



mariners

gloucester

THE CHURCH IN THE DOCKS

Life Groups

Spring 2018

God's Kingdom Come

Introduction

This leaflet contains the Life Groups for the Spring 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:

- Complete the enclosed application form and return it to Andy Holloway in the church office; 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 Alpha

Wednesday @ 7.30pm (Mariners Hall)

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

Starts: 31 January (9 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 9 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 17 March 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 **Wednesday 24 January** (tickets £12 per pair) featuring comedienne Jo Enright. 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 www.marinersgloucester.org.uk.

C2 Connecting Course

Thursday @ 7.30pm (Mariners Hall)

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

Starts: 11 January. Also 18 and 25 January (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.

C3 Abundant Life – the essential guide to following Jesus

Thursday @ 7.30pm (Mariners Hall)

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

Starts: 01 February (9 weeks)

Abundant Life discipleship course looks at various topics essential to healthy Christian living. The course is for everyone on the faith journey. It is nine weeks long, with a Saturday session (24 February) on Spiritual gifts.

The format for the evenings is refreshments, worship, a presentation and then small group discussion. The session topics (not necessarily in this order) are:

- **Belonging** – in God’s family as a son/daughter
- **Growing** – in your faith & trust in God
- **Forgiving** – those who have hurt or offended you
- **Meditating** – on God’s word so it nourishes you
- **Praying & Fasting** – being spiritual disciplines that strengthen you
- **Worshipping** – the only one worthy of our praise
- **Honouring** – everyone! How to do it in practice
- **Kingdom Coming** – living as citizens in God’s Kingdom
- **Serving** – by discovering & using your Spiritual Gifts (*Saturday*)
- **Giving** – our time, treasure and talents to God

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.

Faith Life Groups

F1 Basic Training for the Prophetic Ministry (Barnwood)

Tuesday @ 7.30pm

Leaders: Meg Roberts (megmill1@me.com) and Cathy Smith (cathysmith9@sky.com)

Starts: 6 February (8 weeks)

Have you been called by God to be a prophet? Learn how to develop your calling and increase the strength of your gifts from someone who has given hundreds of prophetic words worldwide.

You will be sure of your calling as you learn the difference between:

- Prophets and Prophecy
- Foretelling and Forttelling
- Word of Knowledge and Gift of Prophecy
- A True Prophet and A False Prophet
- Old Testament and New Testament Prophecy

Author Kris Vallotton guides you through the rigours of basic training by revealing the core issues about prophecy and a revolutionary prophetic ministry.

Complete with inspiring true stories, thought-provoking questions, and a Personal Experience Journal, you can begin today to fulfil the calling God designed for you!

"Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight" (1 Timothy 1:18).

F2 Transforming Journey: doing life the Jesus way (Highnam)

Wednesday @ 7.30pm

Leaders: Pat & Jenny Prosser (patrick@craconline.co.uk and jenny@craconline.co.uk)

Starts: 31 January (8 weeks)

We all know that as Christians we are meant to grow but somehow it doesn't always work out like we thought. We get stuck at some point whether about prayer, fellowship, Bible study, the gifts of the Spirit, maybe guidance. Then there's the baggage from our old life what do we do with that?

This group will be on a journey together, revisiting the basics of the Christian life and praying for one another. Numbers will be limited so, if you think this group might be for you, new or older Christian, speak to Pat.

F3 Science and Faith (location tbc)

Thursday @ 7.30pm

Leader: Mary Pearce (mary_pearce@sil.org)

Starts: 1 February (5 weeks)

We will explore how science fits into our understanding of the Bible and we will consider the wonder of creation from the Bible and from science. There will be worship, videos, presentations and practical discussion on what we believe and what difference it makes! We will pitch the level of discussion for those who attend. You do not have to be a scientist to come! If you have questions around this topic, or you know someone who does, then this is for you! If you think you have this sorted, be prepared to be surprised at what other Christians think!

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 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 Football

Friday @ 6pm (Riverside Leisure Centre)

Leader: Seb Cummings – seb@marinersgloucester.org.uk

Starts: 19 January (fortnightly)

Suggested 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 5 January! 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.

N2 Walking

Saturday @ 9.30am (Various locations)

Leader: John Cordingley (johncordingley20@gmail.com)

Starts: 27 January (5 weeks)

John says: “We will walk fortnightly, starting on Saturday 27 January with a small 90 mins walk round Alney Island. Let’s meet at the Alney Island Nature Reserve Car Park at 9.30am. This car park is free and is located on Westgate Street, just past the Seat garage going West towards Highnam.

This group will provide a good opportunity to get to know each other better, but also to invite your friends to join us.”

The other dates will be 3 Feb, 17 Feb, 3 March and 17 March.

N3 Come Dine with Me

Friday @ 7.30pm (Various venues)

Leader: Jo Chew (jo-linggracechew@hotmail.com)

Starts: 26 January (5 weeks, fortnightly)

Jo says: “These evenings will be just like the TV show! Each week, we will go to different houses for a dinner party and entertainment. For a competitive edge, each participant will rate the performance of the week’s host! A winner will be announced at the end of the series!”

The other dates will be 9 Feb, 23 Feb, 9 March and 23 March.

N4 Health and Nutrition (How to live a healthier lifestyle)

Tuesday @ 7.30pm (Mariners Hall)

Leader: Ben Griffiths (ben928@hotmail.co.uk)

Starts: 20 February (5 weeks)

Ben says, “We will be looking at exercise, nutrition and social factors that all play a role in improving our overall health. If you want to have more energy, feel better and take control of your health, then this course will not only empower you to do so but will motivate you to reach any health goals you may have.

“You will leave with practical tools that you can implement and tailor make to fit your lifestyle. This will include meal ideas and snack options, exercise plans and much more. I will also be sharing stories about my personal battles to continually improve my health.”

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

Your name:

Contact number:

Email address:

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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