

Online Academy Tuesday 5 October 2021, 4pm-6pm CEST

Conference of Churches on the Rhine, Regional group of the CPCE

The lilies of the field are dying of thirst ! Church and Agriculture in the 21st Century - Between Ecology and Economy

A European interactive web seminar organised by the Conference of Churches on the Rhine, Regional group of the CPCE, on 5 October 4 pm to 6 pm CEST

Intensive farming, over-fertilisation, genetic engineering, modern agriculture have nothing to do with the glorified image of yesteryear : the smell of cows, waving yellow cornfields, green grassy meadows. Farms have become industrial enterprises; heavy machinery and industrial methods have long since dominated the once quiet country life.

Do the farmer and his wife live in harmony with the Creator and his creation in the countryside ? Today the Church in the countryside means that the tension between ecological demands and economic constraints have to be taken seriously.

The interactive webinar invites you to discuss, share experiences and develop new perspectives for church life in rural areas.

Speakers: Rev. Dr. Mark Betson and Dr. Aaron Kocsis

The Rev'd Dr Mark Betson is the National Rural Officer for the Church of England with the primary responsibility of focusing and developing the Church's support for the rural church and communities. He also advises the bishops in the House of Lords and senior Church of England staff on agricultural policy.

Prior to this, Mark was the priest- in- charge of two rural churches and the Rural and Environment Officer for a Church of England Diocese in the Southeast of the country. As part of his work, he was a regional director of a farming charity and was heavily involved in bringing the countryside into schools and supporting students at agricultural colleges. He has a previous career in environmental science and has also co-authored a study of people's perception of nature in churchyards.



Rev. Aaron Kocsis, is serving in Hajdúnánás (Hungary) as a pastor and Christian Education teacher. He is charter member of RCH Eco-congregation Program. This is a movement which is continually developing, where more than 40 congregations live out their mission with a strong commitment to protecting the creation. His main concerns are public theology, religious sociology, reformed identification and eco-theology. *"till it and keep it"*. Gen 2,15.

The Online Academy will be held in English. Please let us know if a translation into German or French is required.

More information and registration: Rev. Rudolf Ehrmantraut rudolf.ehrmantraut@gmx.de
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