



Harrogate Deanery Synod

27th June 2024

Washburn Heritage Centre, Fewston, HG3 1SU

GUEST SPEAKER:

The Revd Ben Askew, Pioneer Minister, Kairos Network Church

Present 11 Clergy 23 Laity (including 1 visitor)

Apologies 12 Clergy 13 Laity

Welcome Dr Susan Atkin, the Lay Chair, welcomed members to the meeting and thanked the Revd Teresa McLaughlin for hosting the Synod at the Washburn Heritage Centre, Fewston.

Evening Prayer was led by the Revd Teresa McLaughlin, Priest in Charge, Washburn and Midwharfe Benefice.

Apologies for Absence See above.

Minutes of the Last Meeting The Minutes were accepted and signed by the Lay Chair.

Matters Arising not on the Agenda There were no matters arising.

2024 Diocesan Synod Elections Results The Lay Chair announced the Elections results.

- Three clergy were elected:
 - The Revd Lisa Holland, Knaresborough Team Ministry
 - The Revd Suzy McCarter, who has now left the Harrogate Deanery and moved to Sutton-in-Craven, Cowling and Lothersdale, in the Bradford Episcopal Area
 - The Revd Mike Resch, St Mark's Church, Harrogate
- Three lay members were also elected:
 - Mr Robert Haskins, St James's Church, Wetherby
 - Mr Michael Laycock, St Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate
 - Mr Jonathan Wilson, St Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate

The Lay Chair suggested that the Diocesan Synod members might like to share with us information from Diocesan Synods at future Deanery Synods. The Lay Chair also informed that there are still 2 vacant places for Clergy and 3 vacant places for Laity and urged members to consider taking up one of these places. If anyone would like to do so, please contact either the Lay Chair or the Deanery Synod Secretary.

Good News from the Deanery

- 1) **Spofforth with Kirk Deighton, Follifoot and Little Ribston:** The Revd Barbara Ryan, Assistant Priest, informed that this parish had had a confirmation service two weeks ago, presided over by the Bishop of Ripon, The Rt. Revd Anna Eltringham. Six people were confirmed. Barbara informed that this was particularly good as it was their first confirmation service for a couple of years.
- 2) **St Andrew's, Starbeck:** Mr David Leonard, informed that St Andrew's has recently had a community day on the field; it was a great success. There was also a 'Big Help Out' event the previous Saturday and the well-attended Alpha Course, finishes this evening. David also informed that St Andrew's is welcoming a new Curate, Sarah Tapley, on Sunday, 30th June 2024. Sarah will be ordained on Saturday, 29th June 2024 at Ripon Cathedral.
- 3) **St James's Church, Wetherby:** Mrs Val Lumsden, informed that there will be a confirmation service on 21st July 2024. Val explained that this will be quite an occasion as it is also the Patronal Festival of St James. The Bishop of Ripon will be presiding, and babies, children and adults will be baptised as well as adults being confirmed. The day will conclude with a BBQ.
- 4) **Netmakers:** Mrs Sam Corderoy, Kairos Network Church, informed that:
 - On 20th July 2024, a number of churches will be putting on a festival in the Valley Gardens, called 'Hope Now'. The event will run from 10.00am to 8.00pm. There will be live music throughout the day and activities for children and teenagers. It will have a festive and evangelistic feel. Several churches will be involved including, Knaresborough Team Ministry, Life Destiny Church, and Elim Pentecostal Church, as well as churches coming from Harrogate, Barnsley, Mansfield and London. There will also be bands coming from the USA.
 - There is an open invitation to everyone, and Sam is looking for volunteers to help during the day, so if you or anyone you know would like to be involved please contact Sam on sam@netmakers.org.uk
 - Sam also informed that during the Children and Youth activities, information about all the Children and Youth activities in local churches will be distributed, so if you would like your church information to be included, please let Sam have the details. The 'Hope Now' festival will be advertised via Social Media.
 - Finally, Sam explained, very excitedly, that they have just recruited a Pioneer Youth Worker, to do outreach with Teenagers who do not have experience of being part of the Church. Eciانا (known as Cici) Carreira started last Monday. She has 20 years of experience doing youth mission and evangelism in China, Portugal and Brazil. Sam said, they are feeling very blessed to have her as part of their team.
- 5) **St Mark's Church, Harrogate:** The Revd Mike Resch, Vicar of St Mark's Church, informed that they too have a new Curate starting. Her name is Esli Lees, and she will be ordained at Ripon Cathedral on Saturday, 29th June 2024. Mike said that they are very excited to have her joining the team. He also mentioned that they too have had a confirmation service, presided over by Bishop Anna.

