

FROM: THE RT HON MICHAEL JOPLING MP

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PRIME MINISTER

Elsbeth Howe has sought my advice following an approach made to her by the Archbishop of Canterbury, suggesting that she becomes third Church Estates Commissioner. This appointment is one made by the Archbishop of Canterbury after consultation with Her Majesty. The present incumbent is Dame Betty Ridley DBE who is about to retire. The post is paid between £16,000 and £20,000 a year and includes the Chairmanship of the Pastoral Committee which deals with pastoral re-organisation and the Houses Committee which deals with clergy houses and glebe.

I think that Elspeth feels that for perfectly good reasons there has been reluctance to appoint her to various Quangos and that as wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer there are problems for her to take posts in the private business sector. She is keen to be more active and I recommend that we should give her the green light to accept this offer from the Archbishop. I have spoken to Ian Gow who agrees with me.

3 February 1981