

# Parish of Weybridge

Information document for all Parishioners



Bishop Richard published a new Pastoral Plan for the Diocese, *The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission*, in January 2024. The Plan marks an important new stage in the development of diocesan parish structures, with the 11 former deaneries of the Diocese becoming 11 new parishes.

This document has been prepared in order to provide information about the move to the new Parish of Weybridge. It is especially for those who have not been able to attend the Open Meetings which have taken place on 20 November in the church of the Assumption, Englefield Green, Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge on 24 November, and St Erconwald's, Walton-on-Thames on 27 November.

We invite you to join in our prayer for the new Parish and to continue praying that the Holy Spirit will bless our plans.

We also invite you to join Bishop Richard and the clergy as the new Parish is launched on **7 December at Mass at 6pm** in Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge, followed by refreshments. All are very welcome to this celebration.



## Prayer for the New Catholic Parish of Weybridge

Heavenly Father,  
You have blessed our individual parishes with years of faith, service, and love. Now, You call us to unite as one family in Christ as the Catholic Parish of Weybridge.

Fill our hearts with gratitude for the past, openness to the present, and hope for the future. Pour out Your Holy Spirit to guide us, deepen our love, and strengthen our mission.

Bless our priests, deacons, and our communities. Help us welcome everyone warmly, share the Gospel joyfully, and build a parish where faith grows and Your presence is felt. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us as we journey in faith, hope, and love.

Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**L to R Front Row** – Lucy Jardine (Steering Group), Fr Graham Forristalle (Holy Family Addlestone and St Anne's Chertsey), Canon Chris Spain (Moderator Elect, The Assumption, Englefield Green), Fr Peter Andrews (retired), Fr David Murphy (Christ the Prince of Peace Weybridge), Fr Ruslan Kurdiymov (St Erconwald's Walton-on-Thames), Deacon Nick St John (Diocesan plan facilitator)

**L to R Back Row** – Fr Bill Muir (retired), Antony Hudson and John O'Brien (Deacons in training), Fr David Bohnsack (Sacred Heart, Sunningdale), Fr Richard Biggerstaff (All Saints Hersham & St Barnabas Molesey), David Stokes (Chair of Parish Finance Committee), Adam Simon (Steering Group)

## A word from Canon Chris Spain, Moderator Elect of the Parish of Weybridge

The Bishop's Plan "The Word who is Life" is now coming into fruition and not least by our becoming a new "Parish of Weybridge" (serving the previous deanery of Weybridge). Our coming together collaboratively with shared prayer, mission and outreach, fills me with great excitement. Whilst it is a stepping out into the unknown; with prayer, and joyful collaboration, we can achieve so much. We are not to get *too* caught up in process, otherwise (like the Pharisees) we may start to seek perfection and one-upmanship. Instead, we are to be truly faithful to the pastoral aims and purpose.

We are to be mindful that all our communities have a rich history and story to tell. Our **past** carries forward with us. Our **present** is important too and the change of structure is not to undermine the wonderful things already happening in our communities, nor to make us homogenous communities. However, it is undeniable that with closer bonds we can carry the Church into the future with even greater hopes and expectations – **our future**.

**Please come and join us at the Mass to celebrate this on Sunday 7 December – 6:00pm – Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge.** The clergy team will be commissioned to continue the work and as one (in solidum) to enable our communities to grow and flourish in these changing times. We will be working in partnership, with structure, with synodal listening, with humility and collaboratively, as we continue to build God's Kingdom.

## Parish of Weybridge Vision

This vision has been developed for Weybridge in response to Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan.

### Responding together to the love of Christ.

Our vision is to be a community of communities responding together to Christ, Word of Life, present in the Eucharist;

- Listening, praying and on fire with the Holy Spirit;
- Nurturing the gifts and graces in each other;
- Growing as missionary disciples;
- Sharing Christ's love and welcome with all.



## The logo of the new parish

The central image is a tree – a tree implies life, strength, roots, steady growth, and beauty.

