

Bangor Cathedral Oversight Board

Meeting 23 March 2026, via video conference

Present: Professor Medwin Hughes (MH) (Chair)
Matthew Corbett-Jones (MC-J)
Judi Hayward (JHa)
Jane Heard (JHe)
The Reverend Canon Professor Peter Neil (PN)
David Halse (DH)

Apologies: Archbishop Cherry Vann, Henry Gilbert (HG) and Professor Timothy Wheeler (TW)

In attendance: Simon Lloyd (SL)
The Very Reverend Dr Manon James (MJ)
Tomos Dobson (TD)
Deborah Tugwell (DT)
John Davies (JD)

**ACTION
BY:**

1 Opening prayers

MJ opened the meeting with prayer.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2026

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved for publication.

DT

Matters arising

Safeguarding audits

The steering group for the cathedral safeguarding audits had met and requested the timeline of the audits to be changed: it was now expected the audit at Bangor Cathedral (the final audit in the series) would be undertaken in September/October.

It was agreed the terms of reference for the safeguarding audits would be circulated to the Oversight Board.

DT

Cathedral constitution

The cathedral Chapter was due to discuss at its next meeting proposals for updates to the cathedral constitution.

Cathedral choir

The choir handbook had recently been revised to reflect the changed circumstances. The appointment of a new Director of Music would not be expedited immediately.

3 Dean's update

MJ provided a verbal update on various matters at the cathedral.

a) Tomos Dobson – Operations Manager

The Oversight Board was introduced to Tomos Dobson, who had recently taken up his new post as Operations Manager at Bangor Cathedral. The role, induction and opportunities for professional development were discussed: TD was due to meet with the operations managers from the other cathedrals and a network for those was to be developed.

b) Action plan and update of progress by Chapter and the Implementation Group

The implementation of the recommendations was discussed and the progress tracking document reviewed.

The recommendations that related to the Chaining of the cathedral Chapter were discussed particularly. The Oversight Board felt that this was most appropriately undertaken by the dean and noted that the spirit of the recommendation concerned, ensuring there were effective checks and balances on the actions of a dean, could be achieved via other means including a lay co-Chair with powers and duties clearly articulated.

Work to update the cathedral constitution would refer to the Chaining of the Chapter.

c) Bangor Diocesan Board of Finance and Bangor Diocesan Trust independent governance review

The governance review report had recently been published which had identified various governance shortcomings and made a number of recommendations. The Oversight Board noted that the new diocesan secretary had been appointed who would be in a position to lead the implementation of the recommendations relating to the DBF.

Reflective practice was discussed as an important element of learning. When in post, the new bishop, together with the new diocesan secretary and other senior staff, would be able to lead the diocese in reflection.

The Oversight Board noted that a recommendation related to the provision of trustee training – both for trustees of the DBF and ministry area trustees. This was an area of work that would be discussed with the Bench of Bishops and the diocesan secretaries to plan how this training could be provided province-wide.

5 Update on the appointment of a Bishop of Bangor

SL confirmed that the interviews in late February for an interim Bishop of Bangor had, unfortunately, not resulted in an appointment being made. At its meeting on 17 March, the Standing Committee had agreed to restart the Electoral College process with the College meeting being planned to take place on 16-18 June 2026. The diocesan profile was currently being prepared ahead of notices of the vacant See being posted in early April.

6 Review of the Oversight Board's terms of reference

The role of the Oversight Board was discussed: it was noted that the Board's role was to oversee the implementation of the recommendations and to provide support to the dean and the Chapter as necessary. It was agreed that due to the work already undertaken and to allow time for remaining work to be progressed, the frequency of meetings would reduce: the Oversight Board would therefore meet every two months. The meeting planned to take place on 21 April would be cancelled with the next scheduled meeting taking place on 8 June.

The revised meeting pattern would be confirmed by email. The new diocesan secretary would be invited to attend Oversight Board meetings.

DT

Date of next meeting

The Oversight Board would next meet on Monday 8 June 2026 at 18.00, via video conference.