

1. Briefing about the Churches work in rural communities and the agricultural life of our land

- A number of initiatives and networks began at the Arthur Rank Centre and are now established nationally independently, for example, crisis network that was especially effective during the foot and mouth crisis.
- Resources of the Centre are developed to encourage **rural ministry and mission** by focussing on the involvement of local churches in their communities, for example, congregation members are often key volunteers within their local community, but frequently the local church has not recognised this aspect as integral to their mission or ministry.
- A primary ongoing resource for local congregations to think about mission is their **Country Way magazine**. It is used to share resources and stories from across the rural communities.
- **Migration** – due to Gangmasters Licensing Authority moved away from overt exploitation to issues of **integration**
- They are offering a **Creative Leadership in Rural Church** course in autumn.
- The Arthur Rank Centre is launching a **new website** around the end of July

2. Implications of the rural agenda for life in our urban areas.

In recent years the interconnection between rural and urban has been most apparent during times of crisis, most notably during the foot and mouth crisis.

Two areas of common interest

a) The 'living wage'

<http://www.livingwage.org.uk/>

<http://www.citizensuk.org/campaigns/living-wage-campaign/>

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church has recently committed to lobby FTSE 100 companies to adopt the Living Wage

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.newsDetail&newsid=502>

b) The food chain, in particular increasing awareness of the vulnerability of the dairying industry.

CTBI's Creation Time resources for 2011 at: <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/542>

The Love British Food/British Food Fortnight website at: <http://www.lovebritishfood.co.uk/>

3. Ideas to explore further

- a. **twinning** between urban and rural parishes
- b. the place of people in rural communities who have been city dwellers and now live in rural communities, this can include migrants
- c. increase awareness of the interrelationship between agriculture and other aspects of rural life, support industries, shops, tourism – important for rural chaplaincy

4. Key Question for further reflection

How do we enable greater interconnection between the resources being developed for rural areas and those in urban areas? This question was asked in relation to the work behind the **Creative Leadership in Rural Church** course and its relevance for urban ministry.