



Bishop of Lewes
The Right Reverend Wallace Benn

**DIOCESE OF
CHICHESTER**



7 & 9 September 2010

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Revd J Hind
The Palace
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1PY

COPY

Dear John

THE REVD CANON GORDON TREVOR RIDEOUT

The attached CID letters arrived this morning subsequent to our conversation yesterday. You will know all about the allegation against Gordon while in the army.

Regarding the other allegation, which you also know about, while as a curate Gordon was Chaplain to Barnardo's Children's Home, Ifield Hall Sussex, where his wife-to-be had previously worked, before training as a Parish Worker at Dalton House in Bristol.

I took Gordon and his wife to the police interview at Crawley but was not present for it. The key bit of evidence is that on the date of the alleged incident **Wife** had returned from Bristol to plan their wedding. She was with her husband-to-be for the whole time when they called to visit the children's home (in the grounds of which the egg hunt took place - the "woods" mentioned in the allegation was a small copse). The Superintendent of the home and his wife were both interviewed by the police at the time of the allegation (the Superintendent is now dead) and both were totally supportive of Gordon. In the light of the public nature of the egg hunt, the good reputation of Gordon and the presence of **Wife** all day, it is not surprising that the police took no further action. **Wife** has been horrified that what she sees as such an unfounded allegation has been made.

The children in the home were all from problem backgrounds and one of them still writes to Gordon and **Wife** from time to time.

At the 2002 police interview Gordon's solicitor was present, Ian Gardiner (a member of All Saints congregation) and also David Alexander (also a member of All Saints but with more experience of criminal cases). The latter has just asked Gordon to officiate at his daughter's wedding.

cont/-

Bishop's Lodge, 16a Prideaux Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 2NB
Tel DPA Fax DPA • Email Bishop's PA DPA

The Chichester Diocesan Fund and Board of Finance (Incorporated) Charity No 243134
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Chairman: Clive Dilloway Diocesan Secretary: Francesca Del Mese MA, Barrister-at-Law

Hope this helps and thank you for dealing with this with Shirley Hosgood.

As ever

DPA

Wallace Benn
Bishop of Lewes

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PS: My PA, Sandy confirms to me she completed a CRB check with Gordon for PTO after he retired, which came back dated 8.11.06 with no blemish whatsoever. See copy of our record card written at the time.

PPS: I'm sorry there was a slight delay in sending you all this due to the frantic busyness of the last few days and having been in London all day yesterday (with Bishop of Birmingham and others).



CRAWLEY POLICE STATION

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 25/3/02

Contact Name: DS Nick May

Tel. Extension:

Direct Dial No:

DPA

Rev.Gordon Rideout,
All Saints Vicarage,
Grange Road,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex.
BN21 4HE.

Dear Revend Rideout,

I write regarding your recent arrest and interview at Crawley Police Station.

I have now concluded my investigation into the allegation made, and I am satisfied there is insufficient evidence to proceed in a criminal prosecution.

It will therefore NOT be necessary for you to attend Crawley Police Station on 9/4/02, and I consider this matter to be closed.

Please contact me if you require any clarification, or if there are any matters you wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

DPA

Nick May,
Detective Sergeant,
Forest Division Child Protection Team.

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Recipients address



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Police Station Northgate Avenue Crawley West Sussex RH10 8BF Telephone

DPA

Fax

DPA

Website: <http://www.sussex.police.uk>