

Bruton & Cary Deanery



MINUTES OF THE BRUTON AND CARY DEANERY SYNOD HELD AT WINCANTON METHODIST CHURCH ON 27th FEBRUARY, 2019

Present

Rev'd Liz Mortimer – Area Dean
Dr Rob Sage – Lay Dean
Mrs Rosemary Rymer – Treasurer
Mrs Alison Drake – Secretary
Other Members of the House of Clergy – 6
Other Readers – 9
Other Members of the House of Laity – 18
Guests – 4
Speaker – James Fox-Robinson

Apologies for absence were received from: Linda Mumford, Patrick Mileham, Michelle Hole, Peter Leavold, Rev'd Tristram Rae Smith, Rev'd Sarah Godfrey, Eric Deyes, Sue Deyes, Joy Cross, Nick Armstrong, Jane Martin, Stephen Rymer, Daisymae Lacy, Jerry Wood and Susan Hartnell-Beavis.

The Lay Dean announced a change in the Agenda. Matt Ireland was unable to be at the meeting today and will be commissioned at another date and the Opening Worship will be conducted by Abbas Templecombe Henstridge and Horsington and not the Camelot Parishes.

The Opening Worship led by Abbas Templecombe Henstridge and Horsington with a reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus and the Collect for the day.

The Lay Dean then welcomed the Speaker **James Fox-Robinson, the Diocesan Prayer and Spirituality Enabler.**

James started by introducing himself, explaining his background, training and role in the Diocese. He then said if you google the word 'spirituality' there were over thirty different definitions, including a 90 second video with images of prayer, calm spirituality and beauty and thousands of representations on YouTube. That everybody has a different definition or feeling about the word. One dictionary defines it as 'the quality of being concerned with the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things.'

He then wanted to discuss contextualised spirituality to make it relevant in three ways:

1. As individuals:

To explore our own spirituality in every aspect of our lives; to think about what is unique about our walk with God. The questions were posed – ‘when did you last visit a different church; use a different prayer; find out what other religions have to offer; read something by for example a black or feminist writer?’ Unless we compare, we cannot understand our own spirituality.

2. As a Church:

How are you as a Parish engaging in what is unique about your Church; do you engage in ecumenical activities; what interfaith dialogue are you having as a parish; are home groups exploring other liturgy; can we learn from other Saints days and to explore the broader picture of spirituality?

3. As a Deanery:

What is different about our Deanery and what can we give to the Diocese? Is there a ‘Somerset Spirituality’ that is unique?

James then pointed out that many people feel spiritual but are not religious. There is a void left by organised religions where people express a need but do not wish to partake in formal religious services. So how can we make what we are trying to do in our Churches relevant and not just an attempt to get more people through the door?

What ideas are there to make our Churches more welcoming to people who visit Churches for whatever reason but are unlikely to come to a service?

1. Creative prayer spaces to share the message with spiritually aware not religious people.
2. Soul Sanctuaries – a Church should be a place to address people’s wellbeing and invite people in.
3. Christian Meditation – groups who could meet in Church.
4. Interfaith Dialogue – to examine other religions and liturgy.
5. Lent and Advent projects.
6. Explaining the spiritual relevance of parts of the Church building.
7. As a Church joining in with the community and schools for events and build relationships.

How then should we talk to people about spirituality? Suggestions are to:

1. Engage in their sense of awe and wonder.
2. Probe for their source of spiritual peace.
3. Share your reason for doing things for other people.
4. Build relationships.
5. Talk about where you find your spiritual peace.

James then took questions and discussion from the floor.

The Lay Dean thanked James for his presentation.

The Meeting then moved on to the **Area Dean’s Notices**, welcoming Rev’d Kevin Rogers and his wife Lorna to Abbas and Templecombe, Henstridge and Horsington and Rev’d Marion Clutterbuck and her Partner Jay Greene to Six Pilgrims.

The Minutes of the last Synod Meeting were accepted and signed.

The Joint Deanery Accounts were presented by The Treasurer. She reported that all Parishes were up to date with subscriptions and that as the account was in profit, there was no reason to raise the subscription rate.

It was therefore proposed '**That the subscription remain at £10 per elected lay member of the Synod**' Proposed by Ann Sear and seconded by Preb Rose Hoskins, and this was agreed unanimously.

The Treasurer reported that the Ministry Fund was in profit by £1,710.81.

It was proposed that **the Accounts be accepted.** Proposer Rev'd Justin Bailey, seconded by Alan Hoskins and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Meeting closed with the Grace.