

Life Destiny Church – A recent history.

Life Destiny Church is two thousand years old, in that it can trace its roots back to when the Christian Church was first established in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. So, how have we come to be here and now, in Starbeck, Harrogate.

Our recent roots can be traced back to a couple called Barrie and Joan Stephenson. Barrie had his roots in the Assemblies of God Pentecostal church, whilst Joan's background was in the Methodist Church. As a young man Barrie felt he wanted to do 'something in evangelism'. As a member of Assemblies of God church this usually meant starting a new church. In 1977 Barrie and Joan moved from Ripon to Harrogate and started an embryonic church on the northern side of the town. He met with many of the Church leaders in Harrogate, setting out his vision – to reach out to the 98% of people in Harrogate who did not regularly attend church. Harrogate Christian Fellowship had been born.

Working alongside two other couples – Colin and Rhona Stanbury and Richard and Jenny Dean and with the oversight and input of the apostolic team headed up by Dave Tomlinson, from Middlesbrough, the church was blessed and grew in numbers. Many of these were new Christians but there were some people who were established Christians who moved into the area, usually for work purposes. One of these were the family of Wynn and Mary James.

Wynn James was a Religious Education teacher at Granby School (now Harrogate High) and had moved the family over from Leeds. Bought up in a United Reformed Church in Wales Wynn has always felt that God wanted him involved in church leadership in some way. The elders at Harrogate Christian Fellowship also recognised this calling and in 1987 Wynn joined the leadership team and was actively involved with the leadership for the next two years. The church continued to be blessed and grow in numbers. Early in 1989 Wynn was beginning to feel very strongly that God wanted him to move out of teaching and start leading a church full-time. After sharing this with the church leaders it was decided the best course of action was to plant a new church – in the neighbouring town of Knaresborough.

In September 1989 Knaresborough Community Church held its first meeting, in Knaresborough House. God blessed the work in Knaresborough and the church grew. Outgrowing Knaresborough House they then met in King James School. After 15 years the leadership felt that God was saying it should take the church back to Harrogate. Harrogate Christian Fellowship was still meeting as a church but over the recent few years many influential people within the church had moved on. The leadership of the two churches met, prayed and talked over the issue and the result was that a new church – Life Destiny Church – was founded, with the two old churches becoming one new church.

In July 2004 Life Destiny Church held their first meeting, in the Odeon Cinema in Harrogate Town Centre. We continued to meet there for the next twelve years until in 2016 when we moved to our present location in Starbeck.

At Life Destiny Church we have a vision to reach out to non-Christians and to see people come to faith in Christ. We also want to serve our local community, as it says in Isaiah 61, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, release the captives, comfort those who mourn and to reach out and be a blessing to our local community.

Want to know more about the history of Life Destiny Church? Click on the **link below** to read the essay '[Who do you think we are? A Christian DNA discovery of Life Destiny Church](#)'.