

informed in the late 1990s. Fr Mark disputed the timing of the disclosure claiming that **RC-A6** **RC-A6** only informed him in 2004 and he had informed the school.

In April 2004 Fr David was arrested and interviewed regarding the allegation. He denied sexually assaulting **RC-A6**. He admitted to helping boys get dry after swimming lessons as they were young at the time, approximately 8-9 years old. He admitted to filming the boys in the shower for a school diary, but only filmed them from the waist upwards.

This case was submitted to the CPS in 2004. They decided that there was insufficient evidence to proceed as this amounted to one word against another. The matter was NFA'd until a further allegation was made in 2008 (see below). Fr David was charged with indecent assault against **RC-A6** **RC-A6** on 27/11/08.

CRIS **DPA** - OIC DC HOBSON & DS MORGAN

In January 2008 the Deputy Head of St Benedict's School contacted Police regarding an allegation that a 17-year-old pupil, **RC-A621** had alleged that Fr David had sexually abused him during confession. Fr David had also taken him out on trips to London and had met him in **DPA**. Fr David had also asked him to send nude photographs to him on the pretext of helping him with his diet. **RC-A621** was ABE interviewed regarding these incidents.

On 25th January 2008 Fr David was arrested for sexually assaulting **RC-A621** and his room at Ealing Abbey was searched. Electronic media and letters were seized during the search. When interviewed Fr David denied the allegation stating he had hugged him and pecked **RC-A621** on the cheek when greeting him. He denied knowing he was not supposed to take confession. Fr David was bailed to his **DPA** address pending further enquiries.

Due to the publicity generated on Fr David's arrest, further victims came forward and were interviewed.

In February 2008 a former pupil, **RC-A11** contacted Police (see **DPA**). **RC-A11** was a former pupil at St Benedict's School in the 1970s and 1980s. He alleged that during lessons he had been forced to sit on his lap and Fr PEARCE had touched his upper thigh. Fr PEARCE had also masturbated under his cassock whilst taking lessons.

In March 2008 [RC-A594] was interviewed. His details had been passed to Police by the Catholic Church. He stated that Fr David had sexually abused him when he was a pupil at St Benedict's School in the 1970s-80s. Fr David had removed his lower clothing and had been caned before having to sit on Fr David's knee where he would be comforted. [RC-A594] disclosed to his parents at the time and they contacted the school, but nothing was done.

In April 2008 another former pupil, [RC-A597] a former pupil at St Benedict's, was interviewed by Police. He came to Police notice as a result of letter seized by Police on Fr David's arrest which included letters from [RC-A597]. During the interview he disclosed a number of sexual assaults committed by Fr David over a lengthy period including sexual touching and being filmed naked in the bath. He described being groomed from a young age until he left for University.

On 6th August 2008 Fr David was arrested in relation to the indecent assault allegations made by [RC-A11], [RC-A594] and [RC-A597]. He was bailed pending CPS advice. Whilst on bail, a further victim, [RC-A596] came forward and was interviewed by Police regarding allegations of sexual abuse at the hands of Fr David. On 10th November 2008 Fr David was arrested and interviewed regarding the allegations made by [RC-A596]. Again he denied the allegations.

On 27th November 2008 Fr PEARCE was charged with the following offences:

1. Re [RC-A596] - 3 indecent assaults contrary to Section 15 SOA 1956 between 1975 and 1980 and 2 gross indecency between 1975 and 1978.
2. [RC-A594] - 2 indecent assaults between 1972 and 1981.
3. [RC-A11] - Indecent assault between 1975 and 1981, one gross indecency between 1975 and 1981.
4. [RC-A597] 10 indecent assaults between 1988 and 1995.
5. [RC-A6] - Indecent assault between 1990 and 1991.
6. [RC-A621] - 4 sexual touchings between 2006 and 2007.

He was bailed to attend Ealing Magistrates on 12th December 2008.