

RURAL BRIEFING – May 2010

In this briefing –

- Rural Practitioners Group – Wednesday 12th May
- Rogation Sunday Worship Resources– 9th May
- Kent Climate Change Conference – 5th June 2010
- Crossing the Threshold 2010 – A community development approach to church buildings. Thursday 30th September
- BBC looking for couples to live “The Good Life”
- Churchyards
 - Kent Wildlife Churchyard Award 2010
 - Possible funding opportunities (Phillips Fund, Heritage Trees Project)

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 on Wednesday 12th May when we will be visiting the parishes of Goudhurst with Kilndown. Revd Bill Hornsby will be our guide around the communities and sharing information about their “Fresher’s Fair”!

Further meetings in the year will be at -

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

Rogation Sunday – 9th May

Worship resources are available on the Arthur Rank Centre website including Seasonal Worship in the Countryside material. The website address is – www.arthurrankcentre.org

Climate Change Conference – 5th June

Be prepared, save money, take action!

Community Climate Change Conference 2010’

When: Saturday 5 June 2010

Where: The Singleton Environment Centre in Ashford, Kent, TN23 5LW.

Time: 9.30am-4pm

It’s a free event!

The conference aims to provide you with the opportunity to gain the practical skills, knowledge, resources and ideas to start new or expand existing environmental projects within your community.

Outline of the day

In the morning there will be speakers and stands from:

- Chris Church – chair of the UK Low Carbon Communities Network.
- Ashton Hayes (Cheshire) – aiming to become the UK's first carbon neutral community.
- Energy Savings Trust.
- Environment Agency.
- Kent County Council Funding Team.

In the afternoon there will be workshops on:

- Securing funding and writing applications.
- Project development skills and action planning.
- Community engagement and communications.
- Community flood plans.
- Community visioning.

How to book your place

If you represent a group in Kent and would like to reduce your community's environmental impact, please come along and share your ideas, knowledge and enthusiasm. The conference is free to anyone interested in empowering their community to take action!

To register interest or to book your place, please email climate.change@kent.gov.uk

Crossing the Threshold 2010 – Thursday 30th September

A day for churches to come and hear about opportunities and projects which can help their presence in the community. There will be presentations, seminars and a market place from a number of organisations to help churches explore how they might use and adapt their buildings for the wider community.

The costs will be either, £30 per individual, £50 for parish rate (two people attending) **until 31st July**, afterwards it will be £40 per individual, and £ 60 for the parish rate.

To register your interest crossingthethreshold2010@googlemail.com

BBC looking for couples to live “The Good Life”

“Are you sick of the rat race? Wish your life was more “Good Life” than “This Life”? Is a day on the allotment your idea of heaven? Think you can run your own business?

The BBC is looking for ten couples to take part in a new series which will really put your aptitude for farming to the test. Over six weeks you'll learn how to run and manage your own farm; from animal husbandry and harvesting, to coping with the unpredictable British weather. The series will culminate in the winning pair getting the opportunity to live and work on their own small farm.

Whatever your background or relationship; friends / married / siblings, as long as you both share that yearning for a life on the farm we want to hear from you. To apply, please email your name to Fraser Mullen at farm@splashmediatv.co.uk and an application form will be emailed to you. Successful candidates may spend up to six weeks away from home in summer 2010.”

CHURCHYARDS

Kent Wildlife Churchyard Award 2010

In partnership with the Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Gardening Awards, for the first time there will be a special award for the Best Wildlife Churchyard. The award will be the Kent God’s Acre Wildlife Churchyard and there will be Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Entry forms will soon be available.

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.

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](#) 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