

**INFORMATION SHEET**

**ONLINE SURVEY PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Title of Research Project**

**Rural isolation and COVID-19: Faith, worship and social contact**

**Details of Project**

What is the research about?	<p>This study examines if and how communities of the Christian faith transitioned to new forms of engagement and worship during lockdown, identifying preferred means of engagement and connection and the general effects of the COVID-19 crisis on communities across the country. It will seek to identify where people sought information from, and whether beliefs, levels of worship, and connections were affected and in what way.</p> <p>The research will aim to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic and the related curtailment to everyday activities might have affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual and community engagement with faith</li> <li>• How individuals of faith engaged with worship during lockdown</li> <li>• the ability of individuals to connect with their communities during lockdown</li> </ul> <p>The Arthur Rank Centre provides resources for rural Christians and churches, with a specific emphasis on being 'Together Apart' during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research will feed into their current response to the pandemic, to efforts to re-engage people with their faiths, and to prepare for any potentially similar outbreaks in the future.</p>
Who are we?	We are a team of researchers from the Centre for Rural Policy Research at the University of Exeter. Dr Caroline Nye is a researchers, and Matt Lobley is professor of rural resource management and director of the CRPR.
Who is funding the research?	This research is funded by the Arthur Rank Centre (ARC).
What will the data be used for?	The interest of this research is both industry-related and academic and the results will be used for both academic purposes and by ARC in order to inform their current response to the pandemic, their efforts to re-engage people with their faiths, and to prepare for any potentially similar outbreaks in the future.
Who has reviewed this study?	This project has been reviewed by the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Exeter (Reference Number 201920-137)

**Why have I been approached?**

You have been selected as a potential survey respondent due to your faith and connections with your local Christian community.

**What would taking part involve?**

The survey is a one-off survey and will take approximately 10-20 minutes.

Although there are no direct benefits to taking part, this research will be used to inform the Arthur Rank Centre and their current and future response to the COVID-19 crisis. It is possible that recommendations that result from the study might deliver wider benefits to society as well as some indirect benefits to you or the communities with which you are familiar.

We do not believe that taking part in this research has any foreseeable risks to participants. However, if any of the questions cause distress then the question can be passed or the interview can be stopped.

**How will my information be kept confidential?**

The University of Exeter processes personal data for the purposes of carrying out research in the public interest. The University will endeavour to be transparent about its processing of your personal data and this information sheet should provide a clear explanation of this. If you do have any queries about the University's processing of your personal data that cannot be resolved by the research team, further information may be obtained from the University's Data Protection Officer by emailing [dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk) or at [www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection)

**Confidentiality**

The information provided to us will not be used other than for the purposes described above and third parties will not be allowed access to it (except as may be required by the law). Your data will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act, which means data will be anonymised and kept securely until the end of the project. Your data will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act, which means that data will be anonymised and kept securely, indefinitely.

**Anonymity**

Your name and any identifying details are not required so that the survey can be completed anonymously and all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure confidentiality.

*Please take time to consider the information carefully and to discuss it with family or friends if you wish, or to ask the researcher questions*

**Contact Details**

For further information about the research or your interview data, please contact: Caroline Nye  
Centre for Rural Policy Research, Lazenby House, St Germans Road, University of Exeter, Devon, UK  
EX4 4PJ

Email: [cn293@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:cn293@exeter.ac.uk)

If you have concerns/questions about the research you would like to discuss with someone else at the University, please contact:

College of Social Sciences and International Studies Research Ethics Committee:  
[ssis-ethics@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ssis-ethics@exeter.ac.uk)

If you have concerns/questions about the research you would like to discuss with someone at the Arthur Rank Centre, please contact:

Alison Selwood:     [Alison.Selwood@arthurrankcentre.org.uk](mailto:Alison.Selwood@arthurrankcentre.org.uk) Executive PA | Arthur Rank Centre

Results of the survey will be used for both academic purposes and by ARC.

Participation in the survey and moving on to the next page is deemed to reflect consent for data to be used for research purposes.