



BULLETIN 3

MARCH 2022

INTRODUCTION – STOKESLEY DEANERY ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

*Heavenly Father, You have taught us, through your servant St Francis, that all creation is your handiwork. Grant us your grace that we may exercise wise stewardship of this Earth, tread lightly upon it, and cherish its resources; that our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations, and your name be glorified through all that you have made.
Amen.*

This bulletin focuses on the many initiatives and actions already occurring in the Deanery as our Church seeks to cherish God's creation and care for the environment. If you want to get more involved, or you would like more information on topics in this bulletin, please reach out to any of the people named, or just contact Geoff Jaques jaques132@gmail.com or John Dickinson jgdickinson@outlook.com and we will get back to you.

We would like every parish in the Deanery to be represented in the network.

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 29 March – Second Deanery Eco meeting. Zoom 4, pm
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78770306873?pwd=MEe1Dmk1Efx-ZmmKiX31OutFN3R6tU.1>
Meeting ID: 787 7030 6873 Passcode: 30Wg3f

Tuesday 26 April - A talk and panel discussion entitled “**Food, Farming and the Environment**” at 7:30 in Stokesley Town Hall. We have 3 speakers. The main speaker is Christian farmer & former Principal of Bishop Burton College, Howard Petch who will give a 30 minute overview - global, national & local, followed by Robert Campbell a local Quaker farmer and chairman of national organisation LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) and David Hugill a local Councillor and chicken farmer who will speak for 10 minutes.

Tuesday 15 March, 7:30 Stokesley Climate Action meeting, all welcome

ST AUGUSTINE'S – A HOME FOR BARN OWLS

A group of volunteers from St Augustine's, Kirkby in Cleveland were inspired by the Diocesan Caring for Creation initiative, and indeed by the hoots of a local Barn Owl, to provide a home for the owl or perhaps one of its relatives in the churchyard. With the support of the Vicar and PCC, they arranged the construction of a Barn Owl Box

A Methodist Family from the village obtained the specification for a Barn Owl Box (it is different from a standard owl box) and made it using wood kindly supplied by a local builders' merchants. The box was dedicated in a special service on January 23rd by Green Ambassador for the Diocese of York the Revd Jan Nobel and is to be put up by a tree surgeon who operates within the village.



The local school have had a huge response to a competition to produce work about Barn Owls- whether written, art or craft using ideas kindly supplied by the Barn Owl Trust, and prizes will be awarded for the best entries.

RECYCLE, REWILD, REJOICE

Saint Oswald's Church in Newton under Roseberry has a new residential development adjacent to the building. It is not the multi million pound executive homes of brick and mortar but a small eco-friendly collection of timber residences constructed from recycled timber!

Following the introduction of a water supply to Saint Oswald's, after nearly a thousand years, it was decided that the vestry needed to be upgraded. As you may probably know this was completed for Christmas. The timber of the former fixtures and fittings were stored and on January 8th were used to build seven bird boxes for the church grounds. Saturday 8th of January between 10am and 3pm was Bird box Saturday. John Stinson and Rob Myers managed to make a range of boxes to attract various species of birds that have been spotted in the grounds, from nuthatch and tree creepers to blue tits and tree sparrows. Members of the St. Oswald's congregation popped in during the day to give their support, as well as providing refreshments. Geoff Jaques gave a helping hand during the afternoon session and Rev Pev and Curate Jane gave their blessing to the handiwork. Sunday morning was spent climbing ladders and positioning the boxes in favourable positions to attract the birds. It was a very rewarding weekend



The first meeting took place on Zoom, hosted by Geoff Jaques. We had a very positive response with 9 Parishes represented. There is a wide range of interest in all matters environmental, people also recognising the mission opportunities through schools and other environment groups. The group was keen to share experiences, learn from one another and meet again before Easter. (See link above)

There is so much opportunity for our church communities to take action, and lots of experiences were shared. Two important themes were churchyards and buildings, where we have control and responsibility and can lead by example.

