

Harrogate Deanery Synod

15th February 2022

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Gracious Street, Knaresborough, HG5 8BQ

MAIN SPEAKER:

Jemima Parker – Diocesan Environment Officer

Present 12 Clergy 25 Laity

Apologies 10 Clergy 8 Laity

Welcome The meeting was opened by the Chair, Revd Alan Garrow, who introduced himself as the new Area Dean. He welcomed everyone to the first Deanery Synod meeting of 2022. He thanked our hosts, Revd Stroma McDermott and the Knaresborough Team Ministry for arranging the venue.

The Area Dean drew attention to the lighted candle as a way of reminding us of the purpose of the Synod meetings; to provide good communication and good support for the ministry of the body of Christ in our parishes and chaplaincies.

Prayers Mr Justin Brett, the Lay Chair, led an evening liturgy prepared by Revd Stroma McDermott.

Appointment of Deanery Synod Secretary The Chair nominated Miss Helen Camm, as the new Deanery Synod Secretary. This nomination was accepted by members of the Synod.

Apologies for Absence See above

Minutes of the Last Meeting These were accepted by those present and signed by the Chair. The Chair thanked the Revd John Smith for the minutes of the previous Synod. No amendments were requested.

Matters Arising not on the Agenda There were none.

Good News from the Deanery

1) **Carbon Zero Progress:** Mr Robert Haskins, St James Church, Wetherby, shared good news about their finished feasibility study of zero carbon emissions. In response to the findings a range of proposals have been put forward. Draught proofing has already begun, and the installation of ground source heat pumps has been accepted. On a different subject, a Youth Worker has been recruited at Wetherby and is three months into the post and making a great impression.

2) **Tony Shepherd Talk:** Revd Suzy McCarter, Hampsthwaite, Birstwith & Killinghall , offered an open invitation to an evening with Revd Tony Shepherd at St Thomas a Becket, Hampsthwaite on 4th March 2022 at 7.30pm.

3) **Messy Vintage:** Revd Stroma McDermott, Knaresborough Team Ministry, invited Denise Cullingworth, Holy Trinity, Knaresborough, to talk about Messy Vintage. Denise explained that Messy Vintage is a branch of Messy Church for older people. It started in September 2021 with 25 people. In November, 46 people attended after invitations were sent to people who do not usually attend Church. Meetings are held every 4th Tuesday in Holy Trinity Church Room, 11am – 1.30pm. The format is: a Bible passage to set the theme, a discussion and group share, ‘play time’, a hymn, a blessing and lunch.

4) **New Licensing:** Revd Stroma McDermott, informed that Lisa Holland will be licensed in Knaresborough on 7th April 2022 at 7.00 pm.

5) **Artizan Café:** The Chair, Revd Alan Garrow, celebrated the opening of Artizan International Café and Creative Space, on Cambridge Road, Harrogate. Artizan International supports people with disabilities in the UK and the developing world through crafts, training and social enterprise. The Director is Susie Hart, MBE.

Vacancies up-date Revd Simon Dowson, **Bilton Parish**, explained that interviews will take place at the end of April for a new clergy position – in place of the role previously filled by Revd Andy Patrick – half time Team Vicar, half time Mission Enabler.

Deanery Finance The Treasurer, Mr Iain Ward-Campbell, referred members to the circulated financial information. There has been little change in Deanery finances. The Treasurer, explained that the Account is held by Triodos Bank, an ethical, sustainable bank. He made a gentle plea for Parishes to resist holding back payment until the end of the year.

Question: Dr Susan Atkin, St Mark’s Church, Harrogate, asked about the £30 Parish levy.

Answer: The Treasurer explained that this was in respect of three Parishes who had each paid £10 to ‘top up’ the Fund.

Question: Dr Susan Atkin, asked if each Parish pays a certain amount each year.

Answer: No. Money is requested when the Fund needs ‘topping up’.

Living in Love and Faith course possibilities

1) The Chair informed that a 5-session course during Lent will start on 9th March 2022 7.15-8.45pm at St Peter’s Church, Harrogate.

2) Revd John Smith, Pannal & Beckwithshaw, recommended the ‘Rhythm of Life’ venture and encouraged Parishes to access and use the resources available.

3) Revd Stroma McDermott, praised the on-line 'Pastoral Conversation' course, designed to enable effective pastoral conversations when caring for others. She explained that an outside speaker had been invited who reinforced the importance of engaging in pastoral conversations.

Guest Speaker: Jemima Parker – Environment Officer for the Diocese of Leeds.

Saving Carbon: Six Steps to Carbon Net Zero.

How to start your church's journey

Jemima reminded us that the General Synod has asked Churches to become Net Zero Carbon by 2030; a challenging target. Two areas of measurement will be:

- Energy use in buildings
- Travel fuel for clergy and other staff

The presentation explored what is meant by net carbon emissions and showed how churches can measure their own carbon emissions. There are two tools:

- Online parish returns – an energy foot printing tool. Data can be included in annual reports. <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/about-our-environment/energy-footprint-tool>
- 360 carbon calculate tool, which can be found on the Climate Stewards website. <https://360carbon.org/>

All Hallows Church, Bardsey, has embraced the six steps to carbon net zero and has used both the above tools. <https://www.bardseyekparish.com/environment>

Jemima presented the '**Six Steps to Carbon Net Zero – Church toolkit**'.

