

Bruton & Cary Deanery



Minutes of the Meeting of Bruton and Cary Deanery Synod held at North Barrow Village Hall on Thursday 17th October 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:

Revd Caroline Walker	Area Dean
Dr Rob Sage	Lay Dean
Mrs Jane Jeanes	Deputy Lay Dean
Other Members of House of Clergy	2
Other Members of House of Laity	17
Other PTO Clergy	3
Other Readers	3
Other Guests	3

Apologies for absence were received from: Revd Jill Perrett, Nigel Chambers, Joy Cross, Joanna Durham-Matthews, Camilla Graham, Liz Henderson, Christopher Maltin, Linda Mumford, George Renwick and Anne Sear.

1. **Welcome.** The Lay Dean welcomed the speaker, Cesca Priestley, and the new Area Dean, Revd Caroline Walker, following her commissioning in August.
2. **Opening Worship** took the form of prayers led by representatives from Charlton Musgrove, Cucklington and Stoke Trister.
3. **Previous Minutes.** The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th July 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Lay Dean.
4. **Update on Pastoral Reorganisation.** The Lay Dean gave an update on the pastoral reorganisation of the Deanery. Wincanton, Pen Selwood, Charlton Musgrove, Cucklington and Stoke Trister had been working together on the appointment of an incumbent for the new benefice which was currently being advertised. The Six Pilgrims were about to advertise for an interim minister for the third time. The parishes of the Camelot Parishes were beginning to work with their new benefices. Bratton St Maur was now working with the parishes of the Bruton benefice. North Cheriton and Holton were beginning to work with the Templecombe, Henstridge and Horsington parishes and would hopefully be interviewing for a new incumbent in May. Revd Caroline Walker had been licensed as the interim minister of Cam Vale in August and would be working to prepare for a new benefice combining Cam Vale with North and South Cadbury and Yarlinton. It was proposed that Blackford, Compton Pouncefoot and Maperton join the Milborne Port benefice, but the incumbent was currently on sabbatical so further discussion was needed.
5. **Area Dean's Notices.** The Area Dean reminded Synod members of the importance of updating safeguarding dashboards in light of the upcoming safeguarding audit of the Diocese. Caroline also expressed a hope that the Deanery could support the continuing work of the Schools Chaplain in our secondary schools when the funding from the Diocese ceased as part of the pastoral reorganisation.

6. **Refreshments.** Thank you to Jane Jeanes and to those from the Milborne Port benefice who served refreshments.
7. **Growing Faith, with Children, Young People and Families.** Cesca Priestley, the Go Team Adviser for Wells Archdeaconry, led a workshop on reaching out to our children, youth and families. Cesca stated that this was about putting children at the heart of all that we do. She noted that 76% of Christians came to faith before the age of 18, while 55% of those who left faith did so between the ages of 11 and 24. The current generation of young people were open and inclusive, seeking truth, authenticity and change and 74% would attend church if asked by a friend. There was a potential for growth, but there needed to be a change of culture in our churches. Young people cared about family relationships, the world, peace and nature. At the end of the workshop Cesca distributed Growing Faith conversation cards to start conversations in our PCCs.
8. **Closing Prayers** were led by the Area Dean.

Next Deanery Synod Meeting – Wednesday 26th March 2025.