- 6) **Lower Wharfedale Benefice:** Mrs Moira Keith, announced that they are going to set up Lego Church in October 2024. There will be a monthly Monday afternoon Lego Church at All Saints, Kirby Overblow, and a monthly Lego Church at St Wilfrid's Church, Pool, on a Sunday afternoon. Moira said that all offers of unwanted Lego will be most gratefully received!
- 7) **St Wilfrid's, Church, Harrogate:** Mr Michael Laycock, informed that St Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate, hosts a Resurrected Bites café every Wednesday, 10am – 2pm (last orders at 1.15pm). Everyone is welcome.
- 8) **St Peter's Church, Harrogate:** The Revd Dr Alan Garrow, Area Dean, announced that the Revd Karin Shaw, and the Revd Steve Gibbin, Curates at St Peters, were both ordained as Priests on Saturday, 22nd June 2024, by Bishop Anna, at Ripon Cathedral.
- 9) **Knaresborough Team Ministry:** The Revd Garry Hinchcliffe, Team Rector of KTM, informed the Secretary via email that there has been some good progress with capital projects in the Knaresborough churches. Specifically:
- A large re-ordering project at St John's will see the installation of full disability access, a kitchenette, creche facility, new glass doors, extra lighting and an audio-visual system with screens.
 - A huge road resurfacing project is taking place at Holy Trinity Church.
 - An on-going project continues at St Mary's, Goldsborough, to 're-imagine' the nave and install new heating using air-source heat pumps.

Harrogate Deanery Eco Church. The Area Dean showed slides which highlighted the progress and explained the actions that three churches have made in their Eco Church journey since our previous meeting last March.

Christ Church, Harrogate. Silver – 2019

- Is now in the process of 'Going for Gold'. Just one or two categories to go
- Is holding an annual outdoor Rogation Service to mark and encourage Environment Sunday
- Is increasing the membership of their Environment Sub-Committee

St Andrew's Church, Starbeck. Bronze – 2021

- Is continuing to work towards Silver
- Is getting eco refillable cleaning products for the cleaning team from Damien at the Handy Restock Stop (Knaresborough Market)
- Has received a bulk order of 'Who Gives a Crap' recycled loo rolls; these work well and save money and trees!
- Has moved to green energy suppliers, where possible
- Is including climate issues regularly in their prayers and creation care in their worship, in addition to holding their Annual Eco Church Sunday

St Peter's Church, Harrogate. Bronze – 2024

- Has finally achieved bronze

- Has a target to achieve Silver by June 2025

Encouraging Lay Ministry (ELM). The Area Dean introduced this item by referring to the rural change fund topic raised in the previous Synod – What might we bid for in relation to the rural change fund? The Area Dean reminded members that the Rural Change Fund is administered by the Bishop of Ripon, to which Deaneries are invited to apply to support and enable mission initiatives. Mr Stewart Davies, Reader at St Peter’s Church, Harrogate, took over the subject and referred members to the Paper on ELM which was circulated with the Agenda. Stewart began by clarifying that Lay Ministries has a broad definition, as defined in the Paper on page 1. He stated that churches very much depend on Lay Ministries and referred to a conversation he recently had with the Revd Stroma McDermott, Rector of Lower Wharfedale, one of Harrogate’s rural Benefices. This conversation highlighted the value of Lay Ministers to rural Benefices.

Stewart referred to page 3 of the EL M paper which provides a broad framework of the training programme. He explained that the training falls into three categories 1) Biblical foundations, 2) Church seasons, and 3) Skills required to be an effective Lay Minister e.g. facilitating meetings, offering feedback, reflective practice.

Stewart finished by expressing his excitement at the prospect of groups working together across Benefices, as this has the potential to bring together more experienced people with less experienced people thereby strengthening and encouraging Lay Ministers on their journey.

