

The Rt Hon. The Baroness Stowell of Beeston, MBE
Chair of the Charity Commission
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By post and email to chair@charitycommission.gov.uk
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As from Mr Andrew Graystone, 17 Rushford Avenue, Manchester M192HG
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Wednesday 27th May 2020

Dear Lady Stowell

You recently received a letter from some individual trustees of Christ Church Oxford making a series of allegations against their Dean, the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy.

We wish to express our confidence in Martyn Percy. We know him in our various capacities, as a man of consistently good character, an exceptional scholar, a respected public servant, and an outstanding Christian leader.

We do not speculate on the reasons why some members of the Governing Body of Christ Church wish to go to such extreme lengths to destroy the reputation of their Dean and to break his spirit. But we do know that :

- The recent letter is the latest episode in a sustained campaign against the Dean led by senior members of the college Governing Body since his appointment.
- The specific allegations against Martyn Percy have changed over time, but each allegation has been disproved. In August of last year Dean Percy was wholly exonerated after an extensive investigation by Sir Andrew Smith, a retired High Court judge.

- The signatories of the letter are far from objective. Several of them were revealed by Sir Andrew to have employed devious methods and offensive language in their efforts to break his resolve, and some will be parties to an Employment Tribunal to be heard next year.
- The grievances in the letter are a set of untested and gratuitous assertions for which no evidence is provided.
- The insinuation that Dean Percy personally represents a safeguarding risk is abhorrent and wholly unjustified.
- The suggestion that he “lacks a moral compass” is so far from the truth as to be laughable, were it not so insulting.

We believe that Martyn Percy is a victim of gross injustice and malice. We wish to see this damaging business resolved justly, and with the minimum delay, so that he can continue to exercise his gifts in leading Christ Church.

Respectfully yours,

Professor Malcolm Airs OBE	Emeritus Fellow, Kellogg College Oxford
The Revd Jonathan Aitken	Christ Church alumnus
The Venerable Christine Allsopp	Archdeacon emeritus
Rt Hon Sir Tony Baldry	High Steward of Banbury
Simon Barrow	Director, Ekklesia
The Revd Canon Sue Booy	Team Rector, Dorchester Team Ministry
Simon Broadbent	Chair, The Ainstable Trust
The Revd Canon Andrew Bunch	Vicar of St Giles' and St Margaret's, Oxford
The Venerable Gavin Collins	Archdeacon of the Meon
The Revd Canon Rod Cosh	Chaplain, St Monica Trust
Richard Dick	Former High Sheriff of Oxfordshire
Canon Barbara Doubtfire	Canon Emeritus, Christ Church Oxford
The Rt Revd and Rt Hon The Lord Carey of Clifton	Former Archbishop of Canterbury
The Revd Canon Anthony Dickinson	Anglican Chaplain in Genoa, Canon Emeritus, Christ Church Oxford
The Very Revd Dr Jonathan Draper	General Secretary, Modern Church
The Rt Revd Vivienne Faulk	Bishop of Bristol

The Revd Canon Professor Paul S. Fiddes	Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Oxford and Principal Emeritus, Regent's Park College, Oxford
The Rt Hon Frank Field	
The Rt Revd Jeremy Greaves,	Bishop for the Northern Region, Diocese of Brisbane
The Revd Canon Christopher Hall	Canon Emeritus of Christ Church Oxford
The Revd Canon Rosie Harper	Vicar, Great Missenden Honorary Canon of Christ Church Oxford
Dr Adrian Hilton,	Chairman of the Academic Council, The Margaret Thatcher Centre
The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam,	Lord Bishop of Salisbury
The Very Revd Dr David Ison,	Dean of St Paul's Cathedral
The Revd Dr T C Keighley	Co-ordinator, Martyn Percy Support Fund
David Lamming	Member of General Synod
The Revd Ruth Lampard	
The Revd Andrew Lightbown	Rector of the Winslow Benefice
Lord Lisvane	
The Revd Lady Lisvane	former High Sheriff of Herefordshire
Deborah Loudon	
Professor Gordon Lynch	Michael Ramsey Professor of Modern Theology, University of Kent
The Very Revd Ian S. Markham,	Dean and president of Virginia Theological Seminary
Dr Katie McKeogh,	New College Oxford
The Revd Canon Tom Moffatt	Canon Emeritus, Christ Church Oxford
The Venerable John Morrison	Former Archdeacon of Oxford Hon Canon Emeritus, Christ Church Oxford
The Very Revd Andrew Nunn	Dean of Southwark
The Rev'd Dr Steven Ogden	Principal, St Francis Anglican Theological College, Brisbane
Jayne Ozanne,	Director, Ozanne Foundation Member of General Synod
The Very Revd Nicholas Papadopoulos	Dean of Salisbury
Rt Revd Professor Stephen Pickard	Charles Sturt University, Australia

Canon Nick Ralph	Residentiary canon at Portsmouth Cathedral
Sir Ivor Roberts	Former ambassador and former President of Trinity College Oxford
Lady Elizabeth Roberts	Trinity College Oxford
The Very Revd Michael Sadgrove	Dean Emeritus of Durham
Simon Sarmiento	Churchwarden, Knaresborough
Richard Scorer	Head of Abuse Law, Slater & Gordon
Martin Sewell	Member of General Synod
Canon Brian Shenton	Canon Emeritus, Christ Church Oxford
The Revd Canon Vincent Strudwick,	Canon Emeritus Christ Church Oxford
	Honorary Fellow Emeritus, Kellogg College
The Revd Ian Tattum	Area Dean, Wandsworth
Dr Anna Thomas-Betts MBE	
The Revd Angela Tilby	Canon Emeritus Christ Church Oxford
Professor Iain R Torrence	Pro-Chancellor, University of Aberdeen
Terry Waite CBE	
Professor Pete Ward	Professor of Practical Theology, Durham University
The Rt Revd Dr Alan Wilson	Bishop of Buckingham
The Very Revd Christine Wilson	Dean of Lincoln
Professor Linda Woodhead MBE	Distinguished Professor, University of Lancaster