

# Bruton & Cary Deanery



## Minutes of the Meeting of Bruton and Cary Deanery Synod held at North Barrow Village Hall, West Camel on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 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	5
Other Members of House of Laity	22
Other PTO Clergy	4
Other Readers	3
Other Guests	14

**Apologies for absence** were received from: Anna Barnes, Revd Diane Barrett, Christy Casley, Tim Chater, Helen Corney, Revd Dr Anna Creedon, Julie Ebsworth, Camilla Graham, Revd Peter Hallett, Sandi Kiddle, Ruth Kimber, Revd Candice Marcus, Jen Richards, Clare Robinson and Canon Stuart Thomas.

- 1. Refreshments.** Refreshments were available from 7.00pm, served by members of The Bow Brook Benefice.
- 2. Welcome.** The Revd Caroline Walker, Area Dean, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Natalie Wainwright our guest speaker for the evening.
- 3. Opening Worship.** The opening worship was led by members of the Alham Vale benefice.
- 4. Money Matters in Bruton and Cary Deanery**

Natalie Wainwright introduced herself to Synod. She is the Lead Giving and Fundraising Adviser in the Diocese of Bath and Wells and is a member of South Somerset Deanery Synod. She said it would not be possible to answer all the questions posed during the meeting but the questions, hopes and fears left on Post It notes would be taken away, studied and the answers would be shared with Deanery leaders. Clergy chapter had put together some questions before the meeting and Natalie had answered these.

Parish Share - it was noted that Parish Share is a voluntary contribution yet parishes are being told how much they have to give. Natalie answered that parish or benefice share is needed to maintain ministry across the Diocese and we all have a responsibility to contribute what is asked or more. If parishes are having difficulty they need to speak to the finance team who can come and talk to PCCs or the wider community. All contributions are making a difference but if everyone paid more of their share the diocese would not be servicing the debt they are at present. Some people in our communities think paying towards the upkeep of buildings is paying parish share. How can we appeal to the wider community? We need to ask ourselves what difference do we the church make in our community. Communities feel let down when a promised House for Duty priest cannot be appointed and when benefices become bigger. These are seen as broken promises.

The new methodology for calculating Benefice Share has had an impact and because of the Common Fund mutuality there are some parishes paying more than they are asked for.

John Deverell said other charities such as RNLI, Air Ambulance, Hospice movement all gave reasons for why they should be supported. What is our USP?

Questions were asked about money the National Church has and why more is not being made available to dioceses. The Hereford Motion at General Synod has started discussions on this matter and there are grants which are available but these often have strict criteria attached. Two members of the Giving Team are fund by the central church. We were asked to think about why some churches are flourishing and what the impact on the local community is.

PCCs are individual charities. We need to challenge and inform people. Other charities tell contributors how the money they have given is spent, how it was raised and how much more is still needed. How easy is it to give money to our churches? Are we using all the ways we could as so many people do not now carry cash? Card readers, QR codes, Parish Giving Scheme and legacy leaflets were all suggested as ways to improve giving to local churches. Could the national church make posters and certificates available or templates to tell wider communities how much of our share has been paid?

We were asked to think about what the Bible tells us about money: God will provide; God loves a cheerful giver; and in Acts they held everything in common. Each and every member of our church community brings something and we are a team working with the same purpose.

Generosity Week could take place whenever it suits your church. Living Generously and you get what you pay for were ideas floated. We were asked to use the post it notes to leave hopes and fears and questions for Natalie to take away from the meeting.

We were given IDEA to think about:

I - Inspire; D - Discipleship; E - Embed (Generosity); A - Activate

Nerissa Northover remembered that rural parishes were asked to contribute to The Church Urban Fund in the 1980s perhaps funding could come the other way now.

## 5. **Annual Report and Accounts**

Rob Sage told the meeting that our only income was the Deanery subscription which was re-introduced last year. Bank charges have dropped and there is a charge for the Website to be refunded. The Deanery Ministry Fund had a donation for the Schools Chaplain which would be returned to the donor as the chaplain is no longer in post. The accounts had not yet been independently examined but all agreed to accept them as they were and to adopt them at a later meeting.

6. **Deanery Subscription** was recommended be kept at £10 per representative each parish was entitled to. Members of Synod agreed to this request.

7. **Previous Minutes.** The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Area Dean.

## 8. **Area Dean's Notices.**

Numbers were needed urgently for the Quiet day to be held at Hillfield Friary on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Louise Jenkins who is one of our new Deanery Accompaniers introduced herself.

Deanery Synod Reps needed to be appointed this year at APCMs.

The posts of Deanery Treasurer and Deanery Secretary need to be filled.

Benefice Names - Wincanton, Penselwood, Cucklington, Stoke Trister and Charlton Musgrove to be known as The Monarch's Way Benefice proposed, seconded by Penny Ashton and agreed. Henstridge, Templecombe, Horsington, North Cheriton and Holton to be known as The Bow Brook Benefice, proposed by Jane Jeanes, seconded by Jon Dyer and agreed.

9. Caroline Walker closed the meeting in prayer at 8.55pm