

Jo Alves

REDACTED

Doucton 3177

14-10-86.

To Whom it may concern,

This letter is a concerned protest against the misinformation given to the Parish community of Holy Family Doucton, by the Parish Priest, The Reverend Father Peter Pearson. Also in question are the misleading actions taken by Father Pearson to reinforce the misinformation.

On the last Sunday in May 1986, Father Pearson announced from the altar (at all three masses) that official approval had been given to build a church at Holy Family Doucton. Before this there had been a public meeting of parishioners to discuss the matter.

On writing to the Archbishop for confirmation personally from his Eminence of the approval to build a church. It was found that in the return letter Father had no such approval.

The Parish News letter of the 8th June advertised a "Information and Discussion meeting on the New Church the following Wednesday. 11/6/86.

Attending that meeting were between 60 to 80 concerned parishioners. Father was questioned on the approval to build and proof was asked to "show" by him. He assured everyone there, that he had such proof but must have left it at the prebytry.

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Other information was sought from him on the Parish finances. To which his reply was he had it at the presbytry.

At the meeting of 11/6/86 a hands up vote was taken for and against the building of the Church. This resulted in a resounding vote for no building of a church.

Dissatisfied with this result claiming the meeting was stacked against him. Father Pearson insisted upon distributing an open letter of appeal to the parishioners, supporting the Sacrificial offering, asking for a yes/no vote for the new church.

Letters were distributed on the 12th June, giving those parishioners who did not attend the meeting of the 11/6/86 three days to make up their minds.

One letter only was received by one particular family that I know of where there were five contributors.

The result of the vote was not announced by Father Pearson, but he did announce at masses on the 14/6/86. The deferral of a decision on the new church, for 12 months. The reason he gave was a recession of the economy.

As a result of this disturbing sequence of events my husband and I decided to no longer contribute to the sacrificial giving program. There are others who did the same.

The Sacrificial Renewal Campaign immediately followed and we decided not to submit

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a renewal of commitment for any further sacrificial offering while the matter of the New Church was undecided. Of course we kept up with the presbytery contribution.

On the 13th of July we received a letter from Father Season with a set of envelopes thanking us for our pledged contribution of 12.00 w/ky. There was no such pledge made by us.

It is sincerely hoped that the factual sequence of events explained in this letter is not dismissed as just a "whinge" by two dissatisfied parishioners. My husband and I have been very involved in the life of this Parish. My husband was on the Parish Councils directed by Father O'Sheffe and Father Rubeo. Both of us were actively involved in fund raising in Father Fitzpatrick's time as well as the spiritual life. My husband was Parish President for 2 yrs. I have been involved for sometime in the liturgy of the Parish, as special minister, and (at different times) as a reader, and the choir. My husband has run the Bingo in this Parish for 7½ yrs rarely missing a Thursday night and he still attends, and cares.

At the time of the upsetting events my husband and I both attempted to discuss with Father Season the situation. However both attempts made separately were thwarted by Father

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Seasons attitude. I was dismissed in the middle of my discussion. My husband after several attempts to contact Father Season in person at the presbytery, finally raised him by phone. Father Season hung up the phone on the conversation, after telling my husband ~~to~~ to have better things to do than argue with them.

Hoping you will treat this protest with the concern it warrants

I remain

Yours sincerely
J. Aitken

Accompanying this letter is some information which backs up my protest.