

Review of Seeds in Holy Ground

A Workbook for Rural Churches

Seeds in Holy Ground is a workbook written for Rural Churches that has been produced by the Rural Affairs Committee in association with the National Rural Officer Jill Hopkinson. It has been designed to help all rural churches become a more effective and living Christian presence within their communities. It is aimed at rural clergy, PCCs and small study groups.

In form it is a workbook that can be used to tackle specific issues such as:

- working with rural communities
- how to share ministry,
- engaging with and understanding the rural context
- and looking at rural mission in a new way.

There are questions and activities for small groups to use to help understand and develop ideas, with some suggested Bible study references. Activities are linked to worship, mission, the surrounding community and to celebrating rural life. The workbook is suitable for use in multi-parish benefices and team ministries. One of the things that I found most appealing about this workbook is the wide range of real examples and case studies that are used to illustrate the information given. It also brings together many useful addresses and is a very good resource guide.

Jill Hopkinson writes

“This workbook is not about encouraging rural churches to try to do even more.....the aim is to do only a few things, perhaps only one thing, but to do whatever is done really well. It is quality not quantity that counts for the rural church. This workbook will help with the reflection and prayer that is needed to help rural churches to grow in strength and ability.”

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Price 3.99 (£3 for five or more)

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HELPFUL RESOURCES FROM SEEDS IN HOLY GROUND

Promote and sustain a Christian presence in villages

www.mph.org.uk

Ecumenical Partnerships

www.churches-together.org.uk/resources_ecumenical.html

www.cofe.anglican.org/info/ccu/england/resources/

www.churches-together.org.uk/resources.html

Worship in small numbers

www.cofe.anglican.org/info/education/children/childstrategy.rtf

Communion by extension

www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/other/extension/extensionfront.html

Parish Plans

www.acre.org.uk

Rural Regeneration through Sustainable tourism

www.hidden-britain.co.uk

How to work in Partnership

www.acre.org.uk

Making your church welcome for visitors

www.churchestourismassociation.info

www.openchurchestrust.org.uk

www.ecclesiastical.co.uk

www.nationalchurchwatch.com

A Mission Shaped Church

www.freshexpressions.org.uk

Cell Church

www.celluk.org.uk

OTHER RESOURCES ~ BOOKS / MAGAZINES

Country Way Magazine www.arcadmin@rase.org.uk

Ecumenical Rural Resource Unit. Arthur Rank Centre. www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk

Beyond the Parish Pump. The church alive in the countryside. Jill Turner (2003)

Bridging the Gap. (Acora publishing. 1999)

Changing Rural Life. Edited by Martineau, Francis & Francis. (SCM Canterbury press 2004)

Journeying Out. Ann Morisy. (Morehouse 2004)

Ministry in the Countryside. Andrew Bowden. (Continuum 2003)

Rural Ministry & Rural Mission. (Acora publishing 2000 & 2002)

The Country Vicar. David Osborne. (DTL 2004)

Turning the Sod. (Acora publishing. 1996)

COURSES ~ THE CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RURAL MINISTRY (CRSM)

A partnership between the Arthur Rank Centre and the University of Wales, Bangor offers continuing professional development in Rural Ministry and is open to all. CRSM enables people to undertake guided study and research on themes of ones own choosing related to the church. Participants can work towards a Masters degree. It provides an opportunity to have skills in Rural Ministry whilst researching an area of interest. For more information:

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Hugh Baker & Dennis Handley