

**Press Release from the Diocese of Lancaster**

**17 December 2013**

**DIOCESE FACES THE FUTURE AS THE TALBOT LIBRARY, PRESTON CLOSES ITS DOORS AT YEAR'S END**



**Statement begins:**

With the imminent retirement of Deacon Michael Dolan, Librarian of the Talbot Library, Preston, relatively few users and increasing costs, the Trustees of the Diocese of Lancaster have made the unanimous decision that the Talbot Library will finally close its doors on 31 December 2013. The Library was opened in 1992 for reference and research for students, at the initiative of the late Bishop John Brewer and Canon Robbie Canavan.

The decision has been made following a fulsome review of the Library's future sustainability by the Diocesan Trustees in recent months. Consequently, the property itself will eventually revert back to the Parish of St Walburge, and those collections of significance, on loan to the Library but notably not belonging to the Diocese, will be the subject of proper negotiation with their owners. Those who have donated books to the Library and wish to reclaim these are invited to apply to do so through writing to the Diocesan Trustees. Archival material strictly belonging to the Diocese will be retained.

Bishop of Lancaster and Chair of the Diocesan Trustees, Rt Rev Michael Campbell commented:

"For those few specialists who used the Talbot Library there will be inevitable sadness at this decision. However, there have been concerns among priests and people for some years about the future of the Library. The Trustees of the Diocese have to consider the interests of the *entire* Diocese and so act now."

The Bishop concluded:

"Very few would give of their time (*pro bono*) to oversee the Library in the way that Deacon Dolan has done – in such a wholehearted manner. Besides, the Library was becoming very big but had very little usage. The heating costs alone were of great concern."

The Diocesan Trustees have subsequently decided to establish a new and much smaller archival centre – but strictly for archival/historical material for the Diocese of Lancaster.

**: Statement Ends**

**There will be no further diocesan statement issued on this matter.**