

Small Groups at Wantage Community Church

The last two years have proved to be very different in our lives as a church together and not least in how small groups have run. Each group has adapted amazingly well with moves to meeting via Zoom and enhancing the use of other communication including WhatsApp groups. Having postponed the annual cycle last summer due to the unprecedented circumstances we are now ready to look forward to September with a fresh sign-up sheet for groups that will be available then.

We established an annual pattern for small groups back in summer 2017 in which both continuity and fresh vision can flourish.

These are designed to allow:

- Small group leaders to reflect each year on what they believe God is calling them to lead over the following 12 months (the same thing, nothing, or something new!).
- Everyone in the church to seek God each year for what he may be saying about other small groups we should be running and who he might be inviting to lead them.
- Each of us to hear from God which group we should be part of in the coming 10-12 months.

This is the invite to sign up for the group you believe God is calling you to. We need to hear from you in the next week or so, by the 6th July at the latest.



If you have any questions please get in touch with Andy or Liz Bruce or Paul Gander

Community groups running 2021-22

Community group: Wednesday evening

Lead: Dave & Jenny Smith, Kristal & Tyrone Reese

Up - In - Out

- **Upwards:** worshipping God and seeking His plans for us through prayer & bible study.
- **Inwards:** to grow spiritually and pray & support one another.
- **Outwards:** Into the community as a community, creating relationships and building foundations.

This group is for anyone that has a vision for disciples making disciples. We aim to meet weekly, some weeks being in-person, and some online. We also plan to meet together as families on occasion, on the weekend (in lieu of a weekday meet) to build relationships and community. Based on a foundation of prayer, worship and studying God's Word we want to follow God's lead in building a community where non-Christians can belong, be blessed and come to believe.

Community group: Thursday evening

Lead: Richard Heenan

We meet weekly at 8pm on Thursday evening for worship, prayer, bible study and occasional video series. Often we follow up thoughts or applications from the Sunday morning sermon. Prophetic words, pictures and gifts of the spirit are encouraged as we support one another in prayer through the trials and joys of life, seek to grow in our Christian faith, and to share Jesus with others. We currently meet online via Zoom, but are hoping to meet in person soon, rotating venues between different homes, but likely still with some joining us via Zoom. A WhatsApp message group helps us to keep in regular contact.

Community group: Thursday evening

Lead: Ian and Rosie Horswell

Bible study, fellowship, prayer, and supporting each individual member's personal outreach by prayer and encouragement.

Community group: Wednesday Evening

Lead: Ken & Kathy Armour with Jim & Linda Knight

A place to be 'real' about the joys and trials that life can bring, as we walk our faith journey together and support each other. We will seek to gain a better understanding of the Lord and who we are in Him as we worship, pray, share and study together. We are all individuals who are accepted and loved by an amazing God.

Format: We will meet every week and are going to try alternating between a physical meeting one week and a virtual (Zoom) meeting the next, depending on the situation in September.

Daytime Community group: Weekly in the daytime (Day TBC & Time TBC)

Daytime Group Lead: Paul & Fran Gander

Meeting weekly to provide support, encouragement through the Bible and prayer, and a focus for reaching out to the community. The Daytime group is for everyone that can't meet in the evenings for whatever reason! The daytime group will mainly meet physically at either 11am or lunchtime in different homes of the group.

'Add on Groups'

With 'Add on Groups' You are free to meet with your chosen community group and with the 'Add on group' at the same time or to return to the community group once the course finishes.

Ladies Thrive – a midlife support group: Saturday mornings, beginning September

We meet in person every 4-5 weeks on a Saturday morning (9.30-11) and enjoy a lovely bring and share breakfast!

We gather to share our experiences of midlife living with its joys and challenges, and to offer each other support, prayer and encouragement.

One or both of the following will run depending on numbers signed up:

Marriage Course: Wednesday Evening, beginning September

Lead: Andy and Liz Bruce

An opportunity to invest in, after Jesus, the second most important relationship in your life (if you're married!). Over the weeks we will take time to explore, deepen and develop our marriages. It will take 7 weeks beginning in Sept.

Parenting Teens Course: Wednesday Evening, beginning January

Lead: Andy and Liz Bruce

The teenage years are a time of transition and can be challenging for both teenagers and parents. Parentalk - The Teenage Years is all about helping mums and dads do the best job they can as they navigate these years with their teenager.

It's a relaxed, informal video/discussion course giving you the opportunity to talk about the day-to-day challenges you face, as well as sharing the things that are going well.

The video sessions are presented by Rob Parsons and Katharine Hill.

If you would still like to offer to lead an additional group next year then please get in touch.

There are also many opportunities to serve across the church community including the following:

- **Toddlers** (Talk to D or Jenny) – Friday mornings
Help with set up and put down, chatting with the mums, drinks
- **Dad's Out** (Talk to Tyrone) – Saturday mornings, monthly
Help with set up and put down, chatting with the guys, drinks, and preparing bacon rolls!
- **Children's work** (Talk to Kristal or Tyrone)
Assisting the group leader

- **Youth work** (Talk to Dan)
Supporting group leaders on Sunday morning or helping/hosting with youth social on Friday evenings
- **Lyrics Operator** (Talk to Andy B)
Using an iPad or laptop and projector to display the song lyrics on the screen
- **PA Operator** (Talk to Andy B)
Using an iPad to mix the band and wireless mics for the meeting lead and speaker
- **Welcome/Stewarding** (Talk to Peter Rumsey)
An opportunity to be part of the team setting up the school for our Sunday morning meetings. This would likely be once a month.

If you would like to discuss any other area of church life then please get in touch with Andy Bruce or Paul Gander.

Small Groups Sign-up Sheet 2021-22

It is possible that a group may be over subscribed. To help handle that, we are asking everyone to let us know their preferred group and their second choice. If, on the other hand, a group is undersubscribed, it may not run, or it may be run the following year.

Please note we suggest that if you sign up for an 'Add on' course that you also sign up for a community group. You will then have the choice of attending both or simply returning to the community group when the 'Add on' group has completed.

Sign up deadline: 6th July 2020

My Name:

To sign up, please put a '1' in the group you would most like to join and a '2' in your second choice group.

Group	I'd like to join
Horswell Community Group	
Heenan Community Group	
Knights/Armours Community Group	
Up, In, Out Group	
Daytime Community Group	

To sign up for one of the 'Add on' groups, please tick here:

Group	I'd like to join
Marriage Course (7 weeks)	
Parenting Teens (6 sessions)	
Ladies Thrive Group	

I'm interested in volunteering for the next year:

Service opportunity	I'm interested
Toddlers (Fri am term time)	
Dad's Out (Sat am monthly)	
Children's work (Sun am)	
Youth (Sun am)	
Youth (Fri social)	
Lyrics Operator	
PA Operator	
Welcoming/Stewarding Team	
Other (Please specify)	

Alternatively, send an email to Andy (andy.bruce@wantagecc.org.uk) or Paul (paul@wantagecc.org.uk) with your name, your preferred group, your second choice, and if you would like to sign up for any of the 'add on' groups or serving opportunities.