- Step 1 – Measure and Monitor
- Step 2 – Plan and Prepare
- Step 3 – Essential Energy Actions
- Step 4 – Essential Travel Actions
- Step 5 – Carbon Offsetting
- Step 6 – Stepping Out and Up

The toolkit contains several practical solutions and strategies to assist Churches in achieving carbon net zero by 2030. <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/saving-creation> The accompanying slides contain further links to tools and practical solutions to achieve this target.

Overview of key actions in each step:

Step 1 – Measure and Monitor. Discussed above.

Step 2 – Plan and prepare.

- Create a vision of what our churches will look like if they have net zero carbon emissions.

- Use the interactive tool in the toolkit to shape this vision.
- Use 'A practical path to net zero carbon: A checklist for your church'.

Step 3 – Essential Energy Actions.

- Take steps to reduce energy waste e.g., repair leaky roofs, insulate pipes, fit draught excluders, fit thermostats.
- Switch over to a 100% renewable energy tariff e.g. The Green Journey. 250 churches in the Diocese already get their energy from the Green Journey scheme.
- Decarbonise heating systems. Switch to electricity e.g., consider installing air source heat pumps.
- The DAC has written a sustainability policy and advisors are available to offer guidance and advice.

Step 4 – Essential Travel Actions

- Cut travel by half
- Use shared travel e.g., public transport or car share
- Use video conferencing to reduce travel
- Install car charging points
- Introduce electric car leasing schemes

Step 5 – Carbon Offsetting

- It is unlikely that we will get below 10% carbon emissions by 2030.
- Planting more trees is a means of offsetting that remaining 10%.
- Climate Stewards offer ways to reduce emissions <https://www.climatestewards.org/>

Step 6 – Stepping Out and Up

- This is a reminder that these initiatives are about caring for God's creation.
- Share with your community.
- Run an award scheme with local businesses
- Initiate carbon conversations – talk about it!
- Acquire an award via Eco Church www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/eco-church-awards and access their resources for advice and support <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>
- Sign up to God's Green Fingers <https://www.leeds.anglican.org/environment>

Jemima concluded by informing members that there is a requirement for an Environment Officer in each episcopal area. The Bishop has tasked us to fill the vacancy in this area.

Question: **How much renewable energy is there in the country** for people to purchase?

Answer: Plenty. Nationally 50% of energy is produced by renewables e.g., on windy or sunny days.

Question: Mr Paul Arundel, St Oswald's Church, asked, if we have to persuade people e.g., the PCC, is there any **financial support** or incentive?

Answer: The Church Building Fund has a pot of £80K. It can award grants up to £5K to each church for building or maintenance repairs or to improve energy efficiency. Harrogate Churches Repair Fund might also help with the cost of replacing lighting.

www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/funding

Church of England webinar series on funding and all things net zero carbon www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon

Question: Revd Mike Resch, St Mark's Church, asked, are there conversations going on with **English Heritage**?

Answer: Historic England is on board. The Church Buildings Council which advises the DAC came to Wetherby to review their proposals. They agreed to putting PV on the church roof and installing ground source heat pumps/air source heat pumps. Less keen on wind turbines on the church tower. To be discussed further in March 2022. The DAC Sustainability Policy and Guidance can be found here: www.leeds.anglican.org/dac/sustainability

Training offered by the diocese on environmental matter can be found on the Diocesan Learning Platform and here www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/training-opportunities

The Area Dean gave a huge 'Thank You' to Jemima Parker, for all her work in the Diocese.

Closing prayer The Area Dean, closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer and thanked everyone for attending. The meeting finished at 9.03 pm.

FUTURE DATES

Monday 16th May – speaker and venue TBC

Tuesday 18th October – speaker and venue TBC

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

Please send agenda items and apologies to Helen Camm, Deanery Synod Secretary

secretary.harrogatedeanery@leeds.anglican.org

MAIN LINKS SUMMARY:

1. The Six Steps to Net Zero Church Toolkit, Video, Case studies and Template Plan on the Saving Creation page here www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/saving-creation
2. The DAC Sustainability Policy and Guidance can be found here www.leeds.anglican.org/dac/sustainability
3. The Eco Church Award Scheme ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/ and our guide to Eco Church here www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/eco-church-awards

4. Funding options www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/funding
5. Church of England webinar series on funding and all things net zero carbon www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon
6. Training offered by the diocese on environmental matter can be found on the Diocesan Learning Platform and here www.leeds.anglican.org/environment/training-opportunities
7. You may also like to join the mailing list for *God's Green Fingers*, the environment e-newsletter which I produce every couple of months with news, events and a ready to print magazine article. Sign up here <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/XxcL4od>