

Bruton & Cary Deanery



Minutes of the Meeting of Bruton and Cary Deanery Synod held at The Davis Hall, West Camel on Wednesday 22nd October 2025 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	3
Other Members of House of Laity	20
Other PTO Clergy	7
Other Readers	4
Other Guests	3

Apologies for absence were received from: Revd Diane Barrett, Camilla Graham, Liz Henderson, Pauline Lewis, Revd Pip Martin, Jean Sellick, Revd Rona Stuart-Bourne and Preb Mike Vockins.

- 1. Refreshments.** Refreshments were available from 7.00pm. The Area Dean thanked members of the Benefice of Bruton for serving them.
- 2. Welcome.** The Area Dean welcomed members from across the Deanery.
- 3. Opening Worship.** The opening worship was led by the Revd Elisabeth Isted and members from Castle Cary and Ansford.
- 4. Previous Minutes.** The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th June 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Area Dean.
- 5. Thrive.** Revd Jane Durham (Assistant Area Dean and Deanery Mission Enabler for the Glastonbury Jurisdiction) and Caroline Bruce (Wells Archdeaconry Deanery and Parish Development Adviser) introduced Synod members to Thrive.

Thrive was developed to help parishes in multi-parish benefices (MPB) work together better and cope with lower clergy numbers and the increase in the amount of administration. There were benefits to skill sharing and a variety of worship in MPBs and the course has helped those who have taken part in it to identify the main joys and challenges.

Thrive is a 2 year course, usually 3 meetings a year where ideas are exchanged and embedded. There are other meetings between the sessions. It begins with prayer, sharing stories and faith and looks at leadership, discipleship and the future. All those taking part need to buy the book, put dates in the diary and turn up to the meetings.

Revd Helen Drever asked how Thrive started in the benefice based around Keinton Mandeville. There were consultations in Chapter and Synod and people were asked to have conversations across the benefice. The venue chosen for the meetings must be large

enough. [*Post meeting note: I have since spoken to two of the churchwardens there who think it is the best thing they have ever started – Jane Jeanes.*]

6. **Area Dean's Notices.** Revd Lydia Avery had been appointed as a Benefice Development Priest for the benefice based around Wincanton after several rounds of advertising with no applicants. The benefice of Henstridge, Templecombe, Horsington, North Cheriton and Holton was continuing to advertise but had had no applicants.

The Deanery Quiet Day would be held on 28th March 2026 at Hilfield Friary. There is a maximum of 30 places available. Places can be booked through the Lay Dean, Rob Sage. The cost per person is £20.

Members were encouraged to think about visiting Wintershall for The Life of Christ which takes place from 16th-20th June 2026. Leaflets were distributed.

The next Deanery Synod would be held on Wednesday 18th March 2026. Venue to be confirmed.

7. **Closing Prayers.** The Area Dean closed the meeting in prayer.

**Next Deanery Synod Meeting – Wednesday 18th March 2026
7.30pm in North Barrow Village Hall.**