

The church has ample parking, disabled access and facilities and rooms for community use, all lacking at the Durrington church.

The Durrington church also required a six-figure sum to be spent before the insurers would renew the insurance.

The Pastoral needs of the small catholic congregation of Durrington could be met without the church remaining in operation, due to the close proximity of other catholic churches. The village is 2.5 miles from the Parish church of Christ the King in Amesbury, 2.4 miles from the catholic Forces church in Larkhill, 2.6 miles from the catholic Forces church in Bulford and approximately 5 miles from the Forces church in Tidworth. Non-Forces personnel are welcome to attend any of these Forces churches and a number do so simply on the grounds of convenience.

Returning to the financial situation – an increased very heavy levy burden was placed on every Parish in the Diocese in recent years. The Parish of Christ the King must pay this year a levy of £20,693. This is the first item of expenditure to be met each week.

Apart from this expenditure the parish has to maintain the Parish church, halls and the Presbytery at Amesbury, as well as some financial responsibility for its catholic school in Amesbury.

The Mass going population of the Parish is about 150 weekly.

All these factors coming together, regrettably led to the closure of Our Lady Queen of Heaven church in Durrington, it was unavoidable.

One final point – as all Parishes, which form the Diocese, have charitable status, the Charities Act requires the highest possible price to be obtained when any property is being disposed of.

*Paul Brandon.*

31/04/2307.

Rev.P.Brandon

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