



St Martha & St Mary's

ANGLICAN CHURCH LEUVEN

Dear M&M's

We are writing to update you on the progress we have made with the vacancy process. Before Christmas we advertised the vacancy in both the Church Times (the Church of England's newspaper) and on the Diocesan website with an application deadline of 22nd December 2023. On 10th January your vacancy representatives, Lydia Patmore and Karen Papellero, met Bishop Robert and Archdeacon Sam to discuss the applications received. Unfortunately we could not shortlist any of the candidates in this first round. This decision was unanimous.

Your council has now voted to pursue a second round of selection that will allow Bishop Robert and Archdeacon Sam to approach qualified individuals in the coming weeks to encourage them to apply for the position of Chaplain. Once these applications are received, we will then set a new date for shortlisting and interviews.

Although there is undoubted disappointment at the result of this first round, we remain confident that the right candidate is waiting for us. It has given us the opportunity to spend time discussing and identifying what we need as a chaplaincy and this process of reflection has been a healthy one. Bishop Robert and Archdeacon Sam are committed to helping us find the right candidate and we have every confidence that we are on the right path.

We would ask you to keep the vacancy reps, churchwardens, council members and our clergy in your prayers as we continue to discern what is right for our community. We extend once again our thanks to our Curate, Sarah-Jane, for the time and commitment she continues to invest in our chaplaincy and to all who are doing so much to make church happen in this time of vacancy.

Our thanks to you all,

Your churchwardens,

Lydia and Sarah