

Bruton & Cary Deanery



MINUTES OF THE BRUTON AND CARY DEANERY SYNOD HELD AT WINCANTON METHODISTS CHURCH ON 14th NOVEMBER, 2018

Present

Rev'd Liz Mortimer – Area Dean
Dr Rob Sage – Lay Dean
Mrs Sue Prager – Assistant Lay Dean
Mrs Rosemary Rymer – Treasurer
Mrs Alison Drake – Secretary
Other Members of the House of Clergy – 4
Other Readers – 4
Other Members of the House of Laity – 22
Guests – 5
Speakers – Julia Hill and Rev'd Andy Gray

Apologies for absence were received from Anne Sear (Reader Alham Vale), Stephen Rymer (Reader Cam Vale), Sue Deyes (Reader Alham Vale), Steve Gilbert (Batcombe), Susan Hartnell-Beavis (Blackford), Mary Clothier (Milborne Port), Nick Armstrong (West Camel), Jerry Wood (Horsington), Marjorie Payne (Hornblotton), Joy Cross (Castle Cary and Ansford), Nicki Edwards (Milborne Port), Daisymay Lacey (Wincanton), Julie Mahoney (Charlton Hawthorne with Stowell), Flo Mills (Castle Cary with Ansford), Derek Wheeler (Corton Denham)

The Area Dean welcomed the two speakers, Julia Hill who was until last week the Lay Ministries enabler at the Diocese but is now their Discipleship Team Leader and the Rev'd Andy Gray the Faith Sharing Enabler.

The meeting opened with Worship led by Cam Vale on the theme of "What God might be saying to you?" using the Psalm of the day, Psalm 23 and a short dramatised reading on Samuel's calling by God.

Julia Hill posed the question for discussion in groups – 'What is the difference between a vocation and a job?' and asked for audience responses which were:

- Vocation is who you are – a job is what you do.
- Vocation is giving of yourself for the benefit of others.
- Vocation is Living out your faith in what's you are doing.

Julia then posed the question 'are Lay Vocations more or less important than Clerical Vocations?'

The audience responses were:

- Some say the Leaders are more important as they guide the rest.
- However the Laity are the majority of the Church.
- Most agreed that both were important in differing ways

Julia then asked for examples of all things both Laity and Clergy are called to do in Church. Responses were:

Church Warden, Clergy, Administrator, Comforter, Flower Arranger, Sidesperson, Verger, Welcome, Bellringer, Musician, Cleaner, Worship Leaver, Discerner, Nurse, Intercessor, Teacher, Friend, Money Coach, Street Pastor, Fundraiser, Conservator, Peacemaker, Coffee Maker, Facilitator, Building Maintainer and many more.

From this it can be seen that God facilitates everything; the distinctive differences and talents all weave together to make a 'better, stronger cloth' and we should celebrate the different gifts we have.

Julia's next question was 'does one have to be Christian to have a vocation?' This caused much discussion with the general answer of 'no, you do not have to be a Christian, but it helps!' Julia then offered the leaflets on the Diocesan Training Courses to help suggest what God is calling each of us to do and asked Alan Hoskins to outline his journey towards becoming a Lay Worship Assistant. You have to allow God to work through you in the role you take.

It was also felt that frequently the Clergy treat the Laity as 'amateurs' causing the Laity to feel left out and undervalued as an unpaid workforce. Clergy need to allow the Laity to fulfil their calling and vice versa.

After refreshments Julia and Andy continued with the theme our one vocation as Christians is to talk about Jesus and to share our faith and the reason for it (St Paul). God called Samuel to talk about and share the generosity of God.

Why should we share our faith in word and deed?

- To connect with God and share his story.
- The best way to understand your faith is to explain it so someone else.
- To bring people closer to God and each other.
- To stop people being alone at the end of their life as the relationship with God gives life.
- There should always be a reason for your faith – imagine life without it and how you would feel and remember and share how faith makes you feel.
- It is a changing world where Christians are becoming a minority and there is less chance to hear and understand the message.

What should we take back to our Churches – encouragement to participate in the Diocesan courses to find their vocation within the Church.

The Area Dean thanked Julia and Andy for addressing the Synod and giving us so much to think about and take back to our Parishes.

This was followed by the business of the Synod and reporting back.

- The minutes of the last Synod Meeting were passed and signed as correct.

- The Area Dean reported the two more lay members had agreed to be co-opted onto the Diocesan Synod, namely John Reynolds and Eric Deyes, but there were still vacant places if anyone was interested.
- There have been two appointments at Six Pilgrims and at Templecombe, Henstridge and Horsington; and Alham Vale and Cam Vale hope to be interviewing soon.
- The post of the Schools Chaplain has been advertised as the funding is in place for three days per week. Full funding for the post will last for two years and after that some funds will have to be raised.

The meeting closed with Samuel's prayer and the Grace.