhance the atmosphere of the service. A number of special seasonal Taizé services were held as usual, for example a service with ashing on Ash Wednesday and with prayers round the crib at Christmas. In addition this year there was a successful service during the week of prayer for Christian Unity, where we were joined by many neighbours from other denominations including Lutherans, Methodists and Roman Catholics.

There were a number of memorial services, the usual livery services and the annual Maritime Foundation Memorial Book Service. The lunchtime All Souls service in the crypt was well attended. At Christmas the usual wide variety of carol services were held for neighbouring companies and institutions, livery companies and the parish, many of which were followed by refreshments. The parish carol service was well supported, and included music from the choir of St Dunstan's College, as did the Harvest in the City service.

Work continued with the Archbishop's Credit Champions Network on promoting affordable finance for all. A presentation was made to the Deanery Synod on the subject, which resulted in some follow up work advising other City churches on how they could support our local credit unions. We took part in a Guardian newspaper expert online panel on the subject, and a member of the congregation trained as our local credit champion; he has been encouraging church members to support our '100 for £100' campaign to promote saving with a credit union.

During Lent a course on Christian meditation was run in the crypt which was attended by some of the existing congregation and also a number of new people. The Listening Service continued once a week, providing a listening ear for anyone dropping in who needed to talk. Numbers attending were not large but the service seems to have been valued by those who used it. We continued our support of the Tower Hamlets Foodbank, collecting food via a box in the church – we are grateful for the quantity of food that is given in this way. At Christmas, a member of clergy helped out at a party for families the Foodbank has served.

Contact was maintained with the local hotels. One of these, the new hotel at Ten Trinity Square, kindly sponsored a photography exhibition held in the north aisle of the church in September and October. This project, known as 'Rebuilding the City', commemorated the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London. Local residents and workers were invited to take pictures of the new buildings of the City today as a link to the extensive rebuilding that was carried out after the Great Fire, and as a way of engaging with the wider parish beyond the existing congregation. Over 500 photographs were sent in by a good cross-section of people, many of whom had no previous connection with the church, and who attended the launch party held to celebrate the start of the exhibition.

Rev'd Sophia Acland
March 2017