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Allegations of indecent behaviour have apparently been made by one person against the Bishop of Gloucester, Bishop Peter Ball. The Bishop has given a statement to the Police and he has been released on police bail pending further inquiries as to whether there is a case to answer. It must be emphasized that no charges have been brought against the Bishop, and the allegations made about him are unsubstantiated. Moreover, the Bishop has a proven record of outstanding pastoral work, particularly amongst young people.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has been informed and has been in touch with Bishop Peter. As is customary whenever such allegations are made, appropriate inquiries will be conducted by the Church. The highest standards of personal morality are expected of bishops, clergy and all Christians who have pastoral responsibility for others.

Meanwhile, the Archbishop has instructed Bishop Peter to take a rest from his official duties and avoid the glare of publicity while these distressing allegations are investigated.

The Archbishop has Bishop Peter in his prayers at this difficult time.

12/11/77 11:00