



August 2017

CEO VACANCY

After five years of sterling work our CEO Jerry Marshall is taking 'semi-retirement' in the spring.

So the trustees are are looking for an inspiring, strategic and collaborative leader to take our growing Germinate brand onto the next stage of its development.

Click for full details then email alisons@germinate.net for an application form.

[Click for full details](#)



International Rural Churches conference 2018

The International Rural Church Association (IRCA) was founded 20 years ago to enable leaders of rural churches worldwide to share ideas and resources, champion rural needs, and offer each other support and prayer. It's an ecumenical partnership active on five continents, and has held five global and many regional conferences.

The quadrennial conference near Christchurch, New Zealand, 15-21 April 2018 is designed to have a direct impact and leave a legacy well beyond the event. The core of the conference will be a 'learning community' approach, with groups from each country considering what IS (what God is doing in their area), what COULD BE (the God-given vision) and what WILL BE (action plan to move towards this vision).

The conference will also look at two themes relevant to most countries: collaborative ministry, where New Zealand is in the forefront of new approaches; and bringing reconciliation in divided communities.

The event will provide opportunities to share stories, take part in worship from different traditions, share resources and develop international partnerships. There is a stream for young leaders and there are visits, tours and a pre-conference marae stay. Join us!



[Click for full programme](#)

EVENTS ROUND UP

FREE! A rural business start-up course in your region

Following the success of the one day rural business start-up course at Stoneleigh last December, we are running five regional events this autumn and spring. Venues are being finalised: could you host one?

The aim is two-fold. First, to provide a shortened version of the full Germinate Enterprise course for those who like the idea of running their own small business but are not sure what business and whether it is viable. Second, to give a taster for those considering running the full six session programme as one of the ways their church could reach out and help their community flourish. For full details and to register your interest, see [here](#). If you could host an event, contact [Jerry](#)

- Spread the Word about **HOPE 2018**: Click [here](#) is see a video and for information and resources.
- Our friends in **Rural Ministries** are running [Regional Conferences](#) around the UK.
- Leicester Cathedral is holding a service for the farming community at 7.30pm on 10 October. RSVP to Clare.Winfield@leccofe.org
- **Managing Major Building Projects** in places of worship: one day event in Oxford on 19 Oct, details [here](#).
- **Day Conference on Resource Churches in Rural Areas**: Tuesday 28 Nov. 2017, 11am-4pm, Sheffield. Save the date - details to follow.
- **Catholic and Rural**: The national conference for rural Catholics takes place in Lancashire Feb 5-7 2018, full details [here](#).

Grants for church buildings

The National Churches Trust has various grants available to churches:

- **Maintenance grants** are for small urgent repairs, deadline 6 Sep.
- **Community grants** of up to £20k are for projects that will enable increase community use e.g. toilets and kitchens, deadline 30

Sustaining church buildings

Social enterprise has a positive effect on the sustainability of churches, according to research by ourselves and the Plunkett Foundation commissioned by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Examples (community shops, community spaces, farmers market, laundrette), together with lessons and challenges are described in a

Oct.

- **Repair grants** of up to £40k are for urgent structural repairs, deadline 30 Oct.

[Details of grants for churches](#)

readable and practical practical report now available online [here](#).

A new updated and expanded version of "Crossing the Threshold" is to be launched on 3 Nov. It's a step by step guide to developing your place of worship for wider community use and managing successful building projects.

Rural church learning communities

Bring together a small team from your rural multi-church group to think, pray, plan and learn from others. Develop a shared vision and agree practical steps to respond to change and facilitate mission and growth. This video from the Diocese of Worcester gives an overview. Set one up this autumn. [Details here.](#)



Become a Germinate Ambassador!

Germinate Ambassadors make a vital contribution to our work, helping raise awareness and understanding of our work with potential users and donors, and increasing take-up of resources. Ambassadors receive training, expenses and as a token of our thanks:

- Free entry to the Germinate Conference, Germinate Lecture and similar events
- A free subscription to Country Way
- A 20% discount on programmes such as Germinate Leadership and Germinate Groups.
- As we build up the team, we plan to offer an annual Ambassador dinner and update.

Join us!

[Full details here](#)

The next *Country Way* will be out in early October, with a focus on sharing faith. Make sure you sign up for your copy [here](#).