



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we approach Christmas and the celebration of 'God with us,' we find ourselves in unusual times. Whether you are pleased with the outcome of the election or not, it does not remove the uncertainty that many people feel.

It is clear that many people across the country feel that they have not been listened to and speak of deeper questions of meaning and belonging. At Christmas we celebrate the action of God who heard the cry of his people and sent them a Saviour. It is a reminder to us that we have a God who listens, who enables us to find belonging.

John writes of Jesus: "to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

In the coming days and year, with a church at the heart of every community in London, how can we be there for every Londoner? How can we devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers? What does it mean to have all things in common; giving to all, as any had need? What would it look like for the Lord to add to our number those who were being saved?

I look forward with you to reflecting prayerfully on these questions as we seek to know what God is calling us to do as a diocese. However, it may be more important that we need to find time to listen to God and others if we are going to commit ourselves to hear the cry of His people.

Finally, it has been a privilege to share in your ministry this year - thank you! I pray that you will find time to discover for yourself the peace of the Christ Child and take time to be with those you love.

With every blessing in our partnership in the Gospel,

+ Sarah London

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The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE

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