

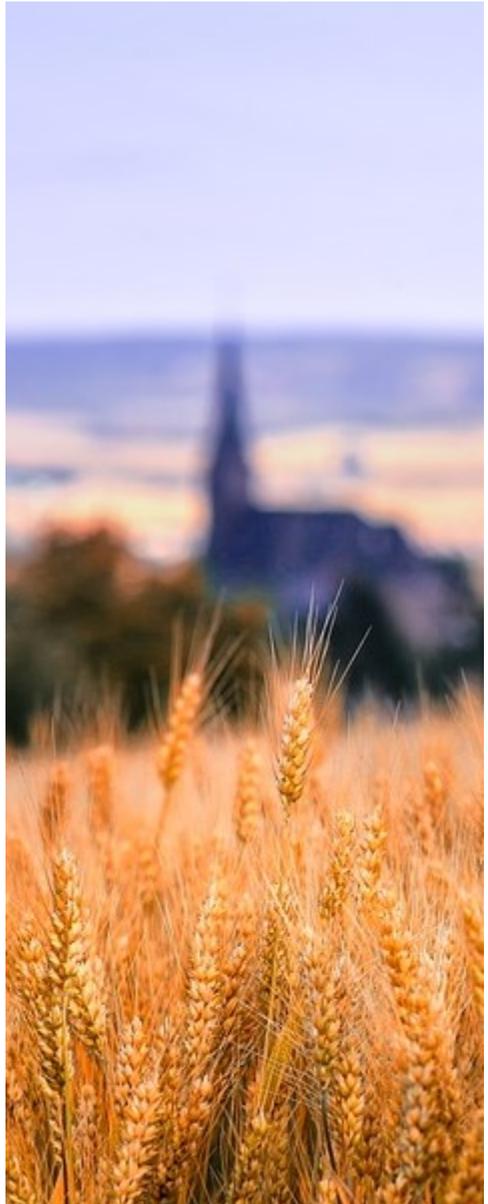


DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

**Listening and
Responding**
to our rural
communities

Tuesday 16 July 2019



Rural Forum 2019

Aims of the day

To support, resource and equip rural churches to listen and respond to the needs of their local, rural communities.

Workshops

In the afternoon there will be a choice of two 30 minute workshops from the four on offer:

Main room:

Workshop 1 **Listening to our farming community** with Anita Simmons and Suzie Wilkinson of Farming Community Network

Workshop 2 **Reimagining rural ministry: Developing a learning community to support mission across multiple parishes** with Selina Garner

1st floor hall:

Workshop 3 **Releasing the gifts of people across the Deanery** with Jane Chamberlain and Jonathan Philpott

Workshop 4 **Flourishing rural schools across the diocese** with Ed Gregory

Sharing Stories

The Flourishing Rural Church Group would love to hear your stories of listening and responding to your communities.



Please use **#bwruralforum** if you are posting about today's event.

Programme

0930 Registration and coffee

1000 Welcome, introductions and worship

1015 Marion Carson - Growing the Rural Church

1100 Discussion and questions

1130 Coffee

1200 Mark Betson

Parish and benefice
administrators break out;
Listening and responding

1230 Not 'just a loo'

1255 Introducing Pilgrim Pathways

1300 Lunch

1400 Workshops

1500 Sharing thoughts and questions

1530 End

Our guest speakers:



Marian Carson is Project Manager for the Diocese of Exeter's Growing the Rural Church Programme. Funded by the Church of England's Strategic Development Fund the programme supports rural churches across Devon to engage with their communities to explore opportunities for further missional, community, cultural and commercial use of their church buildings. Marian is a qualified project management professional with a background in delivering private sector

led, government funded programmes at both local and national levels. She is experienced in community engagement, partnership working and change management. Marian is married to a priest in the Church of England and has two primary-school aged children. The family relocated from London to Devon in 2015 and enjoy the wonderful outdoor spaces found across the county.

Mark Betson is the National Rural Officer for the Church of England with the core objective of focusing and developing the Church's support for the rural church and rural communities.



Prior to this Mark has been Vicar of a rural parish and the Rural and Environment Officer for the Diocese of Chichester. As part of this he was also the South East Regional Director for the Farming Community Network and was heavily involved in bringing the countryside into schools, and supporting students at land-based colleges, with the South of England Agricultural Society.