

Making Connections Toolkit Resources

General Resources

Country Way is a magazine that includes numerous examples of good practice from churches & communities across rural Britain, and often highlights useful resources and ideas. Produced by the Arthur Rank Centre, it comes out three times per year; subscriptions can be obtained online at:

www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/publications/country_way/index.html

Many past articles can also be searched for online, and most can be downloaded from:

www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/publications/country_way/search/index.asp

Mission-Shaped and Rural: growing churches in the countryside by Sally Gaze, from Church House Publishing (2006) contains numerous examples and reflections from all over rural England.

Parish Resources is maintained by the Church of England's National Stewardship Department, and contains a wide range of material supporting all aspects of stewardship in local churches. Find them at: www.parishresources.org.uk

Specifically, they have a useful *Stewardship Toolkit for Rural Churches*, which can be found at:

www.parishresources.org.uk/rural.htm

Presence published by the Methodist Church (2004), and available from the Arthur Rank Centre, is a workbook that helps promote and sustain an effective Christian presence in rural communities.

Re-Shaping Rural Ministry: a theological and practical handbook is from Canterbury Press (2009) edited by James Bell, Jill Hopkinson & Trevor Willmott. It adds a useful dimension to many of the areas covered in *Making Connections*.

Seeds in Holy Ground published by ACORA (2005), and available from the Arthur Rank Centre, is a workbook for rural churches. A downloadable version can be found at:

www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/rural_ministry_bookstall_and_resources/downloadable_resources/index.asp

Working with Others

ACRE is the national association of Rural Community Councils, present in each county to work with and strengthen voluntary organisations in building strong communities. www.acre.org.uk

Parish and Town Councils are the first step in local democracy. They have flexible powers to develop the local community and are natural allies of churches working for their local community. www.nalc.gov.uk

The Commission for Rural Communities is the Government's QUANGO dedicated to countering rural disadvantage. www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk

The Church Tourism Network for Wales promotes the importance of churches being open and well presented to visitors. www.ctnw.org.uk

The Churches Tourism Association invites your church/chapel to join in providing a positive experience, including encountering the Christian faith, to all visitors. www.churchestourismassociation.info

The Episcopal Church of Scotland shares its story and resources of how it has been developing collaborative ministry. www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/local_collaborative_ministry/

Hope 08 is an initiative of the churches of Britain and Ireland, supported by the Christian Enquiry Agency and the Church Army which is helping to demonstrate Christian faith in action and to explain the meaning of that faith in villages, towns and cities throughout the UK. www.hope08.com

The *Effective Christian Presence & Enterprise* programme (published in 2008) in Yorkshire & the Humber involved 19 examples of entrepreneurial community involvement by Christian groups or churches, all of which have inspirational ideas or approaches.

Find the report at: www.crc-online.org.uk/downloads/ECPE%20Main%20report.pdf

Find the case studies at: www.crc-online.org.uk/downloads/ECPE%20Case%20studies.pdf

Celebrating Diversity the story on page 7 – more information can be obtained from www.sifre.org.uk

The *Congregational Questionnaire* mentioned on p.10 – to discover how church members are connected into their community – can be downloaded from:

http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/rural_ministry_bookstall_and_resources/downloadable_resources/datafile.asp?ID=116&DocType=pdf

Land and Buildings

Faith in Affordable Housing is a free web-based resource, giving practical and technical information to assist churches in using church land and property to provide affordable housing. The guide presents nine case studies from different denominations and from rural and urban areas. www.fiah.org.uk

ACRE and the Rural Community Action Network of village hall advisers provide an information and advice service for those who manage village halls and other rural community buildings. www.acre.org.uk/communityassets_villagehalls_findadvisor.html

They also provide specific information on church buildings. www.acre.org.uk/communityassets_churches.html

Church buildings, especially those that provide space for community activities or wish to do so, can access advice and help through [Church of England Church Care](#) or on 020 7898 1886.

The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division (CCB) of the Church of England has contributed to a paper called [Church and Faith Buildings: Realising the Potential](#) to help faith groups identify sources of funding that could develop places of worship to make them better able to deliver public services, and to build the capacity of faith groups to engage strategically at local and regional levels around the delivery of local priorities and access to national funding.

The Resourcing Mission Office of the Methodist Church provides the local church with ideas, support and encouragement for its mission, with particular regard to church buildings. www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=churchlife.content&cmd=165

Work is carried out in close association with the [Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes \(TMCP\)](#), who provide legal help on all property matters and who hold the legal title to Methodist property.

