

LONDON

## Mayoral candidates salute Catholic charities

LONDON mayoral candidates praised the work of two Catholic homelessness charities during a church hustings event in west London, *writes Megan Cornwell*.

Labour candidate Sadiq Khan thanked the Cardinal Hume Centre in Westminster for its good work, and said church initiatives to help people find jobs are “far more effective than Department for Works and Pensions back-to-work programmes in stopping people becoming homeless in the first place”. Liberal Democrat hopeful Caroline Pidgeon recalled a trip to Caritas [Anchor House](#) in east London, where “holistic treatment” for homeless people with complex mental health challenges was “absolutely key” in rehousing people. Zac Goldsmith, the Tory candidate, promised that if he became mayor he would invest in charities that tackle homelessness, saying he believed they were more effective than local authorities.

As well as the housing crisis, the issue concerning most Christians at the debate was religious freedom. Revd Yemi Adedeji from the Evangelical Alliance warned the candidates that the Christian vote mattered. “You fail to pay attention to us, then you lose the election,” he said.

*(See Liz Dodd, page 6)*

