

# First Rural Day

## Rural Ministry & Mission Day – Saturday, 14 September 2019

The Rural Hope team is delighted to be holding the first ever Rural Ministry and Mission Day. The Rural Day will provide an unmissable opportunity to strengthen collaboration between ordained clergy and lay ministry colleagues in rural ministry and mission.

### Why attend?

We intend to make the Rural Day as enjoyable as possible. We do however, have some clear objectives for what we hope it can achieve. So, by the end of the day, you should have:

- An understanding of the research that underpins Church of England initiatives supporting rural ministry & mission;
- An awareness of examples of successful rural initiatives across dioceses and in the Diocese of Salisbury in particular;
- A more in-depth knowledge about a core set of Rural Hope support opportunities;
- A greater appreciation of the benefits of collaborative working;
- Had a chance to talk to a range of practitioners who are taking rural initiatives forward in the Diocese;
- Started to feel more confident about setting up missional initiatives in your own benefice or parish, and how to take the next steps towards this.

### Where is it?

The Rural Day is being held at Kingston Maurward College near Dorchester from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

### Who is it for?

The Rural Day is open to all ministers (lay and ordained) and church officers in the rural areas of the Salisbury Diocese. Teams of up to six people can attend from each benefice. Places will be on a first come first served basis due to space constraints at the venue.



### What's on offer?



We are delighted that Dr Mark Betson, National Rural Officer, has agreed to be our keynote speaker. Drawing on his own extensive experience and the latest research, he will be setting out his thoughts on what makes a successful rural church.

This will be followed by an expert speaker panel, chaired by Dr Jill Hopkinson, Rural Ministry Tutor at Sarum College and a former National Rural Officer herself. These sessions will allow plenty of time for questions.

After lunch and a chance to visit the Market Place of rural-themed stalls, you will have the opportunity to pick your own afternoon's activities. We will be offering a choice of four 45-

minute workshops ('THRIVE', 'Worship through Schools', 'Church is not just for Sunday', and 'A Small Church is not a Failing Large Church').

Alongside these, we are also running a set of interactive showcases. Using a 'speed-dating' approach, in which participants circulate around desks, the showcases will provide small bites of ideas for ministry and mission in action (around 10-15 minutes each). Topics will include 'Lay Pioneering', 'Church Community Outreach', 'How to Become an Eco Church', 'Rural Alpha', 'Rural Chaplaincy', 'Rule of Life', and 'Outdoor Worship'. There will also be a chance to meet your local Rural Field Officer.

### **Outline of the Day**

- 9.30am** Arrival and coffee
- 10.00am** Prayers & introduction led by +Karen
- 10.30am** Keynote speaker – Dr Mark Betson. *'What makes a successful rural church'* (based on research but told through practical examples)
- 11.15am** Coffee (and time to visit the Market Place)
- 12.00noon** Panel of experts with questions from the floor.
- 1.00pm** Lunch (and time to visit the Market Place)
- 2.00pm** Choice of four workshops and a 'showcase' of ministry in action groups
- 4.00pm** Closing words (+Karen) and worship on the lawn, weather permitting (or in the local church, if raining).

### **Next steps**

We will shortly be sending out invitations to the Rural Day to all rural incumbents. Please reply to these as soon as you can to reserve places for your team. Alternatively, please contact Clare Phillips on [clare.phillips@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:clare.phillips@salisbury.anglican.org) to express interest.