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Rural Ramblings

May 2009

The effects of the economic crisis are being felt in the countryside as much as anywhere. Below is a short article that may be reprinted in a Parish Magazine, pewsheet or as a poster. Please do use it. I'll email you a copy on request.

How to cope during the downturn

In the current financial climate many people are concerned about their jobs or have perhaps already been made redundant. There may be worries about debt and mortgage or rent repayments. Emotional strain affects our health and relationships. If you are concerned about your financial situation the important thing is to seek help and not just hope that the problem will go away.

If you want to talk to someone, in confidence, about anything that may be troubling you, or to explore help options if you are worried about debt or redundancy, please contact **Rural Stress Helpline** on **0845 094 8286**. Rural Stress Helpline is a confidential listening and signposting service for rural people who may be feeling anxious, stressed or needing information.

We can't give financial advice but we will listen to your concerns and can put you in contact with organisations that can give support and/or advice. Talking to someone, in confidence, can help.

Rural Stress Helpline is a project of The Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

Email ruralstresshelpline@rase.org.uk

Visit www.ruralstresshelpline.co.uk

Specific help for the farming community is available from the Farming Help Partnership of Farm Crisis Network, RABI and ARC-Addington Fund.

Contact 0845 367 9990 in confidence from 7am to 11pm daily. www.farminghelp.org.uk

Unsung Heroes – the hunt is on

The Church of England has teamed up with *Country Life* magazine to hunt for an elusive species: the unsung hero! Rural churches and chapels are often the thriving hubs of their communities. Together, *Country Life* and the Church of England are looking for the unsung volunteers - of any denomination - who keep them alive

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr3709.html>.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust have announced the categories for awarding travel fellowships for 2010. Go to <http://www.wcmt.org.uk/> for more information. One of the categories is: Environment Food and Rural Affairs - focusing on "those involved in the countryside and in food production, including animal welfare, the livestock industry, environment and conservation." There is no age limit on these fellowships, which are very generous and lots of fun.

ROGATION SUNDAY – MAY 17th 2009

Rogationtide is a wonderful opportunity to take Church outside and to have a bit of fresh air and fun. In 2008 "Church" for us became the back of two farm trailers as a local farmer took us on a tour of the farm, stopping on the way to pray for crops and cattle, pasture and farmhouse, and to beat (a small portion of) the Parish "bounds". On other occasions we have had delightful walks, again pausing at predetermined places to bless God for all his provision and to pray for His abundant provision in the coming season.

There is excellent and user-friendly liturgy available – notably in "Seasonal Worship for the Countryside" (SPCK 2003). You can find excerpts always available on the Arthur Rank Centre website under "Publications and resources" then "Worship Resources". Choose "Rogation" from the dropdown menu and you'll find a wealth of material.

There's even a section for those of you with seaside parishes! I've included a brief liturgy below. This is just part of a rich resource.

At the Sea-shore

Reading

How many are your works, O Lord, in wisdom you have made them all. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number, living things both large and small, where the ships go to and fro. There is the great Leviathan, whom God created to frolic in the waters. (Psalm 104: 24 - 26)

Leader: O seas and floods, bless the Lord

Response: Praise him and magnify him for ever

Leader: O all fishes and other creatures that live in the sea, bless the Lord

Response: Praise him and magnify him for ever.

Leader: O all birds that fly over the sea and find your food in the sea

Response: Praise him and magnify him for ever.

Leader: Let all those who entrust themselves to the sea in ships

Response: Praise him and magnify him for ever

Leader: May all those who get their living from the sea

Response: Be protected by God's power and mercy.

Leader: May all those who have been bereaved by the sea

Response: Be comforted by God's compassion and mercy

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
who chose fishermen to be your apostles,
and taught your disciples from a boat, bless the work
of those who go down to the sea in ships,
and occupy their business in great waters.
They see the works of the Lord,
and his wonders in the deep.
Increase in us the sense of awe
in the presence of your power,
and our dependence on you for our protection,
so that we may know your presence in danger and in
joy,
and glorify you in the way we live our lives
in dedication to you our saviour and redeemer. Amen.

Hymn: 'Eternal Father, strong to save' (HO&N 153)

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Duchy day Conference with +Tim "The Changing Face of the Countryside"

Please book the date now! On **Friday October 23rd** at **Duchy College, Stoke Climsland**, there will be a major Day Conference. The day will feature the Bishop of Truro, the Bishop of Plymouth and the Chairs of the Cornwall and Devon Methodist Districts, as well as Andrew Counsell, the Principal of Duchy College.

The aim of the Conference is to outline issues relating to C21st Rural life (so different to the common stereotype) and to consider how the Church might begin to respond. The Conference will include a tour of parts of the College, refreshments and a lunch of locally-produced fare. And all for £10!

Please contact Bill Stuart-White with initial expressions of interest. Booking forms will be available nearer the time.



"OPEN FARM SUNDAY" this year falls on **Sunday June 7th**.

This is a wonderful opportunity to be welcomed onto a farm and to be shown around by those who work the land. Details of open farms may be found on the

website: www.farmsunday.org/ofs/home.eb. At the time of writing the following farms are planning to be open but more near you will sign up in the meantime:

Windrush Farm, Fosters Lane, Tintagel, Cornwall
Email: windrushfarmduck@hotmail.com
Telephone: 01840 770093 **Postcode:** PL34 0BU

Quarry Bank, Penhalurick, Redruth, Cornwall
Email: clethriomys@btinternet.com
Telephone: 01209 212635 **Postcode:** TR16 6TF

It's (almost) Show-time!

ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW

One of the real joys of summer in Cornwall is the Show season. We all know about **Royal Cornwall** – universally acknowledged to be just about the finest County Show of all. This year it is being held on **Thursday June 4th to Saturday 6th**. The "Start of Show Service", at which Bishop Tim will be preaching is held on the Showground on the Wednesday Evening and is followed by Beer and Pasties in the Churches Tent. If you visit the show at any time, make sure you pop into the Tent to say hello.

Royal Cornwall, though, is only one of the attractions. There are a number of splendid local shows, of which the following are the best-known.

LOCAL SHOWS

Liskeard 11th July
www.liskeardshow.org
Stithians 13th July
www.stithiansshow.org.uk
Launceston 16th July
www.launcestonshow.co.uk
Camborne 18th July
www.camborne-show.org.uk
Camelford 12th August
www.camelfordshow.co.uk

Local Clergy – do make a day of it (with your collar on), you'll get weeks worth of Pastoral visiting done in an afternoon.

Local Churches - (preferably ecumenically) do you have a presence? Or could you arrange something? If you'd like to know what others do, let me know and perhaps we can arrange a forum to share ideas.

Rural Housing during the Recession

The Government's Rural Watchdog, the "Commission for Rural Communities" has recently published a report on Rural housing.

Little has improved in the rural sector since the last housing-related report in December, suggests the document. Rural house prices are continuing to fall and at the same time, sales are declining alongside lower demand for land with housing potential.

Rural repossessions rose at nearly double the rate for England as a whole during 2007 and 2008, and housing affordability remains a greater problem in the countryside than in towns and cities. This situation is exacerbated by credit limitations and increased deposit requirements.

There is also a lack of affordable housing options for an increasing number of rural residents who are being made homeless.

The full report may be accessed at:
www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk

Bill Stuart-White