



Welcome to our Connect Groups brochure.

Connect Groups are going to begin in the week commencing 18th September. We hope that every member of our church family will be part of a Connect Group.

As you will see there are a variety groups meeting throughout the week both in the evenings and during the day. Most groups are open to anyone, but a couple are for ladies only and we also have a group especially for families with children.

What's the purpose of Connect Groups?

Our hope and prayer is that Connect Groups will be places where we can grow.

- They will be places where we can connect and build friendships, where we grow in our relationships with each other.
- Most importantly they will be places where we grow spiritually and go deeper in our relationship with Jesus, through Bible study and prayer.
- And also grow in number. Our aim is that these groups will multiply and be spaces where people who are new to Ferndown or new to faith can connect and grow.



In our increasingly post-Christian society, we believe that meeting regularly with a small community of fellow Christians to refocus on Jesus, encourage one another and pray together is vital if we want to shine brightly with the transforming light of Jesus wherever God has placed us.

How can I get involved?

To get involved please fill out the response card. On there, you can indicate the three groups you would most like to be part of. You can also tell us which days and times work for you.

Please return this card as soon as possible. We aim to let you know which group you have been allocated to by early September. If it's not possible to allocate you to a group of your choice, we will endeavour to start up new groups that work for you. If you would be willing to consider facilitating a group, to make that possible, please do contact Oli (oli.fricker@stmarys-ferndown.org.uk).

If you are already a member of a group you are guaranteed a place in that group. You are welcome to fill out a response card if you would like to.



CONTENTS:

Mondays:

7.00pm Debbie Austin's Group (*ladies only*)

7.30pm Andrew Harmer's Group

Tuesdays:

2.30pm John Berridge and Mark & Ruth Farthing's group

7.30pm Barry & Jan Hutching's group

7.30pm Gina Petrie's reading group

Wednesdays:

9.00am Lynne Rees's group

2.00pm Mike & Vera Waters and John & Maggie Bemrose's group

7.45pm John & Liz LeRossignol's group

Thursdays:

early eve Oli & Natacha Fricker and Mike & Faby Orman's group

Various Cheryl Jones and Jill Barron's walking group

7.30pm Bernard & Bobbie Taylor's group

8.00pm David & Rachel Jobbins' group

Fridays:

10.00am Larry & Julie Frost's group

Hazel Addis's group

2.00pm Alison Hartley and Walle Sherren's group
(*ladies only*)



LADIES BIBLE STUDY GROUP WITH DEBBIE AUSTIN AND JEAN BERRIDGE



**Monday evenings
at 7.00pm, fortnightly
at church
Ladies only**

This group has evolved from our "Ladies Unlimited" ministry. Our aim is to explore the Bible in a fun way with lots of laughter!

This autumn we will be delving into Matthew's Gospel and discussing how it impacts our lives.

We love to spend time getting to know each other and praying together.

*If you are looking for an
engaging evening group and
to connect with other ladies,
this group is for you.*



ANDREW HARMER'S GROUP

**Monday evenings
at 7.30pm, weekly
at Andrew's house**



In our meetings we'll be spending time worshipping together, studying the Bible, and praying for each other. I believe that being part of a Connect Group is really important.

Through worshipping, learning, praying and sharing with others, I have been inspired to go deeper in my faith and found help and support in difficult times. I would like each member of this new group to be able to find the same for themselves.

We'd recommend Andrew's group for anyone who is looking to go deeper in their walk with God and who would love to help others to the same.



BARRY & JAN HUTCHING'S GROUP

**Tuesday evenings
at 7.30pm, fortnightly
at their house**



In our group we love to support, encourage and pray for one another as we seek to follow Jesus as best we can. When we meet, we make lots of space to catch-up and share. We also spend time together reading the Bible and discussing how we can apply what we read in our lives.

This term we are going to be looking at Acts and the life of the early Church.

This is a fantastic group if you are looking for a group of friends to faithfully and prayerfully support and encourage you in your walk with God



GINA PETRIE'S READING GROUP

**Tuesday evenings
at 7.30pm, monthly
(26th Sept, 24th Oct, 21st Nov
& 19th Dec)
in Venue 1 at Church**



Do you enjoy reading fiction but wish you had others to share your books with? If so, this might be the group for you! Each session we'll have fun chatting about a book, what we loved and what inspired us. We'll also think about how it relates to Christian faith and how we live that out.

This will be fantastic group for exploring how faith connects with the whole of our lives.



JOHN BERRIDGE AND MARK & RUTH FARTHING'S GROUP

**Tuesday afternoons
at 2.30pm, weekly
at church**



In this brand new group our aim is to connect with each other and, most of all, with Jesus, through exploring the Bible, fellowship and prayer.

We will be starting by looking at the subject of Grace, using John Stott's book "Experiencing the Grace of Christ" as our guide.

We'd particularly recommend this group if you are new to St. Mary's and looking to get more involved.



JOHN & LIZ LEROSSIGNOL'S GROUP

**Wednesday evenings
at 7.45pm, fortnightly
at their house**



We meet together for Bible-based discussion, prayer, worship and encouragement. We also have occasional social events.

This autumn, we are starting a series on "What does the Bible say about ..."

