

Bruton & Cary Deanery



Minutes of the Meeting of Bruton and Cary Deanery Synod held via Zoom on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Revd Kevin Rogers	Area Dean
Dr Rob Sage	Lay Dean
Jay Greene	Deputy Lay Dean
Mrs Rosemary Rymer	Treasurer
Mr Jeremy Pratt	Secretary
Other Members of House of Clergy	3
Other Members of House of Laity	23
Jill Perrett	Deanery Accompanier
PTO Clergy	2
Other Readers	1
Other Guests	3

Apologies for absence were received from: Revd Tristram Rae Smith (Assistant Area Dean), Revd Helen Drever, Revd Rosy Ashley, Revd Alison Way, Revd Anna Creedon, Canon Brian McConnell, Russell Hamblin-Boone, Roger Cowley, Harold Clarke, Dominic Lacey, Ted Marsh, Peter Leavold, Pat Elliott, Yolanda White, Sue Kellagher, Gillian Sinclair, Madron Osborne, George Renwick and Preb Mark Ellis.

- 1. Introductions.** Some of the members who were new for the 2020-2023 Synod introduced themselves:

Revd Katharine Hawksley had been at Cam Vale for 8 months.

Revd Jonathan Evans had been at Bruton, Brewham, Pitcombe and Shepton Montague for 2 weeks.

Jill Perrett was the Deanery Accompanier from the Diocese.

Liz Henderson was Deanery Synod Representative for Evercreech with Chesterblade.

Marion Chapman was Deanery Synod Representative for Corton Denham.

Kate Benson was Deanery Synod Representative for Maperton.

Peter Thomson was Deanery Synod Representative for Charlton Horethorne with Stowell.

- 2. Opening Worship** included a reading from Ephesians 4:7-16 and a recorded presentation by Revd Tristram Rae Smith (*Assistant Area Dean*), 'What is Deanery Synod for?'. A set of slides summarizing the presentation are circulated with these minutes.

- 3. 1st Breakout Rooms.** Parish Question:
What was one good thing about your Parish in the last year?
Answers included:

Learning to use zoom and then seeing my friends in the parish every day and knowing what they need.

For this parish discovering their interdependence forced people to notice what really matters.

Early on our church identified who lives in which house and then divided up the task of contacting people.

All the people who were willing to take part in creating online services.

Despite preoccupation with Lockdown and avoiding Covid, our parish has become part of Inclusive Church and is now studying Living in Love and faith as our lent course.

Surprising how fruitful zoom services have been – different ways of relating. Name for everybody on the screen and being in breakout rooms – good for contact and getting to know people.

Step forward. Beneficial for those.

The joint venture with the Methodists – especially when they were in the vacancy – doubled their numbers.

Appointment of new parish priest.
Zoom services, meeting others in the benefice.
Receiving weekly newsletter.
Recorded services in smaller parishes mean we are able to participate and see more of the vicar.
Our church buildings are beautiful and an asset (from PTO who gets to go round many)-meeting lots of people has been a privilege.
The generosity that has sprung up in unexpected places.

Friendship.
Generosity.
Extent of participation.
Christmas morning service outside.
Open air harvest festival service.

The great support that was offered by the whole community during the lockdowns to those isolating and vulnerable.
Continued to hold Morning Prayer services in the church led by churchwardens most weeks – unless absolutely banned from doing so!

Held up – fellowship developed – a few not engaged with online worship, but 95% are.
Registered as an inclusive church; home group doing Lent Course.
Shown how we can communicate through technology.
Very successful Christmas period.
Food hampers for those who would have come to Christmas lunch.

Getting out and rediscovering the lovely countryside.
The Church being open for prayer.
Life re-inventing itself – support and prayer.
Churches working together – ecumenically and as a benefice.
Community spirit.

4. **Previous Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 were approved (proposed by Jane Jeanes, seconded by Jacquie Hall).

5. **2020 Annual Reports.** Rosemary Rymer (*Deanery Treasurer*) presented the accounts.

a) Deanery Synod

All parishes had paid their Deanery subscription. There had only been one meeting of Deanery Synod in 2020 so there was very little expenditure.

