

## ***Christ Church Oxford***

Our coverage of events at Christ Church Cathedral from November 2018 to present was restricted to events in which the Church of England was directly involved and for which there was reliable source material.

- [\*\*\*Christ Church Review Group\*\*\*](#), On 2 November 2023, the Church of England issued the Press Release [\*\*\*Christ Church Review Group announced\*\*\*](#), extracts of which are reproduced below. The Review Group will oversee an independent review process of the handling of alleged safeguarding issues regarding the former Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, but will not be concerned with the wider issues between the former Dean and the College, (2 November 2023).
- [\*\*\*Christ Church, Oxford\*\*\*](#), According to [\*\*\*a report in the Church Times\*\*\*](#), the Governing Body of Christ Church has accepted in principle a proposal by Dominic Grieve KC that the Dean cease to be Head of House. According to the report, the Governing Body took an “indicative decision” on Wednesday to approve “a proposal to divide the responsibilities currently assigned to the Dean into two roles”. A report in Cherwell notes:
- “Currently, the Dean has charge of a single Foundation comprising both a Cathedral and a College of the University of Oxford. In future, the Dean will only lead the Cathedral, working beside a separate head of the Foundation. In an e-mail sent to students, the College said: ‘The proposal would enable future Deans of the Cathedral to dedicate themselves exclusively to leading the mission, ministry and management of the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Oxford, overseeing its prayer and worship.’ Both institutions will, however, remain within the single Foundation of Christ Church Oxford, despite separate leadership of the College and Cathedral”.
- When effected, the change in the status of the Dean will permit an alignment of the ecclesiastical law of Christ Church with that of other Church of England Cathedrals. (22 October 2023).
- [\*\*\*Grieve review of Christ Church Oxford completed\*\*\*](#), See below for documents from Oxford Diocese and Christ Church, (17 May 2023).
- [\*\*\*ISB Statement: Percy -v- ISB Case Resolved\*\*\*](#), On 28 April 2023, the Independent Safeguarding Board (ISB) issued the Press Release [\*\*\*Statement: Percy -v- Independent Safeguarding Board Case Resolved\*\*\*](#), (28 April 2023).
- [\*\*\*Appointment: Dean of Christ Church, Oxford\*\*\*](#), Links to announcements from the Prime Minister’s Office and from Christ Church. (16 March 2023).
- [\*\*\*Christ Church Oxford: response to Governance Review. Summary of paper presented to Diocesan Synod on 12 November 2022\*\*\*](#), (21 November 2022).
- [\*\*\*The Charity Commission and Christ Church, Oxford\*\*\*](#). L&RUK round-up, 13 November 2022.
- [\*\*\*Christchurch review: A statement from the ISB\*\*\*](#). The Church of England’s Independent Safeguarding Board has puts Christ Church review on hold over independence concerns (20 October 2022).
- [\*\*\*Statement on ISB from lead safeguarding bishop\*\*\*](#). (4 August 2022).
- [\*\*\*Dominic Grieve to lead Christ Church Governance Review\*\*\*](#). Press Release from Christ Church Oxford. (16 June 2022).
- [\*\*\*Christ Church Oxford safeguarding review\*\*\*](#). Review and summary of [\*\*\*Terms of Reference\*\*\*](#). (26 May 2022).

- [\*A particular peculiar\*](#), (10 April 2022). In weekly round-up, and Comments to [Christ Church Oxford: Governance Review](#).
- [Statement: The Very Revd. Martyn Percy](#). (4 February 2022).
- [Ecclesiastical court judgments 2021](#). CDM Decisions: Reference to [Ward v Percy – 28 May 2021](#) in which the President of Tribunals, Dame Sarah Asplin issued her decision, dated 28 May, concerning the CDM complaint made last November by Graham Ward in respect of the alleged conduct of Martyn Percy on 4 October. Her decision concluded: “[10]. ...it is entirely disproportionate that this matter should be referred to a tribunal”. (8 December 2021).
- [Ecclesiastical Court Judgments – May](#), CDM Decisions: Reference 2, *supra*. (1 June 2021).
- [Law and religion round-up – 17th January](#), Dean Martyn Percy: Statement from Christ Church Cathedral, (17 January 2021).
- [Law and religion round-up – 10th January](#). Dean Martyn Percy: On 9 January 2021 both [Christ Church](#) and the [Diocese of Oxford](#) diocese issued statements following further media reports. These reports in *The Times* and *Daily Telegraph* have been summarized by [Thinking Anglicans](#). (10 January 2021).
- [Is a cathedral dean an employee? Dean Martyn Percy](#). Review of *Dean Martyn Percy v The Dean & Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Christ in Oxford of the Foundation of King Henry VIII* [2020] UKET 3310878/2019, (9 November 2020).
- [Law and religion round-up – 22nd November](#). A complaint has been made against Professor Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church and of Oxford Cathedral, which will be investigated by the Church of England under the provisions of the Clergy Discipline Measure. A [statement](#) has been issued by the Diocese of Oxford. (22 November 2020).
- [Safeguarding statements: Christ Church, Oxford](#), Statements from [Church of England](#), the [Bishop of Oxford](#) and [Christ Church](#). (8 September 2020).
- [Employment Tribunal Claim – Christ Church, Oxford](#), Statements by Christ Church Cathedral and Oxford Diocese. (17 February 2020).
- [Law and religion round-up – 25th August](#), Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford: In our round-up on [25 November 2018](#), we noted that we did not intend to comment or post on the suspension of The Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy unless the Church of England itself becomes directly involved; the Cathedral is specifically excluded from ecclesiastical legislation including the [Cathedrals Measure 1999](#) and the [Care of Cathedral Measure 2011](#). (25 August 2019).
- [Tribunal outcome: Christ Church, Oxford](#), Christ Church, Oxford, has published the following [announcement](#) concerning a complaint raised in September 2018 against the Dean, The Very Revd. Professor Martyn Percy. A subsequent [statement](#) welcomed Dr Percy back to Cathedral duties. Also below is the [response](#) from the Bishop of Oxford. (21 August 2019).  
  
