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Resource

Arthur Rank Centre

Online Resources for Rural Churches (as of 30/10/2013)

The vast majority of the resources from the ARC are delivered through our website, and most of these are regularly added to or adapted. Virtually all are freely downloadable, except items in the bookstall and our magazine, Country Way. The most significant are detailed below.

The most up-to-date version of THIS listing is online at <http://arankcentre.org/resourceslist>.

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Worship Resources (<http://arankcentre.org/worship>). We have built up a wide range of liturgical & worship material that can be downloaded, and most can be pasted into home-made resources as well as used as they stand. Most of these have rural relevance or relate to creation or elements of the liturgical calendar. Some of these are via links to other sources, but most are exclusive to the ARC, and some are specially commissioned for our rural networks. These can all be searched for by category at <http://arankcentre.org/worshipsearch>.

Country Way. (www.countryway.org.uk). This is our three-times yearly magazine related to all aspects of faith & life in rural communities. It contains examples & case studies, theological reflections, reviews and discussion of contemporary rural issues. Back issues and individual past articles can all be accessed online. You can also subscribe online for both printed and web-only versions (that can be downloaded onto an eReader like iPad or Kindle).

Book Stall (<http://arankcentre.org/bookstall>). We operate a small book stall online and at rural conferences and training gatherings. Most of the materials are rural-specific, alongside a number of more generic publications that prove valuable for rural churches. These can be ordered & purchased online. You can also gain access to our Amazon Marketplace account, where we sell a much wider range of 2nd-hand & old stock publications at very low prices.

Making Connections (<http://arankcentre.org/connections>). This is both a published workbook (obtainable at substantial discount for multiple purchases) and a wealth of additional online resources linked into the 7 key sections of the workbook. It contains practical suggestions, group study material and case studies to help rural churches make the most of their community connections.

Online Document Library (<http://arankcentre.org/onlinedocs>) & **Image Library** (<http://arankcentre.org/onlineimages>). Many of the ARC's major publications are accessible in an online form that makes them much easier to read, bookmark and annotate online (including many back issues of Country Way). We are also developing a comprehensive library of rural-related images that can be downloaded and used by those in our networks.

Community Resources (<http://arankcentre.org/communities>). A variety of resources & materials that may be useful for rural communities more broadly – either that have come to our attention from elsewhere, one-off material we produce ourselves. The entries are often more ephemeral, being tied to current affairs or news items.



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Signposts for Rural Mission & Ministry (<http://arankcentre.org/signposts>). This is a comprehensive signposting, description & evaluation resource that points rural church practitioners to the most useful materials for their mission or ministry.

It is in 2 sections – **Rural-Specific** (<http://arankcentre.org/signpostsrural>) and **Non-Specific** (<http://arankcentre.org/signpostsoter> - mostly more generic and non-rural) – highlighting publications, training opportunities, organisations, websites and online information.

Reading List for Rural Mission & Ministry (<http://arankcentre.org/readinglist>). Regularly updated, this is an annotated survey of the key publications relevant for any engaged in rural mission or ministry.

Library of Rural Good Practice (<http://arankcentre.org/casestudies>). This is a growing collection of fairly detailed case studies & examples of rural-related good practice – including resources, training and activities undertaken by rural churches or communities. These are intended to serve as catalysts & encouragement for others, not as blue-prints simply to be copied. Where possible more comprehensive information & materials are provided to download, as well as contact information for those wishing to follow up. Key elements of this include:

- **Local Mission Swap Shop** (<http://arankcentre.org/swapshop>)
- **Messy Church in Rural Areas** (<http://arankcentre.org/ruralmc>)
- **Open The Book** (<http://arankcentre.org/otb>) – rural perspective & case studies
- **Rural Fresh Expressions of Church** (<http://arankcentre.org/ruralfx>)
- **Rural Mission-Shaped Ministry** (<http://arankcentre.org/ruralmsm>)
- **Rural Multi-Church Ministry** (<http://arankcentre.org/mcm>)
- **Welcoming Small Congregations** (<http://arankcentre.org/welcomingsmall>)
- **Who Let the (Rural) Dads Out?** (<http://arankcentre.org/wltdo>)

Stories of Rural Hope (<http://arankcentre.org/hopestories>). A growing collection of short stories & examples of how rural churches are engaging their own communities and wider contacts in innovative examples of mission.

Where to Turn for Help (<http://arankcentre.org/help>). In response to requests from rural ministers and training providers, this resource provides a template for any region or locality. It lists a wide range of organisations or bodies that can assist in all sorts of pastoral or community-related situations. National contacts are provided in the template, which can be downloaded and local representatives' contacts added to create a key local resource for those with responsibility for helping others.

