

ture of people of varying ages and with different view points. This leads to stimulating discussions on subjects which can be quite challenging!"

Another said:

"As it is a weekday, we all come from our various places of work where Christianity can be very non PC. We all have had thoughts about our work day and how to act in different situations. Home group is a point in the week to reaffirm each other in our meagre attempts to carry our faith into the un-spiritual deserts that exist."

One of our home group leaders described home groups in this way

1. A place to make lasting friendships;
2. A time to study the Bible with others and look at its application to everyday life
3. A secure place to practice and grow in the use of spiritual gifts, particularly healing and prophecy
4. A place to clarify your thinking about what it means to be a Christian, and to learn from the experience of others
5. A time to pray with others about specifics

3. How do I join?

Speak to a leader

There are a number of Home-groups in this church and we don't mind if you want to try one or two of them out till you find one that feels right for you. Why not ask one of the home-group leaders about their group?

Give it a 'trial period'

Once you have found a group it's good to give it a 'trial period' of a few weeks before you decide. Try to stay long enough to experience both the fun and the study so that you can make a real judgement.

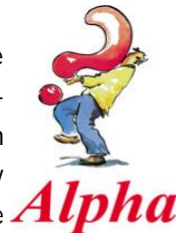
See it through

Once you have settled into a home-group make a commitment to get to the group every week. Seeing it through will bring you great spiritual benefit, but it will also be an encouragement to all the other members of the group every time you turn up.

4. Home-groups & Alpha?

After Alpha?

For those who have completed the *Alpha* course, home-groups are a natural next step. You can usually stay with the people you have got to know over the weeks of the *Alpha* course and begin to develop what you have learnt during the course.



The home-groups that develop out of the *Alpha* course are particularly encouraged to look at the stories of Jesus in the Bible and to see how the Bible can help to answer some of the dilemmas of day to day living, whilst at the same time allowing space for socialising. There is plenty of opportunity to ask the questions that were not asked at the *Alpha* course and much more time to discover some of the answers.

We would certainly encourage you to join a home group and take advantage of all the benefits they have to offer.

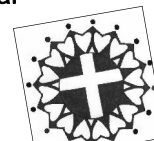
The Revd Paul N Thompson—Vicar

The Vicarage, 2 Llwyn-y-pia Rd
Lisvane, Cardiff, CF14 0SY

Phone: 029 2075 3338

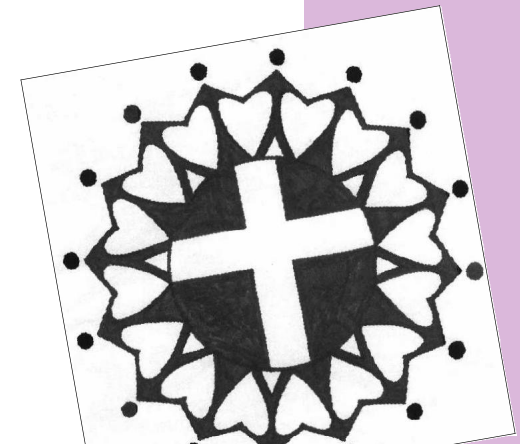
Mobile: 077 7947 1670

Email: revpaul@ic24.net



St Denys, Lisvane

Why Should I join a Home-group?



St Denys, Lisvane

1. What is a Home-group?
2. What's in it for me?
3. How do I join?

1. What is a Home-group?

An important part of Church life.

At St Denys home-groups usually include bible study, worship, prayer and ministry, mixed in with opportunities to eat a meal together or go out for the evening.

Most people who attend a home-group do so because they are fun.



A place to grow in your faith.

Home-groups are great places to study the bible, learn about prayer, discuss difficult issues and generally minister to each other.

Often it is difficult to get to know people as congregations grow and there are more people in church. Also good teaching and inspiring services are not always the best way to show you how to put the Christian faith into practice in your daily-life. How to pray, how to read the Bible, how to pray with others, how to tell others about Jesus, how to deal with money, how to deal with work, how to... the list really is endless.

Home-groups offer the chance in a small group of people, to learn about Christian things in a safe environment. As your faith grows you become more confident of the Holy Spirit in your life, and so more confident about telling others about Jesus.

... and grow the Church!

Churches with home-groups tend to be growing churches! Home-groups are a great place to bring

your non-Christian friends who might find the Sunday services daunting.

Many churches use home-groups in this sort of way and simply agree to 'count-in', as part of the church, people who are going to home-groups. Very often these people do end up coming to church for Sunday worship, sometimes fairly quickly after they are introduced to the home-group but often that process takes a long time and during that

2. What's in it for me?

A place for friendship

Home-groups can easily become a place to develop and deepen friendships. It doesn't need to be all study and serious discussion. Home-groups are encouraged to socialise and many regularly have a meal together, perhaps going out to a restaurant or buying in a take-away. Some have even gone away for a weekend together.



In this way the fellowship of the group and so of the church is increased and we are all better able to encourage each other.

... to learn

Home groups are places to learn more about the Christian faith. You can ask questions, discuss answers, share concerns in a safe place, and because everybody is in the same boat—all learning together—you can ask questions which you might find difficult to ask in other circumstances.

We have all been in situations where there have

been questions we have wanted to ask but have felt that everybody else would think we were stupid if we asked such a simple question. In home-groups those questions become much easier to ask.

... to be encouraged

Home-groups are places of encouragement. Life is often just too busy and it is really easy to be discouraged in your faith simply because it can look as if everybody else is managing to live the Christian life except me! Home-groups are a really good place to be encouraged as you discover that really we are all in the same boat—relying on God to get us through.

... to grow spiritually.

The encouragement we receive from each other can be just what we need to keep growing spiritually when the difficult times come. Sometimes even when we know that God is always with us it is still good to have someone else remind us that it is true.

We tend to mature most in our Christian faith when things are at their most difficult. Those are the times when our faith is most tested, so it is really good and can make a huge difference to have our very own 'cheer-leaders' shouting for us and encouraging us to keep going when our lives feel tough.

What others have said!!

Here is some stuff others have said about home-groups at St Denys. A member of one home-group said:

"Our home group is great. It includes a mix-