

## What will this mean for my current parish?

### Stability-and growth and change

Stability in knowing that we shall continue to live in church communities, supporting each other to grow. Stability in knowing that we shall continue to be led and guided by parish priests. Stability is knowing that all the devoted work you have been doing in our communities will be just as important as we move forward together. And change. Working together and drawing on strengths across the new parish. We might find other places where we can go to Mass or Adoration, at different times. We might join groups from other church communities, bringing an increased experience of our broader Church and more opportunities for shared faith experiences.



Deanery clergy with Deacon Jon Harman (top row, third from right)

### How can I get involved?

#### Please pray!

Change can be hard, but it can also be exciting. Please pray for our priests and for this new Parish and our mission.

#### Please contact us

We'd love to hear from you – whether to offer help with the skills God has given you, with your ideas, or simply if you have a question. Please contact the Steering Group via Adam Simon (Chair) at [abcej.simon@gmail.com](mailto:abcej.simon@gmail.com).

## WEYBRIDGE DEANERY: TRANSITION TO PARISH



### Overview

Last year, Bishop Richard Moth published a Diocesan Pastoral Plan: 'The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission', in which he outlined his vision for the new parishes:

*"I invite everyone – lay faithful, religious, deacons and priests – to join with me in forging our parishes into communities of saints and strong, lively, and welcoming schools of discipleship. May they be communities where the Lord is known and loved; where the liturgy is experienced as an encounter with the wonder of heaven; where daily prayer is a natural part of life and where all are welcomed and their dignity as children of God always recognised."*

The Pastoral Plan creates exciting opportunities for all clergy and parishioners to work together in our new parish. To enable this to happen, we will need some new structures, advisory teams, and communication channels. This leaflet explains why all of the changes are taking place, what has already happened and what we can expect from the local implementation of the Pastoral Plan.

### Why are we transitioning from individual parishes in the Weybridge Deanery to a single parish?

To fulfil our call to mission we shall have to do things differently, as priests serve larger numbers of people, in wider areas, Bringing us together as a **community of communities** will enable parish priests to focus more on pastoral care, and less on administrative issues. But it's not just about supporting our priests as they cover bigger areas and bigger church communities—it's far more than that.

## What has happened so far?

- We have established a Steering Group that is responsible, with the Moderator Elect (Fr Chris Spain), for supporting the clergy in taking the process forward.
- Parish clergy and the Steering Group have collaborated on a logo and vision statement.
- Individual parishes have conducted their own meetings with parishioners looking at strengths, weaknesses and opportunities that the new situation will present.
- The Steering Group held a first meeting with representatives from each deanery parish in April to listen and to share ideas, worries and hopes.



First meeting of parish representatives, April 2025

### Our Weybridge Parish 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, and  
- sharing Christ's love and welcome with all.

## Moving forward in hope

The Diocesan Council of Priests recently approved the transition from Weybridge Deanery to Weybridge Parish, which will become formalised by the end of the year, when individual parishes will be known as church communities.

The description of the Parish, which Pope Francis gave us in *Evangelii Gaudium*, is now even more relevant for our new reality:

*"In all its activities the parish trains its members to be evangelisers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey and a centre of constant missionary outreach". E.G. 28*

## What will happen next?

- The new Representative Group is currently being established and will meet for the first time in September. This group will enable sharing between individual church communities, parish clergy and the Steering Group, supporting us all as we grow together as a true community of communities to live out our Parish vision and Bishop Richard's vision for our Diocese.
- Groups to guide the new Parish's growth in 'Prayer', 'Formation'—learning more about our faith and how we can live it out in today's world—and 'Mission' are being set up.
- Joint meetings with individual parish finance committees and administrative staff.
- A new finance committee will be established that will, in time, assume financial responsibility across the whole Parish and will work closely with the community finance teams (known in the future as "stewardship teams").
- The Steering Group, Parish clergy and Representative Group will discern what will be done where (diocese, parish, hub, local church community) and by who (clergy/lay people).