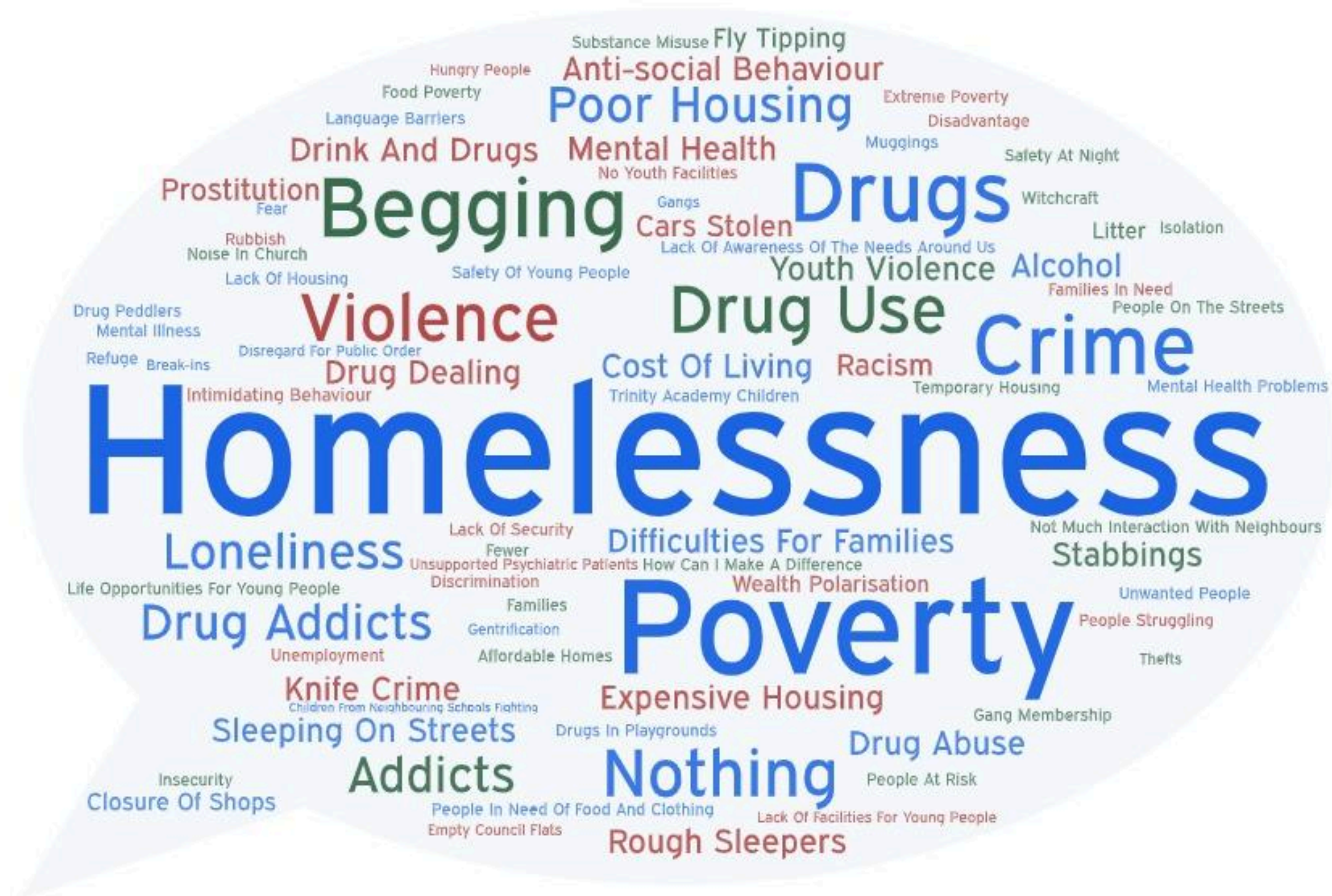


What do you see in our Brixton Hill community and the surrounding areas that concerns you?



What three words would you use to describe our Parish?



