

Bruton & Cary Deanery



MINUTES OF THE BRUTON AND CARY DEANERY SYNOD HELD AT WINCANTON METHODISTS CHURCH ON 4th July, 2019

Present

Rev'd Liz Mortimer – Area Dean
Mrs Rosemary Rymer – Treasurer
Mrs Alison Drake – Secretary
Other Members of the House of Clergy – 9
Other Readers – 6
Other Members of the House of Laity – 26
Guests – 4

Apologies for absence were received from Preb Rose Hoskins, Alan Hoskins, Allan Drake, Dominic Lacey, Derek Skidmore, Jeremy Pratt, Michelle Hole, Flo Mills and Rob Sage.

The Area Dean welcomed all to the meeting and shared that the Revd Lynn Morris had recently died and to remember him and his family in prayers.

It was also announced that Revd Justin Bailey will be retiring from Bruton and District in September; that Revd Anna Creedon has been appointed as a new Curate for the Camelot Parishes and that there is a vacancy for Assistant Lay Dean.

Opening Worship – Lexio Divina led by Camelot Parishes based on John Chapter 20 verses 19-23.

The Meeting then convened into groups to discuss the question – ‘What have you done in your Parish that is a cause for celebration and what has this led to?’

Various things were reported, for example, reaching out to help a young family in need; the period of vacancy in many parishes encouraging lay ministry – setting Gods people free; the rift between a school and a Church has been healed; five churches have met up for a joint service with another benefice. One parish have formed an action plan to try and address the issues in the Deanery Plan and is working towards this.

The next question discussed was the Deanery Plan and what has not happened.

People reported various issues: for example the lack of young children in their church as Sundays are frequently the only time they have with their children; the problem reaching out beyond the church community and how to do this and the difficulty of approaching people to talk about faith.

Liz then commented that the role of the Synod is changing as there is often very little administration that needs attending to, other than the yearly meeting. The role of the Synod can therefore be informative, reporting back to parishes what has worked and a conduit for enthusiasm and excitement. This can be via talks, fellowship and exchange of ideas and prayers for guidance and support.

James Fox-Robinson (Diocesan Prayer and Spirituality Advisor) then commented that Mission in the past was inviting people to events but now we can also go out into the community and look to their needs, embracing practical Christianity. The things that work in a parish generally have a champion to initiate and enthuse others to make it happen.

Also we should remember the five marks of Mission:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

- To teach nurture and baptise new believers

- To respond to human need by loving service

- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Philip Skelhorn then reported to the meeting that the Annual Ride and Stride for Churches was to take place on Saturday 14th September, 2019. In the annual event, 50% of the sponsorship raised goes to the walker/jogger/rider's Church and 50% to the Churches Trust. Philip encouraged everyone to take part or sponsor a walker or raise money for this cause which has helped so many churches. He has raised a considerable sum for this Charity in the past and will be walking to Wells Cathedral on behalf of the Somerset Churches Trust on the day.

The minutes of the last meeting on 4th July were signed as correct.

The meeting closed with prayers and the Grace.