

ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

TOWN LANE, DENTON



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Saturday, 14th November 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord who was, who is, and who is to come. Hope you are all keeping well in these difficult circumstances of lockdown. I am writing on behalf of the PCC to update you on the mediation between Rev Sheila Cant and Rev Jules MAMBU. + Mark Davies, the Bishop of Middleton has asked for the following announcement to be made public after our PCC meeting held on Thursday 12th November 2020.

Find below the statement in its entirety.

I was hopeful mediation would be successful. I am aware of the impact of this update and would welcome anyone with any concerns or queries to contact me.

May God continue to bless us with lots of peace, love and happiness in these times of trouble and uncertainty.

In Christ,
Rev Jules MAMBU
Priest-in-Charge

Dear Friends,

Following a meeting I had with Janet, Matt and Jules on 4th November and subsequent conversations with Sheila and Jules I am writing now to share with you an update on the ongoing situation at St Lawrence's which will then be shared at tonight's meeting of the PCC. I suggest that Matt reads this statement at the meeting.

At the Standing Committee on the 5th March it was agreed that Jules and Sheila would enter into a mediation process that would be facilitated by the diocese. None of us could have known that the first lockdown was so imminent and nor that it would so significantly delay that process. However, it did eventually begin, facilitated by independent and

experienced mediators. However, I am sorry to say that the mediation process has failed and is no longer continuing.

Following that, I have spoken to Sheila and to Jules and those conversations will be ongoing with both of them as well as with the Standing Committee. Sheila has now decided, after a great deal of prayerful reflection and following a conversation with me, that for her own wellbeing she can no longer remain at St Lawrence's and so is stepping back completely from any ministry there. I will continue in conversation with her about her ongoing ministry and what the future looks like. This is clearly a difficult decision for Sheila to have arrived at and I know that everyone at St Lawrence's will continue to pray for her. I will also continue in conversation with Jules as to how he takes forward the ministry which is entrusted to him at St Lawrence's. I ask that you will continue to pray for him also.

I know that we all share a deep sense of sadness of how things are currently at St Lawrence's and I continue to pray for you all, as together with Archdeacon David we seek together to find a good way forward.

The contents of this update are to be made public following the meeting of the PCC.

May God bless and guide us in all of this.

Best Wishes

+M

The Bishop of Middleton

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