

# Small Groups at Wantage Community Church (2023-24)

We established an annual pattern for small groups back in summer 2017 in which both continuity and fresh vision can flourish. This is a mix of evening and daytime community groups, along with some additional 'Add-on' groups which may run just for a few weeks and usually have a specific focus.

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.

Our annual rhythm for this process is:

- **Mid May to end May:** consultation as described above to define what groups will run from the following September and who will be leading them. It is likely that many groups will continue from one year to the next.
- **Early to mid-June:** finalise the list of groups and leaders
- **Late June:** invite everyone to seek God and say which group they feel God is highlighting for them.
- **July:** Work out and communicate who is in which group.
- **August:** Summer plans.
- **September:** the new pattern starts.

***We have now completed the first two steps. 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 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July at the latest.***

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

## Community groups running 2023-24

### Community group: Wednesday evening

**Lead: Dave & Jenny Smith**

#### 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 in-person, and try to meet together as families on occasion, at the weekend (in lieu of a weekday meet) to build relationships and community. We want to follow God's plan for praying, thinking, and living missionally in our communities.

### *Community Group: Wednesday evening*

*Lead: Michael & Paulette Elliot*

Do you enjoy open Bible based discussion, prayer and fellowship whilst exploring how to live out our faith in today's world? Our small group meets weekly on Wednesdays 8 - 9pm and we would love you to join us.

We have a mixture of activities:

- Bible studies with open discussions helping each other to see how the topics covered relate to our everyday lives;
- Prayer focusing on areas of particular interest to members whether local issues or world events;
- Fellowship and social activities.

From next September we plan to be studying the Gospel of John and taking time to pray for issues affecting our local community especially the Hub

### **Community group: Thursday evening**

**Lead: Richard Heenan**

We meet weekly 8 to 9:30pm on Thursday evenings 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 gather in person but with some joining online via Zoom as they need to isolate or have practical issues that keep them at home. A WhatsApp message group helps us to keep in regular contact.

### **Community group: Thursday evening**

**Lead: Steve & Louise Matthews**

Meeting on a Thursday evening 8-9.30 p.m.

We are looking to create a community where we seek to mutually encourage, support and challenge one another to grow in fulfilling Jesus' commandments to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind and to love our neighbour as ourselves. We shall seek to build honest, committed relationships with one another. As part of this we will aim to share a meal together once a term. We hope to encounter God together through studying the Bible, worship, prayer and the use/development of spiritual gifts. We shall draw on a variety of sources and practices, both modern and ancient. In order to help each other grow, we shall share responsibilities for hosting and preparing material for study/prayer. (Support will be available to help with this if needed!) Growing in faith and relationship, we hope to explore ways to bless our neighbours or local community, either individually or as a group.

### **Sunday Family Small Group**

**Lead: Johnny & Toria Lympus**

For those who struggle to get to an evening or daytime small group, there is now one that meets fortnightly on a Sunday! Aimed at families with children, but not exclusively for them, we will meet for a very simple lunch after church, sing some songs all together, then put on a movie for the children while the adults talk and pray. The vision is to create one big extended church family with relationships between the children as well as the adults, and do life together, with Jesus.

### **Daytime Community group Tuesday**

**Lead: Andy & Eileen White**

Our daytime small group is for anyone who is available to gather on Tuesday mornings during school term times. Parents are more than welcome to bring their pre-school children with them.

We gather for friendship and support and to encourage each other in our knowledge of and journey with Jesus. Our sessions usually start by sharing our experiences since we last met, followed by worship and Bible study, finishing with prayer. The group is led by Eileen and Andy White, though everyone is encouraged to contribute in all that we do.

### **Daytime Community group: Thursday**

**Lead: David & Jennie Baker + Gill Gwalchmai**

We meet weekly on a Thursday morning from 10.30am to 12 noon during term time. The aims of the group are to enjoy fellowship together, develop friendships, deepen our knowledge of the bible, participate in prayer and worship to our Lord, and support and encourage one another in our daily lives. Everyone is very welcome, including parents with preschool children.

### **School of The Spirit: Tuesday Evening**

**Lead: D Townsend**



School of the Spirit Small group: This group will be for people doing School of the Spirit starting in October 2023. The small group would wrap around the 6 months of the course and would start in September like all other WCC small groups. The idea would be to support one another practically – e.g. Sharing lifts to Oxford, and spiritually – talking about the course and putting some of the things into practice. Obviously the weeks that school of the Spirit is running we'd only do that – but keep in touch via WhatsApp etc. It's a reasonable commitment of time and money - it works out at about £40 per month (but there are subsidies available 😊). I would say my time at school of the spirit was deeply impacting and powerful – and personally think everyone should do it 😊

## **'Add on Groups'**

*You are free to meet with your chosen community group at the same time or to return to that group once the course finishes.*

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

**Lead: Becky Colliass**

We meet in person every 4-5 weeks on a Saturday morning (9.30-11:30) 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.

For more information talk to Becky

*One or more of the following may run depending on numbers signed up:*

### **Marriage Course: Day TBC**

**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 is a video based course with all discussion taking place as couples and it will take 7 weeks.

### **Parenting Teens Course: Day TBC**

**Lead: Andy and Liz Bruce**

The teenage years are a time of transition and can be challenging for both teenagers and their 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.

## Parenting Course: Day TBC

Lead: Andy and Liz Bruce

A 6 session course looking at parenting in the early years. This is based around Parentalk – The Primary Years. This includes topics such as communication and setting boundaries and is also an informal video/discussion based course.

*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 Francesca, D or Jenny) – Friday mornings  
*Help with set up and put down, chatting with the parents/carers, drinks*
- **Dad's Out** (Talk to Johnny) – 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 socials*
- **Lyrics Operator** (Talk to Liz)  
*Using an iPad or laptop and projector to display the song lyrics on the screen*
- **Sound Technician** (Talk to Andy B)  
*Using an iPad to mix the band and wireless mics for the meeting lead and speaker*
- **StreamYard Technician** (Talk to Andy W or Andy B)
- **Welcome/Stewarding** (Talk to Andy W or Andy B)  
*An opportunity to be part of the team setting up the school for our Sunday morning meetings. This would likely be once a month.*
- **Coffee on Sunday mornings** (Talk to Sarah K or D)

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

# Small Groups Sign-up Sheet 2023-24

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.

Priority will be given to those signing up to the community group they are currently in. If you cannot get into one of your two choices then we will be in touch to give you further options.

*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.*

**Please return your form by Monday 10th July**

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.

<b>Group</b>	<b>I'd like to join</b>
Matthews Community Group (Thurs)	
Heenan Community Group (Thurs)	
Elliot Community Group (Wed)	
Upwards, Inwards, Outwards Group (Wed)	
Whites Daytime Group (Tues)	
Bakers/Gill Daytime Group (Thurs)	
School of the Spirit (Tues)	
Sunday Family Small Group (Lympus)	

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

<b>Group</b>	<b>I'm interested</b>
Ladies Thrive Group	
Marriage Course (7 weeks)	
Parenting Teens (6 sessions)	
Parenting Younger Children (6 sessions)	

I'm interested in volunteering for the next year:

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

Alternatively, send an email to Andy ([andy.bruce@wantagecc.org.uk](mailto:andy.bruce@wantagecc.org.uk)) and Paul ([paul@wantagecc.org.uk](mailto: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