

CONFIDENTIAL

CHICHESTER MEETING: GEORGE BELL MINUTES

**Wednesday 22nd June 2016, 3pm
Pink Drawing Room, Lambeth Palace**

Present: William Nye, David Porter, Ailsa Anderson, Graham Tilby, Rachel Harden, Saira Salimi, Elise Gallagher (minutes), +Martin Warner, +Mark Sowerby, Gabrielle Higgins, Colin Perkins, Matthew Chinery, Rob Marshall and Gemma Wordsworth

Apologies: +Nigel Stock

+Martin opened the meeting in prayer.

William Nye thanked everyone for coming, especially those who had travelled from the Diocese of Chichester. William stated that the principal purpose of the meeting was to think about what might be done and said about the process to date of the George Bell case. In thinking about this, William flagged to the group two debates coming up in the House of Lords on 30th June held by Lords Fairfax and Lexden, at which the George Bell case might be mentioned. It was important that the group collated its differing and valuable expertise to find a clear way forward.

1. Review timeline - GB(16)01a and 2. Review summary document – GB(16)01b, GB(16)02, GB(16)03

William asked Graham to speak to the timeline and summary documents.

The timeline is not the complete article and needs additions but is good enough and includes input from a range of sources. It documents the key milestones between 2012 and 2015. The summaries offer different perspectives and there may be further elements which need to be corrected.

The group flagged some additions and corrections, as follows:

Document – GB(16)01b

- In answer to the question 'Why was this case not surfaced in 2008 PCR?', Colin Perkins clarified that the PCR had been fairly comprehensive and that the correspondence had been kept in a general file about George Bell which was not a personnel file and therefore never given to the commissaries. In 2013, the commissaries were asked to look at this file. Not including it in the 2008 PCR had been an oversight. It would only have been identified in 2008 had the PCR examined all Diocese of Chichester files on any subject.
- The answer to the question 'Were all surviving 'associates' of +G Bell identified and contacted? Eg biographer, great niece, chaplain etc' was no. William further asked if anyone else with connections to George Bell had been identified. +Martin responded that there was no-one who had met George Bell but there were family connections to people close to George Bell i.e. the son and the daughter of the former