

DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS
BRUTON & CARY DEANERY SYNOD (2020-2023)

Annual Report for 2022

Background

Bruton & Cary Deanery is one of eighteen deaneries in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The Deanery Synod is regulated by the 1969 Synodical Government Measure which sets out five functions:

- to consider matters concerning the Church of England and other matters of religious or public interest;
- to bring together the views of the parishes of the Deaneries, to discuss and formulate common policies, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the Deaneries the whole mission of the Church;
- to make known and put into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod;
- to consider the business of the Diocesan Synod and to sound parochial opinion;
- to raise matters with the Diocesan Synod.

The Deanery Synod operates within the framework of a constitution and standing orders adopted by the Diocesan Synod in 1989. At 31st December 2022, the Deanery comprised 11 benefices, 42 parishes, a population of approximately 28,000, a church electoral roll of around 1,900 and with many churches still finding that their congregations have not returned to their pre-pandemic figures and a few still operating a hybrid arrangements of ‘in person’ and ‘zoom’ services it is difficult to obtain an accurate number of regular worshippers (in 2020 it was 824). The Parish Share for the Deanery was £447,895.00 in 2022 of which 89.04% (less discounts)(compared to 95.40% in 2021) had been paid by 31st December 2022. Across the Deanery 31 churches had paid in full, whilst 9 had paid nothing, the remainder had paid various percentages.

Membership and Officers

At 31st December 2022, the Deanery Synod comprised 59 members. 48 were members of the House of Laity, mostly lay representatives elected by the 42 parishes in the Deanery. 11 were members of the House of Clergy, mostly beneficed or licensed parochial clergy. All are members for the 2020-2023 three year period. 8 Readers and 17 Clergy with Permission To Officiate are regularly invited to attend meetings.

The following have been officers of the Deanery Synod during the year:

Area Dean	The Reverend Kevin Rogers
Assistant Area Dean:	The Reverend Tristram Rae Smith
Lay Dean:	Dr Rob Sage
Deputy Lay Dean:	Mr Jeremy Pratt
Secretary:	Mr Jeremy Pratt
Treasurer:	Mrs Rosemary Rymer

Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG)

The Deanery Synod's Mission and Pastoral Group initiates and advises on proposals; ensures that members are adequately informed on questions raised and other matters of importance to the Deanery; prepares the agenda; transacts the business of the Synod between meetings; and makes such appointments and does such other things as the Synod may delegate to it.

The DMPG also advises the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Group regarding the pastoral organisation of the Deanery – following careful consultation with deanery Synod, Clergy Chapter and the parishes concerned.

The Deanery Ministry Fund

In 1994 the Bruton and Cary Deaneries Ministry Fund was established by the then separate Deaneries of Bruton and Cary to offer financial support to lay people in the Deaneries seeking Christian Education, with priority being given to those in, or seeking training for authorised lay ministry. In 2015 with the two deaneries now one, it was agreed that the Ministry Fund should come under the direction of Deanery Synod with its funds becoming a restricted fund in the Deanery accounts, and the Fund being administered by the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group. One grant was requested from the Ministry Fund in 2022.

The Deanery Mission Plan and the Schools Chaplain

As part of the Diocesan Strategy to put mission and evangelism at the heart of all we do, each Deanery was asked to produce a Deanery Mission Plan in 2017. In Bruton and Cary the Plan was presented as a 2-fold leaflet, which was printed and copies were distributed to each parish for their consideration, and hopeful integration into their parish vision. A supporting leaflet outlined what the Deanery intended to undertake as part of the Plan.

This included converting the House for Duty post in the Camelot Parishes that was no longer required into an allowance to help pay for a chaplain to work in our three state secondary schools for three days a week. A grant of the remaining funds in the Linx Project provided the additional money needed for the first two years of this project, but has not yet been needed. A chaplain was appointed in 2018 and had a very positive impact on the schools involved, but then left for another post in 2019. A second chaplain was appointed in October 2019, and has been much appreciated by the schools, despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic. The current chaplain, Wendy Hester, has been attending the Synod, and reporting on her work.

Review of the Year

Synod Meetings

The Ascension Day Deanery Service was held this year in St Mary's Bruton, and the first of the Synod meetings was held via Zoom, but the remainder were held in person at North Barrow Village Hall.

In March Julia Hill, Diocesan Head of Deanery and Parish Support, explained the project "Enabling Ministries", and the members were then asked to discuss a variety of questions: "What encourages you?", "Do you have any questions?", "Do you have any suggestions?" and finally "What next?" – the subsequent minutes revealed the variety of responses.

In June, Kevin Rogers and Rob Sage spoke about the Deployment of Stipendiary Clergy and Re-imagining Ministries, noting that as a result of our Diocese's financial difficulties following the pandemic, the number of stipendiary clergy in the Diocese would have to be reduced by 28 to 150 and in our Deanery the number would have to be reduced by 1½ to 7.

In September a longer meeting was held on a Saturday morning, to which other members of the Deanery had been invited. The subjects covered included looking at where good things were happening in our communities, and where there was a struggle. Then the timetable for producing a Pastoral Reorganisation Plan for the Deanery was presented. Finally the Synod was asked to discuss how the laity could compliment the clergy role as benefices enlarge.

In November the Synod heard more from Rob Sage about the criteria, timescales and feedback for Stipendiary Clergy Posts, which had come out of the 'extra' meeting that had been held in September.

