



**mariners**

gloucester

THE CHURCH IN THE DOCKS

## **Life Groups**

**Autumn 2017**

God's Kingdom Come

## Introduction

This leaflet contains the Life Groups for the Autumn term. 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:

- Complete the enclosed application form and return it to Andy Holloway in the church office; or
- Email [lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk](mailto:lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk) with your preferences.

If there is a Life Group you are interested in 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](mailto:lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk).

# Course Life Groups

## C1 Alpha

### Thursday @ 7.30pm (Mariners Hall)

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

*Starts: 5 October (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 Alpha films released in 2016.

There is also a day away after eight weeks on Saturday 25 November in Churcham (about 15 mins out of Gloucester). More details will follow.

The course will be launched with a comedy night in Dr Fosters in the Docks on **Thursday 28 September** (tickets £10 per pair) featuring funny man Mark Palmer. 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 at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/comedy-night-with-mark-palmer-tickets-36686854369>.

## **C2 Connecting Course**

### **Wednesday @ 7.30pm (Mariners Hall)**

*Leader: Andy Osmond ([andy@marinersgloucester.org.uk](mailto:andy@marinersgloucester.org.uk))*

*Starts: 13 Sept. Also 20 and 27 Sept (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. It is also for you if you have been at Mariners for a while but have never done the Connecting course! 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.

## **C3 Your Kingdom Come (living as citizens in God's Kingdom)**

### **Tuesday @ 7.30pm (Mariners Hall)**

*Leader: Andy Osmond ([andy@marinersgloucester.org.uk](mailto:andy@marinersgloucester.org.uk))*

*Starts: 03 October (10 weeks)*

Our vision statement at Mariners is 'God's Kingdom Come'. When Jesus the King comes, He brings His kingdom with Him. Jesus is also the saviour, saving the lost, healing the sick and setting the tormented or oppressed free. This course is aimed at helping you discover life in all its fullness.

This exciting new discipleship course is for you if you are hungry to discover the full reality of life as a citizen in God's Kingdom and how we can help others become citizens too. On the course, you will (among other things):

- Discover the nature of God's Kingdom and how we become citizens of it
- Learn to think differently as Kingdom citizens

- Learn to live differently by exercising faith and your God given authority, leading others into the Kingdom and praying for healing and freedom.

Delegates will be in groups for discussion time each week. These groups will remain the same each week, giving you the chance to form good and trusted friendships where we hope you will feel able to share more openly. When you register for this course, please indicate who (if anyone) you would like to be in a group with.

For more information, contact us at  
[lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk](mailto:lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk)

# Faith Life Groups

## **F1 'Remember the poor'**

### **Thursday @ 7.30pm (Highnam)**

*Leader: Pat Prosser (patrick@craconline.co.uk)*

*Starts: 05 October (10 weeks)*

The Apostle Paul said, 'All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing that I was eager to do all along' (Galatians 2:10).

In this group, you will look at:

- Our biblical remit for working with the poor.
- Working with the poor - how to care, yet avoid the pitfalls.
- Trussell Trust's Foodbank ministry and other similar ministries.
- How Trussell Trust started and is developing beyond the provision of a food programme.
- How we can help and support Gloucester foodbank through, for example, prayer, volunteering at the Foodbank, supermarket collections and facilitating a Mariners' food collection.
- Having some fun - and maybe even some food!

So, there will be Bible teaching, discussion, prayer, interactive training on working with the poor and – for those available during the day – a visit to Gloucester foodbank.

## **F2 Refugee Action and Support**

### **Wednesday @ 7.30pm (Quedgeley)**

*Leaders: Jill and John Cordingley*

*Starts: 04 October (10 weeks)*

The needs of migrants in Europe and refugees/asylum seekers in the UK are all around us and are increasing. Together, we can do more! As a

group we will be gleaning information, planning, acting, encouraging and praying. In particular, we will be liaising with GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) to provide practical help to refugee families arriving in Gloucester in the near future.

