

RURAL MINISTRY COURSE: DETAILED READING & RESOURCE LIST

prepared by the Arthur Rank Centre (ARC)

"CORE" Titles	Author	Date	Publisher	Comment
Across a Threshold: a family of rural church plants	Lings, G.	2009	Church Army	"Encounters on the Edge" issue looking at, & reflecting on, a real-life group of churches in contemporary rural context
All Mud & Matins? Understanding Rural Worship	Lack, P.	2008	Grove	Workbook & survey of issues facing rural & small churches in relation to worship & mission
Beyond the Parish Pump: the church alive in the countryside	Turner, J.	2003	Hempnall Team Council	Stimulating & sympathetic look at mission & ministry of Anglican multi-parish team over 40 years
Blurred Encounters: a reasoned practice of faith	Reader, J.	2005	Aureus Publishing	Serious & significant theological engagement with issues on the 'borderline' of church & community in rural contexts
Bridging the Gap: the church in the local community (workbook)	Martineau, J. (ed.)	1999	ACORA Publishing	Brief practical reflections on church involvement in community in a rural context
Changing Rural Life: a Christian response to key rural issues	Martineau, J. <i>et.al.</i> (eds.)	2004	SCM/Canterbury Press	Very significant collection of bishops' reflections on 'rural' - with excellent chapters on community & mission in rural Anglican contexts
Country Vicar, the	Osborne, D.	2004	DLT	A contemporary look at Anglican parish ministry - drawing on a variety of models & examples
Effective Working with Rural Communities	Derounian, J.G.	1998	Packard Publishing	Key introduction to rural community engagement, from an author sympathetic to rural church issues
Faith in Rural Communities	Farnell, R. <i>et.al.</i>	2006	ACORA Publishing	The role of churches in the lives of rural communities in England
Faith in the Countryside		1990	ACORA Publishing	The original, major Anglican report - much still relevant, yet unfulfilled
First the Blade: growing churches in rural communities	Treasure, G.	2002	CPAS	Basic workbook for individuals & churches seeking to start evangelism in their own rural communities
God-Shaped Mission: theological & practical perspectives from the rural church	Smith, A.	2008	Canterbury Press	A thorough & helpful look at all aspects of the mission & work of the church in contemporary rural contexts. Although written from an Anglican perspective it applies across all churches.
Grass is always Greener, the: rural life & Christian faith		2002	Church House Publishing	Interactive workbook studying significant scenarios faced by the rural church & rural Christians

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Key to Effective Rural Evangelism, the	Osborne, B.	2006	Rural Sunrise	Traditional evangelical approach to evangelism as rural mission
Ministry in the Countryside	Bowden, A.	2003	Continuum	Advocate for a particular emphasis in Anglican rural ministry
Mission-Shaped & Rural: growing churches in the countryside	Gaze, S.	2006	Church House Publishing	Study of new ways of being church & doing mission in the English rural context
Presence: a workbook to promote & sustain an effective Christian presence in villages		2004	Methodist Publishing House	Based in a Methodist context - a very useful guide to making more of the Christian 'presence' in villages
Rural Children, Rural Church: mission opportunities in the countryside	Orme, R.	2007	Church House Publishing	Helpful & relevant look at working with children & families in the context of rural churches & communities
Rural Evangelism in the 21 st Century	Osborne, B.	2006	Grove	Overview of approaches to evangelism related to rural communities & rural churches in a variety of contexts
Rural Ministry (workbook)	Francis, L. & Martineau, J.	2000	ACORA Publishing	Developing lay ministry within rural Anglican contexts
Rural Mission (workbook)	Francis, L. & Martineau, J.	2002	ACORA Publishing	The whole breadth of 'mission' examined in rural Anglican contexts
Rural Praise (workbook)	Francis, L. & Martineau, J.	1996	ACORA Publishing	Resourcing, and engaging with, worship in rural Anglican contexts
Rural Visitors (workbook)	Francis, L. & Martineau, J.	2001	ACORA Publishing	Making the most of increasing rural church tourism (largely Anglican)
Rural Youth (workbook)	Francis, L. & Martineau, J.	2001	ACORA Publishing	Covering numerous areas of children's & youth work in rural Anglican contexts
Seasonal Worship from the Countryside	Staffordshire Seven	2003	SPCK	Crucial resource for worship in rural contexts - across the denominations and covering numerous traditional and less-traditional events & opportunities
Seeds in Holy Ground: a workbook for rural churches		2005	ACORA Publishing	Excellent study & resource guide looking at 13 key areas of rural Anglican church life & mission
Turning the Sod: a workbook on the multi-parish benefice	Martineau, J. (ed.)	1995	ACORA Publishing	Useful workbook designed for those in rural Anglican multi-parish benefices & teams

"CORE" Titles	Author	Date	Publisher	Comment
Welcoming Small Congregations: affirming & developing the mission of small charges	Tomlinson, A.	2007	Scottish Episcopal Church	An excellent workbook & manual from the Local Collaborative Ministry project of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Ideal for small & rural churches everywhere.

"SUPPLEMENTARY" Titles	Author	Date	Publisher	Comment
Christian Theology of Place, a	Inge, J.	2003	Ashgate	Serious reflection on issues of space, place & holiness - relevant for the rural church
Church Watch: Christianity in the countryside	Francis, L.J.	1996	SPCK	An excellent, detailed study of the nature & function of Anglican & other churches in a number of distinct types of rural community
Country Parish, the	Russell, A.	1986	SPCK	Though somewhat dated, this still contains relevant material on rural community and the rural Anglican parish
Farm, the: the story of one family & the English countryside	Benson, R.	2005	Hamish Hamilton	Powerful personal reflection on contemporary English rural life
Harvest: food, farming & the churches	Gorringe, T.J.	2006	SPCK	Crucial contemporary look at the ethics & justice of farming, food & water - at a practical level for church reflection & worship
Land of the Living: Christian reflections on the countryside	MacDonald, I.	2005	Virtual Bookworm	Theological, biblical & social reflections on contemporary agriculture, farmers, environment and global trade & justice
Land, the: place as gift, promise & challenge in biblical faith	Brueggemann, W.	2002	Fortress Press/Augsburg	Significant theological reflection on many aspects of 'land' and 'the Land' in the Bible
Return to Akenfield: portrait of an English village in the 21 st century	Taylor, C.	2006	Granta Books	Engaging reflection on a contemporary English rural community - returning to the scene of an earlier well-known study
Rural Development: principles & practice	Moseley, M.	2003	Sage Publications	Significant & readable survey of planning, managing & financing local-level rural development
Rural Settlement & Urban Impact on the Countryside	Hill, M.	2003	Hodder & Stoughton	Brief, digestible survey of the state of rural settlements today - valuable background information
Theology of the Built Environment, a: justice, empowerment, redemption	Gorringe, T.J.	2002	Cambridge University Press	Crucial & serious study, including several key chapters on rural contexts and rural-urban interaction

Most of these books (and many others) are still in print & available through the ARC's 'Rural Ministry Resources'. Log on here:
http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/rural_ministry_bookstall_and_resources/index.html

There are also some important & helpful materials available for free download from the Internet, via the ARC website. Log on here:
http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/rural_ministry_bookstall_and_resources/downloadable_resources/index.asp

A wealth of worship materials relevant for rural contexts are also available (most freely downloadable) on the ARC website. Log on here:
http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/rural_worship_resources/index.html

There is also a large database of key references & links for much relevant for rural communities & churches on the ARC website at:
http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications_and_resources/key_rural_references_database/index.html

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