

RURAL BRIEFING – NOVEMBER 2009

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To register your interest in any of the items below, or further information please contact – Caroline Pinchbeck, Diocesan Rural Life and Environmental Adviser

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URGENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – Before Thursday 5th November!

Youth and Childrens projects in your parish(es) – a request for information

I have been asked by Kent County Council for information on the churches contribution and provision of activities for young people in rural communities.

The request arrived today, and the information is required by Thursday 5th November (tomorrow!).

If you can send me a short email of activities your church(es) provide, indicate if you employ anyone to do this work; and or, whether it is voluntary would be useful.

Thank you in advance for your help and assistance.

RURAL LIFE & FAITH SURVEY – A request from the Arthur Rank Centre

The **Arthur Rank Centre (ARC)** is conducting a substantial survey of the resources & training that are available to and used by rural churches throughout the UK. We would like leaders & members of all denominations and training institutions or bodies to participate in the first wave of this survey – which involves three groups of people:

- (1) staff in training institutions or members of training bodies, along with national or regional church leaders and those with general responsibilities for training & resourcing;
- (2) individual leaders of rural churches – both recognised ministers & laity;
- (3) active members of local rural churches.

There is a simple survey for each of these groups to do (which should take only a few minutes of your time). You can find all the surveys in a variety of formats on the **Rural Life & Faith (RLF) Survey** page of the ARC website at: www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk

But you can also go direct to an online version of each survey as follows, which may be the easiest thing for you to do:

Each individual questionnaire can be completed as often as you like, depending on the number of examples you want to tell us about!

When you do the survey, if you indicate willingness for further involvement we will contact you in due course and follow up in more detail.

If you have any questions, you can contact me, Simon Martin, the Project Officer at simonm@rase.org.uk or on **024-7685-3068**

God's Acre Project © - Pilot Project call for expressions of interest

Arising from the Cherishing Churchyards workshops held this year, and in consultation with the Lincs Wolds Countryside Project we are working with other partnership organisations to develop the God's Acre Project in Kent.

The project is to encourage communities to develop the following aspects of churchyards wildlife management, geology, social history and heritage. In order to obtain funding for the project, a pilot project is being developed. To date, more than 100 parishes have been represented at workshops, and have expressed an interest in the project.

More information about the project, and to obtain an expression of interest form please contact Caroline.

Multi-Parish Benefice Forum

The Forum will have a particular focus for those ministering in a multi-parish benefice, and for those who will be gaining additional parishes. A number of clergy have made enquiries as to whether they can meet to discuss the particularities, opportunities and difficulties of working in a multi-parish benefice. There will be a meeting in the coming months to discuss what resources and support could be made available, and there will be a course running in the South East in Spring 2010. To register your interest please contact Caroline.

GRASSROOTS GRANTS – Change in annual income amount!

Grants are available of up to £5,000 for small groups working in local communities across Kent and Medway. If your annual income is less than £30,000 (used to be £20,000), and your group has been active for more than 12 months, you can apply for grants from £250 to £5,000.

Contact Kent Community Foundation at www.kentcf.org.uk/grassroots or telephone 01303-814500.