

Equipping for Rural Mission

Reading List and Suggested Resources for Further Research

There are lots of opportunities to learn from change that others have implemented. You may find that a Good Practice Story or Case Study will tell you something useful and inspiring so choose one or two to reflect on together. It may impact on how you feel about delivering change as well as telling you something about the motivation of people involved. Make a note of the source and share it with others who are using the toolkit with you.

HINT: Where possible share this Resources list by e-mail for easy access to the links.

- **Making Connections (ACORA, 2010):** available from The Arthur Rank Centre: <http://arankcentre.org/connections>
- **Country Way** magazine: available by subscription from <http://countryway.org.uk/>
- **Effective Christian Presence & Enterprise project** The Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber and Faithworks (2008). www.crc-online.org.uk/downloads/ECPE%20Main%20report.pdf
- **Resourcing Christian Community Action: Parishes & Partnerships** – Hilary Russell (2012). Available free on-line at www.how2help.net
- **Mission Shaped & Rural: growing churches in the countryside** - Sally Gaze, Church House Publishing (2007) ISBN 9780715142806
- **Hope for the Future** - Liza Hoeksma, Authentic Media (2009) ISBN 9781860245725
- **Faithworks 2: stories of hope** - Steve Chalke & Tom Jackson, Kingsway (2001) ISBN 9781842910146
- **Faith in the Poor** - Bob Holman, Lion (1998) ISBN 978-0745942377

Statistics to support your research

Statistics in their raw form may not prompt you to do something differently, but analysis of the data may help inform your thinking.

Parish Plans are sometimes available on Parish Council websites. This should be your first port of call.

Neighbourhood Statistics can be extracted from here by inputting your postcode.

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadHome.do?m=0&s=1437398281995&enc=1&nsjs=true&nsck=false&nssvg=false&nswid=1440>

You can find good census data, local economy, crime and safety statistics.

Research findings do not always stand up to scrutiny and may be controversial, so using this kind of research may require the use of critical thinking or help from a local expert or stakeholder.

Christian Agencies on-line

Christian Social justice agencies may help to inform your thinking through a regular newsletter or other publications. Some of their case studies may be useful starting points.

- **The Arthur Rank Centre** www.germinate.net
The website has a dedicated rural focus and a wealth of resources and material to explore
- **Social Responsibility Network (SRN) formerly Anglican Association of Social Responsibility**
Anglican dioceses may have an SR Adviser. The SRN website www.srnet.org.uk will tell you if there is an adviser near you.
- **Eco-congregation** <http://ew.ecocongregation.org/> for church environmental action resources.
- **CAFOD** www.cafod.org.uk/livesimply for example the Live Simply campaign
- **Church Urban Fund** Their focus is on urban poverty but this site may be useful as a source of research and they publish a useful e-newsletter www.cuf.org.uk
- **Church Action on Poverty** www.church-poverty.org.uk in particular Close the Gap campaign
- **Children's Society** www.childrenssociety.org.uk The Good Childhood Inquiry
- **Livability** www.livability.org.uk/church/ includes a campaigning toolkit for people with disabilities, regional campaigns and case studies.
- **World mission**
C of E: <http://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/mission/world-mission.aspx>
Baptist Mission Society: <http://www.bmsworldmission.org/>
Methodist Mission Society: <http://www.mms.org.sg/>
United Reformed Church: <http://www.urc.org.uk/mission.html>

Secular Agencies

Local offices of Rural Community Councils, Centres for Voluntary Service, Volunteer Bureaux or local advice agencies will be good sources of information. Search for them on the internet in your locality.

- National Council for Voluntary Organisations in England & Wales www.ncvo-vol.org.uk
- Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) www.acre.org.uk
- DEFRA <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>
- Rural Observatory Wales www.walesruralobservatory.org.uk/eng/main-e.html
- National Assembly www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/research/bus-assembly-research-publications.htm