

C of E to study Catholic experience on child abuse

THE CHURCH of England will examine the Catholic Church's work on child protection in an attempt to root out historical cases of child abuse.

The Anglican Church is worried about its child protection record after three people were convicted this year of crimes that the Church had known about but failed to report to the police. The Archbishop of Canterbury admitted last week that errors had been made, saying that three discussions of the matter had been held at the recent House of Bishops meeting in Leicestershire.

"We don't just want to look good, we want to do it properly, and so we need to

have the best professional advice on how we might review these historic cases," said Dr Rowan Williams.

It is understood that among those whose advice will be sought will be the Catholic Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (Copca), which was set up on the recommendation of the Nolan Review into child protection in 2001.

Eileen Shearer, director of Copca, said that although she had not yet been approached about the matter, she would be happy to help in any way possible.

Donald Findlater, from the Lucy Faithful Foundation, a child protection charity, agreed that it would not be

surprising for the Church of England to turn to Copca for help. Mr Findlater, who was on the committee chaired by Lord Nolan, said child protection bodies of different denominations already referred to each other for ideas.

On his own initiative, the Anglican Bishop of Manchester, Nigel McCulloch, has ordered an independent investigation into the files of the 850 members of the clergy in his diocese. This is in line with Copca guidelines, which give directions that bishops should review historic cases which were overlooked, reporting them to the police where appropriate. Crucially, it indicates that this must include volunteers.

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Applications close: 21 June 2007

I thank the Lord for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea, which for many years has offered human and spiritual support to those who live this difficult and challenging way of life.

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At all times the Chaplain has to have regard to the authentic Catholic teaching and witness while recognising the uniqueness of each individual child.

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For further details please contact Rev Harry Smart on (01522) 508310 or email harry.smart@lpt.nhs.uk
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Applicants should be suitably qualified at postgraduate level, research active and possess relevant teaching and curriculum development experience. In particular you should also be conversant with pastoral initiatives and theological training in the Catholic dioceses of England and Wales.

Application forms and further particulars can be downloaded from the vacancies page at www.smuc.ac.uk alternatively, you can contact the Human Resources Department, St Mary's University College, Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW1 4SX. Tel: 020 8240 4336 (24 hour voicemail), e-mail: blenkinv@smuc.ac.uk quoting reference L/0501/44/07.

The closing date for applications is Monday 18th June 2007.



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