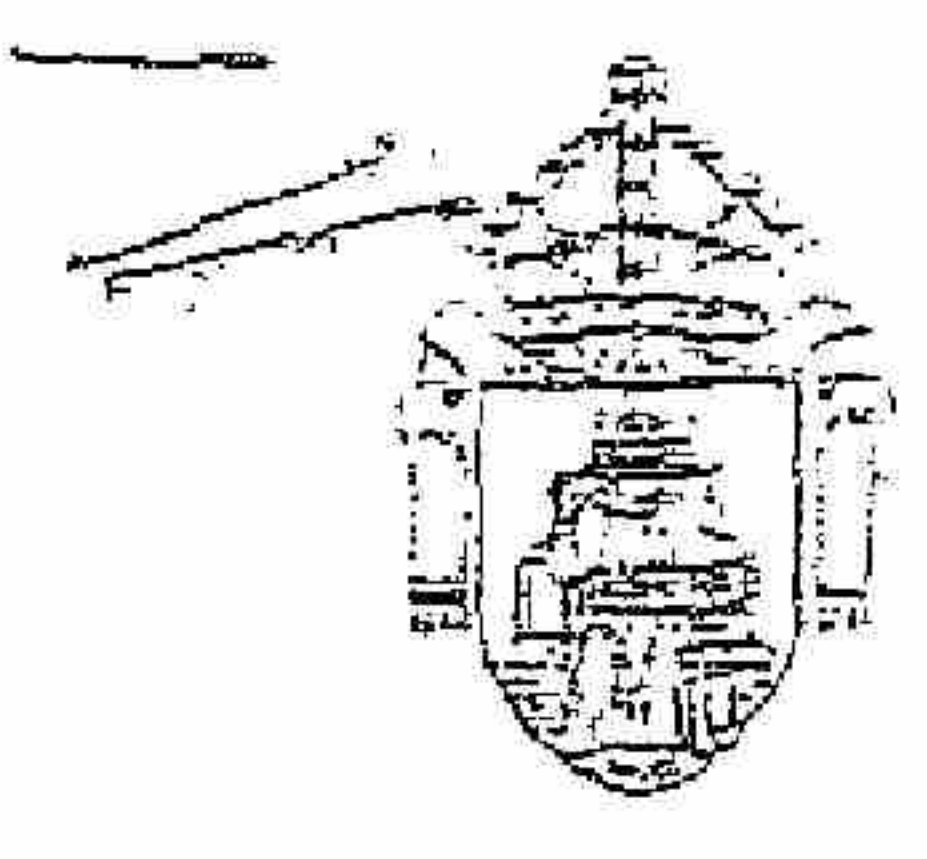


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DIOCESE OF
CHICHESTER
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Archdeacon of Lewes and Hastings
The Venerable Nicholas S Reade

To: Jonathan Coward re Robert Cates

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Jonathan,

I wonder how possible moves are coming along?

Following my visit to you I have taken up Robert's case again with the Bishop of Lewes, first with a long letter suggesting Robert be given a restricted permission to officiate working under one priest and secondly with a long conversation.

The Bishop does not feel any permission can be given until Robert goes to see a consultant for an assessment which I understand takes the form of an interview and lasts for one hour. If the result is that Robert is not a risk then he can have permission to officiate. It is as simple as that.

In putting Robert's case to the Bishop I pointed out that he has always been loyal to the Bishop and would undoubtedly abide by any restrictions placed upon him. The Bishop was not convinced by this because of (and I quote) *the sneaky way Robert has tried to operate.*

I know Robert has been doing Funerals at the Crematorium, but I have not pressed him on what he is doing elsewhere, but I have heard (and obviously the Bishop has too) from other sources that he is from time to time operating. If he is functioning without permission to officiate I think a rather serious situation could develop. Your message on your answerphone this morning (!) suggests that his ministry is fairly well established in the Stone Cross area.....? *(Contact Fr. Coley)*

Those of us who know Robert well would dearly love to see him functioning again with proper authority. Could you do all in your power to persuade him to go for the assessment, because it looks as if that is the only way he can ever have any public ministry? Possibly all that stands between him and ministry again is a one hour consultation.

* Robert Cates

DPA

Telephone: DPA Fax: DPA

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I think the Bishop is going to ask Robert to come and see him again, not to press him about any ministry he might suspect he's exercising, but to have a pastoral chat about his situation and, I think to encourage him to go for the consultation. I hope, if he mentions this to you you will ensure he goes to see the Bishop.

JS

DPA