

Parish Development Strategy

The Parish Development Strategy, launched in our Deanery last January, is a response to the change we are experiencing with smaller congregations, fewer priests and reduced income.

The audits carried out in each parish earlier this year highlighted the need to reduce the number of churches we have in Warrington. In short, we simply don't have enough money to maintain eight churches and associated buildings! However, this is not just about money. It's also about proactively managing the mission entrusted to us, not least for those who will come after us. So we have to plan for the future.

In the spirit of synodality, the Steering Committees of each Family of Parishes have been asked to discern possible plans for moving forward. Once there is some kind of consensus, a potential plan will be shared with parishioners for further discernment - probably in the Autumn.

At present, there is nothing set in stone and no decisions have been made. We're very much in the first part of the discernment process - trying to work out a potential plan that we can present to parishioners.

I understand that there is some guesswork going on, but that's all it is. We have a strategy to follow, which was shared with parishioners earlier in the year, and is there to help us on this journey.

Please pray for the Steering Committees as they try to discern what our Lord may be asking of us.

Fr Dave Heywood
Dean of Warrington & Widnes
14 July 2026