Revd Mike Resch, St Mark’s Harrogate, asked if the proposal included making use of diocesan resources. The Area Dean responded that the focus of the project was local needs – using whatever resources, including those supplied by the diocese, that might meet those needs.

Vacancies up-date

- 1) **Walkingham Hill Benefice.** The vacancy continues.
- 2) **Hampsthwaite, Birstwith and Killinghall.** There is now a vacancy, as the Revd Suzy McCarter has moved to the Bradford Episcopal Area, however, Harrogate Deanery has agreed that Suzy can continue to be one of our representatives on Diocesan Synod, so as not to forfeit her Diocesan Synod place. This decision was taken by the Clergy members of the Harrogate Deanery Standing Committee. The Lay Chair, pointed out that there are still two vacant clergy places, should any members of the Harrogate Deanery wish to seek nomination to become members of the Diocesan Synod.
- 3) **St John’s & St Luke’s, Bilton.** This vacancy is upcoming, as the Revd Simon Dowson is moving at the beginning of August 2024. This evening would have been Simon’s last Harrogate Deanery Synod, but as he was unable to attend, the Lay Chair offered a vote of thanks, in his absence. There was a warm and resounding cheer of thanks from Synod members.

Deanery Finance. The Treasurer, Mr Iain Ward-Campbell, sent his apologies. The accounts were circulated with the Agenda. There were no questions raised.

Guest Speaker: The Revd Ben Askew, Pioneer Minister, Kairos Network Church.

Purpose of presentation:

To inform synod members about the Kairos story – how it was formed and how it is different.

What is Kairos?

Ben started by saying, if you know us, you might know us as:

- The church with the funny name
- The people opposite the disused church
- The place where you, your child or grandchild, got a bike.

Ben described Kairos as a ‘teenage re-plant / re-boot of a 200 year old church’. He said their story is one of:

- Reimaging in the mixed ecology
- Leaving and seeking
- Death and new life
- And looking at what God does with endings that create beautiful new beginnings

Leaving and Death: the inability to keep 2 churches open

Kairos, which is 13 years old, evolved from two older churches.

- St Mary’s was originally built in 1822, but was declared unsafe and closed in 1903
- In 1916, St Mary’s was rebuilt in Westcliffe Terrace, but twenty years later in 2007 it was closed again, as it required a complete rebuild
- All Saints, Harlow Hill was built in the 1860s to meet needs of the expanding town but in 2009 it too was closed due to structural problems.

Seeking and New Life: the journey to a different model and structure

- There followed nearly a decade of seeking something new and different
- What emerged was the idea of a Church as God’s people
- They started to think of themselves as a **network church**
- A network of followers of Jesus, coming together in households, communities and larger gatherings.

Kairos Communities

Kairos Communities are the ‘bedrock’ of the Church. They are small units/groups of 10 – 40 people who share life and practise discipleship around a shared purpose e.g.

- Adopting a particular neighbourhood e.g. Fairfax neighbourhood
- Participating in a shared passion i.e Res Bikes – doing up bikes and selling them to raise money for charity.
- Engaging with different groups of people e.g. shared life stage or focus i.e. Kindle.



Kairos Communities are Lay led, by trained teams of people who embrace different forms of worship:

- Some host events not a million miles different from traditional worship e.g. Messy Church or Forest Church
- Others run smaller events
- All events, however, are ordered around worship, community and mission
- All provide places where worshippers can learn from, and with others, how to better follow Jesus
- These 'shapes' are not taken because they think they are special, but because they feel that this is the shape and call that God has given them to find and inhabit

Bishops' Mission Order (BMO)

Kairos is allowed to do this, because it is licensed under a Bishops' Mission Order, a piece of legislation passed in the noughties, which gives permission for new models and shapes of churches to evolve, i.e. fresh expressions of church.

A Fresh Expression of Church

- Kairos has between 120 – 150 people
- You'll never see them all together
- They meet in many different ways throughout the week
- They only hold their big gatherings twice a month: when 70 – 90 people come together
- But on other Sundays they leave gaps to allow people to do different things in smaller groups
- They leave gaps because gaps lead to creativity

Discussion Questions 1:

- Can you tell the story of your places mission?
- What's your mechanism for trying new things?
- What have you deliberately stopped or chosen not to do, in order to focus well?