Every Voice Matters

Young People

Current experiences shared in the Parish survey

Many parishioners would like to see greater involvement of young people in Parish life. The phrase young people did include a wide age range! Some comments were focussed on young adults, while others were about teenagers and younger children. Families would like opportunities to engage young people and children in their faith and examine ethical and social issues together. Young adults could be encouraged to come together and explore how they live their faith in daily life. This is a big issue and further discussion is needed in the Parish on the issues raised.

Changes you suggested:

- ★ build the faith of our young people by holding regular discussions with them about faith, social and ethical issues
- ★ support young people to set up their own faith groups
- ★ allow a young adults faith group to lead a Mass once a month including music, bidding prayers, a speaker or sharing in place of the homily
- ★ greater involvement of teenagers and younger adults in Parish life
- ★ run activities with a local youth charity
- ★ build the faith of young people by holding discussions with them and their parents
- ★ Scouts and Guides groups, giving practical life-skills for young people
- ★ a young people's choir.

What can we do as a community?

- ★ Volunteer to help with existing youth groups.
- ★ Develop youth leaders.
- ★ Support young adults interested in forming their own group.
- ★ Involve more young people in Parish life.

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities or have more to say about the ideas raised here, please get in touch at: brixtonhilljp@rcaos.org.uk

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**Welcome:
getting to know you**

Current experiences shared in the Parish survey

Most people who responded to the survey felt that Corpus Christi is a welcoming and friendly place. It is a diverse community, including people from many cultural and social backgrounds. While we know people and recognise familiar faces from the Masses we attend, we don't have many opportunities to meet those who go to other services. It can be difficult for new parishioners to meet people.

Changes you suggested:

- ★ volunteers to greet people arriving for each weekend Mass
- ★ a proactive welcome to newcomers and visitors every Sunday
- ★ regular community events to welcome new parishioners
- ★ check the Loop system so those with hearing difficulties can be included.

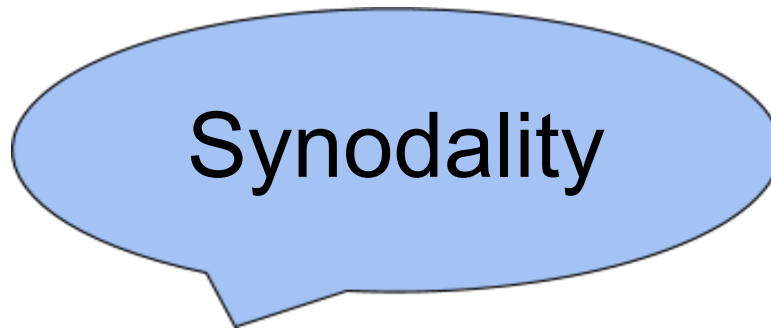
What can we do as a community?

- ★ Say hello and introduce yourself if you see a new person!
- ★ Recruit volunteers to welcome people at each weekend mass, particularly new or unfamiliar faces.
- ★ Display opportunities for people to get involved in Parish activities on the notice boards.
- ★ Fix the Loop system.

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities or have more to say about the ideas raised here, please get in touch at:

brixtonhilljp@rcaos.org.uk

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Current experiences shared in the Parish survey

Several responses asked for information about the recent Synod, '*For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission*'. The final document on the process has been published and the Pope described it as a gift to the Church. However, its contents have not been shared in the Parish. Views expressed felt that the implications for Parish life and community growth should be shared and discussed.

Changes you suggested:

- ★ make our Parish more synodal
- ★ share a summary of the final document published last year
- ★ invite someone involved in the Synod, or very up to date with the process, to speak about the final document and its implications for Parish life
- ★ organise interactive sessions to discuss implications for our own Parish life and community.

What can we do as a community?

- ★ Explain synodality and share the content of the final document.
- ★ Hold sessions to explore and learn more about it.

If you are interested in finding out more or have more to say about the ideas raised here, please get in touch at: brixtonhilljp@rcaos.org.uk

Every Voice Matters

Parish Groups

Current experiences shared in the Parish survey

People who responded wanted more opportunities to come together and meet each other. Many people felt they don't know what is currently available in the Parish, or what different groups do. You told us that you would like to know more about what already goes on and how to get involved. More informal and regular activities would be welcome. Groups specifically for teenagers and for young adults were also mentioned.

