

THE BISHOP'S DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH

IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT UNDER THE CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE 2003

COMPLAINANT: MRS TESSA le SUEUR, NOMINATED BY THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HASSELBECH

RESPONDENT: THE REVD DAVID FAULKS

TRIBUNAL'S REMARKS ON IMPOSITION OF PENALTY

We have had regard to all the matters urged in mitigation.

We have taken account of your good character, your length of service and your ill health.

We have well in mind the nature and detail of our findings and our rejection of any suggestion you were dishonest, deliberately deceptive or motivated by any desire or intention to cheat your PCCs or parishioners or to make a personal financial gain.

Had we found any of those matters proved, the consequences for you would have been considerably more serious.

Nevertheless, we have found significant and culpable financial inefficiency and incompetence.

These proceedings have hung over you for some time. You, and indeed Mrs Faulks, have been through a prolonged and public ordeal which we recognize cannot but have been stressful. You have been suspended from one of your parishes for many months.

We would be most surprised and disappointed if you had not learnt costly lessons from this disciplinary process and from the criticisms, which have been upheld, of some of your professional practice.

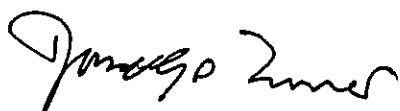
Nothing we have found is incapable of being remedied. With help and goodwill in the Benefice – and a genuine and open spirit of cooperation on your part, simple financial procedures can, indeed must, be put in place to ensure the transparency and accountability which previous arrangements lacked and to avoid repetition of any similar difficulty in the future. It follows that we would expect you to comply fully with the published *Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy*.

We consider all these steps are best taken under a conditional discharge. Our concern in your case is to look to the future rather than to try in some way to punish you for the undoubted failures of the past. We have concluded the imposition of specific penalties would in all the circumstances be inexpedient.

We therefore intend on each complaint we have found proved to make an order conditionally discharging you. That is an order discharging you subject to the condition that you commit no further act or acts of misconduct during the next two years. On that assumption, this matter will then be at an end.

You must however understand that should you be found to have committed any further misconduct during the next two years, in addition to being dealt with for that misconduct, you could also be dealt with afresh for these present matters.

This is the united decision of the Tribunal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Turner', written in a cursive style.

CHANCELLOR HIS HONOUR JUDGE DAVID TURNER QC (Chairman)