Journey To Faith: a Local Rural Church Training Course in Evangelism

(<http://arankcentre.org/evangelism>). A unique, low key, simple training programme that can be run by any local church – or group of churches - over 2 half-days. It requires no outside or expert help; all the material and resources that are required are freely available to download. Besides the material required to run the two course sessions, there are other resources, optional supplementary material, links to good material and ideas elsewhere, and a Resource Manual that every participant can take away with them to use in their own church to improve their ministry of witness & evangelism.



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Equipping for Rural Mission (<http://arankcentre.org/profiling>). This is a simple toolkit to help you understand your local congregation and the community you serve. It provides a foundation for longer-term planning for community-based mission by small, rural or dispersed churches. There are four significant elements: Gaining an accurate picture of the nature, state and population of the local communities served by the church(es) - which includes an understanding of what needs are most acute there, and what resources or facilities already exist to help meet those needs; gaining an accurate picture of the resources, abilities, gifts and people present within the local church(es) - which enables an assessment of what may and may not be realistic for the local church; investigating what possibilities exist for partnership with other local bodies, agencies or organisations – whether church-related or otherwise; realistically assessing in what areas and in what ways the local church(es) can and should engage with and serve their communities.

Resources for Rural Places of Worship (<http://arankcentre.org/buildings>). A unique & comprehensive online information and advice hub covering every aspect of rural church buildings, with links to details elsewhere and numerous case studies. It includes: theological foundations; listed places of worship and statements of need & significance; ecclesiastical exemption & non-exemption; looking after the building; funding; other building issues (e.g. bats, metal theft, security); getting the most out of the building; opening the building for visitors; energy efficiency & sustainability; church art.

Developing Rural and Small Church Worship: training & resources for small & rural churches (<http://arankcentre.org/worshiptool>). This is designed to meet the needs of lay people across various denominations for preparing and leading worship in small and rural settings. This is especially where other resources and support are not immediately available. This includes: A set of answers and training materials in response to the sort of FAQs that often arise in these circumstances; a directory of web-based resources and links; access to our fully-searchable bank of worship resources, and further examples of good practice that have been developed; more detailed case studies of how contextual worship has been developed and employed in rural circumstances.

Nurture and Discipleship in Rural Churches (<http://arankcentre.org/discipleship>). This is an ongoing 'library' of case studies, examples of good practice and reflections on key rural elements – along with recommendations. It looks at a selection of more generic sources, how suitable they are for rural situations, and how they have been or may be adapted for local contexts. It evaluates some of the most commonly-used generic discipleship resources from a rural perspective, with input from rural practitioners with experience of them. There are also more locally-produced materials from rural church practitioners. Key elements include:

- **Evaluating Popular Discipleship Courses** (<http://arankcentre.org/evaluatenupture>)
- **Messy Discipleship** (<http://arankcentre.org/messydiscipleship>)
- **Ready, Steady, Grow** (<http://arankcentre.org/rsg>) – using key rural workbooks
- **Sustaining Faith in the Future** (<http://arankcentre.org/sustainingfaith>)
- **Your SHAPE for God's Service** (<http://arankcentre.org/yourshape>)



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Local Training for (Rural) Lay People (<http://arankcentre.org/laytraining>). This reflects on key elements and good practice for training lay people in all aspects of ministry & mission within their local churches *from a rural perspective*. Drawing on numerous findings from our own research this looks at appropriate methods, the balance between centralised & localised training, and the effects of the sizes of congregations & communities – as well as churches brought together in groups. There is a small library of case studies and examples of appropriate resources. Key elements include:

- **Growing Leaders for Rural Churches?** (<http://arankcentre.org/gl>)
- **Hope for Rural Churches** (<http://arankcentre.org/ruralhope>)
- **Lay People Leading Worship** (<http://arankcentre.org/layledworship>)
- **Supporting Local Lay Training** (<http://arankcentre.org/supportingtraining>) – case study

Training for Rural Ministry & Mission

- The ARC runs its own training course twice per annum. You can find details of the forthcoming programmes, and a wide selection of the material included in recent courses at <http://arankcentre.org/rmcourses>.
- There is also the focused opportunity for study & research offered by the Centre for Studies in Rural Ministry (<http://arankcentre.org/csrn>).
- In addition we have produced a summary & evaluation of other major current opportunities for focused training on rural mission and/or ministry in the UK (<http://arankcentre.org/rmtraining>).
- We have also prepared a summary and evaluation of many of the current available resources on rural Multi-Church Ministry (<http://arankcentre.org/mcm>).
- And there is a detailed case study of a regional network that has been helping equip rural multi-parish benefice clergy (<http://arankcentre.org/fiveplusnetwork>).