There was an omission in 'Deanery & Clergy Changes'. Preb Rose Hoskins and Preb Mark Ellis had both retired during 2020. Their contributions to the Deanery over the years were noted with thanks.

Revd Kevin Rogers (*Area Dean*) thanked all those who had kept things going in the Deanery during a difficult year.

b) Deanery Ministry Fund

There had been no Deanery Ascension Day service in 2020 so the only income had been from bank interest. There had been no applications for grants. The fund was available for lay training.

The reports were accepted (proposed by Eric Deyes, seconded by Jane Martin).

6. **2021 Deanery Subscription.** Because there had been no expenditure in 2020, it was agreed that there would be no subscription in 2021 (proposed by Rosemary Rymer, seconded by Anne Sear).

7. **2nd Breakout Rooms.** Benefice Question:

What are the future hopes and challenges for your Benefice?

Answers included:

We need to improve the connection between the church community and the wider community, to restart the relationship on a new footing.

It has been difficult to identify people who need help so we need to think about how best to do that.

Individual parishes like to be themselves so getting together is difficult. The benefice need to pull together to support our priest.

People, people, people.

Would love to see the cliques and divisions melted down so that everyone looking forward together.
Unity.

Challenge to get more involvement from those outside the church – how do we reach out to the community.

How do we be faith sharers. Invitational culture.

2 large churches and 3 tiny ones – the sizes of the churches didn't matter – there was more unity.

How to work together and strengthen each other when there are several churches as it's complex.

Walking this journey together.

The hopes are greater sense of unity, not to be afraid of change and more open to different ways of doing things, sense of growth – little shoots.

The challenges – how do we build the body of Christ in the future – with all the requirements of church of England – legal.

Challenges:

How to get back on feet and open buildings after such a long time.

What forms of worship will work in the very small parishes.

How to take forward the good stuff we have learnt from technology and how to do a mixture of online and in person worship.

Encouraging people back to church.

Finances low, encouraging online giving.

Hopes:

Hope we don't lose track of what we have learnt.

Hope we act as a benefice now rather than 6 individual churches otherwise 3 will die.

Focus on what matters, bringing what matters.

Allowing the Holy spirit to work.

That we look forward rather than longing for things to go back to normal.

Hope that our vicar will have a less traumatic year (family).

Aging worshipping group.

Regulars moving away.

Getting enough volunteers.

Keeping people we have and not losing touch with those who haven't engaged in zoom.

Restarting worship in church/return of activities started just before lockdown (Big village breakfast).

Need to stop looking inwards and look outwards to those in need.

Need structural changes so that time and energy are released for other activities, and not just worship.

Zoom services have been life savers for those isolating. Need to find ways to reach out to the younger element of our communities, adults as well as children.

Finding people willing to stand for PCCs, and many churches now have only one churchwarden.

To build better connections in the benefice – 2-way traffic.

Essential that churches stay open in the villages; build on the goodwill which has been built up.

To find a pattern of services which will work for all those in the benefice.

Three of the benefices represented had new vicars starting last year in very difficult circumstances and it was felt they had not had a fair start. One benefice had high hopes for a new vicar just starting.

Other challenges mentioned were elderly congregations, reducing year by year and the financial pressures this brought.

There was a perceived reluctance by members of congregations to take up positions of responsibility.

Community spirit was strong but did not always extend towards the church.

The Lord will provide.

8. Elections. The following had been proposed and seconded before the meeting and were elected unopposed:

a) House of Clergy

3 members of Deanery Standing Committee:

Revd Katharine Hawksley (proposed by Revd Kevin Rogers, seconded by Revd Sarah Godfrey)

Revd Jonathan Evans (proposed by Revd Kevin Rogers, seconded by Revd Sarah Godfrey)

Revd Alison Way (proposed by Revd Kevin Rogers, seconded by Revd Sarah Godfrey)

b) Retired Clergy with PTO

2 representatives on Deanery Synod:

Canon Brian McConnell (proposed by Preb Mark Ellis, seconded by Revd Diane Barrett)

Revd Candice Marcus (proposed by Revd Diane Barrett, seconded by Revd Frank Wright)

