

Growing the Rural Church & Ecumenical Lambing Service

Sharing our Stories: Learning from Each Other: Worshipping Together



An afternoon to celebrate and share together ways
of growing the church in rural communities
followed by an Ecumenical Lambing Service

Preacher: Bishop James Bell

Sunday 22nd May: 3pm - 6pm

St John's Methodist Church, Settle,

BD24 9JF

and at 7pm on the farm

Wenningside Farm, Keasden, LA2 8ET

(6 miles from Settle just off the A65)

This free afternoon event, aimed at ministers and members of churches *of all denominations* is part of the 'Growing the Rural Church' series, and includes input from and ideas for farming, tourist, retirement, and other rural church communities.

To book a place:

contact Maggie Patchett,
Rural Outreach Project,
deaconmaggiep@gmail.com
01729 840659

Programme:

3:00 **Welcome and Opening worship**
Including several short stories of what God is doing in our varied rural communities.

Themed structured discussions:

- 3:20 Discussion 1. The positives:
sharing news of what's going on in our small communities.
- 3:50 Discussion 2. Practical steps:
thinking through and sharing ways to grow the rural church
- 4:20 Discussion 3. Overcoming the obstacles:
helping each other on the way.
- 4:50 What next?
- 5:00 **Afternoon tea** and chance to look around the exhibits
- 6:15 depart for **Wenningside Farm**
- 7:00 **Ecumenical Lambing Service**
followed by light refreshments

If you enjoyed the last event in Harrogate in January, do come along, and bring your friends.

If you were unable to attend then (because of other commitments or because it was full!) book early for this one - it is sure to be popular as we combine a time of sharing stories with a service of thanksgiving and blessing for lambing time.

There will be an **exhibition of ideas and resources**, and you are invited to bring along any ideas, leaflets, photos, etc. which will help others to see the possibilities for growth.

Participants and discussion facilitators include a range of local church members and leaders of growing rural churches, rural support organisations and Anglican and Methodist Rural Officers.

Some comments following the Harrogate event:

"excellent" "thought provoking"
"a great success"
"I came away with many practical and inspirational ways to feed back to our PCC to stimulate the growth of our church"
"A very, very useful day"
"It certainly gave food for thought and prompts to explore new areas of activity"
"We have attended many training events and conferences, and have spoken at them as well, but I don't think I've ever enjoyed one quite so much!"