



mariners

gloucester

THE CHURCH IN THE DOCKS

Life Groups

Summer 2018

God's Kingdom Come

Introduction

This leaflet contains the Life Groups for the Summer term 2018. The Life Groups fall into three categories:

- Course Life Groups
- Faith Life Groups
- Interest Life Groups

You are welcome to join one or more groups. We will accommodate everyone's first choice of group. A group might be postponed if insufficient people sign up for it. **Please note that you participate in any of the groups at your own risk. Obviously, some groups carry more risk than others!**

Please either:

- Sign up to the Life Group of your choice through the weekly bulletin (links there for each life group); or
- Email your preferences to lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk AND to the leader of the group you wish to attend (email addresses supplied below).

If there is a Life Group you would like to attend but transport is an issue, please contact the Life Group leader who may be able to help. Details of this term's groups can also be found under 'What's On' and 'Life Groups – Overview' at <http://marinersgloucester.org.uk>.

If you have any questions or queries about Life Groups, contact us at lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk.

Course Life Groups

C1 Connecting Course

Wednesday @ 7.30pm (Mariners Hall)

Leader: Andy Osmond (andy@marinersgloucester.org.uk)

Starts: 18 April. Also 25 April and 2 May (3 weeks)

This short course gives you a bird's eye view of Mariners' life and culture. It's a chance to learn more about Mariners' 'beating heart' (e.g. history, vision and values, how to get involved, etc).

The course is for you if:

- You are new to Mariners and you are thinking about coming regularly.
- You have been at Mariners for a while but have never done the Connecting course!
- You have done it before but didn't take it all in!

The evening consists of a really good meal (don't eat before you come!), a presentation, Q&A and a chance for discussion at tables facilitated by church leaders.

C2 Alpha

Thursday @ 7.30pm (Mariners Hall)

Leader: Andy Osmond (andy@marinersgloucester.org.uk)

Starts: 3 May (10 weeks)

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in an informal, fun and friendly environment. It is ideal for those who simply have questions about life or who want to know more about Christianity. Alpha runs in 169 countries and has been done by over 30 million people worldwide, including several million in the UK. It remains one of the most effective tools for evangelism in the world today. So, do think and pray about who you could invite along.

The course is 'no cost, no obligation' and consists of 10 evenings around a good meal together, a presentation (looking at topics including 'Who is Jesus?' and 'How can we have faith?') and then discussion in small groups. As the basis for each session, we are again using the excellent 2016 Alpha film series.

There is also a day away after seven weeks on Saturday 23 June in Churcham (about 15 mins out of Gloucester). More details will follow.

The course will be launched with a comedy night in Wetherspoons in the Docks on **Thursday 26 April** (tickets £12 per pair) featuring comedian Tony Vino. This is a fantastic event to invite those who are or may be interested in doing the Alpha course or who simply need to see that Christians can have fun!

See separate leaflet for the comedy night and/or book tickets through ChurchSuite or at www.marinersgloucester.org.uk.

For more information, contact lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk

Faith Life Groups

F1 The Worship Central Course

Tuesday @ 7.30pm (venue tbc)

Leaders: Debbie Williams (madwilliams@blueyonder.co.uk)

Starts: 1 May (fortnightly, 5 weeks)

We will be running the Worship Central Course over 5 sessions. It looks at theological and practical issues around leading worship in the 21st century. The course is designed to equip, empower and encourage worship leaders and teams to be as effective as they can be.

Although it is particularly geared towards worship teams, it is for anyone that is passionate about worship.

F2 Traditional Life Group

Wednesday @ 7.30pm (7 Arrowhead Close, Robinswood, GL4 6YH)

Leaders: John & Sue Naylor

Starts: 2 May (12 weeks)

This term, we are reintroducing some more traditional home based life groups that will meet for a minimum of 12 weeks per term and for a minimum of two terms.

It is hoped that this group (and others like it) will provide a bit more continuity and support than our existing groups. The group will use (broadly, not legalistically!) the 'up, in, out' model where some weeks it will be worship, prayer and Bible study; other weeks it might simply be a bring & share meal or a cinema trip; still other weeks, it might be something more outward facing like serving at Alpha, litter picking in the neighbourhood, helping with outreach in the church, etc.

F3 Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind

Wednesday @ 7.30pm (Flat 1, Southpoint, 17 Severn Rd in the Docks)

Leaders: Jenny & Rob Kingston

Starts: 9 May (8 weeks)

You can live a supernatural life. Healing, deliverance and signs-and-wonders are an inheritance for all followers of Jesus Christ. This course will teach you how to remove the blinkers of religious limitation to see your own life changed, the lost redeemed and communities transformed. You can move from an intellectual faith to an authoritative miracle-working faith, unleashing God's power.

F4 The Shack

Wednesday @ 7.30pm (11 Sandhurst Rd, Kingsholm, GL1 2SE)

Leader: Nam Parikh

Starts: 2 May (5 weeks)

Ever wondered how to process the painful experiences in your life in light of God being loving, good and powerful? Do you relate to God at a more distant level than you would like? If you met God face to face, spent a day with Him, what might that be like?

