

Scientists in Congregations: Water of Life

Meeting of Honley and Brockholes Learning Partnership

Notes from meeting of 21st February 2017 at 7pm in St Mary's Church Honley

1. The substantive discussion was around: Where are we now? What do we believe about science and our faith?

Questions for discussion are listed below:

- How can faith and science help us to ask (sensible & perceptive) questions?
 - Does faith encourage questions?
 - Does science encourage questions?
 - Dealing with doubts in a constructive way – ask questions about possible answers
 - 'enjoying' uncertainty
 - linguistic alignment to get into uncertainty and block questions
 - target setting and box ticking – school students often not encouraged to question
 - what do we mean by science?
 - Why is science different to theology? [is the latter the 'science of God?]
 - Theology is different from faith
 - Is following the scientific method contrary to God/faith?
 - God is ALWAYS subject – not object (like science)
2. Climate change and the River Holme – how do we look (differently) at this though the lense of science or through faith – see the Table below

SCIENCE		FAITH
Custodial and moral duty		
Food chain – e.g. upland grazing		We don't know what will happen tomorrow – faith tells us to rely on God
How are changing rainfall patterns going to change flood risk and drought?		Jesus is part of (not separate from) the earth
How can science help us to respond?		To respond in a positive way
How can we make it better and exploit/manage river?		
New Mill is on the flood plain		How do we care for others? Take people in when an event comes? (this is also for others not only people of faith). Should we lead in preparing/planning, with others?
Schools (witness) (our teachers?)		
New Mill (and Brockholes) is on the flood plain		Ours, others anxiety
		Listening groups?
		'safe space' provision
		prayers
		Just be open and honest about relying on faith
What information do we want to impart and who do we want to involve?		
Good materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powerpoints • Information sheets • Site visits • What is the state of the river? 		Need to work up an approach that presents: "because of my faith this is important to me – and may be different for others".
Where is the information about the state of the river in our Parish?		
What is the likelihood of serious problems in the future?		
How can we use this for amenity enhancement?		

Proceed with:

- School engagement
- Non-faith engagement
- Library information day

3. Next steps

1. Attend and reflect on the Water of Life conference on 9th March 2017 and consider attending the River 2015¹ event on 21st March 2017 at Holmfirth.
2. Develop materials to help understand the current state of the River Holme catchment (and the life within it).
3. Review how this is likely to change in future.
4. In parallel consider the faith questions and objectives in the Table above.
5. Progress the Prayer walk plans and any other initiatives arising from the conference on 9th March.

¹ Now called 'River Holme Connections'.