Changes you suggested:

- ★ expand the newsletter to include more of what is going on each week
- ★ display a list of the different groups with names and contact details
- ★ a community newsletter with updates from Parish groups and opportunities to get involved
- ★ more activities for older people
- ★ activities for children and teenagers
- ★ prayer groups
- ★ new groups and activities where people can get to know each other better and make friends.

What can we do as a community?

- ★ Keep an up to date list of Parish groups and contacts on the noticeboards.
- ★ Display a monthly calendar of events and meetings run by Parish groups.
- ★ Produce a community newsletter.
- ★ Regularly update information about groups and activities on the notice boards and website, including contact details.
- ★ Offer additional activity groups, for example knitting and crafts, yoga, film or book club.

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities, can share your skills with a Parish group or have more to say about the ideas raised here, please get in touch at: brixtonhilljp@rcaos.org.uk

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Liturgy

Current experiences shared in the Parish survey

While our community is diverse, many parishioners would like to see a greater reflection of this in the liturgy. Music is valued and so are the readers. There are also a range of views on involving children and young people in a positive way. Some voices told us that noise or distractions during mass make it difficult for them. Some found the sermons helpful, while others felt they would like sermons to be more community focussed and reflect current experiences around us.

Changes you suggested:

- ★ greater participation by the people of the Parish, to reflect its diversity
- ★ include prayers or singing in other languages
- ★ include diverse voices sharing their experiences and reflections linked to events, readings or the Gospel
- ★ include prayers and reflections that consider what is happening in our community and society
- ★ greater involvement of teenagers and younger adults
- ★ music at other weekend Masses
- ★ include the children after they return from children's liturgy
- ★ more structured Sunday school/children's liturgy
- ★ children's liturgy at other Masses
- ★ allow parents to follow Mass from the hall if they need to take their child out
- ★ stories for children in the hall after Mass
- ★ more services involving Corpus Christi school
- ★ training for altar servers on the job.

What can we do as a community?

- ★ Recruit more readers for weekend Masses.
- ★ Include prayers and hymns in other languages.
- ★ Involve young people in the liturgy.

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities, can share your language skills or have more to say about the ideas raised here, please get in touch at: brixtonhilljp@rcaos.org.uk

Every Voice Matters

Faith Development

Current experiences shared in the Parish survey

Several voices told us that they would like more opportunities to explore their faith and to pray with others. Faith development would help grow relationships with God and also our community. In particular, parents and families would benefit from opportunities to engage young people and children in their faith and examine ethical and social issues together. There is also a call to provide spaces for young adults to come together and explore how they live their faith in daily life.

Changes you suggested:

- ★ faith sharing groups, maybe neighbourhood groups
- ★ a week of guided prayer in the Parish
- ★ The Way of the Cross led by different groups in the Parish
- ★ connect faith and life with simple stories
- ★ build the faith of our youngsters by holding regular discussions with them and their parents, including faith, social and ethical issues
- ★ encouragement for the 20-40 age group to set up their own faith groups
- ★ allow faith groups in the Parish to lead a Mass once a month including music, bidding prayers, a speaker or sharing in place of the homily
- ★ invite people in to speak, for example the Jesuit community, Parish sisters
- ★ help parents to teach children about their faith
- ★ pray more in church, for example, weekly rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, worship nights with music
- ★ evening Masses during the week for working people
- ★ include prayers and reflections that consider what is happening in our community and society
- ★ greater involvement of teenagers and younger adults.

What can we do as a community?

- ★ Regular sharing on social and ethical issues.
- ★ Guided prayer events.
- ★ Start prayer groups.
- ★ Sessions for parents and young people to discuss how to live out their faith.
- ★ Create a young adults faith group.

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities, prayer groups or have more to say about the ideas raised here, please get in touch at: brixtonhilljp@rcaos.org.uk

Every Voice Matters

Culture and Diversity

Current experiences shared in the Parish survey

While our community is diverse, many parishioners would like to see a greater reflection of this in Parish life. Most people who responded feel our Parish is inclusive, but some voices felt it could be insular at times. There were requests for greater awareness and discussion to improve inclusion in areas such as SEND (special educational needs and disability), gender, LGBTQ+, heritage and ethnicity. Whilst we are from many different nationalities, feedback told us there is a need for an integration of cultures. Parishioners would like to know more about the richness of the cultures who worship together so we can know each other better and respect differences. There were also calls for intergenerational activities.

