

RURAL BRIEFING – February 2010

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To register your interest in any of the items below, or further information please contact:
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Rural Practitioners Group –

The Practitioners Group is open to anyone, clergy or lay who has an interest in rural mission and ministry. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18th March when the group will be visiting the Barham Downs Group. The day starts at 10am with coffee. The group will then be visiting the high spots of the Barham Downs group. Lunch will be in a local pub.

In our fourth year, the other meetings for 2010 are as follows -

Wednesday 12th May – Goudhurst with Kilndown
Thursday 16th September – Biddenden and Smarden
Tuesday 9th November – Ringwould with Kingsdown and Ripple with Sutton by Dover

All meetings start at 10am and end by 3pm.
To book your place contact the Rural Adviser

Multi-Parish Training 20th -21st April 2010 at Worth Abbey

For the first time, the Arthur Rank Centre is running its multi-parish benefice training in the South of England. The training workshop is open to those working in a multi-parish setting in urban or rural contexts and will be held at Worth Abbey from 20th -21st April. Provisional cost is £105. Places are very limited, so to book your place or express an interest in the course, please contact the Rural Adviser – caroline@churchinsociety.org

God's Acre Project - Churchyards Workshop

Saturday 27th February 9.30am to 1pm at Lenham Community Hall

To help those who would like to pursue further an interest in their local churchyard. The itinerary for the workshop will be talks by experts on bats, lichens, grassland management, rules and regulations of churchyards, churchyard heritage, and how to study the history of your churchyard.

The cost for the workshop is £10. (Cheques made payable to Church in Society)

There will be representatives from Kent Wildlife Trust, Kent Bat Group, Kent Mammal Group, British Lichen Society, Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group (KRAG) and Kent

Heritage Trees Project. There will be opportunities to discuss with them any issues you might wish to raise.

To book your place, please contact caroline@churchinsociety.org or 01795 - 890487

Kent God's Acre Project

All PCC secretaries have received information about the God's Acre Project and how it can be of use to local churches. They will have received an expression of interest form for the project, which if your church(es) are interested in the project it is vital that it is completed and returned as soon as possible.

Churchyards – Possible Funding Opportunities

The Phillips Fund

The aim of The Phillips Fund is to protect, conserve and enhance the use and character of Kent's rural landscape and its communities. The Fund supports charities, voluntary groups and community organisations using volunteers to deliver small but beneficial conservation and environmental projects to rural communities in Kent.

The kind of activities that might be supported:

- Planting of trees and hedging
- Regeneration of hedgerows or village ponds
- Creation of wildflower meadows, new native woodlands
- Restoration of local habitats

Applications are invited for grants of between £250 and £2,000. Grants will be awarded in April and October

For more information or to arrange a meeting with one of our outreach advisors please call 01303 814500 [The Phillips Fund](http://www.kentcf.org.uk) Kent Community Foundation, Office 23, Evegate Park Barn, Smeeth, Ashford TN23 6SX. E mail: admin@kentcf.org.uk

Kent's Heritage Trees Project - Run by BTCV

Would you like to become involved?

Veteran and ancient trees (Heritage Trees) are the old trees we admire in our woodland and parkland, the gnarled oaks in the hedgerows and the willows alongside our rivers. We are fortunate to have an array of these old trees here in Kent. The great age, size and condition of these trees makes them a unique and vital habitat for wildlife. They are also 'green monuments' within our landscape, giving atmosphere and richness to the environment, in which we live and work.

BTCV (the UK's leading conservation charity) is applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund to run a 5 year Kent Heritage Trees Project. The proposed initiative will help to promote, protect and conserve heritage trees within Kent and we are looking for volunteers of all ages, community groups, organisations and schools to become involved with this project. If our grant application is successful, free training, equipment and advice will be given to anyone who would like to get involved.

For further information contact the Rural Life Adviser

Community Shops and Transport Schemes

All PCC secretaries will have received information about these two schemes that are running in the County. Particularly, the rural transport scheme may be of interest to those with transport difficulties. To find out more go to www.ruralkent.org.uk click on "our work" then "rural transport".