

Rural Mission Sunday 2018



Practical opportunities to grow together

Last year Rural Mission Sunday challenged you to consider ways in which you might welcome your community into your church. This year we are turning that challenge on its head and encouraging you to consider where you might go to join in with others!

...Through prayer and worship

A one-off event

If your community has more than one church, why not join together for worship on Rural Mission Sunday? Use this opportunity to explore the ways in which different churches – and different denominations – celebrate their identity as rural churches.

Could lead to more!

If your church already runs a regular Messy Church, why not consider moving venue to your village hall on Rural Mission Sunday? You never know: this may attract new families who feel daunted by the prospect of entering a church building...

Great for young people

If you have young people in your congregation, why not encourage them to walk round the community praying for those that live there? This can feel like an odd thing to do at first; the secret is to keep your eyes open, imagine that Jesus is walking with you and just have a chat!

Connecting with schools

Pray.Bake.Read. is a great way of getting involved in your local school by praying intentionally for your local school, baking a cake for the staff each half term and reading one-to-one with a student once a week. Go to lichfield.anglican.org/pray-bake-read for more information.

...Through simple acts of service

A one-off event

Say thank you to those in your community by giving a small gift or card to all those who make a difference to community life. These might include parish councillors, the lollipop lady (or gentleman!), refuse collectors, police community support officers, teachers – the list is endless!

...Through giving gifts

If you live in a particularly small community – or you have a particularly large congregation! – you could bake a small gift for each household in the village and leave it on the doorstep with a note of blessing from your church.

...Through celebrating your community

If your village has a community fete or fun day, consider how you might contribute something to that event rather than organising your own. Why not host a prayer space or offer to run the refreshment tent?

...Through extending hospitality

If your church building hosts activities run by those outside of the congregation – a adults exercise class or community nursery, for example – why not offer to provide refreshments or even host an afternoon tea for them?

[HOPE: The Heartbeat of Mission](#)

This incredibly comprehensive resource contains literally hundreds of ideas of practical ways in which you could positively impact your community.

[Germinate case studies](#)

Over the years we have gathered some great stories of ways in which rural churches have blessed their communities. Have a look at our case studies and consider how you might adapt an idea or initiative in your own context!

Do you have a story of your own that might encourage or inspire others? Send it to us via our [Good News Stories form](#)!