

Out by sharing God's love through service, action and mission—each group will be encouraged to have a specific 'Out' focus/project

SOME INITIAL PRINCIPLES

GROUP SIZE: up to 6 (for the moment due to Covid 19 restrictions) but ideally 8 to 12 – this leaves room for future growth!

SIMPLICITY: in a nutshell, groups should be all about **love and challenge** – thus they will not always be comfortable places, but they will be safe places

EXPECTATIONS: We want to have high expectations of our groups, believing they really can make a difference.

FREQUENCY/SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS: most likely fortnightly, and different groups will meet at a range of times and days;

WHEN WILL THE GROUPS BE LAUNCHED?

We aim to begin our new groups in early 2021 (COVID 19 allowing).

If you are interested in joining a group, please let us know in the following ways:

- Emailing the church office church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk
- Sign up on the lists on the notice boards at St John's and St Luke's
- Speaking to/contacting Rev Simon Dowson, 07735 532821
simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org or Sarah Shepherd 07771 847149 sarah.shepherd@btinternet.com

NB 1. Couples can join the same or different groups

NB 2. if childcare is an issue, why not offer your home as a venue?

If having read this leaflet, you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch, and please do give some serious thought to joining a group.



SMALL GROUPS

Just as Jesus formed his own small group so we know that we all flourish, find support and learn well in small groups. As we all connect and re-connect with one another and with God in this COVID 19 season, we want to revive, renew and develop our small groups to give us space to thrive as God wants.

WHAT IS OUR VISION FOR SMALL GROUPS?

We believe small groups can/should:

- increase a sense of **belonging** to church
- stimulate **spiritual growth** through shared exploring of the Bible, prayer and mutual encouragement
- **inspire & equip people** to love & serve God, each other & the world

One way we hope to achieve this is encouraging our groups to follow what is known as '**The Jesus Pattern**' – see www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPEVxE5Jcyc This pattern contains a crucial principle that is applicable to groups & individuals – namely the '**Up, In, Out**' triangle which shows us how we need to live in 3 dimensions:

UP, IN, OUT:

Up to God, seeking to understand His love for us through worship, getting to grips with the Bible and prayer.

In by sharing our lives, challenges and joys – what we would often call fellowship