



Arthur Rank
Centre
CONFIDENT RURAL CHRISTIANS

Chief Executive Officer

About the Arthur Rank Centre

The Arthur Rank Centre (ARC) is an ecumenical national charity, which resources, trains, and advocates for rural Christians, rural churches and the communities they serve. Our vision is of confident rural Christians, encouraged to engage in effective mission and ministry. The ARC serves both the spiritual and practical needs of the rural community through hundreds of resources for rural churches, including a comprehensive range of worship resources and rural stories, ideas and inspiration through our magazine, *Country Way*. Our highly popular Rural Ministry Course has been running for over 40 years.

Other projects include Germinate Leadership, a training programme developing the creative and entrepreneurial skills of rural church leaders. There are also ongoing projects developing ways of tackling rural isolation and looking at food and faith and how we can move beyond consumerism. Our biennial Germinate Conference is a major national day conference for all those involved in rural mission and ministry.

We have also developed Rural Mission Sunday, an annual celebration of the life and work of rural churches, an opportunity to remember all the things they do well and to challenge them to do at least one new thing.

ARC is the hub for the church network of Rural Officers and Agricultural Chaplains. Our focus is to support and strengthen the UK's 15,000 rural churches, so they can respond positively to change and impact the communities they serve.

The ARC Vision

The overarching vision of the Arthur Rank Centre is to see and promote confident rural Christians. This vision is supported by our charitable objectives which include sharing good practice through the provision of resources, training and encouragement, working with rural churches to improve the quality of rural life and the development of a greater understanding between urban and rural communities. ARC wants to inspire people to step out in faith in their rural communities.

Achieving this vision will require ARC to find ways to listen hard and to harvest the stories and evidence from rural Christians as to what is working to promote and spread the Good News of the Kingdom of God in rural areas. This work will underpin ARC's production of excellent and relevant resources and training opportunities to meet the needs of Christians in rural areas. In addition, ARC will use its platform to take an evidence-based approach to its clear and public advocacy on behalf of rural Christians and their communities.

ARC is an ecumenical Christian charity and aspires to see an increasing number of people of all denominations served by the organisation to ensure that their needs are being met and for them to value what ARC provides.

The decisions that ARC makes in achieving this vision must be rooted in spiritual wisdom, discernment and prayer. ARC will need to engage widely with existing networks of rural Christians and churches and other organisations, developing new networks where necessary. Our resources must be up to date, relevant and appropriate for the skills and experience required in rural communities. We need to achieve financial stability and long-term financial resilience against a backdrop of sound management and good charitable Governance.

We will measure our impact through looking at metrics that will focus on spiritual development, community growth and personal effectiveness.

The Role

ARC is seeking to appoint a new Chief Executive to succeed the Rev Claire Maxim who is returning to parish ministry. The charity sits at a pivotal point having previously been part of the Royal Agricultural Society for England and is continuing to forge its independent future making prudent and wise use of a significant endowment provided by the Arthur Rank foundation to ensure that we meet our charitable aims whilst building long-term financial resilience.

Working with and reporting to the Chair and Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has responsibility for developing and implementing a shared vision. A key priority in the early months following appointment will be to produce and implement a new five-year plan for the charity including through the recruitment of new staff to complement the existing staff team. Therefore, this will be an excellent opportunity for a new Chief Executive to make a mark quickly.

Person specification

The essential qualities that we will be looking for in appointing a new Chief Executive will be:

- A commitment to an active Christian faith with the ability and willingness to sign up to our statement of faith – see below.
- A demonstrable flair for people management, both employees and volunteers, and necessary understanding of human resources policies and procedures.
- A strong background in financial management in third sector organisations including fundraising, preparing budgets, cash flow statements and projections.
- A skill set which involves business planning and evidence of previous success in implementing plans in previous roles.
- Experience of working with a board of trustees and with an understanding of what constitutes good charity governance.
- Excellent interpersonal, collaborative and communication (written and oral) skills.
- Clear leadership ability and experience preferably within the charitable sector.
- A good understanding of IT systems.
- An understanding of digital marketing and communications.

We will also have a strong preference for candidates who can show an understanding of and empathy with the place of churches and Christians within a rural setting.

Duties and Key Responsibilities

- To oversee all of the Executive functions of the charity including the management of staff, volunteers, finances and other resources.
- To work with the trustees to produce and implement a strategic plan and to renew that plan on a regular basis.
- Create, implement and regularly update efficient and effective office procedures and policies suitable for a charity of the nature and size of Arthur Rank Centre.
- To communicate the ARC vision, raise its profile and be an effective ambassador for the organisation with public, private and charity sector bodies and organisations
- Develop and maintain robust relationships with the national churches, relevant members of the voluntary sector, Arthur Rank Centre partner organisations and relevant Government departments.
- To engage with the media and with social media outlets to speak up on issues of interest and concern to rural churches and Christian communities.
- To promote the work of the ARC through teaching, speaking, preaching, and training engagements.
- Identify opportunities for fundraising and to turn these opportunities into reality to ensure the long-term financial resilience of the charity.
- Identify and initiate new areas of work relating to rural churches and communities in line with agreed objectives.
- Secure and develop established activities that remain fundamental to our work.
- Reflect theologically with staff and allow this to shape and direct our work.
- Work with other charities within the farming and rural sector including the Farming Community Network and support the provision of chaplaincy services to the farming community as required.
- Provide regular reports and updates to the board of trustees
- Offer advice and support to the Board of Trustees as and when required.

Employment details

- The role is based at Arthur Rank Centre offices at Holly Farm Business Park, Honiley, Warwickshire.
- The Chief Executive will report and be accountable to the Chair of Trustees.
- The Chief Executive will be employed on a full-time basis (35 hours/week) devoting sufficient time to ensure the fulfilment of all duties, tasks and responsibilities.
- Salary will be circa £50,000 depending on skills and experience.

Our Statement of Faith

We believe that being a Christian means living in relationship with God through a personal acceptance of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Christians understand God to be Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that as the Father, God is love, caring for creation and for every human being as God's children. God is the creator and each individual is uniquely made in the image of God.

We believe that God has revealed himself in the historical person of Jesus Christ. Jesus' life, death and resurrection hold the key to knowing and loving God, and to making sense of life, before and after death.

God the Holy Spirit is loving and active today, inspiring faith, justice and truth. He sustains the life of the world, gives spiritual gifts and bears spiritual fruit in the world through changed lives and a transformed society. Christians are equipped to live a servant life through the Holy Spirit.

Recruitment Process

Completed ARC Application form and a full CV by **noon on 4th July** to:

Alison Selwood
Executive PA
The Arthur Rank Centre
Unit F8A Holly Farm Business Park
Honiley
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 1NP

Email: Alison.Selwood@arthurrankcentre.org.uk

Sift: 6th July 2022

Interviews: 25th July 2022

Start Date: As soon as possible following selection.