

## Country Way 77

What are the Key areas around RI&L which Country Way should be covering?

National perspective Campaign to End Loneliness (churches response), difference between urban and rural loneliness, research into isolation and dementia, Chaplaincy and Diocese perspective and how it affects farmers and the farming community. A brief overview of Germinate RI&L project.

Longer article - **National perspective and overview of the issues**, Campaign to End Loneliness

A key organisation which is commissioning work on loneliness in conjunction with a large number of partner voluntary organisations (Age UK, WI, Red Cross etc.) and an all-party Parliamentary working party.

<http://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/events/our-recognition-of-jo-coxs-unstoppable-energy-in-her-work-to-tackle-loneliness/>

(Contact Alice Stride [press@campaigntoendloneliness.org.uk](mailto:press@campaigntoendloneliness.org.uk), or call 0203 865 3907)

Longer article- **Difference between urban and rural loneliness**, Rural Services Network article

Paper appearing in Rural Services Network exploring the difference between urban and rural loneliness and how loneliness can be combatted.

<http://www.rsonline.org.uk/analysis/how-to-combat-rural-loneliness>

(Contact Jessica Sellick report writer [Jessica.sellick@roseregeneration.co.uk](mailto:Jessica.sellick@roseregeneration.co.uk), or call 01522 521211)

Longer article – **Isolation and dementia specifically how it affects farmers and the farming community**, Plymouth University

Dementia in farming and farming communities particularly linked to isolation. Research carried out by Plymouth University by Dr Richard Yarwood and Dr Claire Kelly with support from Ian Sherriff Academic Partnership Lead for Dementia at the University and Chair of the Prime Ministers Rural Dementia Friendly Task and Finish Group. As explored on Country File (Ian Sherriff interviewed) and actually stated the importance of the Parish Council, Parish Nursing and Church, in assisting in tackling the issue. There is a link with the

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/news/rural-dementia-nil-we-need-to-talk>

(Contact Ian Sherriff [ian.sherriff@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:ian.sherriff@plymouth.ac.uk) Dr Richard Yarwood [r.yarwood@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:r.yarwood@plymouth.ac.uk))

Longer article – **Churches response to Campaign to End Loneliness**, Linking Lives UK, Livability, Capital Mass, Pilgrim Friend Society, Bible Reading Fellowship and The Salvation Army

The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) have responded to the Campaign to End Loneliness to work with 5 Christian organisations to help churches combat loneliness among older people. The charities launched Get Together to Pray Together to combat loneliness. Debbie Thrower is an Anna Chaplain to older people and wrote an article on behalf of BRF in reform magazine about the campaign.

<http://www.capitalmass.org.uk/conversations/churches-addressing-loneliness>

<http://www.capitalmass.org.uk/perch/resources/files/pray-together-press-pack.docx>

<http://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/2017/05/the-age-of-loneliness/>

Shorter article – **Dioceses response to Rural isolation**, Sam Setchell Worcester Diocese

Reflective piece on the challenges of living rural idyll.

<http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/2017/06/29/rural-isolation/>

(Contact Sam Setchell, Diocesan Communications Officer and Bishop's Press Officer [ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk) )

Longer article – **Chaplaincy**, Barbara Clutton

Chaplaincy perspective – Barbara would be able to explore examples of RI&L as a rural Vicar, in her role as an agricultural chaplain, FCN trustee and farmer. It is also an opportunity to introduce her as the Germinate Arthur Rank Chaplain.

(Contact Barbara Clutton [barbaraclutton@gilberthouse.co.uk](mailto:barbaraclutton@gilberthouse.co.uk) )

Which organisations are working to alleviate the issues?

Church Urban Fund, Linking Lives UK, Dementia Action Alliance, MU, WI, Young Farmers, Us

Shorter article – **C of E response to loneliness** - Church Urban Fund

'CUF was established by the Church of England as a practical response to unmet need and has been active in local communities for over 30 years. Our vision is to see people and communities all over England flourish and enjoy life in all its fullness.

We work through the Church of England's local parish networks, and alongside other faith-based and secular organisations, to bring about positive change in neighbourhoods.' A report was commissioned into connecting communities: The impact of loneliness and opportunities for churches to respond.

<https://www.cuf.org.uk/Blog/how-can-the-church-respond-to-loneliness>

(Author of article Tim Burton-Jones)

Longer article – **A group of Churches practical response to isolation and loneliness**, Linking Lives UK

‘Linking Lives UK (previously operating through Link Visiting Scheme) help local churches to run a unique befriending service, primarily for isolated older people. The main focus is arranging home visits once a week for around one hour. They also run other activities and events which encourage social interaction including Understanding Computers Courses, Bowls Clubs, and Singing Groups. All visitors are vetted for suitability and supported and trained in their roles. This simple approach can often be a lifeline for those in the community who rarely have contact with the outside world.’

<http://linkinglives.uk/>

(Contact Marjie Walker Scheme Manager [marjie@linkvisiting.org](mailto:marjie@linkvisiting.org) , or call 0751 3020 784)

Shorter articles – **External non-Christian organisation**, Dementia Action Alliance

Alliance has written guidance on how churches and other faith based organisations can sign up to the Alliance and also help transform communities into dementia friendly ones.

