

**DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS**  
**BRUTON & CARY DEANERY SYNOD (2023-2026)**

## **Annual Report for 2023**

### **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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the Deanery comprised 11 benefices, 41 parishes, a population of approximately 32,500, and an estimated 732 regular worshippers. (This is a drop of 92 on the last count in 2020 when the number of regular worshippers was 824). The Parish Share for the Deanery was £456,85 in 2023 of which 82.05% had been paid by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (compared to 89.04% in 2022 and 95.40% in 2021). Across the Deanery 27 churches had paid in full, whilst 8 had paid nothing, the remainder had paid various percentages.

### **Membership and Officers**

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the Deanery Synod comprised 59 members. 48 were members of the House of Laity, mostly lay representatives elected by the 41 parishes in the Deanery. 11 were members of the House of Clergy, mostly beneficed or licensed parochial clergy. All are members for the 2023-2026 three year period. 9 Readers and 16 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 ( <i>until 5/7/23</i> )	
	Mrs Jane Jeanes ( <i>from 5/7/23</i> )	
Secretary:	Mr Jeremy Pratt ( <i>until 5/7/23</i> )	<b>Vacant</b>
Treasurer:	Mrs Rosemary Rymer ( <i>until 5/7/23</i> )	<b>Vacant</b>

## **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.

## **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 distributed to each parish for their consideration and 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 this project. The current chaplain, Wendy Hester, has been much appreciated by the schools; and has been attending the Synod and reporting on her work.

## **Review of the Year**

### **Pastoral Reorganisation**

As a result of the Diocese's financial difficulties following the pandemic, the Deanery was informed in 2022 that the number of stipendiary clergy in the Diocese would be reduced by 28 to 150 and in our Deanery the number would have to be reduced by 1½ to 7. In February the DMPG considered all possible alternatives for the pastoral reorganisation of the Deanery. Those options that were considered viable were presented to the March Deanery Synod, along with an explanation why other options were not viable. Parishes and benefices in the Deanery were then consulted on the viable options before DMPG made a decision on the plan for pastoral reorganisation that was presented to the July Deanery Synod for approval. The approved plan was then taken to the Wells Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Group and formal consultations would begin in 2024.

The plan would save one stipendiary post by sharing the parishes of the Camelot Parishes with the surrounding benefices and would save the half post by joining the benefices of Wincanton and Pen Selwood with the benefice of Charlton Musgrove and Cucklington with Stoke Trister. The plan would incorporate two House for Duty posts – one to support the enlarged Wincanton benefice and one to support the large benefice created by joining the current Cam Vale benefice with North and South Cadbury and Yarlinton. As there were a limited number of House for

Duty posts available in the Diocese, the Six Pilgrims would join with Castle Cary and Ansford and the funding for the Schools' Chaplain would come to an end.

### **Synod Meetings**

All the year's Synod meetings were held at North Barrow Village Hall. In March a total of eight options for the pastoral reorganisation of the Deanery were presented to Synod ahead of consultation with parishes and benefices.

The Ascension Day Deanery Service was held in Wincanton Parish Church and the guest preacher was the Ven Anne Gell, Acting Dean of Wells Cathedral.

The July Synod was the first of the new session and elections of officers and the DMPG for the next three years were held. Unfortunately, the positions of Deanery Secretary and Deanery Treasurer remained were not filled. The Synod then voted to accept the proposed plan for pastoral reorganisation in the Deanery and there was a reflection on the use of art in churches.

In October the Revd Tristram Rae Smith gave a presentation on our priorities going forward which led into a group discussion. Matthew Pinnock, the Diocese's Head of Finance and Operations then spoke about the Diocese's financial position.

In November Bishop Michael paid a visit to the Deanery for an evening at the Batcombe Jubilee Hall which gave people in the Deanery an opportunity to hear what was happening in the Diocese and to ask questions of the Bishop.