Changes you suggested:

- ★ more participation in services by the people of the Parish, to reflect its diversity
- ★ include prayers or singing in other languages
- ★ hear from diverse voices sharing their experiences and reflections linked to events or the liturgy
- ★ support for people who feel marginalised or excluded, particularly because of disability, mental health, gender, sexuality or culture
- ★ get to know more about the richness of the cultures in our parish.

What can we do as a community?

- ★ Include prayers and hymns in other languages at Masses.
- ★ Social events and informal activities to share and celebrate different cultures and diverse identities.
- ★ Create opportunities to consider inclusion and identity issues.
- ★ Better represent the diversity of our community in the images and language we use.
- ★ Represent the diversity of our parish in volunteer roles.

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities, can share your language skills or have more to say about the ideas raised here, please get in touch at: brixtonhilljp@rcaos.org.uk

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Communication and Engagement

Current experiences shared in the Parish survey

You told us that you would like to know more about what goes on in the Parish and how to get involved. Many people felt they don't know what is currently available in the Parish, or what groups do. There was also a request for more communication about our Parish mission and how to get involved. Current communications are not accessible to all, for example the Loop system and the small print newsletter. Some voices wanted more two way communication, including a suggestion box for ongoing feedback.

Changes you suggested:

- ★ expand the newsletter to include more of what is going and how it relates to the Parish mission
- ★ display a list of the different groups with names and contact details
- ★ a community newsletter with updates from Parish groups and opportunities to get involved
- ★ make communications accessible to all
- ★ a suggestion box for ongoing feedback.

What can we do as a community?

- ★ Keep a register of volunteers, including one for young people.
- ★ Produce a community newsletter.
- ★ Regularly update information on the Parish website and notice boards, for example information on groups and activities.
- ★ Make information more accessible to all, including a plain text file of the newsletter online each week and fixing the Loop system.

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities or have more to say about the ideas raised here, please get in touch at:

brixtonhilljp@rcaos.org.uk

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Community Outreach

Current experiences shared in the Parish survey

The majority of people who responded are very concerned about the challenges we face in our wider community. In particular, the cost of living and poverty, homelessness, drug use, youth violence, loneliness and lack of mental health support. There was a feeling that groups of parishioners are quietly involved in reaching out to some of these people, but that heightened awareness may encourage more volunteers. The Warm Spaces initiative was welcome, but more support for the challenges of daily life would be greatly appreciated. Connecting with other local groups and services would be an important step forward on many of these issues.

Changes you suggested:

- ★ information and encouragement to join existing groups
- ★ connect all groups in the Parish together
- ★ regular activities about justice and peace
- ★ activities for families of children with special educational needs and disabilities
- ★ use technology for outreach
- ★ connect with a local youth charity
- ★ visit parishioners unable to attend mass and share communion
- ★ more support for senior citizens
- ★ be more collegial with other faiths, including street pastors
- ★ make links with the local mental health services and substance misuse teams so that we can offer support to those in need
- ★ connect with LGBT Catholics Westminster and Quest
- ★ go to Brixton and give hot drinks and time to homeless people
- ★ regular open space where there can be support for people who need either advice or direct support, including sessions giving advice on housing, benefits, employment, school etc.
- ★ create a safe space for people with mental health problems
- ★ discuss World issues, eg the war in Middle East, climate change, immigration and other concerns that people have
- ★ contact former parishioners.

What can we do as a community?

- ★ Involve more parishioners in the work already going on in the Parish, such as SVP, Legion of Mary, warm spaces.
- ★ Organise home visits for parishioners who need support or are unable to attend mass.
- ★ Use notice boards to sign post people to services currently available in Lambeth including mental health support, Citizens Advice, Help the Aged, Lambeth Council services.
- ★ Continue the Warm Spaces.
- ★ Increase awareness of and donations to our food bank collection.

If you are interested in joining a Parish group, in volunteering opportunities or have more to say about the ideas raised here, please get in touch at:
brixtonhilljp@rcaos.org.uk