[http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/assets/0000/9403/Guidance\\_for\\_faith\\_organisations\\_170414.pdf](http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/assets/0000/9403/Guidance_for_faith_organisations_170414.pdf)

(Contact Sarah Tilsed, Engagement Officer, [sarah.tilsed@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:sarah.tilsed@alzheimers.org.uk) )

Shorter articles – **External Christian organisations, not specifically rural context**, MU

Mothers Union has had to investigate ways of engaging with its indoor members. The indoor members often are house bound and so cannot attend regular branch or Diocesan meetings. It is an area which the charity are aware of. I have made contact with Sophia Jones who is the PR and Communications Manager for MU to see who would be the most appropriate person in the organisation to assist with potentially writing an article. Rose Wright the Policy Manager will be in contact with me shortly.

(Current via Alison Selwood Sophia Jones [sophia.jones@mothersunion.org](mailto:sophia.jones@mothersunion.org) )

Shorter article – **External non-Christian organisation not specifically rural context**, WI

At Council, the National Federation of Women’s Institutes passed a motion to tackle loneliness, working alongside Campaign to End Loneliness.

[https://www.thewi.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/190070/Alleviating-loneliness-Annual-Meeting-resolution-notes.pdf](https://www.thewi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/190070/Alleviating-loneliness-Annual-Meeting-resolution-notes.pdf)

(Contact Lisa Plotkin, Public Affairs Department NFWI, [l.plotkin@nfwi.org.uk](mailto:l.plotkin@nfwi.org.uk) or call 020 7371 9300 ext. 213)

Short stories – **External non-Christian organisation, rural context**, Young Farmers

Recognised that there was a need to ensure that young farmers do not become isolated and as a result may be more vulnerable to suffer from mental health issues. The campaign is called Rural +. It was the brainchild of the National Chair of Council of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs (NFYFC) Claire Worden (2013-2014). Elizabeth Clark suggested Matt Caldicott the new Deputy Chief Officer of NFYFC as a contact.

<http://www.nfyfc.org.uk/Ruralplus/ruralplus>

(Contact Matt Caldicott [Matt.caldicott@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:Matt.caldicott@nfyfc.org.uk) , or call 02476 857 207)

What practical resources are available which churches could use to alleviate the issues?

Germinate RI&L toolkit, Germinate Computers for Rural People, Denby Dale Methodists (hub), 5 friendly parishes around Yealm (dementia) and Shape Mendip.

Shorter stories – **Germinate**, Computers for Rural People

Opportunity to promote Computers for Rural People and introduce one of our volunteers. John should be able to provide some short anecdotes of the difference made by being connected through a computer, in terms of making an individual feel less isolated.

(Contact John Bennett [johnb@germinate.net](mailto:johnb@germinate.net) )

Shorter story – **Rural church perspective**, Denby Dale Methodists

‘Established in 2005 by members of the Denby Dale Methodist Church, the centre started work as a charity, to reduce isolation in the local area by running activities that bring people together. They aim to reduce isolation and improve quality of life, for local residents in and around Kirklees. Elizabeth Clark is going to visit the area in October 2017’.

<http://ddandcwmethodist.org.uk/circuit-life/denby-dale-centre/>

(Contact Superintendent Minister Rev. Philip Bee. Elizabeth Clark has a link)

Shorter article – **Rural parish’s action plan**, A Group of 5 dementia friendly parishes around the Yealm in South Devon

Through examining the register for the Dementia Action Alliance one plan stood out as it specifically highlighted how 5 parishes around the Yealm in South Devon had come together to help change the lives of people with dementia and their carers. The project has also been linked to Plymouth University.

<https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/mission/rural-isolation-and-loneliness-toolkit/>

<http://www.dementiayealm.org/committee/>

(Contact Maxine Kennedy Project Co-ordinator, [MAXINE@DEMENTIAYEALM.ORG](mailto:MAXINE@DEMENTIAYEALM.ORG), or call 07450206312)

Shorter article – **Toolkit for rural communities tackling rural isolation and developing community based service April 2016**, Shape Mendip

The toolkit was developed to enable communities to decide what services they need and provide for them. The rural District is Mendip and is made up of 5 market towns and the rural areas around them.

<http://m.mendip.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=12896&p=0>

What really good news stories of community engagement are I am aware of?

URC Eastern Region and case studies from Rural Officers.

Shorter story – **Rural Church perspective**, URC Eastern Region

Nicola Grieves– Elizabeth Clark suggested URC eastern region, youth perspective on isolation/loneliness

(Contact Nicola Grieves [cydo@urceastern.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urceastern.org.uk) )

Shorter stories/case studies – **Rural church perspective**, Rural Officers

Email to Jill and Elizabeth to contact their Rural Officers to ask them to share stories of initiatives which have improved isolation or loneliness in their community which have been church led.

(Contact Jill Hopkinson [JillH@germinate.net](mailto:JillH@germinate.net) and Elizabeth Clark [Elizabethc@germinate.net](mailto:Elizabethc@germinate.net) )