### **Deanery & Clergy Changes**

There were no clergy changes in 2023 – but the Revd Alison Way, Rector of Wincanton and Pen Selwood, had been appointed Team Vicar of the Warlingham Team Ministry in Southwark Diocese and would leaving her current post in April 2024. In addition, the Revd Kevin Rogers, Rector of Templecombe, Henstridge and Horsington and Area Dean, had been appointed the Rector of the Downs Benefice in Winchester Diocese and would be leaving his current posts in March 2024.

### **Deanery Accounts**

**The General Fund.** There were no subscriptions asked for in 2023 again, since the Deanery had sufficient reserves for its purposes. The only income in 2023 was the interest on the CBF Deposit Account. Expenses consisted of the hire of the North Barrow Village Hall for Synod meetings and the hire of the Methodist Church Schoolroom for a lay training course, plus bank charges and expenses from the Visitation.

The General Fund showed a deficit of £340.83 compared to a deficit of £180.12 the previous year.

**Deanery Ministry Fund.** The Deanery Ministry Fund received a small amount of interest, but no other income and no grants were made for lay training in 2023.

**Assets and Liabilities.** This shows total assets of £3,343.27 in the General Fund and £1,859.14 in the Deanery Ministry Fund. The Deanery had no liabilities, although the cost of hosting the Deanery website was reimbursed in 2024 and came for £157.

**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.

**BRUTON AND CARY DEANERY**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

<b>GENERAL FUND Receipts &amp; Payments Account (Unrestricted)</b>				
	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Subscriptions		0.00		0.00
Interest				
CBF Deposit Account		67.08		27.18
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>67.08</u>		<u>27.18</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Printing, Stationery & Postage		0.00		0.00
Website costs		0.00		0.00
Bank charges		62.00		60.80
Cost of Meetings				
Hire of North Barrow Village Hall(x3)		135.00		146.50
Visitation expenses		10.91		
Hire of Castle Cary Methodist Church (lay training course)		200.00		
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<u>407.91</u>		<u>207.30</u>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>		<u><u>-340.83</u></u>		<u><u>-180.12</u></u>
<b>Bank &amp; CBF Accounts</b>				
<b>at 1 January</b>		<u>3,684.10</u>		<u>3,864.22</u>
<b>Bank &amp; CBF Accounts</b>				
<b>at 31 December</b>		<u><u>3,343.27</u></u>		<u><u>3,684.10</u></u>

**BRUTON AND CARY DEANERY**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

<b>DEANERY MINISTRY FUND Receipts &amp; Payments Account (Restricted)</b>		
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Bank Interest	27.41	3.63
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>27.41</u>	<u>3.63</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Grants (Exploring Christianity courses)	0.00	104.49
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>104.49</u>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>	<u><u>27.41</u></u>	<u><u>-100.86</u></u>
<b>Bank &amp; CBF Accounts at 1 January</b>	<u>1,831.73</u>	<u>1,932.59</u>
<b>Bank &amp; CBF Accounts at 31 December</b>	<u><u>1,859.14</u></u>	<u><u>1,831.73</u></u>

**BRUTON AND CARY DEANERY**  
**STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES at 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	<b>TOTALS</b>				
	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Deanery Ministry Fund</b>	<b>Other Restricted Funds</b>	<b>31st December 2023</b>	<b>31st December 2022</b>
	(Unrestricted)	(Restricted)	(Restricted)		
	£	£	£	£	£
HSBC Bank A/c	1,183.09	0.00		1,183.09	1,591.00
CBF Deposit A/c	2,160.18	0.00		2,160.18	2,093.10
NatWest Bank A/c	0.00	1,859.14		1,859.14	1,932.59
<b>Total Cash</b>	3,343.27	1,859.14	0.00	5,202.41	5,616.69
Owed to Deanery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Monetary Assets</b>	3,343.27	1,859.14	0.00	5,202.41	5,616.69
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	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, which held no money in 2023.

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 31<sup>st</sup> December.