John & Liz are brilliant leaders and this will be a great group to try if you've never been part of a small group before.



DAVID & RACHEL JOBIBNS' GROUP

**Thursday evenings
at 8.00pm, fortnightly
at their house**



Hosted by David & Rachel, and led by Karen Scarfe, this group is focussed on connecting and growing families and anyone that wants to join them. We plan to start with an informal catch-up, followed by a short discussion and time for prayer.

Our time together will be fun, supportive, informal and involve plenty of cake!

On weeks when we're not meeting there will be informal guys and ladies meet ups in conjunction with the families' group and also some young adults and families' social events. Check out the young (and youngish!) adults and families' program for details



LYNNE REES'S GROUP

**Wednesday mornings
at 9am, weekly
at Lynne's house**

This term Lynne's group is going to be exploring some of Jesus' parables, which means there will be much to gain whether you have been a Christian for decades or are new to following Jesus.



*If you're a morning person,
Lynne's group will be a great way
to start your day, with deep
discussion and a chance to pray.*



MIKE & VERA WATERS, AND JOHN & MAGGIE BEMROSE'S GROUP

**Wednesday afternoons
at 2.00pm, fortnightly
at church**

During the autumn term we will be exploring "the glory of Jesus revealed" by looking through scripture.

We will also occasionally experience the glory of His creation by walking together (weather permitting)

Come and join us for a time of fellowship, worship, and studying His word and creation together.

We'd particularly recommend this group if you are relatively new to St. Mary's and looking to get to know more people and get more involved.



OLI & NATACHA FRICKER AND MIKE & FABY ORMAN'S GROUP

Thursdays
early evenings, fortnightly

This group is especially for families with children. The plan is to share a simple child-friendly meal together from 5.30-6pm. We'll then have some family worship time. After that there will be an opportunity for grown-ups to meet together to chat, learn and pray, while children enjoy some time to play together.

This term we are going to explore the Parenting for Faith course, which is all about enabling our children to discover a life-giving relationship with God.



If being part of an evening group feels impossible then this group is for you! Don't worry if you're not sure if you can make every session - we'd love you to come and give it a try. Also, on weeks when we're not meeting, there will be informal guys and ladies meet ups and we're also planning some young adults and families' social events. Check out the young (and youngish!) adults and families' program for details.

BERNARD & BOBBIE TAYLOR'S GROUP

**Thursday evening
at 7.30pm, weekly
at their house**



We have always loved how when we gather together with a small group we learn so much from each other as we look at the Bible and think about how to apply to our lives. In our sessions we will be spending time worshipping, studying a passage from the Bible and praying together.

To start with this term, we are going to be focussing on some of the amazing women in the Bible and what we can learn from their stories and how they followed God.

This is a fantastic group if you're looking for honest and practical conversation and the opportunity to connect with people from across the St Mary's family. Bobbie & Bernard are experienced leaders and this will be a great group to try if you've never been part of a small group before.

CHERYL JONES AND JILL BARRON'S WALKING GROUP

Thursdays, fortnightly during October and November (dates TBC)

Do you love walking and being outside? Once a fortnight we organise a 6-mile walk either in the countryside or by the coast. During the walk we pause for thought, prayer and an opportunity to connect with God.

You need to bring your own drinks and snacks for the journey, but we normally end each walk at a cafe.



LARRY & JULIE FROST'S GROUP

**Friday mornings
at 10.00am, monthly
at their house**



We will be meeting once a month. We begin with cake and a time to catch up with one another and share prayer requests. We then read a Bible passage and have a discussion about it. Recently we have been working our way through the book of Romans.

We'll also be having a few extra social events too.

We'd really recommend this group if you feel a bit unsure about joining a group. There's no pressure to pray out loud or know all the answers.



HAZEL ADDIS'S GROUP

**Friday mornings
at 10.00am, weekly
at Hazel's house**



In this group we aim to delve deeply into the scriptures and discern together how we can apply what we learn to our lives today. We also make time to share and pray with one another.

We'd really recommend this group for anyone who wants to learn better how to study the Bible and live out the gospel.



ALISON HARTLEY AND WALLE SHERREN'S GROUP

**Friday afternoons
at 2.00pm, fortnightly
at Walle's house For ladies only**

We alternate between meeting at Walle's house for prayer and discussion and meeting at a local garden centre for coffee and a catch-up. We always make time to for everyone to share their news and we always pray for each member of the group, although there is no pressure to pray out loud. We always have cake too!

When we meet at Walle's house, Walle leads a discussion time. This term topics for discussion include:

- Prayer Life
- Listening to God
- The Persecuted Church
- How to Develop Patience
- Walking in Faith



Sign-up slip

Name:

Email address:

If you would like to sign up to join a Connect Group, please write your
1st, 2nd and 3rd choice:-

1.

2.

3.

P.T.O



In case we can't allocate you to one of the groups you selected or if none of them appealed, please let us know the following:

1. Which days and times work for you? (*please tick*)

	morning	afternoon	evening
Mondays			
Tuesdays			
Wednesdays			
Thursdays			
Fridays			

2. Ideally what sort of group would you like to be part of?

- Adult bible study and prayer group
- Group for families
- Walking group
- Something else
-

3. Do you have any other comments, queries or suggestions?

.....

.....