These and many other questions are dealt with in the book, and now movie, *The Shack*. This group will consist of watching the full movie, then discussing sections of it in further depth in conjunction with Bible passages. It will be a safe place to process questions, doubts and musings with others. There will be time also to pray for one another as issues come up. This group is also open to those who might not yet call themselves Christians but who are open to exploring faith questions through the film.

F5 Prayer walking

Thursday @ 7.30pm (1a College Green, GL1 2LR; by cathedral)

Leaders: Steve & Cathy Smith (cathysmith9@sky.com), Mary Pearce (mary_pearce@sil.org)

Starts: 10 May (5 weeks)

The group will be praying for Gloucester – north, south, east, west and the Docks. Come and join in to see God's Kingdom in GL1. We will start with worship, then prayer walk for about an hour in small groups. We will end somewhere with a drink and chat.

F6 Befriending Refugees/Asylum Seekers

Sunday @ 2.30-4.30pm (Mariners Hall)

Leaders: John & Jill Cordingley (johncordingley20@gmail.com)

Starts: 6 May (10 weeks)

This is an opportunity for church members to befriend migrants and try and help them on their journey to integration into UK society. This is likely to be a long term project. Because Sundays can be lonely days, we will open up Mariners Hall on Sunday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4.30pm so we can befriend migrants and show the love of Jesus to them. We aim to start in a small way and then see how it develops.

So, starting on Sunday 6 May, we will meet in Mariners Hall for some training and developing what we want to do and then open it up to whoever wants to come for tea, etc.

Note:

Additionally, some 'age & stage' groups meet that are not part of the Life Group programme either because they meet on a more ad hoc basis or because they meet for longer than ten weeks each term:

Youth Seb Cummings (youth@marinersgloucester.org.uk)

Young adults Seb Cummings (seb@marinersgloucester.org.uk)

Women Delyth Taylor (delythtaylor@rocketmail.com)

Men David Griffiths (dj.griffiths57@gmail.com)

For more information, contact lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk

Interest Life Groups

N1 Leisure Cycling

Tuesday @ 7pm (from the church)

Leader: Tom Holbrook (tom.holbrook@live.co.uk)

Starts: 1 May (7 weeks)

This group is for beginners through to intermediates. Cycling is a great way to have fun and keep fit. We will make the most of the traffic free paths in and around Gloucester and will try to incorporate a drink at a pub. Please don't let not having a bike put you off! If you would like to be a part of this group but don't own a bike, do let us know and we will help where we can to get you sorted.

N2 Football

Friday @ 6pm (Riverside Leisure Centre)

Leader: Seb Cummings (seb@marinersgloucester.org.uk)

Starts: 27 April (fortnightly)

Weekly fee: £4 (to cover cost of hall hire)

Is it time to go beyond fantasy football? Are you the next (as yet undiscovered) Marcus Rashford or Harry Kane? Then why not dust off your boots and shin-pads, and join us for our football life group, starting on Friday 27 April! Whether you're a regular player or have been sat on the subs bench for years, come and enjoy a kick around with us each week for an hour.

N3 Golf

Saturday @ 7.30am (various venues)

Leader: Brad Ainslie (bradainslie@hotmail.co.uk)

Starts: 5 May (5 weeks, fortnightly)

Weekly fee - £12-15 (golf) & £3-5 (breakfast)

Many men and women of all ages have enjoyed "a lovely walk spoiled by a little white ball", the game called golf - the game of true sportsmanship. Now you too can enjoy the wonderful game every other Saturday starting on 5 May. This life group encompasses exercise, a little skill and a great deal of patience, but the rewards are truly wonderful - fresh air, friendship and the satisfaction of (at times) hitting the ball where you intended it to go!

This is for anyone who loves the game and for those who just fancy playing. We will split the groups into playing abilities, so everyone can join in the fun (at whatever level you play). The format will be 9 holes of golf (tee off around 07:30hrs) and breakfast afterwards. We will play at 'pay and play' courses which will include Rodway Hill, Shipton, Sherdons and others.

Costs will vary but will be between £12-15 for golf and £3-5 for breakfast. If you would like to join but feel the prices are a little steep, please drop me an email (see above) and we can work something out.

N4 Groundforce

Saturday @ 9.30am (various locations)

Leader: Stacey Ainslie (sa.ainslie@outlook.com)

Starts: 5 May (5 weeks, fortnightly)

This is a practical way to reach out to the community to express love to those who need help with getting on top of their garden. You don't need to be green fingered to help, but simply have a heart to bless others. If you can't manage all the weeks but would like to help out on some of the weeks, please do contact Stacey to let her know.

Also, whether or not this group is for you, can you please let Stacey know (email address above) of anyone you know who might welcome help with their garden.

N5 Walking

Saturday @ 9.00am (various locations)

Leader: Tim Gordon (tim@aleph17.co.uk)

Starts: 12 May (5 weeks, fortnightly)

We will walk some of the scenic routes in the local area. Walks will probably be 3-4 miles at a graceful pace – nothing too strenuous – lasting 60-90 minutes. If you know of any good walks that you would like to share with the group, please let Tim know. This group is a great chance to make friends, enjoy the fresh air, burn off some calories and explore a bit more of Gloucester.

For more information, contact lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk