

## One of our own

### **The Installation of the Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally as Bishop of London,**

**on the 12 May 2018** ..... by Liz Cann

What an excited group we were as we made our way towards the great London Cathedral of St Paul's, with its iconic Dome raising up in welcome. The cathedral was at near capacity, as a large precession of City of London Aldermen, regaled in their robes and chains, lead the choir, Bishops, Canons and Clergy. We all turned to the Great West Door which Bishop Sarah thumped three times to gain entry. She then joined the precession, dressed in gold robes and mitre, which were out shone by her infectious grin which beamed as ever.

Her sermon reminded us that just 1.6% of Londoners attended Anglican churches, which had to reconnect with the people. She brought to our minds the terrible knife crimes and the sight of a mother scrubbing her own son's blood off the pavement. She, as always, thanked her husband, Eamon, and children Grace and Liam.

Then the moment we had all been waiting for - the Dean presented Bishop Sarah to the people saying – "Brothers and sisters in Christ, I present to you Sarah, our Bishop, duly installed as Bishop of London" at which point all the congregation greeted the new Bishop with great and prolonged applause {and quite a few whooping cheers from Sutton} as the organ sounded a flourish. Bishop Sarah then went through the Great West Door and blessed the City and Diocese. Hundreds of tourists closed in as a steel band played excitedly, lifting the gloom of the pouring rain.

We then attended a reception in the Great Hall at Guildhall, with many of our friends, past and present from St Nicholas, including past clergy such as Mark Pullinger, Jane Cresswell and Leah Philbrook. We then met with Bishop Sarah, her humour and beaming smile reminded us of days past when she was 'our very own'. What struck us most on the day was the pure fellowship, love and happiness that greeted us all, which was summed up by the Lord Mayor of London who said what a joy it was getting to know her. We are so proud.