One Church, One Hundred Uses CIC aims to support the mission of the United Reformed Church by working with local congregations to maximise the use of their buildings. It aims to achieve high quality, imaginative, yet practical solutions for the effective regeneration of churches for wider community use, whilst retaining them as URC properties where possible. www.onechurch100uses.org/cms

There is a guide to the *Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007* which aims to inform and resource those who are living in a rural area and are seeking to develop their mission and ministry. It can be found at: <http://content.yudu.com/A1fn82/DPMMGuide/> or [DPMM Rural Guide1109.pdf](#)

Hidden Britain is a charity-run initiative to encourage tourism, to uncover lesser known areas of the countryside, and to provide a different and more meaningful experience for the visitor. For guidance, advice and support please visit: www.hidden-britain.co.uk

Presence and Buildings is a brief paper exploring church buildings as an invaluable resource and tool in the sharing of God's mission. It provides stories and examples of the creative and innovative use of church premises in rural communities. It can be found at: www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/rural_ministry_bookstall_and_resources/downloadable_resources/index.asp

Crossing the Threshold from Hereford Diocese (2009) includes an online toolkit for a *Community Development Approach to the Use of Church Buildings*. This can be found at: www.hereford.anglican.org/churchgoers/community_partnership_and_funding/about_us_and_latest_news/toolkit.aspx

You are welcome – a visitor toolkit for churches is a practical, step-by-step guide to making your church a welcoming place for visitors. It can be downloaded from: www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk/tourism/resources/

Including Young People

Making Sense of Generation Y: The world view of 16-25 year olds by Sara Savage, Sylvia Collins-Mayo, Bob Mayo with Graham Cray, Church House Publishing (2006). Based on original research, this explores how young people aged 15-25 draw on popular culture to shape their worldview and spirituality. The results of this research suggest that many of the Church's previous assumptions about this generation have been wrong. How can the Church begin to reconnect with this generation? *Making Sense of Generation Y* grapples with this challenging question and suggests ways forward.

For ideas, resources and guidance for youth ministry go to: www.youthwork.co.uk

The aim of Youth for Christ's church and school's resource department is to serve local schools and churches of all denominations as they work with young people. Go to: www.yfc.co.uk/resources

For information about the Methodist Church's work with children and young people go to: www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=churchlife.content&cmid=1635

For information about the United Reformed Church's work with young people go to: [www.urc.org.uk/what we do/youth/youth](http://www.urc.org.uk/what_we_do/youth/youth)

Mission-shaped Youth: rethinking young people and church by Lindsay Urwin, Tim Sudworth, Graham Cray, and Chris Russell, Church House Publishing (2007). This examines what it means to have a 'youth-mission-shaped church'. Using case studies and discussion starters, it examines school and congregation-based projects, creative ways of engaging young people and asks what church should be for young people.

The *National Charter for Church Youth Workers* helps churches reach the highest standards in the way they employ a youth worker. It is being run across all denominations and churches and is all about making a positive difference to churches, to youth workers and, above all, to young people. Details can be found at: www.weloveouryouthworker.org.uk

Although not church-related, the Rural Youth Network has significant information and resources that are focused on supporting those who actually work with rural young people. They are at: www.ruralyouth.com

Sharing Faith

The Bible Reading Fellowship has for many years provided useful materials to help people explore their own faith. The BRF has developed new materials to help Christians share their faith with friends. BRF, 15 The Chambers, Vineyard, Abingdon, OX14 3FE www.brfonline.org.uk

How do you best share your faith? What are the dos and don'ts? Can you evangelize whilst staying in dialogue? How does the truth that is in Jesus relate to other forms of truth? www.face2faith.co.uk is a well constructed, easy-to-use website from the Diocese of Chichester.

Lost for Words is a course aimed at helping you to share your faith in Christ in a natural way that you will be comfortable with. Information about the course can be found – for example - at: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/what_we_do/mission_communications/evangelism/available_courses/lost_for_words/ or from the publishers at: www.cpas.org.uk/shop/category/13/view/30

For more than 10 years, *Emmaus* has been used by God as a powerful instrument to bring adults to faith, to nurture new Christians and inspire life-long discipleship. Thousands of people have grown in their Christian faith as a result. Find this at: www.e-mmaus.org.uk/

There are a range of resources, ideas and useful contacts or links that have a specifically rural emphasis on the Centre for Rural Mission website: <http://ruralmissions.org.uk/>

Supporting Christians at Work from Hereford Diocese is a helpful 16-page workbook divided into 4 sessions, ideal for small group use. Find this at:

www.hereford.anglican.org/Content/Documents/Supporting%20Christians%20at%20Work.pdf

“Christians at Work” (at: www.christiansatwork.org.uk) is an organisation with a strong web-presence, and very wide range of resources – both to purchase and for free download – related to the whole area of “Work & Faith”. *All their resources* can be found through links at:

www.christiansatwork.org.uk/cgi-bin/caw.cgi?usr=0&page=resources

(Of particular interest may be the **Bible Studies**, which can be obtained from the link above.)

The Industrial Mission Association (IMA) (at: www.industrialmission.org.uk) is the established network of lay people and clergy working at the interface between faith and work.

