

A word cloud centered around the word "stewardship". The word "stewardship" is the largest and most prominent, written in a dark green font. Surrounding it are various other words in different colors and orientations, including "relationships", "mission", "family", "friends", "talent", "goals", "caretaking", "treasure", "vision", "commitment", "home", "time", "ministry", "working", "provision", "love", and "goals". The words are arranged in a way that they appear to be floating around the central word, with some overlapping.

stewardship

relationships

mission

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love

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Stewards of the Gospel

The Role of the Stewards
Steps Along the Way

The Role of the Stewards?

- **By November, we will have a highly-talented group of lay people who bring wide experience of life, and their local knowledge**
- **You will have been formed to understand the challenges facing the diocese**
- **You will have been formed to have a discerning and pastoral heart**
- **What use will this be to our diocese?**

The Role of the Stewards (1/5)

- **To examine your own parish, to find out what is going on and to pave the way for a plan for better evangelisation in and by the parish.**

The Role of the Stewards (2/5)

- To begin to discern “which parish belongs to which” when it comes to working together in future.

The Role of the Stewards (3/5)

- **To be a source of creative inspiration, looking for new ways to evangelise**

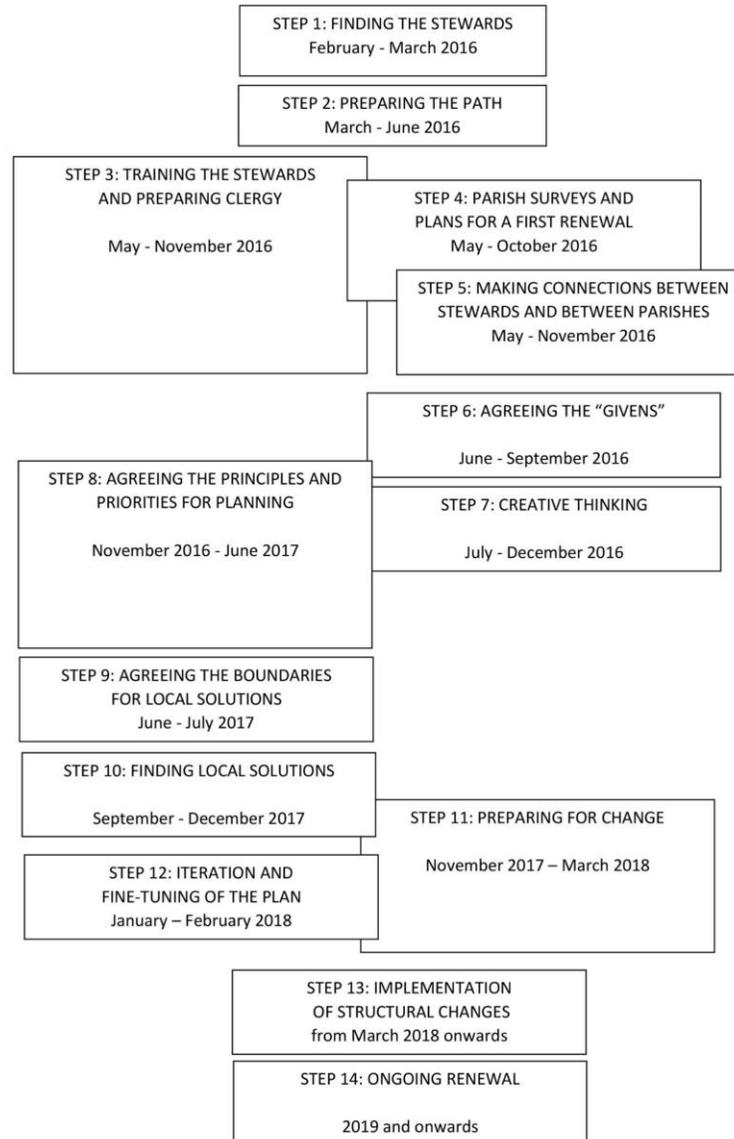
The Role of the Stewards (4/5)

- **To be the voice of the laity when it comes to discerning the principles and priorities on which future plans will be based**

The Role of the Stewards (5/5)

- **To be the voice of the laity when it comes to implementing the agreed principles in the particular local situation of your own parishes, in co-operation with your neighbours and others**

“Stewards of the Gospel”: A Process of Evangelisation and Discernment in the Diocese of Brentwood



The Timeline – “Unspoken” Principles

- It is intended to be thorough, no short-cuts
- It is intended to be consultative, with Stewards representing wider laity
- The outcome is not fixed beforehand, it is a discernment process
- The evangelisation focus is two-fold:
 - To discern a medium-term plan for every parish
 - To discern a long-term plan to make diocesan and parish structures and culture serve the Gospel better, and free lay people and clergy to evangelise effectively

The Timeline - Caveats

- The process is organic, not totally fixed beforehand
- Clergy and Stewards' reactions will modify it
- More important to get discernment at each stage right than to keep to a rigid timetable
- Doesn't cover crisis situations that need to be dealt with within 2 years

Step 3: Training the Stewards and Preparing Clergy

May - November 2016

- Spiritual formation and inspiration
- The reality today and the need for change
- Evangelisation questionnaire and resources
- The church outside the parish and across parish boundaries

Step 4: Parish Surveys and Plans for a First Renewal

May - October 2016

- Begins with a parish questionnaire
- Stewards to use results to inform plans within the parish
- Stewards will be given information on resources for evangelisation

Step 5: Making Connections between Stewards and Between Parishes

May - November 2016

- In future, there will be more sharing across parish boundaries
- Not just neighbours that may work together fruitfully

Step 6: Agreeing the “Givens”

June - September 2016

- Legal and canonical limits to what we can do
- Likely future clergy numbers
- Financial reality

Step 7: Creative Thinking

July - December 2016

- What possible roles for lay people?
- Evangelisation beyond the parish? Online?

Step 8: Agreeing the Principles and Priorities for Planning

November 2016 - June 2017

- Prioritising between parish ministry, chaplaincies, existing and future initiatives
- Distribution of clergy
- Distribution of money
- Access to the sacraments: what expectations are realistic?
- What role for lay people in administration, pastoral care, community leadership, pastoral formation, outreach, etc.?

Step 9: Agreeing the Boundaries for Local Solutions

June - July 2017

- Are parishes, deaneries, clusters of parishes the appropriate unit for planning?
- School and hospital catchment areas?
- Which (neighbouring) parishes could, or could not, belong together?
- Resources will need to be allocated across the different areas

Step 10: Finding Local Solutions

September - December 2017

- Discussions within the agreed local boundaries
- How will the available resources be used?
- How will we make evangelisation and pastoral care the priorities?

Step 11: Preparing for Change

November 2017 – March 2018

- Preparing for change runs throughout the process
- As structural change approaches, details must be agreed, people must be informed

Step 12: Iteration and Fine-tuning of the Plan

January – February 2018

- We are not likely to get everything right first time
- Some “top-down” pressure or arbitration may be needed

Step 13: Implementation of Structural Changes

from March 2018 onwards

- Parish linking, closure, merger, rebuilding
- New initiatives
- Forming lay people for new roles
- Fund-raising
- Property sales