
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: +ROGER
FROM: PETER MITCHELL
SUBJECT: SERVICE REGISTERS
DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER, 2001
CC:

Dear +Roger

I refer to Keith Allen's advice that the Crown filed a "No Bill" in respect of all the charges made against the Reverend George Parker.

The defining moment of the case seems to have been the production of Parish Service Registers and their evidence of service times, name of celebrant and preacher and that they indicate the whereabouts of a priest at given times. In this case, it would have been alleged that the complainants were present at certain services, acting as servers, even though it was not their parish.

Keith suggests that Service Registers be amended to include two columns; one for parish servers and another for non-parish servers. In this case, whether the complainants did serve on one occasion in another parish was not tested. Even so, in my experience it seems a most unlikely occurrence. Keith's particular suggestion seems to me to be an over-reaction. If there were to be changes, it would be more sensible to include names of those serving, including chalice assistants. I suspect that most clergy would find the inclusion of such extra material to be more of a burden.

I think the important point is that clergy should be reminded that it is important to keep the Registers as diligently and as accurately as possible.

With best wishes,