

Key Resources for Rural Churches



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Training for Rural Ministry and Mission

- **Germinate Leadership** is our national 18 month personal development programme for lay and ordained rural leaders to help release creative and entrepreneurial leadership gifts, see www.germinate.net/go/clirc
- **Rural Ministry Course:** we run a 3 day training course twice per year for those new to rural ministry. Details and material from recent courses is at www.germinate.net/go/rmcourses
- **Other training opportunities:** see summary at www.germinate.net/go/rmtraining
- **Rural multi church ministry:** we have also summarised and evaluated many of the current resources at www.germinate.net/go/mcm

Germinate Groups: affordable learning communities for rural multi-church groups

An ecumenical resource that enables lay and ordained leaders from multi-church groups to spend time together and learn from other groups, considering what IS (what God is doing in their area), what COULD BE (the God-given vision for our area) and what WILL BE (our six-month action plan to move towards this vision). Four two day sessions over two years covering the themes of journey, leadership, discipleship and mission and can be led by church groups themselves with ARC support and facilitator training, keeping costs low.

Germinate Enterprise: a rural business start-up programme www.germinate.net/go/enterprise

This six session programme is designed to be delivered by churches to help provide jobs, retain working age people in villages and tackle hidden poverty. A free workbook and facilitator materials help participants decide whether setting up a business is for them; what business to set up; and whether it is viable. See link for full information and all the materials.

Equipping for Rural Mission: www.germinate.net/go/profiling

This simple toolkit comprises four sessions designed to help small, rural churches identify the resources, abilities, gifts and people present in the local church; understand their local community, assessing needs and opportunities; reflect on their findings and God's call; and prepare a realistic action plan for mission.

Journey to Faith: a Local Church Training Course: www.germinate.net/go/evangelism

This unique training programme on rural evangelism helps members of rural congregations share their faith with others and can be run by any church or group of churches over two half-days.

'Released for Mission – Growing the Rural Church' – an important report detailing priorities and recommendations for growth in rural multi-church ministry in the 21st century. Download at <http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/mission-and-ministry/improving-training-and-resources>

Rural isolation resource www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/latest/219-ruralpastoralsupportnetworkproject

Practical guidance for rural churches to help them address isolation and loneliness in their communities, with case studies, details of good practice and links to other information.

Developing Rural and Small Church Worship: www.germinate.net/go/worshiptool

Designed to meet the needs of lay people leading rural church worship, this resource includes:

- information about leading worship in small congregations
- access to our fully-searchable collection of worship resources
- case studies and examples of good practice in rural churches.

Nurture and Discipleship in Rural Churches: www.germinate.net/go/discipleship

Information on discipleship resources and their suitability for rural churches. The main resources are:

- **Evaluating Popular Discipleship Courses:** www.germinate.net/go/evaluatenupture
- **Messy Discipleship:** www.germinate.net/go/messydiscipleship
- **Ready, Steady, Grow:** www.germinate.net/go/rsg
- **Sustaining Faith in the Future:** www.germinate.net/go/sustainingfaith
- **Your SHAPE for God's Service:** www.germinate.net/go/yourshape

Local Training for Lay People: www.germinate.net/go/laytraining

A good practice guide on training for lay people in rural ministry and mission. It looks at appropriate methods of training and the effects of different sized congregations, communities, and multi-church groups.

- **Growing Leaders for Rural Churches** www.germinate.net/go/gl
- **Hope for Rural Churches** www.germinate.net/go/ruralhope
- **Lay People Leading Worship** www.germinate.net/go/layledworship
- **Supporting Local Lay Training** www.germinate.net/go/supportingtraining

Signposts for Rural Mission and Ministry: www.germinate.net/go/signposts

A comprehensive signposting guide provides links to the most useful materials for rural mission and ministry

Library of Rural Good Practice: www.germinate.net/go/casestudies

Case studies and examples of rural good practice intended to act as catalysts, encouraging communities to develop their own initiatives.

- **Messy Church in Rural Areas:** www.germinate.net/go/ruralmc
- **Rural Fresh Expressions of Church:** www.germinate.net/go/ruralfx
- **Rural Multi-Church Ministry:** www.germinate.net/go/mcm
- **Stories of Rural Hope:** www.germinate.net/go/hopestories

Rural Church Buildings: www.germinate.net/go/buildings

A comprehensive information hub covers every aspect of rural places of worship, including information for listed places of worship; how to look after your church; advice on building issues, such as maintenance and metal theft, funding, opening to visitors and energy efficiency.

Country Way: www.countryway.org.uk

Country Way magazine is published three times a year and covers aspects of faith and life in the countryside. It includes case studies, theological reflections, reviews and discussions on contemporary rural issues. You can subscribe online for the printed and web-only versions and back issues and past articles are also available.

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