

**Julie Cunningham, Shirley Dixon, Ros Fane, Jo Hines
Members of the Deanery Synod for 2020-23**

On June 10th 2022 Bishop Sarah spent a day visiting various churches in the deanery, accompanied by the Area Dean, Sub Area Dean and Lay Chair. They visited St James's in the afternoon to learn about the Wren project and some of the other initiatives in our church. The day ended with the annual deanery garden party in the Master's Garden next to the Temple church, as always a congenial gathering in one of central London's best hidden gardens.

During the winter Shirley Dixon, who has been a forceful and much loved member of Deanery Synod, stood down for reasons of ill health. Her contribution has been awesome, and her presence here and on the PCC is much missed.

In October it was St Paul's, Covent Garden who hosted. A new initiative was explained, which would give parishes an opportunity to share with others any items which might be of interest. St James's was one of the first to take advantage of this at the February meeting at St Matthew's, Westminster. Lucy shared the excellent news that planning permission had just been granted by Westminster Council and that during the 8-12 months of necessary closure, we would be a pilgrim community, looking for suitable venues for services. A couple of offers were immediately forthcoming.

As General Synod had recently passed an amended motion on same sex blessings, a great deal of this session was taken up with coded discussion of 'Living in Love and Faith', a topic which seems likely to dominate for a good while yet. But to what purpose? If only the same energy was channelled into Climate Change or ending poverty and homelessness in London, something useful might actually be achieved.

During the year the calculations on which representation at Deanery Synod are based have changed. Deanery Synod rules run for three years ('Triennial') and for

2023-2026 our representation has been cut from four to three, based on the number of people on the electoral roll. Just for comparison, St Martin in the Fields has six representatives, All Souls Langham Place has fourteen and Holy Trinity Brompton leads numerically with fifty three.

Jo Hines

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