- c) House of Laity
- i) Lay Dean:
Dr Rob Sage (proposed by Jay Greene, seconded by Eric Deyes)
 - ii) Deputy Lay Dean:
Jay Greene (proposed by Rob Sage, seconded by Buff Powell)
 - iii) Co-option of up to 3 members:
Rosemary Rymer (proposed by Jeremy Pratt, seconded by Rob Sage)
 - iv) 3 members of Deanery Standing Committee:
Linda Mumford (proposed by Rob Sage, seconded by Jay Greene)
John Deverell (proposed by Rob Sage, seconded by Jay Greene)
Eric Deyes (proposed by Rob Sage, seconded by Jay Greene)

9. 3rd Breakout Rooms. Deanery Question:
What do you think this year's Deanery focus should be?

Answers included:

Supporting new clergy in the deanery.

Concentrate on green issues: encourage church members to simplify our lives and step back from the destruction of the planet.

Work out what we are good at and do that well. Use the resources that we have rather than bemoan what we lack.

This deanery is too big for people to relate to each other geographically.

Building on what has been learnt over the past year. Sense of moving forward.

Unity of purpose.

First get the benefice to have their ideas and common line and for synod to take on, perhaps?

For there then to be a synodical line.

Communicating between the different benefices learning what other benefices are doing.

Sharing good practice. Problem solving.

Focus for the year could be:

Environment – this would be a good way to connect with community.

Young people and children.

Age profile of worshippers – doing something for the younger generation.

Sharing experiences, encouragement from the deanery to try something new.

Something on loss/bereavement/grieving/letting go.

Lobby the C of E for legal stuff to be simplified.

Appoint a business manager to do some of the admin we all have to do.

Look at deployment of resources.

Attracting younger people.

How can we help those in financial difficulty.

Working together as a deanery/outreach.

Funding a person to help with legal admin.

Focus on outreach.

A shake up in the diocese and deanery – too top heavy! Try to get more Christian input into our schools – he came to faith through the seeds sown at school.

The rich/poor divide has got much greater – we need to find ways to reach out and try to close the divide.

We need to climb down from our holy mountain and focus on good relationships.

Mutual support, pooling of ideas of ways to move forward, networking.

Sharing what we're doing, less geography getting in the way. Different benefices could have different 'offerings'/services to open up to other benefices and wider.

Trying something completely different.

Parish Share – both the amount and how & where to count people.

To oppose the appointment of a management consultant, as reported in the press, which would mean the loss of a clergy post to pay for it.

Ecumenical and inter-faith.

Gearing up for lay ministry.

Providing comfort.

Focussing on what goes on in the church building rather than outside it.

Providing a parish priest for every church.

- 10. Elections.** The following had been proposed and seconded before the meeting and were elected unopposed:
- a) Deanery Synod Secretary:
Jeremy Pratt (proposed by Philip Skelhorn, seconded by Revd Kevin Rogers)
 - b) Deanery Synod Treasurer:
Rosemary Rymer (proposed by Revd Kevin Rogers, seconded by Jeremy Pratt)
 - f) Deanery Ministry Fund Secretary & Treasurer:
Rosemary Rymer (proposed by Revd Kevin Rogers, seconded by Jeremy Pratt)
- 11. Area Dean's Notices.**
- a) Thank you
Revd Kevin Rogers thanked all those who were able to attend.
 - b) Diary Dates
Tuesday 4th May 2021, 7.30 pm – Deanery Standing Committee
Thursday 13th May 2021, 7.00 pm – Deanery Ascension Day Service, to be confirmed
Wednesday 2nd June 2021, 7.30 pm – Deanery Synod
 - c) Discerning Ministries
The Diocese were looking at Discerning Ministries in terms of 'How do we resource mission?'. There was an opportunity to let people know how we think we should be resourced.
 - d) Deanery Plan
The current Deanery Plan was still in place, but there would be a need to rethink that plan in time.
- Items c) and d) might require working groups or project teams to be formed which were separate from the Deanery Standing Committee.
- 12. Closing Prayers.** The meeting closed with the grace.

Next Deanery Synod Meeting – Wednesday 2nd June 2021 at 7.30 pm