

## Bright Field Community Day – Digest

- 1) ***Loosening the ground: reflecting on the Diocesan video*** – images of church, seashore, street and kitchen:

Kitchen: hospitality, meeting place, community, welcome. The tired, drabness of a church kitchen. Reflection on welcome and hospitality – who is the guest and who is the host? ‘Ministry happens when you’re the guest’.

The God who is ‘out there’ in all our contexts.

Farming – missing from the video, yet at the heart of so many of our contexts.

### ***What image would you select for your context?***

A church with an open door and filled with people and animals.  
A closed village school  
Barn conversion – second homes

- 2) ***Re-imagining: questions to ponder***

How do we envisage leadership in the church?  
Do we need a new model of ministry? Or is that simply searching for another instrumental answer? Does it go deeper than that?  
What is the role of the priest today?  
What is the holy presence in a community? What does it look like?

### ***Re-imagining: responses***

Conversations today have engendered a sense of relief and collegiality, and the courage to be honest and settle with the questions.  
Mutual support in a changing culture.  
Releasing energy for imagining a spiritually alive and theologically aware community.  
A need to question the ‘professional’ model of priesthood. Are we colluding in that model?  
Hearing a call to be faithful coming from our conversation. Reflect on what it means to be faithful and what it means to be successful.  
We have all we need to be friends with Jesus – if growth is the aim, the tail wags the dog.  
Reaffirming the value of each community and its particularity.  
There is loss and death.....but a necessary precursor to resurrection.  
It is our shared responsibility to think about the future-C o f E tends to jump on the bandwagon before last.  
For some, there is a sense of exile in their own land.  
There is much for the church as a whole to learn from the rural church.  
Ok to hold the space and wait for God to move -learning to be a non-anxious presence in our communities.

### **3) *Seeds of hope – what next?***

Affirmation of the value of listening, faithfulness, process above content.  
Learning to be non-anxious and living with the misty way.

Reshaping of existing groups to reflect the deeper way.....PCCs, Deanery Chapters etc.

Formation of similar groups to the BFC in different contexts.