



The Arthur Rank Centre  
The View, 9 Barford Exchange, Wellesbourne Road,  
Barford, Warwickshire CV35 8AQ

T:02476 853060  
[www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 1104300

17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Friends,

### **Standing Together with Farmers and Rural Communities**

The Arthur Rank Centre works to resource, train, and advocate for rural Christians, rural churches and the communities they serve. Founded in 1972 by J. Arthur Rank—a filmmaker, Christian, and member of a family deeply rooted in milling and agriculture—The Arthur Rank Centre has worked to serve rural churches and rural communities. From the very beginning, we have sought to support those at the heart of rural life, including our vital farming community, recognising its unique joys and challenges.

We know that changes announced in the Budget statement on 30 October to Inheritance Tax reliefs and other measures that will impact the farming community, have caused widespread concern and anger. Understandably, the changes announced will present huge challenges to many family farms in the country. We at the Arthur Rank Centre want to reach out to say that we are here for the farming community at this difficult time. We would like to offer a hand of friendship to anybody within the farming community by putting you in touch with rural Christians and churches who will be prepared to talk to you confidentially about your circumstances and walk with you as you take whatever decisions are needed for the benefit of you and your family in the changed circumstances that exist.

We stand alongside you, whether you share our faith or not, because we believe that every individual and community matters. This budget is just one of many pressures you face, whether it be volatile markets, rising costs, or changing regulations. These issues affect not only farmers but also the wider rural community, and their consequences ripple through families, businesses, and the fabric of rural life.

In addition to that one-to-one support, we can also help at a community level in the following ways:

- **Advocacy:** We are committed to ensuring the voice of rural communities is heard. Through meeting with DEFRA and partnerships with representative organisations like the Tenant Farmers Association, The Agricultural Chaplains Association and Farming Community Network, we seek to highlight the issues you face to policymakers and wider society.
- **Practical Support:** Our training and resources, such as the Rural Mission and Ministry Course and Germinate Leadership programme, are designed to strengthen rural churches and equip them to provide effective support in their communities.
- **Encouragement:** We are here to encourage and inspire, helping you and your community to face these challenges with resilience and determination.

The church has always played a vital role in rural life, offering a place of refuge, hope, and community. Whilst not everyone shares this faith perspective, we remain committed to walking alongside all who call the countryside home, supporting you through the challenges you face.

As we approach Christmas, we are reminded of the importance of hope and togetherness. Whatever your beliefs, this season invites us to reflect on the values of generosity, compassion, and community. These values are at the heart of rural life, and they inspire us to continue supporting one another through every challenge.

If you would like to know more about the support we offer, or to share your experiences, please do get in touch. We are here to listen and to help.

Wishing you and your loved one's peace and joy this Christmas season,

With every blessing,



Revd Matt Jeffrey

Chief Executive Officer

and on behalf of Trustees and all with The Arthur Rank Centre