

## **Diocesan Synod report**

### **To Tower Hamlets Deanery Synod**

From Elizabeth Marshall  
9 April 2016

Diocesan Synod met on 5 April. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing and receiving updates on Capital Vision 2020: there was a report on SPCK's Lent "Prayers on the Move" campaign, and discussion of plans for the Week of Prayer on 5-14 May, to which many people contributed. We then were shown the new film about CV2020 Ambassadors, and the Bishop of Edmonton (Rob Wickham) updated us – 16,000 so far, and on target for 20,000 by the end of the year. We heard from representatives of pilot churches for the Ambassadors campaign.

Before that, in answer to a formal question, we received the full list of 20 new worshipping communities created since July 2013; there are another 15-20 preparing to plant within the next year. Two were listed from Tower Hamlets: St Peter's Bethnal Green, and Christ Church Spitalfields 5pm. The CV2020 target is to create 100.

Later, there was a brief report from the Bishop of Willesden about work General Synod will be doing in July on human sexuality, through two days of "Shared conversations". Finally, an important motion was moved, calling on the Government to reduce the maximum amount which can be wagered on a single game at a fixed odds betting terminals. These are located in high street betting shops. In support of the motion, Phillip Rice gave a detailed and thought-provoking analysis of the problem in Tower Hamlets (where there are more of these terminals per head than anywhere else in London). The motion was carried by 100:1.

E Marshall  
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