**Programme for Devon Churches Rural Forum Worship Workshop**

**“God in Farm, Field and Village”**

**12th October – Teign Valley Community Hall**

| **Time** | **Activity** |
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| 9.30 am | **Gathering and Coffee**  |
| 10 am | **Opening Prayer, Welcome and Introductions** |
| 10.15 am | **A Calendar of Worship** Under each of the five headings list ideas for different worship opportunities – some will be season specific, some not:* **Traditional Farming Festivals** - Harvest, Lammas, Plough, Rogation etc.
* **Christian Festivals** - Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday etc.
* **Spirituality Events** – prayer walks, pilgrimage, opportunities to connect with nature
* **Blessing the Community** - start of the cricket season, village hall restorations, openings and closures of businesses or schools, memorials and remembrances, dedications
* **Connecting with national special days** - World Environment Day, Meadows Week, Big Garden Birdwatch etc.

From this we will develop a seasonal calendar of worship opportunities – with some that can be undertaken at any time of the year. |
| 10.35 am | **Input from FCN** Covering their experience of offering worship for our farming communities – needs of participants, what is helpful, what isn’t … |
| 11.05 | **Comfort Break and move into groups** |
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| 11.15 am to 12 noon | **Group work**All participants have been allocated to a group according to preference. A list will be emailed in advance.There will be 9 groups with facilitators as follows:Farming Festivals 1 – Joanne JonesFarming Festivals 2 – Colin SmallacombeFarming Festivals 3 – Susanna MetzChristian Festivals – Jane FrostSpirituality 1 – Ruth FramptonSpirituality 2 – Sue LockwoodBlessing the Community – Penny DobbinConnecting with Special Days – Chris KeppieWorship and the Rural Church\* – Sarah CracknellShare experiences – what has been good and helpful, what has not – consider needs of participants, venue (inside or out, in a special place), hospitality, inviting people … and develop new ideas for worship possibilities. Use flip charts from above as “starters for 10”\*an additional group free to discuss any of the worship opportunities noted above, aiming to catch emerging themes common across several areas of rural worship that may apply more widely.  |
| 12 noon to 1 pm | **Plenary** – to share what has come from the groups**Chaired by Jon Curtis** |
| 1 pm to 2.30 pm | **Shared lunch and clearing the hall****From 1.45 to 2.15 pm an opportunity for informal group Q and A sessions with:**San Wernham – River Dart Wild ChurchSarah Cracknell – Growing the Rural ChurchAndrew Maries – Music in Rural WorshipDavid Curry – Exeter Diocese Environment Officer |

For more info on any of Devon Church’s Rural Forum work and resources please see <www.devonchurchesruralforum.org.uk>