



Tuesday, 26 May 2009

ARC asks city dwellers to thank God for farmers

The Arthur Rank Centre is asking people in towns and cities to join country-dwellers in thanking God for the work of farmers, on Open Farm Sunday (Sunday 7th June 2009). A special prayer has been written for churches to use on the day.

Rev'd Dr Gordon Gatward, Director of ARC, said: 'We hope people, wherever they live, will join us in contemplating where their food comes from and celebrating the work of the farmers who produce it, by using this prayer in their services on 7th June'

The ARC is a charity which supports the rural community and its churches through a programme of community and social projects, resourcing and training.

Cabbages come in polythene bags,
devoid of hidden insects and other creepy crawlies.
Potatoes are mud free and ready for the oven.
Meat is presented in sterile packs
whilst milk is pasteurised and semi skimmed
in conveniently shaped containers
that fit in the fridge.

It's all a million miles
from where the story began,
and the world of those who should tell it.

Those who prepare the land,
plough it and cultivate it;
sow it and plant it,
weed it and spray it,
irrigate it and harvest it,
and sort and transport
the crop that's produced.

Those who calve the cow,
stay with it and tend it;
feed it and milk it,
help with the birth
and watch the calf grow.
Who tag it and protect it,
Nurture it and feed it,
until it's ready for market
as a strong healthy beast.

So many hours and so much skill.
Generations of experience,



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tending the land and caring for stock.
So much effort, so many risks,
the weather, disease, the whim of the market
all to put food on my plate.

Lord I thank you
for those who produce the food that I eat;
for their commitment and effort
their knowledge, their skills.

And forgive me I pray
that I take them for granted,
forget what they do
and ignore what I owe.

May I value their work
and all it produces,
May I give them the respect
and the appreciation they deserve.

And may I give you the glory,
as Creator Provider,
the giver of all that I now thank you for.
Amen

This prayer is available on the ARC website (arthurrankcentre.org.uk) along with other resources for churches and communities in the countryside. ARC is happy for its prayers to be reproduced, but please acknowledge the Arthur Rank Centre on each occasion.

Ends

For more information please contact:

Rev'd Dr Gordon Gatward
024 7685 3060
Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ

Notes

The **Arthur Rank Centre** is a charity supported by the National Churches, the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Rank Foundation, which supports the rural community and its churches through a programme of community and social projects, resourcing and training; website: arthurrankcentre.org.uk



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On **Open Farm Sunday** the public can get a behind-the-scenes look at life on a farm and the nature it sustains. The annual event is organised by Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF) and hundreds of farmers are taking part by inviting the public to visit their farm where there will be nature trails, talks, tastings and demonstrations; website **farmsunday.org**.