

# Tips on rural ministry

Our adviser on rural affairs **Canon John Owen** gives us his wisdom on how to be the church in the countryside

## 1 KEEP CHURCHES OPEN DURING THE DAY

Country churches are like books. People will read them, given a chance



## 3 FIND OUT WHAT GOD IS DOING IN THE VILLAGES

...and join in with the work of the Holy Spirit



## 5 SOCIALISE YOUR MISSION ACTIVITIES

Food and drink go a long way in country parishes

## 7 CARRY A TORCH AND WEAR STRONG SHOES

Essential if you visit after dark



## 2 SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

Your congregations may be smaller, but that allows you the chance to minister more effectively to those people

## 4 COUNTRY DWELLERS CAN BE PROUD AND INDEPENDENT

...so let their ideas for the church rise to the surface

## 6 KEEP A FEW POULTRY, PIGS OR GOATS

It doesn't make you a farmer, but it's good for your reputation in the villages

## 8 A COUNTRY FUNERAL TAKES A FULL DAY

...but you will make contact with more people than you normally see in a month

## 10 THINK OF CHURCH BUILDINGS AS BLESSINGS, NOT BURDENS

...and it's more likely that they'll become so

## 9 MEET FRIENDS, ATTEND TRAINING EVENTS AND HAVE TIME AWAY

Professional isolation can be a problem for those involved with rural ministry

