

# Witness: rural outreach - resources



## Norwich Thrive Communities – multi-parish benefices that work



“Setting up groups of people sharing common concerns and beliefs, actively engaged in learning together how to co-operate with

God’s mission in the world.” Groups of 4-6 people from several multi-parish benefices in the diocese willing to commit to a two-year programme of development and growth. Each group must include the vicar or rector, plus leaders, lay or ordained, with significant influence in the life of the benefice.

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## Released for Mission – Growing the Rural Church



The challenges of rural ministry are addressed in this report aimed at releasing the energies of clergy and lay people for mission in the

countryside. The study makes a series of recommendations including locally accessible training and development for lay people and clergy working in multi-church groups. Not available as a paper copy, but pdf downloadable here: <https://goo.gl/jTohSO>

## The Arthur Rank Centre

Supporting rural communities and churches through a programme of community and social projects, resourcing and training. “We work to improve the lives of the 900,000 rural households living in poverty, as well as to inspire and equip the UK’s 13,000 rural churches, helping them bring social and spiritual transformation to their communities.”



The Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park,  
Warwickshire CV8 2LG, 02476 853060  
[officeadmin@arthurrankcentre.org.uk](mailto:officeadmin@arthurrankcentre.org.uk)  
[www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk)

## Rural Ministries

An evangelical mission agency working throughout the UK. “We work alongside a wide variety of churches and initiatives across the denominations helping to face the challenges of mission in the rural context.”

BM Box 3716, London,  
WC1N 3XX, 0845 600 6788  
[office@ruralministries.org.uk](mailto:office@ruralministries.org.uk)  
[www.ruralministries.org.uk](http://www.ruralministries.org.uk)



## The Rural Evangelism

**Network** exists to encourage good practice in evangelising the rural communities of the UK by “sharing with one another our understanding and experience of what is appropriate and strategies and processes that have proved to be effective.”

Centre for Rural Mission,  
4 Clarence Street, Market Harborough  
LE16 7NE, 01858 414930  
[ren@ruralmissions.org.uk](mailto:ren@ruralmissions.org.uk)  
[www.ruralevangelism.net](http://www.ruralevangelism.net)

**HOPE** is a catalyst for local church mission in villages, towns and cities. Some useful tips and ideas on their rural communities page. “For some rural congregations, especially small ones, mission can seem like an impossible task, or one that needs to be done by someone else, but it is not. Everyone has some skill or gift that they can contribute to making a difference for the Kingdom of God as effective mission in the countryside is based around the whole community.” <http://goo.gl/Pdc541>



## Growing Through Mission conference



23–25 October 2015 at Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton

Keynote speakers: Pete and Kath Atkins (responsible for training and development in the Fresh Expressions movement). Reflect on what it means to re-understand our role as missionaries today in our changing context and culture. Reflecting on some of the emerging forms of mission and church, we will encourage one another to take the message of the Gospel to our rural communities.

Book through **Rural Ministries** (contact details left) or at the following link: [www.ruralministries.org.uk/conferences](http://www.ruralministries.org.uk/conferences)

## Rural Mission Sunday

Launching on 19 July 2015: a new annual event celebrating the work of small rural churches.

Organised by the Arthur Rank Centre. “We feel passionately about the importance of small churches; we know they do mission and want to celebrate that fact. This July we are launching Rural Mission Sunday and we invite you to get involved by holding a special service on the theme of bread. We have dozens of resources to help, and they could be used anytime in July, or indeed another time of year altogether.” <http://goo.gl/K3jmxK>