

2025 was as very special year, a Jubilee Year where, along with Catholics throughout the world, we all became Pilgrims of Hope. It was also a year of change, with the sad death of Pope Francis RIP and the joy of the election of Pope Leo XIV. At the end of the year it was also announced that Cardinal Vincent Nichols is retiring and Archbishop elect Richard Moth was announced as the 12th Archbishop of Westminster. Here are a few of the highlights of the year.



St Patrick's Day Signed Mass



Jubilee Visit to Ely Place



Welwyn Garden City Retreat Day



Charterhouse Visit



Jubilee Icon



Christmas party

Holy Week

We were delighted to be back at Maria Assumpta Chapel with the Srs and thank them for their continued support. Our grateful thanks too, to Mgr Vladimir Felzmann who led our Holy Week services and seminarian Brenden Alvares who supported us for the week.



Deaf Community Mass



Statistics for 2025

- 40 Signed or Interpreted Masses
- supported 8 priests with their signing skills
- 5 seminarians have received training in basic BSL and liturgical signing
- 45 people attended Deaf Awareness sessions and 8 took part in a BSL taster course
- 340 Signs of Hope counselling sessions took place
- Over 1860 followers on social media for Caritas Deaf Service and close to 1100 for Signs of Hope
- Distance travelled > 2600 miles (the distance from Westminster Cathedral to Paphos)



Congratulations to Yasser on his Confirmation, to Skylar for becoming alter server and to those couples celebrating a special anniversary in 2025.

Thank you all for your support of the Deaf Community and the team.

Bishop Paul McAleenan, Canon Shaun Lennard, Canon Norbert Fernandes,
Fr Keith Stoakes, Fr Paulo Bagini, Fr Brian O'Mahony, Fr Daniel Daley, Fr Willie Skehan, Fr Robin Ellwood,
and Mgr Vladimir Felzmann

We continue to be very thankful in the many ways the team of clergy who sign and who work with the Deaf Community and the Deaf Service staff support us. We are truly grateful for all you do.

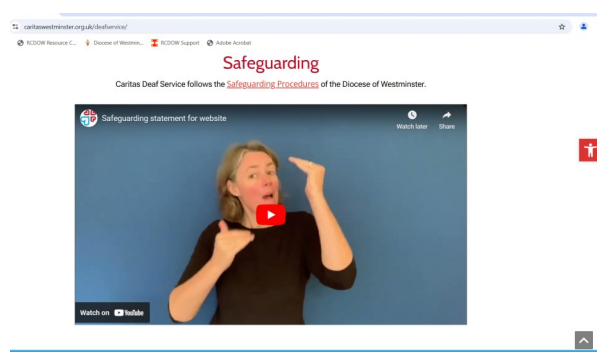
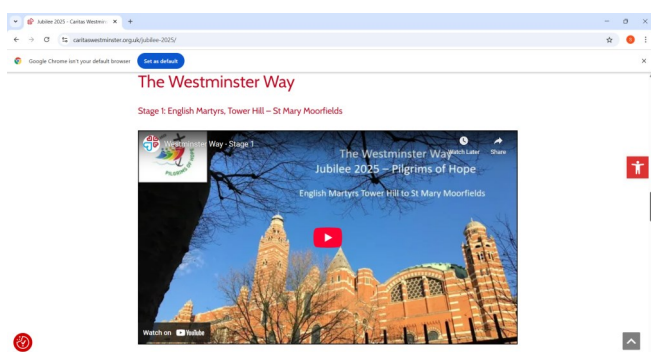
The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Deaf Awareness and BSL Sessions

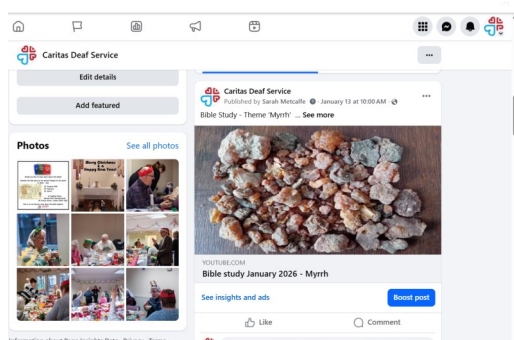
We have continued to teach basic BSL and liturgical signing at Allen Hall seminary and a Mass in Word and sign was celebrated at Allen Hall Seminary in May. We also ran Deaf Awareness sessions at schools, a care home and for the Caritas reps as well as a BSL taster course for Caritas team members.



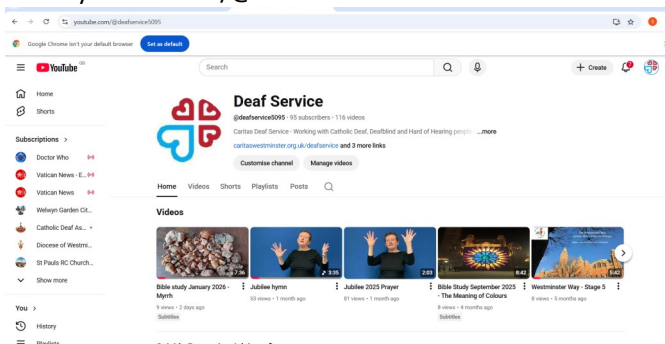
We have continued to use the website and social media to share pictures and videos including our bible studies and Jubilee resources.



www.facebook.com/wddservice



www.youtube.com/@deafservice5095



You can also follow our events and news on X (Twitter) @CaritasDeaf and Instagram @CaritasDeaf

The Caritas Deaf Service team:

From left to right: Shell, Sarah, Nikki and Lottie

This year we welcomed Lottie, Community Development Worker, who is working with us a few days a month and we say farewell to Nikki as Signs of Hope becomes part on Caritas Hope in 2026



CONTACT DETAILS

Shell Roca

Email: shellroca@rcdow.org.uk Tel/SMS: 07779 341136

Sarah Metcalfe

Email: sarahmetcalfe@rcdow.org.uk Tel/SMS: 07936 939523

Nikki Dhillon Keane

Email: signsofhope@rcdow.org.uk Tel/SMS: 07936 939522

