**The Rural Mission Lead (RML) role / Missional Rural Ministry Task Group (RMTG)**

The aim of this aspect of the post is be for someone who is either already an expert in rural mission or willing to identify and learn such expertise to resource rural mission throughout the diocese.

* The Rural Mission Lead will work with others to **develop principles, practices and resources for effective mission in rural parishes**, and **share this with the other rural parishes of the diocese.**
* Where some good practice is **relevant and helpful for other multi-parish Benefices / incumbents with multiple charges**, distil and share these aspects of the work in a suitable forum.
* The Rural Mission Lead will draw together a **Rural Mission Task Group (RMTG)**, under the oversight of either the Archdeacon of Auckland or the Growing Mission Lead, of lay and ordained Christians committed to developing rural mission (initial meeting to take place within 3 months of licensing).
* The RMTG will work together with the RML to **identify opportunities for and good practice in rural mission, with the explicit aim of growth** in the number of disciples and growth in discipleship in rural churches.
* The RML and RMTG will, within two years of the appointment of the RML, **share the RML/RMTG’s learning** with other rural clergy and parishes. This could be through day conferences, a roadshow to be taken to other deaneries with rural parishes (working with the BLT and Area Deans and Lay Chairs to plan for maximal participation), and/or other suitable strategies (to be decided).
* The RMTG will then **make recommendations for further work** to promote excellence in rural missional praxis and end (though a new group with a new remit may itself be part of the recommended next phase of work).

A starting point for this work should be discussion of the principles, practices and resources set out in *How Village Churches Thrive: A Practical Guide*, CHP 2022) in the areas of:

* Welcome
* Making Occasional Offices missional
* Making worship and buildings accessible
* Creative care for God’s creation in our churchyards
* Community engagement
* Using festival well for mission
* Welcoming and sharing faith with children and families
* Mission and ministry among isolated and lonely people
* Communicating well

*Interim PiC and Rural Lead UW – Rural lead details*

*2025.04 v02*