

St Peter's Parish Church, Ealing



pilgrim

A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

**St Peter's, Ealing
2015-16 Season**

Pilgrim – an evangelistic and educational tool

What is Pilgrim?

Pilgrim is a course for the Christian journey. The aim of the course is to help people become disciples of Jesus Christ, or at least find out more about what that means.

Pilgrim is a major new teaching and discipleship resource from the Church of England. It aims to help every local church create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived out each day.

Pilgrim takes a different approach to other Christian programmes. It approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers.

Pilgrim is comprised of two stages: the Follow stage for those very new to faith, and the Grow stage for those who want to go further. Each stage contains four short six-session courses which focus on a major theme of Christian life.

Who is Pilgrim for?

Pilgrim is for three categories of people:

1. Catechists
2. Refreshers
3. Enquirers

Catechists.

These are people thinking about confirmation. The course is used as a confirmation class helping prospective candidates for confirmation to explore the faith to which they are committed and to ensure confirmation is the right route for them.

Refreshers.

These are committed Christians who would like a chance to return to basics and explore the foundations of their faith. To look at what the church says they believe and what it means to be a Christian in the twenty-first century. This is a chance for reflection and refreshments in the faith.

Enquirers.

Also known as searchers you are people who have loads of questions and are looking for answers. You may have tried other faiths or none. You may have childhood memories of church membership but want to explore what if anything does God, the Christian faith and the church has to say for them and to them today.

Pilgrim – Course schedule of meetings and subjects.

The Church hall has been booked for Monday evenings so that a venue is available should the group prove to be sizeable enough. If it is small then accommodation can be met in homes.

The course will run on Monday evenings from 7.45 – 9.15pm with a prompt start and finish.

- **Module 1: Turning to Christ – what do Christians believe?**
 - Session 1: 16th November
 - Session 2: 23rd November
 - Session 3: 30th November
 - Session 4: 7th December
 - Session 5: 14th December
 - Session 6: 21st December

- **Module 2: The Lord's Prayer – How to Christians know and worship God?**
 - Session 1: 25th January
 - Session 2: 1st February
 - Session 3: 8th February (15th half term)
 - Session 4: 22nd February
 - Session 5: 29th February
 - Session 6: 7th March

- **Module 3: The Commandments – How do Christians behave?**
 - Session 1: 11th April
 - Session 2: 18th April
 - Session 3: 25th April (1st Bank Holiday)
 - Session 4: 9th May
 - Session 5: 16th May
 - Session 6: 23rd May

- **Module 4: The Beatitudes – What is the Christian vision for the world?**
 - Session 1: 6th June
 - Session 2: 13th June
 - Session 3: 20th June
 - Session 4: 27th June
 - Session 5: 4th July
 - Session 6: 11th July

The sessions.

Each session follows a similar pattern:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ❖ Refreshments | Served from 19.30 |
| ❖ Welcome | 19.45 |
| ❖ Theme and purpose | |
| ❖ Short prayer session | 19.55 |
| ❖ Conversation ice breaker | 19.55 |
| ❖ Film can be shown (from website) | 20.00 |
| ❖ Reflection on scripture | 20.05 |
| ❖ Main teaching section | 20.35 |
| ❖ Concluding prayers | 21.05 |
| ❖ Clear up and go home | 21.15 |

Ground Rules.

There should be expectation and ground rules about behaviour in the group sessions.

- Come on time. Being late wastes everybody else's time
- If you are not coming send apologies. Make sure there are ample contact details for the leadership team so there can be no excuse.
- Be courteous and respectful at all times, even if you disagree with someone
- Questions should be asked honestly and openly.
- Should be clear of the confidential nature of the meeting as appropriate

Attendance expectations.

The ideal is each participant would commit to the year's programme. This will build group cohesion and encourage full commitment which is important. Fellowship within the group is as important as the teaching. Such a commitment may seem a huge ask but it will ensure the participants will get the most out of the course possible.

However, each module is self-contained so it would be possible to attend those modules that have particular interest to you.

Full participation would doubly be the expectation for those using the course for catechetical purposes.

It is hoped that through regular attendance at the class the participants will be encouraged to join and embed themselves in the parish life and become members of the body of Christ at St Peters.

The future.

What happens after the initial course is up to the group. They can call it a day. There is material for another year's course, The Growing Stage. This can be run by the group itself and could lead to the formation of a house group.

For the course in general it is envisaged that this will become an annual programme and will be embedded in the life of the parish. That evangelistic planning will centre upon Pilgrim and the provision the Parish makes for it.