

# HOME GROUPS

Those of you who read *What's On* each month will have seen a regular notice giving the dates of home groups without any other information about what these are or who they are for. The purpose of this sheet is to shed light on the mystery and invite you to consider joining one.

A home group is exactly what it says – a small group of people who meet regularly in someone's home. It is an opportunity to get to know each other better, discuss our faith and study the scriptures in greater depth and with a more personal approach than is possible in a short sermon on a Sunday. Home groups help us to feel connected and can also be a safe place to share individual doubts and difficulties as well as a source of friendships and fun.

On the following sides is a summary of each of the existing home groups, showing their leaders/hosts, day, time, venue and some idea of what they have recently studied and are looking at in the coming weeks. If any of these appeals to you, please do speak to the group leader and come along to try it out. No qualifications in theological understanding or spiritual practices are required!



## **Home Group 1**

Leader – Frances Westcott

Host – Pat Hodgson

Day/Time – alternate Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm

Venue – 11 Cherchefelle, Stanmore

Recent studies: *Mark for Everyone* by Tom Wright, *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyon and a course on *Christians in the Middle East* by Christians Together in Britain and Ireland.

Coming up this Autumn: A look at the accounts of creation and the fall in Genesis followed by Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Also a one off session with guest speaker previously part of The British Council in Egypt.

Future Topics being considered: *The Revelation of St John the Divine*, Early Christian heresies and the creeds and the 39 Articles of Faith.

We would describe our group as: A lovely group, articulate and knowledgeable, we like to keep Frances on her toes!

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## **Home Group 2**

Leader – Stuart Webster/Jane Prentice

Host – Jane Prentice

Day/Time – alternate Tuesdays, 8-9pm

Venue – 45 Ladycroft Walk, Stanmore

Recent studies: *Silence of the Heart* by Margaret Rizza.

Coming up this Autumn: *Life Calling* by Robert Warren and Kate Bruce, a book aiming to help people to embark on an adventure with God – a journey through life in which we make a contribution to the world around us.

Future Topics being considered: *The Power of Now* by Erkhart Tolle

We would describe ourselves as: A cheerful group with a lot of laughs and a fair few red-herrings in our discussions! We welcome new members.

### **Home Group 3**

Leader – Jean Orpwood/John Albin (assisted by Pat Stevens)

Host – Jean Orpwood

Day/Time – alternate Wednesdays, 8-9:30pm

Venue – 7 Halsbury Court, Halsbury Close, Stanmore

Recent studies: *Mark for Everyone* by Tom Wright, and one of the York Courses “Praise Him, Songs of Praise in the New Testament” an ecumenical course, with well-known speakers sharing their thoughts via DVD.

Coming up this Autumn: *Meeting God in Mark* by Archbishop Rowan Williams, providing a different perspective on Mark to that of Tom Wright.

Future Topics: Have yet to be discussed and agreed.

We would describe ourselves as: A group of wide experience both in life and spirituality, which enables a good depth of discussion to grow our wider understanding. While some have been members in this group for some time, others have joined and together we have developed supportive bonds of friendship. We would always welcome new members.

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### **Home Group 4**

Leader – Valerie Banger/Carolyn Johnson

Host – Valerie Banger

Day/Time – alternate Wednesdays, 8-10pm

Venue – 33 Bush Grove, Stanmore

Recent studies: *Mark for Everyone* by Tom Wright

Coming up this Autumn: *Silence of the Soul* by Margaret Rizza (A DVD of short talks about silent, meditative forms of prayer.

Future Topics being considered: None agreed yet, but the group enjoy courses based around films, e.g. *Not a Tame Lion* (a course based on three films made of the writings of C.S.Lewis)

We would describe ourselves as: A mixed group at different places on our faith journey. We have no right or wrong answers and no subject is left unexplored!

## Home Group 5 (New this month!)

Leader – The Rector

Host – Peggy Waters

Day/Time – Once a month on Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm

(16<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December)

Venue – The Lounge, Wolstenholme, Rectory Lane, Stanmore

Coming up this Autumn: A series of informal discussions on a variety of Bible passages.

Future Topics being considered: None planned yet – depends on the nature of the group as it develops.

We would describe ourselves as: To be discovered!

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Hopefully this has given you a glimpse of our groups and at least one of them sounds like something you might be interested in. We really encourage you to try attending a group. If they get too full, we can always start some more!