Worship Post Pandemic

After the end of Lockdown, there was a strong desire to:

- Return to face-to-face worship as soon as possible
- Focus on discipleship in mid-size welcoming communities
- Invest in children and families – getting a brilliant curate, Jen, and employ a children's worker was a blessed coincidence just as they were coming out of lockdown

New ways of worship

Ben shared some new ways of worship which take place at Kairos:

- Forest – outdoor worship for those who love God and creation
- Springboard – a welcome and orientation community which ensures anyone who is new to the church feels welcome and can get involved as quickly as possible with church life
- Relaxed – a quiet and free flowing morning worship for young neurodiverse families

- Messy – in conjunction with an associated parenting course
- Warm spaces – designed to be multi-generational

Partnering and Partnerships

Ben explained that there is a desire within Kairos Communities to develop partnerships with other churches who are doing things really well e.g.

- The Youth at Kairos connect with the young people at St Mark’s, St John’s and St Luke’s
- The Revd Jen Bradly, Curate at Kairos, has been successfully developing ‘Worship Local’, a worship and prayer night alongside churches in Knaresborough
- Kairos regularly works closely with Netmakers as they connect Christians and Churches. This enables Kairos and Netmakers to work together on things which would otherwise be hard to do on their own.

Loss

Ben said that not everything has survived, and that loss has been part of the Kairos story. He reported that two communities have ended; one due to illness and grief being at the heart of that community. Ben explained that this has been hard but stressed that giving things a good ending is also really important.

Children and Families

Ben shared that they have been trying to focus on the next generation and wish to recruit a Youth Worker to help the next generation evolve. Ben explained that they have enjoyed partnering with the Diocesan Internship Scheme and emphasised that this is one way to create energy, vigour and an experience at the heart of the Church.

The Rhythms of Grace

Ben pointed out that because life is sometimes hard, Kairos has created ways to help people talk about how to keep going and growing. ‘The Rhythms of Grace’ are used by the Kairos Communities when they get stuck.



Focus on Disciple-Making

In addition to this corporate approach, Ben explained that it is also important for people to individually measure how they are following Jesus.



These statements provide a benchmark. They are shown regularly, and people are urged to assess themselves against them in terms of how they think they are growing in these areas. Ben informed that he is very encouraged to see people actively engaging in this process and growing in their Christian faith.

Discussion Questions 2:

- What do you pay attention to?
- Do you have ways to measure disciple-making?
- What do you use to help people 'keep on track'?

Greenhouse

Ben concluded his presentation by saying if you like the idea of reimagining how things can be done, he and Jude from Barnabus run 'Greenhouse'. They meet three times a year:

- 1) 10th October 2024
- 2) 13th March 2025
- 3) 26th June 2025

Greenhouse provides an opportunity for people to who want to start, dream of, or cultivate, something new to reach the people who are not currently being reached through traditional methods.



<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/fresh-expressions/what-greenhouse>

- If you are interested and would like to know more, please talk to the **Jen Bradley** jen@kairoschurch.net or **Sam Corderoy** sam@netmakers.org.uk

The Lay Chair thanked Ben very warmly for his stimulating, enjoyable and informative talk.

A.O.B The Lay Chair informed Synod members that:

- The Revd Dr Alan Garrow, Harrogate Area Dean is on sabbatical from **12th July – 15th October 2024**; she wished him well with his plans.
- As the Revd Simon Dowson, Assistant Area Dean, is leaving at the end of July 2024, The Revd John Smith, Vicar of St Robert's, Pannal, has very generously agreed to step-in as Area Dean whilst Alan is away. Synod members gave John an appreciative round of applause.

Closing prayers were led by the Lay Chair, who invited members to stand and say together, The Grace. The Lay Chair thanked everyone for attending. The meeting finished at 8.50pm

FUTURE DATES

- **Thursday, 24 October 2024 – Standing Committee: 12.30pm**
- **Tuesday, 12th November 2024** – St James' Church, Church Street, Wetherby, LS22 6LP.
Speaker: Jemima Parker, Leeds Diocesan Environment Officer. Topic: *Eco Church: Lifestyle*

ALL SYNOD MEETINGS SCHEDULED – 7pm for 7.30 pm – 9 pm

Please send any amendments, questions or items for the Standing Committee to the Secretary – Helen Camm at secretary.harrogatedeanery@leeds.anglican.org