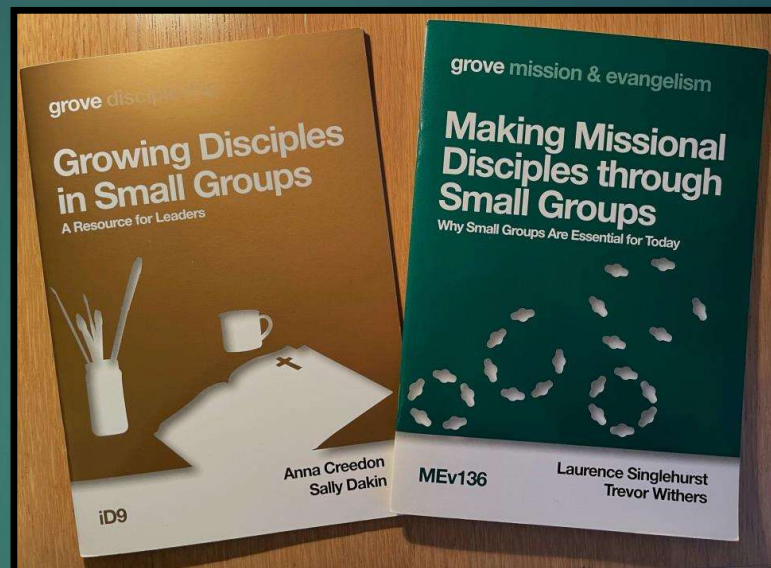


## HEALTHY CHURCHES



A pair of Grove booklets – one arguing why small groups remain essential for churches today; the other a useful companion for those already leading small groups or wanting to start off on the right footing.

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



If you want a good example of a documentary that will help you to think why rewilding might be an important metaphor for churches in the Diocese of Coventry – try this one.

[Riverwoods | SCOTLAND: The Big Picture \(scotlandbigpicture.com\)](https://scotlandbigpicture.com/riverwoods)

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



This is the second part of the documentary by Colin Stafford-Johnson that describes many of the principles of rewilding – and why it may be a helpful parallel for recovering healthy churches in our Diocese.

[BBC Two - The Wild Gardener](#)

## THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES



JEAN GIONO

ILLUSTRATED BY HARRY BROCKWAY  
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
RICHARD MABEY

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



An animation of the inspirational short story by Jean Giono that shows vividly how as individuals we can be a lasting influence within our churches and communities.

[The Man Who Planted Trees \(1987\)](#)



## HEALTHY CHURCHES



**The Biggest Little Farm** (now with a sequel on Apple+) is another visual feast that helps appreciate how significant water and soil are to the biodiversity of the world we live in, and at the same time give us inspiration about how churches might grow in a more natural kind of way.

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



A healthy church takes the whole Bible seriously. Caring for creation is essential to biblical mission, recognized today as one of the five marks of mission.

- It refreshes the faith of church members as they link the earth and changing seasons to their relationship with God
- Attracts new people who enjoy doing practical outdoor work, and those who long for the church to be relevant to the environmental crisis
- Enables the church to be seen as 'good news' in its community

adapted from Dave Bookless, A Rocha UK

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



Many of the problems in our society can be met in some measure by simple human contact, for example over a cup of tea .... Have a cup of tea with someone you don't know very well and who perhaps already exists on the fringe of the local community.

Ivor Telfer

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



.... They are poor, and make many rich; they lack everything, and in everything they abound. They are dishonoured, and their dishonour becomes their glory; .... they do good, and are punished as evildoers; and in the punishment they rejoice as gaining new life therein .... In a word, what the soul is in the body, Christians are in the world.

Lives of Christians reported in an early Christian letter



## HEALTHY CHURCHES



Many things that Christians tenaciously cling to are irretrievably past. We do not want to go back to things of the past – we want to go forward to new experiences that we ourselves do not know.

Christian Schwarz

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



God is rewilding the Church. The wild Messiah cannot be tamed. That inexpressible power at the heart of the Church may be hindered by invasive species, but cannot be quenched. We too are summoned to *be* rewilded, urged to allow the Great Interferer to have his way, to transform us from the inside out.

Steve Aisthorpe, *Rewilding the Church*

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



It could be your part is as simple as striking a match to light your flickering candle of faith. It might appear there's not a lot to show for it, but even in its fragility it can bring a delicate circle of light, hope for others in the dark.

Jill Duff, Lighting the Beacons

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



It is not we who build. Christ builds the church. Whoever is mindful to build the church is surely well on the way to destroying it, for he will build a temple to idols without wishing or knowing it. We must confess he builds. We must proclaim, he builds. We must pray to him, and he will build. We do not know his plan. We cannot see whether he is building or pulling down. It may be that the times which by human standards are the times of collapse are for him the great times of construction. It may be that the times which from a human point are great times for the church are times when it's pulled down. It is a great comfort which Jesus gives to his church. You confess, preach, bear witness to me, and I alone will build where it pleases me. Do not meddle in what is not your providence. Do what is given to you, and do it well, and you will have done enough.... Live together in the forgiveness of your sins. Forgive each other every day from the bottom of your hearts.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



My life and faith have been wonderfully enriched by these artistic collaborations and I am privileged to have witnessed people expressing their faith in so many creative ways.

Martin Poole from *Church Beyond Walls:  
Creative Church in Public Spaces*

## HEALTHY CHURCHES



The church, as the communal human expression of the person and ministry of Christ, is by no means peripheral to what God is doing; it is right at the centre. As the body of Christ, the church is meant to be the embodiment of Christ and therefore should be a visible demonstration of what God intends for the entire human race.

*Alan Hirsch/Rob Kelly Metanoia: How God radically transforms people, churches and organisations from the inside out.*



## HEALTHY CHURCHES



Christ works in the world through local congregations, sowing seeds of kingdom slowly, quietly, and yet with world-defining power “to bring unity to all things in heaven and earth under Christ” (Ephesians 1.10)

Gregg Okesson *A Public Missiology:  
How local churches witness to a complex world.*