


The Venerable Antony MacRow Wood
Archdeacon of Dorset

Revd C Boyle
The Vicarage


24th June 2021

Dear Mr Boyle,

I understand that you recently met with Bishop Nicholas and during that meeting he indicated that I am considering bringing a Clergy Discipline Measure complaint against you. I have received written complaints and information from a number of people and taken advice about that information. I have been advised that there is likely to be evidence to support an allegation of sufficient seriousness to justify bringing a complaint under the Clergy Discipline Measure.

The nature of the allegation which I am considering bringing is as follows:

1. That, as a course of conduct over a sustained period of time, you failed to take appropriate account of COVID-19 regulations, government guidance and Church of England guidance and to give an appropriate lead in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Matters that I am considering include:

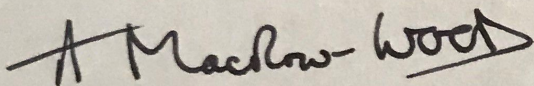
- Failing to take overall responsibility for preparing risk assessments for use of the church building, as required by COVID-19 regulations.
- Failing to take measures identified as necessary by risk assessments, and / or required by government or Church of England guidance, including:
 - o Inconsistently wearing a face covering, claiming you have a medical exemption at some times but nonetheless wearing a face covering at other times;
 - o On more than one occasion, singing with the worship band;
 - o Moving around the aisles, in close proximity to other people, without wearing a mask;
 - o Failing to ensure that people seated in the church were appropriately distanced from one another;
 - o Hugging a person who was not in your household or a support bubble;
 - o Returning items to the church which had been removed in order to prevent them being touched by multiple people;
 - o Recording a service from a beach hut at a time when use of such facilities was not permitted.

2. That, in response to an offer by me to meet with your PCC to discuss a number of matters of concern (including some of the matters mentioned above), you and one of your churchwardens

wrote a response declining to meet with me, purporting to be on behalf of the PCC. In fact the PCC were unaware of my offer and had not reached that decision.

I have more work to do to collate the evidence in relation to these allegations and to identify the regulations and guidance that was in force at the time of each incident. Nonetheless it is appropriate for me to make you aware of these matters now so that you can take advice about your position. I appreciate that without all the evidence, which I am still collating, a legal advisers may not be able to advise you about the strength of the case against you. Nonetheless I hope that will be able to give you some indication as to the potential seriousness of these allegations, and about the various stages of the process when a CDM complaint is brought, whether it is accepted or denied.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A MacRow-Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'A' and a long, horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

The Venerable Antony MacRow-Wood