

Cost - £690 in total, which includes two residential weekends, payable in two annual instalments.

Bursaries - We encourage students to seek support from their church or denomination or government provision. CRuC has a small bursary fund.

How the course can help you

The uniqueness of the course lies in its innovative approach combining the academic expertise of JRI with the practical experience of CRuC, for:

- teachers in school, college or church - it provides background knowledge and materials on rural and environmental concerns;
- environmental practitioners - it enables the work situation to be related to the Christian faith;
- any concerned person - it connects Christian thinking to the rural context and offers stimulation, resources, and the potential for renewed vision.

Course Leaders

Dr Martin Hodson is an environmental biologist, and has been involved in the Christian environmental movement since 1990. (Principal Tutor)

Rev. Philip Wagstaff is a Methodist minister who has worked in 3 rural circuits in Norfolk, North East Essex and Devon over the past 19 years. (Senior Tutor of the Certificate)

Rev. Dr John Reader is Rector of the Ironstone Benefice in North Oxfordshire (Senior Tutor of the Diploma)

Christian Rural Concern (CRuC) has promoted rural courses since 1986. In 2002 it launched a Diploma course in Christian Rural Studies to follow the Certificate.

Membership is open to all who have a concern for the rural church, rural communities, and the environment – subscription £10.00.

Countrywide Care published twice a year is sent free to all students, tutors and members.

CONTACT: The Secretary Rev. Timothy Fox
Email: editimfox@btinternet.com

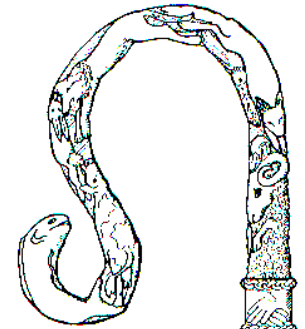
The John Ray Initiative, founded in 1998, works to develop a Christian understanding of the environment, and to promote environmental stewardship, through research, education, conferences and publications.

CONTACT: Tel: 01242 543580
Email: admin@jri.org.uk www.jri.org.uk

Ripon College Cuddesdon, (RCC) nr. Oxford, has validated the course since September 2005, and provides facilities for many of our meetings. RCC is an Anglican theology and ordination college, which runs a wide variety of courses.

Rev. Andrew Teal is the link person between CRES and Ripon College Cuddesdon. He is a tutor at Ripon College Cuddesdon, and is Chaplain at Pembroke College, Oxford.

CONTACT: Tel.: 01865 874404
Email: chaplain@pmb.ox.ac.uk



Certificate in Christian Rural & Environmental Studies

**Christian Rural Concern
&
The John Ray Initiative**



**Validated by Ripon College
Cuddesdon**



Christian Rural and Environmental Studies

- Please send me more information about the Certificate Course.
- I would like to enrol for the Course.
- I enclose a cheque for £345.00 payable to 'Christian Rural Concern'.

£300 refund payable for early withdrawal.

Please send me Module 1.

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form to:

Mrs. Lynda McKeown (Admissions Officer, CRES)
The John Ray Initiative,
University of Gloucestershire, QW212,
Francis Close Hall, Swindon Road,
Cheltenham GL50 4AZ, UK.
Tel: 01242 714821 Fax: 01242 714856
Email: admin@jri.org.uk



This two-year course provides an opportunity to study rural and environmental issues from a Christian viewpoint. It will be of interest to all with a personal or professional concern for the environment and countryside, rural communities and churches. There are no entry requirements. The course is open to people of all faiths or none.

Under the guidance of personal tutors, students work through 6 of the 8 study modules below. Modules 1 – 3 are compulsory; select three out of modules 4 – 8. Each module represents about 40 hours of activity and study.

Students are examined on Study Papers, one per Module, and a written Project presented at a Residential Consultation, the topic being chosen in consultation with the tutor and co-directors.

Module 1: The Living World:

Starting with first-hand experiences of nature, this module considers the Biblical relationships between God and the whole creation, a Christian understanding of humanity's role, and Jesus' "earthing" of heaven in the life of the Church.

Module 2: Food and Farming:

concerns the production, distribution and consumption of food. Students are required to compare different modes and contexts, including the contemporary global market, and to evaluate them in the light of a Christian ethic and practice.

Module 3: Christians as Salt and Light:

explores callings across various Christian traditions, influencing society, work, education and public policy, including where faith is related to environmental issues.

Module 4: Globalisation and Faith:

considers the important topic of globalisation. The module first attempts to define globalisation, and gives some background to the topic. It then asks what a faith perspective on globalisation might look like.

Module 5: The Physical Environment:

describes the physical systems underpinning life on earth. Threats of atmospheric pollution and climate change lead to an assessment of adaptation and mitigation. Marine and freshwater systems and soil are considered in the contexts of pollution and erosion.

Module 6: The Biological Environment:

describes the dynamics of ecological systems. An historic view that the natural world is infinitely bountiful is modified by the knowledge that some ecosystems may be approaching their limits. It outlines human and non-human factors that change or damage biological environments.

Module 7: Rural Communities:

have become more diverse. This module invites local research, and urges students to explore the values underlying their activities, the historical background and to consider some current initiatives.

Module 8: The Church in the Countryside:

looks at Christian spirituality and worship in the countryside. It studies the function of church structures, holy places, rites of passage and the role of ministers - both ordained and lay - facing difficult challenges of finance and deployment

Module 9: Rural and Environmental Theology:

explains Christian theology, and relates it to today's rural and environmental context. This includes basic issues, such as the authority of the Bible, Darwin's legacy, Christian environmentalism, and rural spirituality. The aim is to identify theological threads which can be woven into your studies as you progress with the course.