Deanery & Clergy Changes

The Revd Katharine Hawksley resigned from the Benefice of Cam Vale with effect from 31st March 2022.

The Revd Rona Stuart-Bourne was licensed as Priest in Charge to Milbourne Port with Goathill and Charlton Horethorne with Stowell on November 29th.

Deanery Accounts

The General Fund. There were no subscriptions asked for in 2022 again, since there had been very little expenditure in the previous year due to the continuing effects of the pandemic. The only income in 2022 was the interest on the CBF Deposit Account.

The General Fund showed a deficit of £180.12 compared to a deficit of £131.40 the previous year. It is being recommended that the parishes are not asked for a subscription again this coming year, since we still have more reserves than our reserves policy requires.

Deanery Ministry Fund. The Deanery Ministry Fund received a small amount of interest. One request for a grant was received in 2022.

Assets and Liabilities. This shows total assets of £3,684.10 in the General Fund and £1831.73 in the Deanery Ministry Fund. The Deanery had no liabilities.

Reserves Policy: to maintain a balance in the General Fund, equating to between eighteen months and two years payments, to cover unexpected costs and opportunities for ministry within the Deanery without unnecessarily increasing the Deanery Subscription; where the balance exceeds this level, to budget a deficit in following years. The Deanery policy is to invest its fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

GENERAL FUND Receipts & Payments Account (Unrestricted)

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Subscriptions		0.00		0.00
Donation		0.00		0.00
				0.00
Interest				
CBF Deposit Account		27.18		1.07
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>27.18</u>		<u>1.07</u>
PAYMENTS				
Printing, Stationery & Postage				
Printing		0.00		0.00
Stationery		0.00		0.00
Website costs		0.00		132.47
Postage		0.00		0.00
Bank charges		60.00		0.00
Cheque charges		0.80		0.00
Cost of Meetings				
Hire of North Barrow Village Hall(x3)		146.50		0.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>207.30</u>		<u>132.47</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		<u><u>-180.12</u></u>		<u><u>-131.40</u></u>
Bank & CBF Accounts				
at 1 January		<u>3864.22</u>		<u>3,995.62</u>
Bank & CBF Accounts				
at 31 December		<u><u>3684.10</u></u>		<u><u>3864.22</u></u>

BRUTON AND CARY DEANERY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

DEANERY MINISTRY FUND Receipts & Payments Account (Restricted)			
	2022	£	2021 £
RECEIPTS			
Transferred from Deanery Ministry Fund			
Ascension Day Collection (50%)	0		0
Bank Interest	3.63		0.94
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>3.63</u>		<u>0.94</u>
PAYMENTS			
Grants (Exploring Christianity courses)	104.49		
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>104.49</u>		<u>0.00</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	<u>-100.86</u>		<u>0.94</u>
Bank & CBF Accounts at 1 January	<u>1932.59</u>		<u>1,931.65</u>
Bank & CBF Accounts at 31 December	<u>1831.73</u>		<u>1,932.59</u>

BRUTON AND CARY DEANERY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS Receipts & Payments Account (Restricted)				
	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
RECEIPTS				
		0.00		0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
PAYMENTS				
TOTAL PAYMENTS		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>

BRUTON AND CARY DEANERY
STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES at 31 DECEMBER 2022

	TOTALS				
	General Fund	Deanery Ministry Fund	Other Restricted Funds	31 December 2022	31 December 2021
	(Unrestricted)	(Restricted)	(Restricted)		
	£	£	£	£	£
HSBC Bank Account	1,591.00	0.00		1,591.00	1,798.30
CBF Accounts	2,093.10	0.00		2,093.10	2,065.92
NatWest Bank Account	0.00	1,831.73		1,831.73	1,932.59
Total Cash	3,684.10	1,831.73	0.00	5,515.83	5,937.26
Uncleared cheques					
Total Monetary Assets	3,684.10	1,831.73	0.00	5,515.83	5,937.26
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Section 4(3) of the Charities Act 1993 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Funds

The General Fund represents the funds of the Deanery which are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the Deanery.

The Deanery Ministry Fund is a restricted fund, consisting of monies for the financial support of lay people within the Deanery, seeking Christian Education, with a priority for those in training for authorized lay ministry. The majority of these monies were transferred from the Bruton and Cary Deanery Ministry Fund which had been administered separately from the Deanery accounts until 2015.

Other Restricted Funds is a restricted fund for use when necessary of separate funds received. Receipts and Payments include income as received and expenditure when irrevocably paid.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

The following assets and liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

Closing bank balances as shown in the Receipts and Payments Account.

Amounts owing to the Deanery including subscriptions.

Liabilities including creditors for goods and services for which the supply has been received and invoiced by 31st December.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Bruton and Cary Deanery for the Year Ended on 31st December 2022

I have independently examined the accounts of the Deanery as set out on the preceding pages.

Bruton and Cary Deanery have elected both to prepare the accounts on the receipts and payments basis and to subject their accounts to independent examination.

My responsibilities are to:


- * identify whether or not proper accounting records have been kept;
- * check that the Deanery's accounts agree with the accounting records;
- * look for possible significant errors in the accounts;

Where matters arise from this examination that give cause for concern it is my duty to report it.

My report:

No matters have arisen during the course of my examination where I have to give an adverse report.

Signed.....



Date.....2/3/23