

The Churches Rural Group (CRG) is a co-ordinating Group of Churches Together in England, bringing together representatives of Christian denominations and other organisations concerned with rural life and ministry to discuss issues of common interest.



The main item for the meeting held in January 2020 was the future direction of the CRG. A wide and free-flowing conversation ranged over the issues facing rural churches and communities, and we thought about how the CRG can re-shape its purpose, aims and structures to support and serve God's mission in our villages. This discussion will be continued in our next meeting in May.

Despite the many changes facing rural life and mission, there are also encouraging signs of life:

- The Lightwave Community and LoveRural, based at Otley Agricultural College in Suffolk, provide an ecumenical chaplaincy team and bring rural Christians together across the county to coordinate and raise awareness of practical action in rural areas.
- There have been interesting and successful conferences held recently by rural Catholics and the Agricultural Christian Fellowship.
- And more people have joined the Agricultural Chaplains Association, who have launched a new website at [www.agrichaplains.org.uk](http://www.agrichaplains.org.uk) Email – [info@agrichaplains.org.uk](mailto:info@agrichaplains.org.uk)



#### **Book the date:**

- 27 – 29 April: Rural Ministries Leadership Development Conference 'Learning from Peter, Paul and Mary' Cliff College. Details at <https://www.ruralministries.org.uk/leadership2020>
- 8-10 June 2020: IRCA-Europe conference at Sibiu, Romania on how churches can contribute to a flourishing village community. More details, booking information and the draft programme can be found at <https://irca.online/conferences/>
- 19 July: Rural Mission Sunday 'Common Ground.' Resources will be available from Germinate: ARC in early April from <https://germinate.net/>
- 14 November: Germinate conference at the Welcome Centre in Coventry, with the theme 'Conversation Matters.' More information from <https://germinate.net/>

You might also be interested in the Rural Ministries regional conferences which are taking place around the country between February and November. For more details of dates and venues and Eventbrite booking, go to: <https://www.ruralministries.org.uk/regionalconferences2020>

#### **'Germinate' news.**

- The Arthur Rank Team will be on Stand P12 at the CRE Midlands, held at the National Agricultural Exhibition Centre (Stoneleigh) on 4-5 March. Do pop in for a chat about support for rural churches.
- 'Germinate Enterprise is moving on from the Germinate umbrella, but will still be led by Jerry Marshall, mainly on a voluntary basis. The course has been extended, updated and made simpler to deliver: all that is needed is the new workbook which can be downloaded free of charge from <https://mindyourownbusiness.uk/>



*Present: Representatives from Agricultural Chaplains Association, Church of England, Churches Together in England, Germinate: ARC, International Rural Churches Association, Methodist / URC, Roman Catholic Church, Rural Ministries, Salvation Army.*