Faith in Action, from the Diocese of Derby Council for Social responsibility (2008), gives the rationale, background and examples from churches in Derbyshire as a *Guide to Community Mission*. All can be downloaded, and a CD-ROM ordered, from the project pages at:

www.faithinderbyshire.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=45&Itemid=61

About Our Father's Business – a Faith and Work Resources Toolkit has been produced by St. Peter's Saltley Trust & the Churches' Industrial Group, Birmingham (CIGB). It is a 42-page resource and workbook, and can be downloaded at:

www.saltleytrust.org.uk/pub/Faith%20and%20Work%20Resources%20-%20Formatted%20Bookfold%201.doc

Foundations 21 is a free web-based discipleship course, ideal for new and experienced Christians wanting to share their faith with others as well as deepen their own spiritual life. There are a multitude of resources, approaches and learning styles. Find this at: [www.FOUNDATIONS21.org.uk](http://wwwFOUNDATIONS21.org.uk)

Now a Christian is free email-based course (over 5 weeks) for new Christians from the Church Army. It can be found at: www.nowachristian.org

Working with Schools

ROOTS is an ecumenical publication based on the *Revised Common Lectionary*, providing a wealth of material to support the week by week worship and learning of the whole Church community. It consists of two bi-monthly magazines for leaders – *ROOTS Adult & All Age* and *ROOTS Children & Young People* – supplemented by www.rootsontheweb.com

The National Society for Promoting Religious Education exists to inform and encourage Church schools throughout England and Wales and to promote Christian education. On their website there are resources and information on support for all those involved in the schools in their area. www.natsoc.org.uk/parishes/

Rural Children, Rural Church by Rona Orme, Church House Publishing (2007)

Not Sunday, Not School by Eleanor Zuercher, BRF (2006). A year's worth of ideas and resources for workshops with children based on the seasonal church calendar. Further ideas and resources can be downloaded from: www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/nsns

Through the Year with Jesus by Eleanor Zuercher, BRF (2009) resources for working with children over one year based on Jesus' life and teaching. Additional resources are available online at: www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/pdfs/throughtheyearwithjesus-additional_content.pdf

The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) has a raft of further ideas & resources related to work in and with schools at: www.barnabasinschools.org.uk

Messy Church and *Messy Church 2* both by Lucy Moore, BRF (2006 & 2008) Lots of creative ideas for bringing different ages together for fun, food and worship. More resources & ideas, as well as a very helpful online 'community', are available via: www.messychurch.org.uk

Mission-Shaped Children by Margaret Withers, from Church House Publishing (2006), has some helpful ideas and examples of good practice that relate to the overlap between children at church and at school.

Church Schools: a mission-shaped vision by Tim Elbourne, from Grove (2009), gives a helpful introduction to the nature of the relationships & responsibilities existing between local church and local church school, and examines what this means in practical terms.

Creative Worship

The Arthur Rank Centre website contains a wide variety of ideas and resources for use in worship in rural churches. It is updated regularly. Follow the link from the front page of the ARC website or click on the link below:

www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/rural_worship_resources/search/index.asp

Seasonal Worship from the Countryside by The Staffordshire Seven, SPCK (2003).

A collection of interesting and innovative prayers, liturgies and service suggestions reflecting the liturgical, seasonal and farming year.

Common Worship – Times and Seasons Church House Publishing (2007).

A wide range of material for the church year. Available to download via:

www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/resources/downloads/pdftexts.html

New Patterns for Worship Church House Publishing (2002).

Information on planning worship services particularly seasonal and special services of the Word.

Available to download via:

www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/newpatterns/index.html

The Iona Community have a wide range of worship resources which can be used for all sorts of different occasions and situations. Find these at: www.iona.org.uk or www.ionabooks.com

The Comprehensive Dramatised Bible by Michael Perry, Collins (1989). A large number of selected Bible passages dramatised for three or four people to read or act out. Useful for services involving children, young people and all ages.

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Harvest for the World compiled by Geoffrey Duncan for Christian Aid and Cafod, Canterbury Press (2004). An anthology of worship ideas and resources based around creation

Let Justice Roll Down compiled by Geoffrey Duncan for Christian Aid and Cafod, Canterbury Press (2003). An anthology for Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Shine On Star of Bethlehem compiled by Geoffrey Duncan for Christian Aid and Cafod, Canterbury Press (2004). A worship resource for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

Sense Making Faith: body, spirit, journey by Anne Richards and the Church of England Theological Advisory Group (from CTBI, 2007) provides a wealth of examples, ideas and reflections for creative and innovative use of the senses in worship.

A helpful website accompanies this publication, at: www.spiritualjourneys.org.uk

More information on the Declaration of Ecumenical Welcome can be obtained from:

www.churches-together.net/Articles/61505/Churches_Together_in/Local_Ecumenism/Ecumenical_Notes/5_SINGLE_CHURCH.aspx