On 21 August 2019, Christ Church, Oxford, issued a brief [communication](#) which stated “following a thorough investigation, the tribunal has decided that the charges are not upheld and that there is no cause to remove the Dean as Head of House”. This was followed by a [statement](#) from The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford. (19 August 2019).
- [Law and religion round-up – 25th November](#), (25 November 2018). Last week's round-up [noted](#) the Bishop of Oxford's [statement](#) that the Governing Body and Chapter had requested that the complaint against the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy related to a college governance matter and was to be reviewed by an independently-chaired internal tribunal. An [article](#) in *The Guardian* had indicated that the Church of England was not involved in the tribunal and that there is no question of invoking the Clergy Disciplinary Measure.

Nevertheless, a tweet from the Archbishop Cranmer blog indicated that an "astonishing number of people are trashing the CofE for Martyn Percy's suspension as Dean of Christ Church Oxford", adding "It is \*not\* a church matter. (25 November 2018).

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Non-L&RUK material includes:

- [Christ Church Governance Review](#), Full report, (17 May 2023).
- [Christ Church publishes Independent Governance Review by Dominic Grieve KC](#), Summary, 43 paragraphs, Christ Church Oxford, (17 May 2023).
- [Dominic Grieve KC completes governance review of Christ Church](#), Oxford, Oxford Diocese, (17 May 2023).
- [Charity Commission issues Official Warning to Christ Church, Oxford](#), Thinking Anglicans, (10 November & seq).
- [Charity regulator issues Official Warning to Christ Church, Oxford, Charity Commission](#), 10 November 2022.
- [Ex-Christ Church Dean ordered to pay Independent Safeguarding Board costs after court case, Oxford Mail](#), 31 October 2022.
- [Nye backs Independent Safeguarding Board for Oxford review](#), Church Times, 30 June 2022.
- [Independent Safeguarding Board and the Percy review](#), Links to the letter by Martin Sewell to all members of the Archbishops' Council, Thinking Anglicans, 20 June 2022.
- [Independent Safeguarding Board: a recap](#), Thinking Anglicans, 20 June 2022
- [Three Questions for Christ Church and the Diocese of Oxford](#), Stephen Parsons, 6 June 2022.
- [Turbulent priest](#). Those following the case of Martyn Percy do not know that he has received hundreds of supportive letters. Here is one sent to Christ Church last week and copied to him (all names removed but permission given by its writer to publish it here). 3 June 2022
- [The Independent Safeguarding Board – Unfit for Purpose, 29 May 2022](#). Article from Atonement. "Atonement puts survivors in touch with resources, organisations and personnel that can offer constructive help and support as they seek to recover from the trauma of their original abuse. We work for truth and justice, knowing that churches will often refuse to face their complicity and collusion in the original acts of abuse".
- [Oxford Diocese June Synod: Tabled papers - Christ Church Independent Review](#).
- On 27 May 2022, Christ Church responded:
  - [Christ Church and Dr Martyn Percy: Our Response](#).
- In response to the proposed ISB review Martyn Percy has published the following on the 'Modern Church' website:
  - [The Ministry of Truth and Safeguarding in the Church of England \(A 'Lessons Learned Review' from 1984\)](#)
  - [Ethical? \(or, Tea and Sympathy Are Not Enough\)](#)
  - [The Church of England.... Trustworthy?](#)
- [Brief for the position of Independent Chair, Governance Review Christ Church, Oxford](#), Odgers Berndtson, (6 April 2022).
- [Independent Chair, Governance Review, Christ Church, Oxford](#), (6 April 2022).

- [\*Christ Church Board of Governors warned of jail time\*](#), 14 January 2022.
- [\*Factsheet: Martyn Percy and Christ Church Oxford, Religion Media Centre\*](#), (updated 4 February 2022).
- [\*Statement: The Very Revd. Martyn Percy\*](#). (4 February 2022).
- [\*Christ Church Oxford settles dispute with Dean\*](#): texts of the statements by the College, the Diocese and Dr Percy, Simon Sarmiento, *Thinking Anglicans* (4 February 2022).
- [\*Oxford Dons plan litigation against Archbishop Cranmer\*](#), January 10, 2022.

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