

Bruton & Cary Deanery



**Minutes of the Meeting of Bruton and Cary Deanery Synod
held at North Barrow Village Hall on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 7.30 pm**

Present:

Revd Kevin Rogers	Area Dean
Revd Tristram Rae Smith	Assistant 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	5
Other Members of House of Laity	26
Caroline Bruce	Deanery Accompanier
Other Readers	2
Other PTO Clergy	2
Other Guests	8

Apologies for absence were received from: Revd Helen Drever, Preb Rose Hoskins, John Reynolds, Wendy Crane, Michèle Hole, Jen Richards, Dominic Lacey, Alison Drake, Alison Davis, Sue Kellagher, Flo Mills, Joy Cross, Lynda Payne, Sue Deyes, Gillian Sinclair, and Revd Roger Burt.

Dr Rob Sage (*Lay Dean*) welcomed new members of the clergy to the Deanery: Revd Alison Way at Wincanton & Pen Selwood and Revd Helen Drever at Alham Vale.

1. **Opening Worship** reflected the licensing of Revd Kevin Rogers as Area Dean and Revd Tristram Rae Smith as Assistant Area Dean the previous month, and included a reading from Ephesians 4:11-16 and the hymn 'Lord, for the years'.

Revd Kevin Rogers (*Area Dean*) congratulated the parishes in the Deanery for paying 100% of their parish share in 2019, and welcomed members of the PTO Clergy to the meeting.

2. **Previous Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2019 were agreed and signed.
3. **Visiting Speaker – Gary Watson**, Diocesan Giving and Funding Adviser. Gary spoke on giving as part of our discipleship, not just focusing on the money, with readings from Proverbs 3:1-6 and Matthew 18:12-13.

Living and telling the story of Jesus isn't just about hearing the gospel but seeing it lived out in the lives of others. We need to live the story before we can tell it. We need to bind love and faithfulness around our necks so we can be identified as people of Jesus.

What is our mission? From Matthew 18:12 it's to leave the 99 to go off and search for the 1 who is lost. What has that got to do with what and how we give? The sheep belonged to someone – they had value. The 99 are in the right place, the 1 has wandered off. What's involved in the search:

- 1) time
- 2) talent – the skill to undertake the mission
- 3) giving our treasure.

There's a financial cost to go off and search for the 1 who's lost, leaving the 99.

The sensible thing would be to reflect on the situation, but Jesus isn't asking us to rationalise our financial position, to Jesus the 1 that's lost is more important. Are we willing to think differently about our wealth so that our mission can happen? Is finding the 1 more important than keeping hold of the 99? If so, our focus won't be so much on ourselves, it will be living and telling the story of Jesus.

We need to think about how we can respond to these challenges. How can we resource the mission? St Francis of Assisi said "Preach the gospel at all times and where necessary use words".

Gary wanted to be able to help fund and resource how we can show Jesus to our parishes.

4. **Refreshments.** Thank you to those from Milborne Port with Goathill and Charlton Horethorne with Stowell who served refreshments.
5. **Workshop on Giving Reviews.** Gary Watson gave a presentation on Giving Reviews. A copy of Gary's presentation is circulated with these minutes and is available on the Deanery website <https://www.bruntonandcarydeanery.net/>. A copy of Gary's Giving Campaign Crib Sheet is also circulated with these minutes.
6. **2019 Annual Reports.** Rosemary Rymer (*Deanery Treasurer*) presented the accounts.
 - a) Deanery Synod
All parishes had paid their Deanery subscription.
 - b) Deanery Ministry Fund
Income had been received from half the collection at the Deanery Ascension Day service. There had been no applications for grants and the fund stood at just under £2000. The fund was available for lay training.

The reports were accepted.
7. **2020 Deanery Subscription.** This was set at £10 per member each parish was entitled to.
8. **Area Dean's Notices.**
 - a) Deanery Away Days
The idea was outlined of having Deanery away day trips to learn from other Churches. Perhaps one to a Magnificat parish, possibly one to look at good practice in rural ministry, maybe one to somewhere with a retreat house.
 - b) Deanery Retirement Officer
Canon Brian McConnell outlined his work as the Deanery Retirement Officer – taking care of the 26 Retired Clergy in the Deanery and trying to visit them twice a year.
 - c) Bath & West Show – Church Tent
Dr Rob Sage asked for churches to volunteer to do stints in the church tent at the Bath & West Show. It would need 4 people plus a member of the clergy (all would get free entry) and duties would include greeting those coming into the tent, providing tea & coffee and washing up.
 - d) Secondary School Chaplain
Wendy Hester was working one day a week in each of the three secondary schools in the Deanery; King Arthur's in Wincanton, Ansford Academy and Sexey's School, Bruton; and was now back at work after sick leave. The Diocese was funding two-thirds of the post and there was money from the Linx Project to fund the other third for a time, but there was a need to find funding from the Deanery. It was hoped that churches would support this.
 - e) Clergy Vacancies
 - i) Cam Vale
Revd Katharine Hawksley would be starting on 16th June 2020.
 - ii) Bruton, Brewham, Pitcombe and Shepton Montague
Was currently in vacancy.
 - iii) Castle Cary and Ansford
Was also in vacancy.
 - f) Deanery Ascension Day Service
This was on Thursday 21st May 2020 at 7.00 pm in Templecombe Parish Church
[Post Meeting Note: Cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic]

g) Retirement

The Area Dean thanked Preb Rose Hoskins for her incredible amount of work in the Cam Vale benefice and in the Deanery over the years. She would be pulling back from parish ministry but would still be living in the Deanery.

h) Elections to Deanery Synod

The Area Dean said that there was a need for Deanery Synod Representatives from every parish and for their profile to be raised within the parish. He had a real sense of wanting to move Deanery Synod into less business and into a more inspirational role. Everyone was encouraged to get their PCC Secretaries to send the Certificates of Election to the Deanery Secretary.

9. Closing Prayers. The Area Dean closed the meeting in prayer and with the grace.

Next Deanery Synod Meeting – Thursday 16th July 2020, 7.30 pm at North Cadbury Parish Church
[Post Meeting Note: Changed to: **Tuesday 2nd March 2021, 7.30 pm on Zoom**]