

Regional  
Day  
2020  
Rural  
Invigoration



**What is God doing in rural units?**

**The landscape in which you encounter God – pause and be thankful**





An overview of the Diocese and our Archdeacons

In Lockdown we got to know each other by gathering to worship each morning from Opunake to Whangamata; Bryant Park to Taumarunui and many places between. Many have gathered for Night Prayer at Bishop Philip's place.

# What is God doing in rural units?

- At the diocesan webinars Bishop Philip and others presented the diocesan vision and overview of our priorities. One priority is invigorating rural mission. Bishop Philip said that we will visit rural ministry units.
- When we listen to narratives of the land and people we listen for events and their meaning.
- As we discern how we have been formed in faith and history we can hear God's voice in our time and respond.
- The Bill before Synod effects changes to the Parish Statute that will enable us to respond to what God is doing.

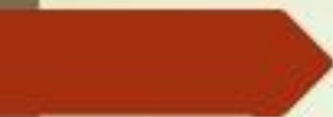




What follows is an exercise through which we will see the contours of the relationships in and between rural communities. This informs our nx

Each rural unit was allocated a colour and given the following questions. Their people answered the questions, recorded their response on feedback sheets and their coloured arrows.

These were returned and a map was assembled to show where relationships exist.



1. SCHOOL : Where do students go to high school?

Because

2. SHOP : When your people need something more than groceries – where do people shop?

Because

3. MEDICAL : When your people require specialist medical treatment, where do they go?

Because

4. TIME OFF : When you have a day out of town – where do you go?

Because

5. COUNCIL : where do you pay rates? Which council.

6. CHRISTIAN GATHERINGS in your towns.



Topic

Answer

- ▶ We discovered that Hamilton is a focus for medical care, shopping and schools for rural areas radiating out from the city.

- ▶ People further from the city go in different directions – some outside the diocese. Some across archdeaconry boundaries.

Bay of Plenty parishes travel south to Tauranga. South Waikato people go east to Rotorua. Hauraki parishes go north to Thames. North Waikato may go north to Auckland.

- ▶ Some places gather people from surrounding places – Matamata, Morrinsville, Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Te Kuiti.

- ▶ One place has 16 other churches, in some the Anglican church is the only Christian presence.



# A continuing story


Rural communities have adapted to changes in technology and practice



And societal changes  
A person of 80 was 24 when  
the Beatles toured NZ.  
A person of 60 was 21  
during the Springbok Tour.  
When we listen to what  
formed our people we may  
be surprised.







Who are we?

We see and listen  
with different  
perspectives



**God**  
**Land**  
**People**





We continue to pray and discern...

- ▶ What has God been doing?
  - ▶ Faith and Historical Narratives
  - ▶ What is God doing now.....
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