Its all happening in the churchyard:

- An outdoor service in the 'Living Churchyard' of All Saints Great Ayton last summer attracted more than 70 people of all ages across the community from churches and wildlife groups.
- John Stinson told us about the bird box project (see above) and that they were continuing the work, having 'signed up' for the minimum 5 trees from the Woodland Trust. Planting and tours of the church are planned for Easter Monday.
- Geoff Jaques related how 6 bird boxes were installed in All Saints, Ayton with the involvement of the children from Marwood School and local MP Rishi Sunak.
- Judith Glover shared how the Green Team at Kirby had worked with a local farm to get an owl box made which was then blessed during a service and is ready for installation. This was the launch point for a competition for the children at the local primary school with prizes donated by the Barn Owl Trust.
- Owen Searle described how they were working with Hambleton Council to manage their closed churchyard with some areas that are wild and others of mown grass;
- Owen also described a green programme involving a local school and Helen Land outlined the approach being taken in a similar situation in Ayton.
- Several others were interested to have mixed management of their churchyards and will explore how to ensure a balance between wilderness and 'chocolate box' appearance.

Do share your own stories with us, and if you would like help getting started, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Our buildings are both a joy and a major responsibility. Maintenance and operating costs are increasing rapidly. Yet so much can be done that benefits the environment and makes economic sense.

- Some churches are now planning LED lighting. Ken Taylor reported that Christ Church had obtained grants (from the Jack Brunton Trust and the Archdeacon of Cleveland) as well as significant donations from the community, to make the change with the installation being successfully completed at the end of February.
- Sally-Anne Hamlin said Hilton Church (Grade 1 listed) are interested at in switching to LED lighting and exploring the possibility of solar panels.

- Owen Searle asked about installing solar panels on listed buildings / church roofs (Rudby & Brookfield both have panels on their hall roofs).
- Several churches have switched their electricity supply to green energy, either through the Parish Buying Scheme or directly. Ayton have secured a 3 year fixed deal. David Yates reported that Yarm have changed their gas supplier via the PBS; he also noted that PBS have announced a pilot scheme with an approved supplier for solar panels. John Stinson informed us that Ecotricity donate to RSPB when you contract with them.
- Heating & Energy is a significant topic which we agreed to focus on at our next meeting.

Ideas and opportunities were discussed for the year ahead

- Great Big Green week is a national movement which runs from September 25th to October 2nd this year (towards the end of our Season of Creation) provides another opportunity for environment focused worship.
- **Geoff** drew attention to the opportunities the Queen's Jubilee provides. Ayton has a fete planned and there will be a Green Stall combining the various groups Brighten Up Great Ayton, Climate Action & Eco Church.

A whole host of experiences were shared about things that had been done recently:

- The Diocesan Green Ambassador, Jan Nobel, joined a 'Caring for Creation' service at KGB in January and blessed their new owl box. He also preached at Christ Church on Bluebell Sunday, the first Sunday of May (the beginning of a new 'ancient' tradition) where he presented their Bronze Eco Church Award.
- Robert Opala had organised a pilgrimage walking between the 8 churches in the Whorlton Group. Ayton held a Prayer Walk focused on COP26 organised by the different churches in the village with over 30 folk participating despite the damp conditions!
- Claire Todd had organised a Cheese & Wine evening with a talk on plastics v glass and that sometimes one was better than the other.

ECO CHURCH – THE GREEN MISSION

As we have seen above, environmental initiatives are taking place all over the Deanery. To focus the church community and to get support and ideas, why not register your parish with Eco Church. So far four churches have signed up.

For more information, please use this link. <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>

SHARE AND COMMUNICATE THE GOOD NEWS

The whole point of this bulletin is to bring us closer together, to communicate what is going on and to inspire others. If you have an event planned, a project lined up, a successful activity to report, want support, or even if you are looking for help and advice, please let us know.

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