

# Bruton & Cary Deanery



Minutes of the Meeting of Bruton and Cary Deanery Synod  
held at North Barrow Village Hall on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present:**

Revd Tristram Rae Smith	Acting Area Dean
Dr Rob Sage	Lay Dean
Mrs Jane Jeanes	Deputy Lay Dean
Other Members of House of Clergy	4
Other Members of House of Laity	20

Revd Jill Perrett	Deanery Accompanier
Other PTO Clergy	3
Other Readers	2
Other Guests	2

**Apologies for absence** were received from: Nigel Chambers, John Deverell, Joanna Durham-Matthews, Camilla Graham, Russell Hamblin-Boone, Susan Hartnell-Beavis, Sue Kellagher, Peter Leavold, Olivia Scott, Anne Sear and Jean Sellick.

- Opening Worship** was led by Juliet Bowell from Bruton and took the form of Iona Evening Prayer with a reading from Ephesians 1 and the hymn "Light of Gladness".
- Previous Minutes.** The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved as a correct record after noting that the Bishop's Visit to the Deanery took place on 27<sup>th</sup> November not 27<sup>th</sup> December and that the date of the next meeting had been changed from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Update on Pastoral Reorganisation, Vacancies and Appointments.** The Lay Dean reported that the Plan for Pastoral Reorganisation in Deanery agreed by the July 2023 Deanery Synod had been approved by the Wells Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Group and that formal consultations on the proposed reorganisation would be taking place later in the year – although these might be delayed by the fact that the Assistant Diocesan Secretary had a large number of pastoral schemes to draw up. In the meantime the Acting Archdeacon had decided to upon some interim measures.

**Wincanton with Pen Selwood plus Charlton Musgrove, Stoke Trister and Cucklington.** Wincanton and Pen Selwood were now vacant with the Revd Alison Way becoming the Team Vicar of the Warlingham Team Ministry in Southwark Diocese and Charlton Musgrove, Stoke Trister and Cucklington would become vacant when Revd Rosy Ashley left for a role in Bristol Diocese in July. The normal recruitment process would shortly begin with the understanding that the new incumbent would take on all four parishes. The House for Duty post at Cucklington would be advertised once the new incumbent was in place.

**Bratton St Maur and the Bruton Benefice.** After the retirement in August of the Rector of the Camelot Parishes, the Revd Tristram Rae Smith, the incumbent of the Bruton Benefice could start working with Bratton St Maur before the formal pastoral reorganisation was complete.

**Templecombe, Henstridge and Horsington plus North Cheriton and Holton.** Templecombe, Henstridge and Horsington were now vacant with the Revd Kevin Rogers becoming the Rector of the Downs Benefice in Winchester Diocese. The appointment process would begin in September so that North Cheriton and Holton could be involved after the retirement of the Revd Tristram Rae Smith.

**Cam Vale plus North Cadbury, South Cadbury and Yarlington.** The Revd Caroline Walker, currently Rector of Hardington Vale and Area Dean of Frome Deanery, had been appointed as Interim Minister of Cam Vale for three years and would be licensed on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Part of her role description includes working with the parishes of North Cadbury, South Cadbury and Yarlington to develop an effective working pattern for the future. An incumbent for the new benefice based in North Cadbury could be appointed to arrive immediately after the interim minister leaves or even before that.

**Milborne Port with Goathill and Charlton Horethorne with Stowell plus Blackford, Compton Pauncefoot and Maperton.** The incumbent of the Milborne Port benefice could start working with the new parishes before the formal pastoral reorganisation was complete, although it was noted that Compton Pauncefoot were not happy with the new arrangement and wished the Camelot Parishes to continue. The Lay Dean noted that whether Maperton should join the Milborne Port benefice or the Henstridge benefice had been left undecided when the Deanery Plan had been agreed in July and this needed to be decided before a pastoral scheme could be drawn up. He stated that Maperton preferred to join Milborne Port and Milborne Port were happy with this. A motion that Maperton should join the Milborne Port benefice in the Deanery Plan for pastoral reorganisation was proposed by the Acting Area Dean, seconded by Mark Seymour (Holton) and agreed.

**Six Pilgrims.** An Interim Minister would be appointed as a House for Duty post for three years, renewable for a further three years if appropriate. Part of the role of the interim minister would be to prepare the Six Pilgrims for joining with Castle Cary and Ansford. The post would shortly be advertised.

4. **Questions.** Revd Elisabeth Isted (Castle Cary & Ansford) asked if she would be involved in the appointment at Six Pilgrims and clarification would be sought from the Acting Archdeacon. It was asked why the Templecombe, Henstridge and Horsington benefice had to wait until September for the appointment process to begin. The Lay Dean explained that this was to allow the parishes of North Cheriton and Holton to take part in the process as the appointment process did not normally begin until the previous incumbent had left. There followed a discussion of the Church of England's appointments process and why a new incumbent was not appointed to take over immediately the old incumbent had left. It was noted that it was felt important for parishes to have a time of reflection before appointing a new incumbent, to consider their vision for the future and what they wanted from a new incumbent. Representatives from the Bruton benefice stated that they had found the space afforded by the vacancy valuable.
5. **2023 Annual Report and Accounts.** Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts had been distributed with the Agendas. The Lay Dean spoke briefly to the Accounts noting that there was a deficit of £341 on the year but that this still left £3,343 in the General Fund. The Deanery Ministry Fund (for the support of lay ministry training) contained £1,859 at the end of the year as no grants had been made. Geoff Lawson was thanked for independently examining the Accounts. Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts was proposed by the Revd Elisabeth Isted, seconded by Helen Corney and agreed. It was noted that a possible Deanery Treasurer would be approached and that if no one volunteered to be the Deanery Secretary the Deanery could pay some one to take on this role.
6. **2024 Deanery Subscription.** In light of the reserves held by the Deanery, the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG) recommended that no Deanery Subscription be asked for from the parishes in 2024 and this was agreed.
7. **Refreshments.** Thank you to Jane Jeanes and to those from the Camelot Parishes who served refreshments.
8. **Developing Lay Ministry in our Parishes.** Revd Jill Perrett, the Diocesan Developing Ministries Adviser and our Deanery Accompanier, gave a short presentation that focussed on the Lay Ministry Pathway. The Pathway takes an individual on a journey from initial conversations to living out a ministry in their community, and includes discernment; equipping tailored to the needs of the individual; review and PCC agreement; and commissioning. [*A leaflet giving details of the Lay Ministry Pathway was distributed to Synod members after the meeting.*] A Celebration of Lay Ministries would be held in Weston super Mare on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
9. **Prayer Co-ordinator.** The Acting Area Dean asked if there was a volunteer willing to co-ordinate prayer across the Deanery for the for individual parishes and benefices and for matters of common concern.
10. **Acting Area Dean's Notices.** The Acting Area Dean noted the dates of the Ascension Day Service - Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm at St John's Church, Milborne Port; the Visitation - Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>, from 5.45pm with the service at 7.00pm at All Saints' Church, Castle Cary; and the next Synod – below. Elections to Diocesan Synod would shortly be taking place and nomination papers would be distributed to Synod members.
11. **Closing Prayers** were led by Revd Tristram Rae Smith.

**Next Deanery Synod Meeting – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**