

Bruton & Cary Deanery



**Minutes of the Meeting of Bruton and Cary Deanery Synod
held at North Barrow Village Hall on Wednesday 05th July 2023 at 7.30 pm**

Present:

Revd Kevin Rogers	Area Dean
Revd Tristram Rae Smith	Assistant Area Dean
Dr Rob Sage	Lay Dean
Other Members of House of Clergy	7
Other Members of House of Laity	37
Revd Jill Perrett	Deanery Accompanier
Other PTO Clergy	0
Other Readers	2
Other Guests	2

Apologies for absence were received from: Linda Mumford, Rosemary Rymer (Treasurer), Anne Sear, Revd Barrie Gaskell, Jacquie Hall, Annabel Browne, Ruth Kimber, Jeremy Pratt (Deputy Lay Dean and Secretary), Revd Candice Marcus, Russell Hamblin-Boone

1. **Opening Worship** was led by synod members from Wincanton and Pen Selwood and included a reading from John's Gospel 7:37-39.
2. **Previous Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 were approved (proposed: Jane Jeanes, seconded: Peter Leavold).
3. **Elections.** The following elections took place:
 - a. **House of Clergy** – 3 members of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group. 2 willing to stand are:
Revd Jonathan Evans to continue in the role.
Revd Dr Elisabeth Isted to continue in the role.
One vacancy.
 - b. **Retired Clergy** – 2 Representatives on Deanery Synod required.
Revd Candice Marcus to continue in the role (tbc).
Canon Brian McConnell to continue in the role (tbc).
The Retired Clergy will conduct their own election if there are any changes.
 - c. **House of Laity**
 - i. Lay Dean – Rob Sage elected to continue in the role.
 - ii. Deputy Lay Dean – Jane Jeanes elected
 - iii. Co-option of 3 members to Deanery Synod pending.
 - iv. 3 members of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group – John Deverell, Eric Deyes elected. Linda Mumford is stepping down with no other nominees received.
 - d. Deanery Secretary – Jeremy Pratt stepping down – no other nominees received.
 - e. Deanery Treasurer – Rosemary Rymer stepping down – no other nominees received.
 - f. Deanery Ministry Fund Secretary & Treasurer – no other nominees received.
4. **Refreshments.** Thank you to Jane Jeanes and to those from Six Pilgrims who served refreshments.
5. **Pastoral Reorganisation.** Rob Sage recapped what had happened over the past 12 months since learning of the need to lose 1½ posts. Having consulted with parishes and looked at objective criteria the DMPG came up with 8 options with 20 variations. Consultations took place as follows:

June 2022 – Deanery Synod was informed that the number of stipendiary clergy posts in the Deanery would be reduced from 8½ to 7. A special Deanery Synod open to all was arranged for September to consider the implications of the reduction in clergy numbers and to set out the process of producing a plan for pastoral reorganisation in the Deanery.

September 2022 – a timetable for developing a plan for the Deanery was outlined to the special Deanery Synod. Possible criteria for objectively assessing clergy posts were considered. It was noted that the “obvious” solutions to the need to lose one full-time post and a half-time post would be the breaking up of the Camelot Parishes and the loss of the half-time post at Charlton Musgrove/Cucklington - but that all possibilities would be considered.

November 2022 – the criteria (and the weighting of the criteria) for assessing clergy posts were presented to Deanery Synod. Parishes were invited to submit their own suggestions and comments on the pastoral reorganisation of the Deanery to the Area and Lay Deans.

March 2023 – all the options for pastoral reorganisation were presented to Deanery Synod with a request that the four viable options be taken back to parishes for consideration. Parishes were given until mid-May to respond with comments and suggestions. Churchwardens were informed of the consultation in addition to incumbents, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC Secretaries. Other consultations had taken place with Clergy Chapter (February 2023).

Following these consultations, and based on the feedback received, this was further broken down into 4 possible options with Option 3a being considered as the most viable option. Rob Sage informed the meeting that the Archdeacon had confirmed that the Deanery would be able to retain 2 x HFD posts. It was advised that no change is not an option, and a plan was required to move forward. It was further explained that no-one can appoint in vacancy until this has been agreed.

Questions and Answers.

Q – How can we fund School Chaplains posts?

A – We don't have the HFD posts to fund the school Chaplain posts and therefore this would need to be looked at and possibly funded through the parishes.

Q – Thank you to Rob Sage and Revd Kevin Rogers for tackling a very difficult situation. Whilst having to accept losing posts, we are worried about the affect this will have on the stipendiaries. Can we consider putting our hands in our own pockets to produce money to retain the posts?

Q – Option 3a is felt by Six Pilgrims that they will lose their identity. They disagreed with the proposal. Six Pilgrims claimed to have paid their way. They felt the process of getting to this vote is flawed and if people do not think that 7 stipendiaries will be enough, reject the Option. An argument was put forward that the Church Commissioners hold £10.2 billion in funds, and that this pastoral reorganisation was therefore not necessary; and that the Diocese was spending above average on support services that needs to be cut back.

A – Revd Kevin Rogers was sorry they felt the process was flawed and that the pastoral reorganisation unnecessary. However, he stopped the conversation as we are not debating the necessity or reason for pastoral re-organisation, but the proposal.

Q – If we vote against Option 3a, what is the alternative?

A – Rob Sage advised that he would look for volunteers to identify other options and suggestions.

Q – Can Option 4 be accepted?

A – Yes if that is what the vote conceded.

Q - It feels there has been a lack of consultation. How it will work after the event is not an option, we need to know before the vote.

A – Revd Kevin Rogers advised that what we are looking for initially is a plan. Once we have a plan then work will commence on how this plan will be established.

Q - Cam Vale has been in vacancy in effect for 4 years. We want to see this process move on asap. If we reject this today, the process will be even slower.

Q - Whilst we need to go ahead with this, where do we go after this? We need more money. You do not cut out your workers, you cut down on resources and therefore this will not work.

Q - Charlton Musgrove/Cucklington wrote to the Bishop. Why hasn't there been any fundraising etc? Can we not fundraise to pay independently?

A – Parish share is not being paid in full by all parishes and therefore not producing the money to the diocese to pay the stipendiary.

The vote for Bruton and Cary Deanery Synod to approve the adoption of Option 3a (as outlined in the paper 'Pastoral Reorganisation 2023 – Motion for July Synod') as the basis for the pastoral reorganization of the Deanery took place.

Results:	For:	32
	Against:	13
	Abstain:	03
	Spoilt:	01
	Voting members not present to vote	10

Motion is carried.

The next step will be for this decision to be taken to the Archdeacon Mission Pastoral Group and then consultations will take place with each parish.

6. **Mission Opportunity: Art in Church.** Revd Helen Drever provided a talk on Art in Church, explaining that they had invited Artist Penelope O'Hara to show her art in their church during Somerset Art week. The positives to this were; being Somerset Art week it was well publicised and signposted. People noticed the beautiful building before the art itself. People will travel to visit, and they had over 400 visitors to the church many of whom rarely go to church. There can also be challenges such as the need for facilities, parking and managing regular events such as toddler group around the artwork. Revd Jonathan Evans has also utilised his church building to host 2 art exhibitions by galleries and 1 exhibition for young local artists seeking a platform.

The exhibitions create an income for the chapel and raise awareness that the church is open and available to use for events.

7. **Area Dean's Notices.** Upcoming events are listed at the bottom of these minutes.

8. **Closing Prayers.**

Next Deanery Synod Meeting – Thursday 19th October 2023 at 7.30 pm