

Copy sent to Mr Mayfield

14th December, 1951

My dear Mr Gerrish,

Peter Ball came to see me this week, fresh from his first term at Cambridge, and I formed a very favourable opinion of him. Indeed he seemed to have a good deal higher quality than the average candidate, and to be more worthy of recommendation than some at least of those who are recommended.

I do not feel able to accept the Selection Centre's judgment with regard to him, viz. that he is "not recommended for training". It seems to me that a young man who was head prefect at Lancing, and Junior Squash Champion for the South of England - and who has a strong desire for ordination - ought to be encouraged at an early stage. He has begun happily at Queens' College, Cambridge. He is reading Natural Science, and he tells me that he has already been chosen to play for the Cambridge A Squash team. I also found out that he had plenty of interests of an intellectual kind outside Natural Science, as well as outside squash rackets.

As I say, I formed a very favourable opinion of him; and I cannot help thinking that the Selection Centre made a mistake in this case. I know the proposal was that Ball should go back to the Selection Centre after his time at the University. But if he wants financial help for a University course, either now or later, what then? Anyway, I think you had better take it that I am prepared to accept him for ordination, as a diocesan candidate.

Yours sincerely,

LINCOLN PALACE