- The parish logo is formed of the names of all the churches in the new parish
- A tree breathes life into our planet
- A tree undergoes regular change
- The branches and leaves, like our community of communities, form one entity
- The shape of the logo reminds us of a monstrance, and the centrality of the Eucharist
- With eight leaves on the tree, we recall the Beatitudes

## Key terms

- The **Moderator** is the name of the priest who serves the parish clergy as first among equals, in a facilitating and enabling role
- The **Clergy in solidum** means that all priests act as one team, and take collective decisions
- The **Steering Group** is composed of 3 clergy and 4 laypeople and serves the Clergy in Solidum
- The **Representatives Group** is composed of 2 people per parish community and meets quarterly. The next meeting is 19 January 2026

## What is changing and what isn't?

Following the Representatives meeting on 9 September 2025, this is guidance on what is changing and what is not. These grids formed an important part of the presentation at the Open Meetings.

## New Parish Organisation

No change      May change      Will change

	No change	May change	Will change	
<b>Composition of new parish</b>			<b>X</b>	All current deanery parishes except Sunningdale (which is owned by the Verona Fathers) will enter the new Parish of Weybridge. Sunningdale will continue to participate in parish pastoral activities.
<b>Definition of "parish priest"</b>			<b>X</b>	All priests in the "in solidum" team will be parish priests. They will be collectively responsible for all decisions in the parish, supported by advice from the Steering Group/Finance Committee, & feedback from the individual communities through the Representative Group.
<b>Existing Parish Pastoral teams/Councils</b>	<b>X</b>			These will continue as before, and remain as a pillar of the new parish.
<b>Administration/secretarial support</b>		<b>X</b>		If there are benefits in working more closely together or of a new organisation, these will be reviewed and agreed with parish employees.
<b>Mass times</b>		<b>X</b>		This will depend on the future availability of priests.
<b>Schools' admission policy</b>			<b>X</b>	The wording of admissions policies will change as the diocese adopts the Catholic Education Service ("CES") model policies. Oversubscription categories (where required) will be reviewed, to ensure they are compliant with the model policies.
<b>Schools' admission policy - catchment</b>	<b>X</b>			The current catchment areas will not change.

