



Ealing Abbey Church

2025 Jubilee Year Parish Discussions – Summary

Two Parish follow-up discussions were held on Wednesday 8th January 10am-11.30am and Wednesday, 15th January 7.30-8.45pm in the Parish Hall to build upon conversations and ideas from October's discussions. This document summarises the key outcomes from the overall sessions, to be shared with Parishioners via website. Pastoral Council to review these and agree actions and how to take these forwards.

General notes:

Communication

- It was commonly noted by groups, there was not much information provided about the Jubilee year and that it would be useful to have more comms for parishioners on what the Jubilee is about and indulgences in this year being key. There is a lot of information on the Diocesan website, but key for Parishioners to have more information as a Parish about it, as well as what the Parish goals are for 2025 this Jubilee Year and projects as an overview so Parishioners are aware. Creating a Jubilee Board/Information was suggested as an idea.
- Identify volunteering roles and slots and clearly set out as demands on modern life are limiting – publicise roles more and what's required so people can get involved. D.B.S. checks are required for all volunteers
- Sharing Testimonies of the existing support projects going on in the parish ie. The winter night shelter. and encouraging new **volunteers** to come through and to take part

Build awareness:

- Movie nights on topics - awareness of modern slavery, climate issues, food poverty. And possible have some reflective questions midway. Possible movies Sound of Freedom and Sound of Hope.

Other ideas

- To have the virgin Mary hosted from house to house in our Lady's months – November and May and have a service on her feast day and procession.
- Bring the saints to life.
- Going on Pilgrimage even in the UK (Care of Creation/Rest+Worship subtheme)
- Host the jubilee Icon
- Some asked whether Justice & Peace group name was still relevant

Sub-themes

Care for Creation

- Passing through the Jubilee door is symbolic of pilgrimage.

- The Pope has proclaimed a year of hope recognizing that this is lacking in the world that we live in.
- Others to see in our faith the hope that we receive as Christians knowing that Gods loves us and creation.

Food Poverty

- **Local Community**
The parish is working well in these areas for the local community impoverished and homeless although more invitations out to the parish for volunteers is always good where there are opportunities.
- How we can react to the homeless/hungry how to give them hope in a practical.
- The S.V.P are a volunteer group engaged in night shelter and the soup kitchen. Share more information.
- SVP runs a Soup Kitchen (some asked if we know about this and to share more information and how people can support this)
- Supporting a night, Shelter. Not all Parishioners are aware we have Ealing Winter Night Shelter that we support and run for 6 weeks of the year each January so suggested can we share details wider. Tie in with Lenten Project.
- There appears to be a shortage of volunteers a 'flyer and poster' with specific tasks with times would be more practical bearing in mind the pressures of modern life that people are faced with.
- Befriending the homeless on a one-to-one basis would require D.B.S. certification.
- Groups suggested doing more to support the work of CAFOD in prayer and fundraising as it supports those communities around the world who are oppressed by poverty and hardship that Cafod partners identify can be improved and communities find hope in the future. Many of these hardships are as a direct result of climate change which is continually impacting countries, but more especially the lives of those in developing countries .
- The Parish Justice and Peace Group has diminished, which is perhaps a change to re-ignite for the Jubilee Year. However, from the J and P group there came A CAFOD Group and a Food Bank Group, do we need to encourage these some more for the Jubilee Year.
- Can we ourselves waste less food, buying less so less is thrown away.

Modern Slavery

- The groups also discussed the issue of Slavery and Human Trafficking. More awareness of this issue should be raised before taking appropriate action. This could be done in the parish e.g. inviting a speaker from Caritas or Bakhita House or screening the recent Christian thriller film 'Sound of Freedom' and various other films.
- Many agreed the subject is hidden thus more awareness and information would be welcome, as it was highlighted as an area where expertise is required in all areas
- Further awareness promoted by the parish is good and also to raise funds.
- Prayer for this phenomenon is required.
- Building awareness eg through movie/film showings in the Abbey:
Film suggestions:
 - Films showing of Sound of Freedom was supported strongly with discussion and prayer at the end. This would be particularly important when showing this film to teenagers and Confirmation candidates as they would need perhaps open-ended questions to support their

discussion and prayer, plus providing food eg Pizza was suggested. Volunteers and social committee to look at this if of interest.

- If successful, there could be other movie nights following on e.g "The boy who harnessed the wind " - a true story of real hope which raises many issues like corruption of corporate companies oppression of communities through greed , food shortages, and renewable energy/educational needs .
- Also a film "A Man of his word "depicting hope for prisoners , of film of Pope Francis visiting prison and the sick ,
- And also any excerpts/episodes from" The Chosen" where people are enslaved through illness , - spiritual or mental or physical.

Perhaps build these into the social calendar as these tie in with Jubilee Year and could bring families together.

Managing debts

As this sub theme takes many forms, suggestions to provide advice sheets distributed in the parish and communities could signpost many to self-help etc.

The big campaign for this year of Jubilee by CAFOD is directing parishes as to how to support the drive to alleviate the international debt crisis that is oppressing many developing countries in the global south . Many countries can no longer support medical and educational programmes in their countries due to mounting debts with extortionate interest rates) imposed on them by financial institutes and banks - many of which operate in the UK.

CAFOD would be happy to raise awareness of this Jubilee initiative supported by the Pope ; and signpost those in the parish through groups to put pressure nationally on the government to review policy and take action . This is all part of social action for world justice.

Forgiveness

- This is key to all our lives and for families to move forward, groups supported opportunities for families to come together and experience being together maybe on a day away e.g Worthing Abbey, that fosters relationships rooted in Christ. Perhaps for teenagers/children to be present with parents and without phones - or at least part of the day (as well as parents!)
- The Pope announced that the year of Jubilee is a time of forgiveness the significance of indulgences needs more explanation.

Rest & Worship

Pilgrimages

- It was positively received by groups that there is a Pilgrimage arranged by the parish from Westminster to Willesden, a church of particular Marian devotion.
- Groups suggested an additional pilgrimage to St Gregory the Great Church in South Ruislip which has been declared a Sacred Jubilee site. (in total there are 6 sites in the diocese for the Jubilee.
- This would mean under the banner of 'care for creation ' pilgrims could venture on a more rural pilgrimage rejoicing in nature through a more countryfied route being mapped out with stops for praise and worship plus stop for picnic enroute. especially if teenagers and children are pilgrimage - a day for all the family and a chance for parishioner connections to be renewed. Advertising to be arranged well in advance to get a good turnout.

- The expression of hope through art particularly with children would be a valuable tool to announce the Jubilee.
- Chelle mentioned Ealing Abbey are working with St Gregory's for a Jubilee year Art Competition and groups mentioned this is positive and to share more details with the Parish (greater communication around the Jubilee Year, goals for 2025 and projects etc).
- Chelle also mentioned we are planning a Jubilee year liturgy in September and as part of the Open day, to hold an art exhibition focused around art produced from monthly art and prayer workshops during the Jubilee Year of hope, and showcase winners and artwork from St Gregory's dates TBC. It was noted more information is required to share about the Jubilee Year so the Parish is aware. (Communication)