

Encounter

St Martin-in-the-Fields Autumn Lecture Series 2018

Encountering London

Bishop Sarah Mullally *in conversation with* Bishop Jo Bailey Wells - 15 October 2018.

Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London in May this year. Prior to her ordination Bishop Sarah had an influential career in the NHS, working as a nurse and becoming the youngest Chief Nursing Officer in 1999. She was later made a Dame for her contribution to nursing and midwifery. She sees her two careers as being of one vocation - to follow Christ, and serve his people.

Rt Revd Jo Bailey Wells was one of the first wave of women priests to be ordained in 1995 and in 2016 became Bishop of Dorking. Prior to this, she was Dean of Clare College, Cambridge, lecturer at Ridley Hall, associate professor at Duke Divinity School and Chaplain to Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. Through these roles she has found joy in nurturing people as disciples and in teaching theology.

This event was attended by *Revd Anne Hoad, Alison Lawrie and Bob Lawrie* as representatives of St Andrew with St Alban, Parish of Mottingham. The format chosen was an interview featuring Bishop Sarah Mullally answering questions posed by Bishop Jo Bailey Wells. Questions from the audience were taken afterwards.

The session was recorded (video and sound) so we are hoping that it will be available via the SMITF website. We will provide a weblink in due course. In the meantime here are just a few of Bishop Sarah's observations and comments in note form:

- *First and foremost, church must engage with the community*
 - *Tube travel - I meet a wide diversity of people by travelling on the London Underground. Social media plays a significant role.*
 - *A good priest depends on the experience of brokenness*
 - *My approach is consensual and simple, building relations with the community and listening to them*
 - *Learn to work as a team and trust the laity and young people to lead as well as support*
 - *I learnt to be a leader in a secular world and have applied that learning to my new role*
 - *Ordination of women has brought change. Stereotyping is an issue, but it's about how we enable people to encounter God.*
 - *The biggest problem the C of E faces is the C of E itself! (applause).*
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