

*Original in  
Church file*

26 January 1980

My dear Bishop,

Thank you for your letter of 24 January about your Enthronement on 25 March. You will know how glad I am that we have been able to change the Budget date, and I am deeply grateful to you for the spirit in which you have spoken about this.

Mr Callaghan and I have been in touch about Question Time on 25 March, and I am delighted to say that there is now nothing to prevent me coming to Canterbury. You know how much I shall look forward to being with you.

Yours sincerely,

MARGARET THATCHER

The Right Reverend  
The Lord Bishop of St Albans

*TR*



*Original  
clipping*

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 January 1980

*Dear Cardinal Hume.*

Thank you for your letter of 21 January about Budget Day and the new Archbishop of Canterbury's Enthronement.

I am very glad that it has proved possible to change the date of the Budget to Wednesday 26 March.

*Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher*

His Eminence  
The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster



Original  
in Church of England

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 January 1980

My dear Lord Bishop.

Thank you for your letter of 21 January about Budget Day and the new Archbishop of Canterbury's Enthronement.

I am very glad that it has proved possible to change the date of the Budget to Wednesday 26 March, and I hope you will be pleased.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

The Right Reverend  
The Lord Bishop of London



*Original in  
Church filing*

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 January 1980

*My dear Archbishop.*

Thank you for your letter of 21 January 1980 about Budget Day and the new Archbishop of Canterbury's Enthronement.

I am so sorry for any distress that has been caused and I am glad that it has proved possible to change the date of the Budget to Wednesday, 26 March.

*Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher*

His Grace The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury

The Times 23 January 1980

## Budget changed to March 26 to avoid clash

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

The Government relented yesterday, decided to serve Mammón last, and switched Budget day to Wednesday, March 26, so as not to clash with the March 25 enthronement of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Government's postponement was greeted in the Commons with relief by members of all parties, but not before a Conservative backbencher had asked why the parties could not have referred to their diaries before confirming dates of important national events.

The fault for the blunder lies entirely with ministers since they knew weeks before-

hand of the Canterbury Cathedral ceremony before deciding to have the Budget on the same day.

Protests from churchmen at such insensitivity were supported by cries of consternation from Conservatives that their party should have shown such ineptitude.

Mr Norman St John Stevas, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House, the Government's leading Roman Catholic, attempted to put the best face on the Government's about-face.

It gave him great pleasure to "reconcile Canterbury and Westminster", he said, although Mr Michael Foot, for the Labour Opposition, ironically

welcomed what he called a "minor U-turn".

In his letter to the Archbishop designate, the Right Rev Robert Runcie, Bishop of St Albans, Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, did not manage an apology so much as a laboured explanation of why it now proved possible to move the Budget.

The upshot seemed that although the week of March 22 was imperative for the Budget, Tuesday had been chosen in the first place because, he said, "there are good practical reasons for the well established convention that Budget Day should be a Tuesday".

Ian Bradley writes: The Very

Rev Victor de Waal, Dean of Canterbury, said last night that he welcomed the Government's flexibility.

He said he hoped it would mean that all three major party leaders would attend the enthronement as they did Dr Coggan's enthronement in 1975.

A spokesman for the cathedral said that definite acceptances had been received from Sir Keith Joseph, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Carrington, Mr Michael Heseltine, and Mr David Steel.

He said the cathedral was particularly pleased that Mr William Whitelaw would be able to attend the enthronement because he was a personal friend of Bishop Runcie.

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