

1. Executive Summary

London is an extraordinarily **large, diverse context for mission and ministry** which **stands at a moment of spiritual openness and opportunity**. Increasing numbers – especially among younger people – are expressing a deep longing for God, with renewed attentiveness to Scripture, a hunger for prayer and spirituality, and a desire for authentic community, purpose and mission. Many of our churches increasingly reflect the diversity of the global body of Christ, **ministering with a missional heart** to serve their communities spiritually and practically, and offer welcome and fellowship that embody Christian unity. There remains, however, an abundance of further opportunity.

Alongside this richness of opportunity, and diversity of church traditions, we face a real challenge: disunity can divert us from our gospel vision. Yet even this challenge carries hope. By God's grace, it offers an opportunity for God to renew our hearts, calling us back to the gospel that unites us and inviting us to rediscover a shared commitment to mission. And it is this fresh gospel vision that will help us address our **unity and difference**. This vision needs to be supported by more intentionally **resourcing mission and ministry** – strengthening worshipping communities through the allocation of people, finances, and diocesan support services. We also recognise that the Bishop of London's time is a precious resource and gift to the diocese, with the office carrying a wide span of responsibilities **from the Two Cities to the House of Lords**.

Within this context, our priorities are for a bishop who will: **lead in mission and ministry as a servant leader; equip Christ's flock by being a steadfast guardian of the faith and sacraments; and govern Christ's flock as a loving shepherd and overseer**. We pray eagerly for a bishop who in faith, hope and love will implement these priorities, for the good of the people of London and to the praise of God's glory!

(The ordinal) The archbishop prays

Through your Spirit, heavenly father, fill this your servant with the grace and power which you gave to your apostles, that as a true shepherd he/ she may feed and govern your flock, and lead them in proclaiming the gospel of your salvation in the world. Make him/her steadfast as a guardian of the faith and sacraments, wise as a teacher, and faithful in presiding at the worship of your people.

Through him/ her, with his/ her fellow servants in Christ, increase your Church and renew its ministry, uniting its members in a holy fellowship of truth and love. Give him/her humility, that he/she may use his/her authority to heal, not to hurt, to build up, not to destroy.

Defend him/ her from all evil, that he/ she may, as a faithful steward, be presented blameless with all your household and at the last, enter your eternal joy, through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and your Holy Spirit, belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.

Amen