**DCRF Rural Worship Workshop 12th October 2019**

**Teign Valley Community Hall – 9.30 to 1pm with a shared lunch to follow**

**Report from the task group meeting held on 30th April (Penny Dobbin, Jane Frost, Ruth Frampton, Joanne Jones)**

We will be focusing on five areas of worship:

* Traditional Farming Festivals – Harvest, Lammas, Rogation, Plough Sunday
* Traditional Christian Festivals – Mothering Sunday, a rural Holy Week and Easter, Christmas …
* Spirituality events – prayer walks, pilgrimage, connecting with nature
* Blessing the local community/Life events – the start of the cricket season, bell ringing competitions, village hall restorations, closures of businesses or schools, memorials and remembrances, dedications, openings of new clubs …
* Linking with secular special days and weeks – e.g. World Environment Day, Meadows Week, Big Garden Bird Watch – working with other organisations with a focus on stewardship of creation, connecting with nature, well-being and spirituality

As well as the work during the morning, we will ask people to bring with them any resources they have found helpful, service outlines etc., so that we can upload to our website and share with all.

This will be quite an intensive workshop with lots of input from participants. If there is an appetite we can consider another workshop event next year to take some of the ideas deeper.

We hope that we will have a good mix of people who approach worship from both leadership and participation points of view, are both clergy and lay and representative of a variety of churches and backgrounds.

We shall finish with a shared lunch (people to bring their own) – the team will rustle up some cakes to share and the Christow congregation will help with coffee and tea (for which we are mightily grateful).

We will be asking the groups to consider:

* the needs of the participants
* the place for worship – inside, outside, farm, community space…
* hospitality
* communications
* as well as the shape of the worship or prayer event itself

We need to recruit sufficient group facilitators (we have five so far – Penny, Ruth, Joanne, Jane F, Susanna Metz) who will need briefing – which will be done in advance.

Resources and “Proceedings” from the workshop will then be made available via our Devon Churches Rural Forum website for all who might find them useful with appropriate links to diocesan and other websites.

The event is currently listed on the Diocesan website Events page and Philip Sourbut has agreed to circulate via CME lists – we also will need additional circulation to churches and other denominations which encourages lay as well as clergy participants.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Activity** | **Notes** |
| 9.30 am | Gathering and Coffee | Supported by the congregation of Christow church |
| 10 am | Welcome, introducing the team, and Outline of the Day |  |
| 10.15 am | Flip Charts – under each of the five heading list ideas for different worship opportunities – some will be season specific, some not. | To get the creativity flowing … From this we will develop a seasonal calendar of worship opportunities – with some that can be undertaken at any time of the year. |
| 10.45 am | Input from FCN – covering their experience of offering worship for our farming communities – needs of participants, what is helpful, what isn’t  |  |
| 11.15 am to 12 noon | Group workGroups to be asked to share their experiences and ideas for their chosen worship area – what has been good and helpful, wat has not been – covering where possible the considerations above - and to come up with new ideas. | People to choose one of the above five areas of worship in advance of the day, so that we have an idea of how many groups and facilitators we shall need. Maximum size of group 6 people. If we have more than six we will make another group for that subject area. Each group to have a facilitator to record the output and ideas of the group so that it can be shared later with all participants. |
| 12 noon to 1 pm | Plenary – a chance to share what has come from the groups |  |
| 1 pm to 2.30 pm | Shared lunch and clearing the hall |  |