



# Listening to London, Listening to God

## Running the exercise in your parish: bible study reflection

As you prepare to run the engagement exercise with your group(s), you may find it helpful to use the following words from Psalm 48 as a tool for reflection.

### Psalm 48 vv.9-14

*Within your temple, O God,  
we meditate on your unfailing love.  
<sup>10</sup>Like your name, O God,  
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is filled with righteousness.  
<sup>11</sup>Mount Zion rejoices,  
the villages of Judah are glad  
because of your judgments.*

*<sup>12</sup>Walk about Zion, go around her,  
count her towers,  
<sup>13</sup>consider well her ramparts,  
view her citadels,  
that you may tell of them  
to the next generation.  
<sup>14</sup>For this God is our God for ever and ever;  
he will be our guide even to the end.*

### Reflection

God's love is unfailing, eternal and for everyone. In this Psalm we see how God's good news is international: *his praise reaches to the ends of the earth*. We also see that God's love is local. It can be worked out in different contexts, from the busy temple in the city centre, to the suburbs and the outlying villages.

The Jerusalemites whom the Psalm addresses were, a bit like Londoners today, surrounded by monuments and testimony to God's work in the city, in their own generation and earlier.

The Psalmist (David) tells us to survey what God has already achieved, so that we can tell God's story to the next generation. As you reflect in your groups, think about what story you would like to tell about God's work in London come 2030.

As we meditate, in our churches, on God's *unfailing love*, we should pray that God *our guide until the end*, will guide us as we discern what we are called to be and prioritise as we look ahead to the next 10 years.