

c.c. A.D.O.P.

ROY W. COTTEN

ROY COTTEN

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

13th May, 1966.

My dear Michael,

May I ask your guidance on a difficult question about an Ordinand. The man in question is R.W. Cotten, who read Theology at Oxford, went to Ripon Hall in 1952, was six weeks off Ordination, when he was charged and convicted for indecent exposure, and was put on probation for a year. At the time he protested his innocence, and has done ever since, and in fact from that time has been teaching. First, in a school here in Breham, and then since 1961 in a school near Newbury, which he started in conjunction with a retired Naval Commander.

Now once again he feels the call to Ordination and has been to see me on three occasions. I have also seen his partner in the school; the Bishop of Derby, and saw his Principal who was in office, when the alleged offence occurred; the Bishop of Norwich who was concerned with him as an Ordinand. And all are agreed that as there has been no indication of any further trouble for the last twelve years, it would be right for him to be considered.

I have discussed this at length with my staff here, and we can see a Parish into which he would happily fit. I am not sure whether having been convicted there would need to be a dispensation from you, and I would be most grateful for your guidance in this matter.

Cotten is a man of considerable ability, he has been a very good school master, and I cannot think that having been so free of any trouble for twelve years that there is a likelihood of there being any problem in the future.

Yours ever,

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury,
Lambeth Palace,
London, S.W.1.

DPA