

Private and Confidential

17 June 1994

Dear Michael

I had a useful meeting with Graham this week. He was able to share with me some of your concerns and for that I am deeply grateful.

I have never disguised the fact that I have always longed for Peter to have a ministry in the Church again but the basic problem has always been balancing Peter's desire to get cracking with questions about his health and, perhaps of equal importance, the credibility of the Church in the eyes of the public if he is returned to public ministry too soon. While some may be impatient or even dismissive of that factor I cannot afford to be. Indeed, I have seen men destroyed by character assassination by the media and I have doubts that Peter himself could withstand prolonged exposure to the cruelty of the press if it became known that you and I are giving him permission to exercise a public ministry again.

Having said that, I have consistently said that it has been my intention to restore Peter to ministry gradually. I think the next step could come this Autumn with a limited ministry in the diocese of Truro only. I should have to impose two prior conditions however.

First, Angela will need to reassure me that he is mentally fit to undertake a more public role.

Second, I should require you to bring this matter to your staff meeting for a thorough consideration of a number of questions, which will include:

- i. Are the staff team generally confident that Peter's ministry would be welcomed in the diocese?
- ii. Are there any special implications in the fact that he is the diocesan bishop's brother?
- iii. Are there any worries that offence may be caused to the diocesan bishop or the diocese itself if Peter returns in the Autumn?
- iv. If some renewal of ministry is now in order, what form should it take:
 - a. A limited ministry to clergy only - personal counselling or speaking to clergy gatherings?
 - b. A limited ministry to parishes - leading retreats, conferences, taking services etc?

cont ...

TRURO

I am quite sure that the time is not yet ripe for Peter to exercise an episcopal ministry.

Would you be willing to consider this, Michael? I am copying this to Graham so that he is aware of the follow-up to our conversation.

Yours ever

The Rt Revd the Bishop of Truro

DPA

cc: The Bishop of St Germans ✓

With the Archbishop of
Canterbury's compliments

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