## Pastoral Programmes

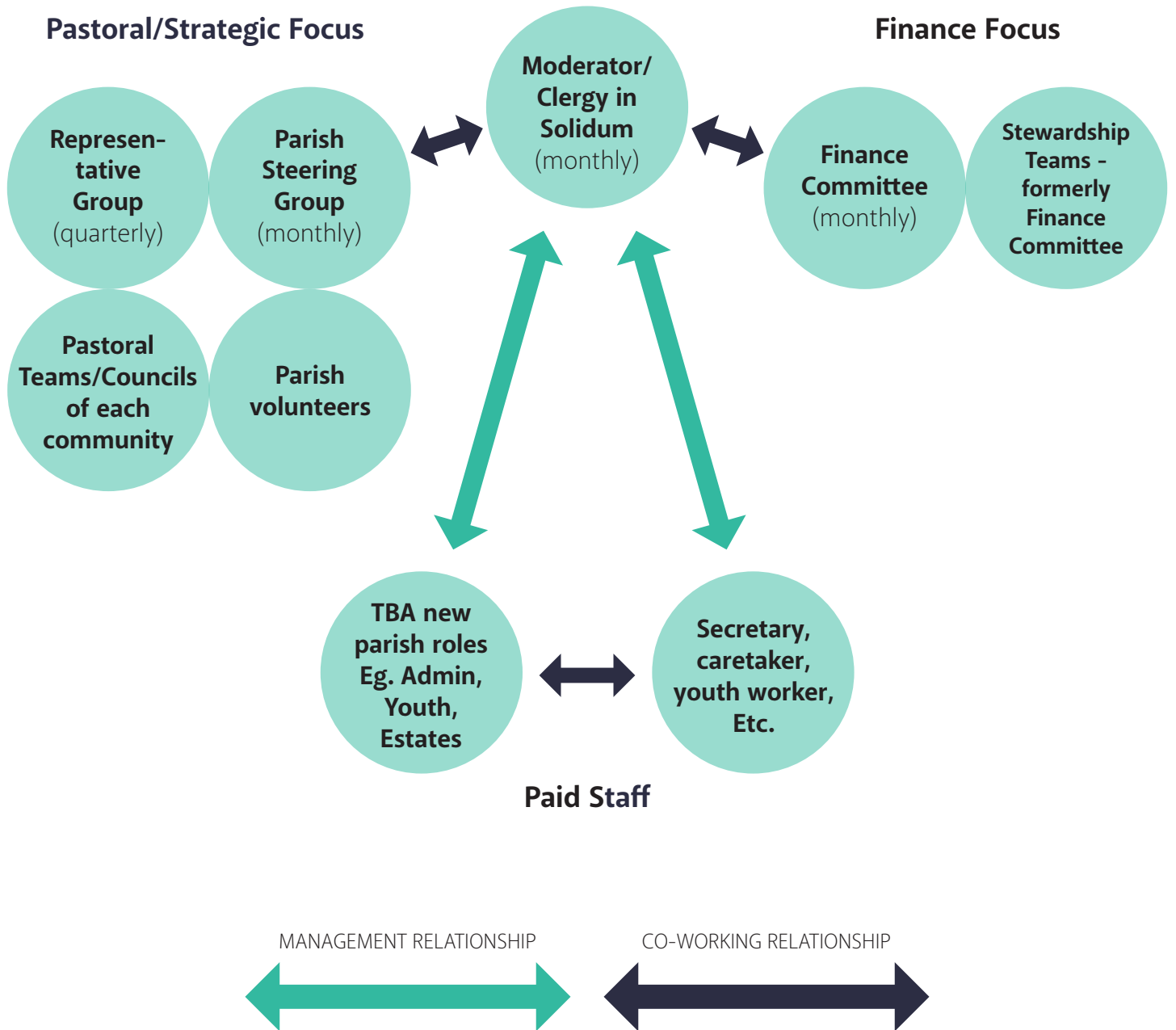
	No change	May change	Will change	
<b>Sacramental programmes</b>		<b>X</b>		If there are benefits in working more closely together, these will be reviewed and agreed.
<b>Parish based groups</b>		<b>X</b>		If there are benefits in working more closely together, these will be reviewed and agreed.
<b>Youth work</b>			<b>X</b>	We are looking at a youth plan for the new Parish as one of the mission priorities.
<b>Prayer, Formation &amp; Mission</b>			<b>X</b>	As big focuses of the Pastoral Plan, the work in this area will evolve. We have set up a Prayer Network and will be looking at the same for Formation & Mission.

A plan is being put together to recruit someone who will fulfil the role of Youth Ministry Leader for the new Parish. Antony Hudson is leading an initiative to look for opportunities to develop the prayer life of the new Parish. We are looking for people to run the Formation and Mission initiatives.

## Finance

	No change	May change	Will change	
<b>Finance Committee</b>			<b>X</b>	A new Parish Finance Committee will be set up when the new parish is created.
<b>Spend limit</b>			<b>X</b>	The new authorisation limit for the Parish Finance Committee will be £20,000.
<b>Existing Finance Committees</b>		<b>X</b>		To be known as Stewardship Teams with spending authorisation of up to £7,500. Strategic planning will be handed over to Parish Finance Committee
<b>Spending of Restricted funds</b>	<b>X</b>			Any funds which have been designated for a specific purpose by any parish will continue to be allocated and spent on that purpose.
<b>Spending of General funds</b>			<b>X</b>	All significant spending decisions will be taken collectively for the benefit of the parish as a whole
<b>Merging of bank accounts</b>	<b>X</b>			This is not a priority, but can be explored in the future.
<b>Parish accounting</b>			<b>X</b>	Some communities will work more closely with the diocesan Finance Team to streamline accounting.
<b>Quinquennial property reviews</b>			<b>X</b>	Currently the 8 communities in the new parish (9 churches) are on different time periods for the quinquennial review – these will be harmonised.
<b>Routine maintenance of buildings</b>	<b>X</b>			This will remain the responsibility of the local community under the guidance of the Stewardship Team.
<b>Investment in buildings</b>			<b>X</b>	Any strategic investment will go through the new Parish Finance Committee and the Diocese.

# New Parish Organisation



If you have any questions related to the Parish plans, please contact Canon Chris Spain or Adam Simon:  
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You can find out more about the Pastoral Plan by scanning the QR code or visiting the diocesan website:  
**W: [www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan)**

