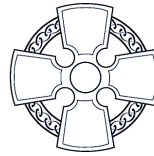


Y R EGLWYS
YNG NGHYMRU



THE CHURCH
IN WALES

Y Parchedicaŷ Cherry Vann / The Most Reverend Cherry Vann
Archesgob Cymru / Archbishop of Wales
Esgob Mynwy / Bishop of Monmouth

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In my address to your Diocesan Conference, I spoke about keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, as together we work through the challenges that need to be addressed. My purpose in writing to you today is to update you on progress on two of those challenges.

Diocesan Bishop

It is almost two months since Bishop Andy retired, and work has been taking place to discern who should succeed him as Bishop of Bangor. The members of the Electoral College have met twice in on-line meetings, diocesan and provincial profile documents have been produced and the vacancy advertised. Several names were suggested and staff from the national team contacted each of them to invite them to allow their names to be considered. Some of them did and, at their most recent meeting, the electors considered the information which they provided.

The electors were very grateful to each of them for allowing their names to be considered. However, carefully considering the challenges facing the diocese at this time (none of which were clearly identified in the diocesan profile), the College did not feel able to progress with the shortlisting of candidates. The College also decided that there was insufficient time to repeat the advertising process and to allow time for references to be taken up and safeguarding checks undertaken before the end of November when the Electoral College was due to meet for the election. The College therefore reported this to the Standing Committee of the Governing Body for guidance on next steps.

The Constitution of the Church in Wales empowers the Standing Committee to set the dates on which an Electoral College meets provided those dates fall within six months of the vacancy arising. If the College either fails to meet or fails to elect during this period, the right to appoint the next bishop passes to the Bench of Bishops. The only body which can amend or override these rules is the Governing Body.

My own view is that whilst we could explore other ways forward, the immediate need is for an experienced bishop to be invited, on an interim basis, to come to Bangor for a period of one to two years, providing leadership and stability and working with you to strengthen leadership, finance, governance and management. Those who were at the Diocesan Conference will have heard that there are some tough financial and organisational challenges to face. In order to do this, the Governing Body will need to approve a motion which formally authorises this course of action.

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I am therefore writing to Governing Body members today to call an extraordinary meeting of the Governing Body on Tuesday 25 November in Llandudno. On the following day, I am hoping to meet with the episcopal electors from Bangor. If Governing Body approves the course of action proposed, I will be able to discuss this further with the episcopal electors, as well as looking at potential candidates at that meeting.

Diocesan Secretary

Tŷ Deiniol has been without a Diocesan Secretary for almost two years. I am very grateful to the DBF staff for their endurance through this time. I am pleased to announce that Joanna Thomas, the Diocesan Director of Education, has agreed, on a temporary basis, to become acting Diocesan Secretary. I have invited the trustees of the DBF to meet with me on 4 November to discuss next steps.

With my continuing prayers and best wishes,

+ Cherry Camborsis