

Confidential

2nd June, 1971.

My dear General,

The fact that we met at Jason Jernell's Institution makes it easier for me to write to you and I do so to express my very great hope that the Reverend Ray Cotton may be accepted as the vicar of South Harting. You will I think by now have heard from the Bishop of Chichester and will therefore be well-informed about him. I simply want to say that the charge made against him in 1953 has, I believe, been proved a false one. He pleaded guilty at the time to spare the boys concerned having to appear in Court. There has been no breath of suspicion of any trouble since, neither has there been a breath of talk about the incident of the past. I am absolutely convinced that this is dead and buried and that there need be no fear of any kind of whisper in the future.

Ray Cotton really is a first-class parish priest and I should be terribly upset if what I told the Bishop of Chichester as a personal confidence should in any way be allowed to affect his appointment. I do so hope he may be allowed to come to the parish for a time that he would serve it, and all the people in it, with faithfulness and love.

Please forgive my writing but I have felt so worried for his sake.

With very best wishes.

Yours very sincerely,

Name Redacted

**DPA**

**DPA**