On some weeks (between 4-8pm Wednesdays), we will be joining the World café at Brunswick Baptist church, Southgate Street, for food and friendship with people newly arrived in the country and city.

*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. These are:*

<i>Youth</i>	<i>Jo Chew (youth@marinersgloucester.org.uk)</i>
<i>Young adults</i>	<i>Seb Cummings (seb@marinersgloucester.org.uk)</i>
<i>Women</i>	<i>Catharine Cooke (chrisandcatharine@hotmail.co.uk)</i>
<i>Men</i>	<i>David Griffiths (dj.griffiths57@gmail.com)</i>

For more information, contact us at  
[lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk](mailto:lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk)

## Interest Life Groups

### **N1 Advent**

#### **Wednesday @ 7.30pm (Hall)**

*Leader: Mary Pearce ([mary\\_pearce@sil.org](mailto:mary_pearce@sil.org))*

*Starts: 04 October (10 Weeks)*

*Suggested course fee: £5 (to cover cost of materials)*

Advent literally means ‘coming’ when Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus, celebrated at Christmas. We are going to be focused on preparations for Christmas! It will be mainly art and craft based, including (but not limited to) salt dough wreaths, handmade tree decorations, tea light holders and glass painting. We will also be helping the church events team with decorating the church and hall ready for Christmas, and perhaps even doing some carol singing!

### **N2 Badminton**

#### **Wednesday @ 6-8pm (GL1)**

*Leader: Tim Gordon ([tim@aleph17.co.uk](mailto:tim@aleph17.co.uk))*

*Starts: 4 October (10 weeks)*

*Weekly fee - £3 (to cover costs of court hire)*

“Badminton: a game with rackets in which a shuttlecock is hit back and forth across a net.” Played at the highest level, badminton demands great fitness: players require aerobic stamina, agility, strength, speed and precision. At our level it’s simply about fun, friendship and a good evening out! Whatever level you play at, why not sign up and give it a go!

For more information, contact us at  
[lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk](mailto:lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk)

## **N3 Football**

### **Friday (time and venue to be confirmed)**

*Leader: Seb Cummings – [seb@marinersgloucester.org.uk](mailto:seb@marinersgloucester.org.uk)*

*Starts: 13 October (fortnightly; also 27 Oct; 10, 24 Nov; 8 Dec)*

*Suggested weekly fee: £3 (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 13 October! 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.

There is also the mouth watering prospect of a return match with Christ Church, Exmouth after an action packed 3-3 draw earlier this year! More details to follow

## **N4 Nativity**

### **Dates to follow**

*Leader: Catharine Cooke ([chrisandcatharine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrisandcatharine@hotmail.co.uk))*

Fancy yourself as a budding actor or actress but never quite had the confidence to give it a go? This could be your big break! We are looking for an all star (and all age) cast for our first ever nativity play, which will feature at our morning celebration at King's school on Sunday 10 December! It will be lots of fun and provide a different take on a sometimes all too familiar story.

Rehearsal times will be arranged to suit as many of you budding thespians as possible.

For more information, contact us at  
[lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk](mailto:lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk)

## **N5 Wine Tasting**

### **Friday @ 7.30pm (Gloucester)**

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

*Starts: 6 October (fortnightly; also 20 Oct; 3, 17 Nov; 1, 15 Dec)*

*Weekly cost - £3 (to contribute to the cost of the wine)*

This is not a group for wine experts; it is a group for people who simply enjoy wine and know what they like! During each session, our host (different people each time) will introduce three wines of their choice, say a bit about them and also say why they like them. We will then all have the chance to score the wines to determine a weekly winner. All a bit of fun around something we enjoy!

More information, contact us at

[lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk](mailto:lifegroups@marinersgloucester.org.uk)

Your name:

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Contact number:

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Email address:

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Your Life Group preferences either in order of priority (eg C2, N3) or please indicate if you would like to do all the ones you've listed:

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