



God in Rural Places:

Exploring Rural Mission, Bardney

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help small groups, churches, and practitioners reflect together on joining in with God's mission in the rural context. There are several ways to use this discussion pack:

1. Watch the whole film through and then use the discussion pack to guide your conversations.
2. Use the timings in this discussion pack to pause and discuss the film as you go. This may take a few hours on an away day or could be done on a course over a few weeks.

Whether you're gathered around a kitchen table, in a church hall, or online, take time to listen deeply - to God, to one another, and to what the Holy Spirit might be stirring in your context.

If at any point you have questions or would like RM to journey with you, or to help put into action what you are discovering, please contact us:

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Introduction – Listening to God’s Call

Both a newer and older way of being Church.

Have you ever refused to pray and why?

Can you recall a moment when God’s work became unmistakable in your life?

Kath described the “flip” in her stomach when she knew she was called to Bardney. How does the Holy Spirit guide or nudge you today?

The Barn: Grounded in Prayer and Restoration (4m:0s)

Pete and Kath describe the Barn as rooted in historic prayer that birthed new community.

Do you know the spiritual story of your place? How might it shape mission now?

Bardney’s story has a theme of restoration. What feels broken or neglected in your context, and could God be inviting you to dream of renewal?

Coffee Shop: Creating Spaces of Belonging (9m:50s)

Charlotte shared how the café’s welcome helped people settle in the village.

What makes a space feel alive with God’s presence?

Where is community missing or thriving where you live?

Charlotte said volunteers felt like family. How can church volunteering feel like belonging rather than obligation?

Grocery: Listening, Partnership, and Welcome (11m:30s)

Born from listening to the Spirit and the local community.

What’s being talked about in your village and in the wider world—and how might they connect?

The Bardney Community built the grocery through partnerships. Who could you work with to serve your community well?

Harriet spoke about creating a community profile. How can we start by listening before acting?



“We wanted good aesthetics—to give people a sense of pride.” How do our church spaces communicate dignity and welcome?

The grocery isn't means-tested so everyone feels included. How can we design spaces where everyone belongs?

Bardney's 15–20 volunteers show what's possible when mission is the focus. Would a shift from maintaining Sundays to joining God in the community enable others to join in?

Allotment: Renewal of Land and Life (16m:0s)

“A really important part of Christian mission is understanding the relationship between humankind and [God's] planet.” – Pete Atkins. How could your church explore care for creation in small, practical ways?

The allotment feeds the grocery and teaches children. How could your projects link together to nourish both people and land?

Creative Corridor: Trusting God's Provision and Imagination (17m:30s)

Is your church a place where creativity is encouraged? How might it become one?

Mary's gift of creativity reminds us each has something unique to share. What's yours, and how could it bless others?

“God, if you want anything to happen in this space then you're going to have to provide for it.” – Mary.

- What dreams feel beyond reach?
- Can you pray Mary's prayer and let God provide?

Joel sees his woodturning as creative prophetic action. How does creativity express God's nature? How might your church make space for it?



Exploring Faith: Being Church Together (33m:02s)

“Our major thing really is to be missional in any way that we can be.” – Mark.

- What’s your church’s main aim?
- How could it be more missionally focused?

“The Church is now viewed differently by the inhabitants of the village.”
How is your church viewed locally? Could you ask and truly listen?

“Church is not about going to an event; it’s about doing life together.” – Pete. What would “doing life together” look like in your context?

“It doesn’t look like Church, but we are Church.” – Pete. How might we shift from doing Church to being Church, alive in relationship with God, each other, and our neighbours?

“If God’s asked you to do it, he’ll provide everything you need.” – Kath.

- How have you seen God’s provision in your life or community?
- How can you speak more of abundance than scarcity?

Kath talks about God inviting us to go further than we dare to imagine, and says that “As long as you are with God, it’s a really safe thing to do.” – Kath.

- Can you imagine what God may be doing in your community and how God is inviting you to join in?
- What if God is dreaming something even bigger?
- Can you invite God into your imagination as a Church and how can you trust that God has you every step of the way?

Final Question

Where are you seeing God at work in rural places—and how can you join in?

