

What is expected of housegroup members?

By nature housegroups are small and work vastly better if as many of the members as possible are regular and frequent in attending. Constant changes to who is present each week makes it difficult to get to know people, slows the building of friendships and hinders prayer and pastoral care. Joining a housegroup is therefore a significant commitment to keep that night of the week free, as far as possible, from all other commitments.

Other than in exceptional circumstances we would expect that anyone who is a member of a housegroup would be a regular attender at our Sunday meetings, though we appreciate the pressures of contemporary life and the reality of weekend working for many.

We hope that all housegroup members who are in agreement with the church's statement of faith will consider becoming members of the church.

What should I do if I want to join a housegroup?

- Tick the appropriate box on a Feedback Form and place it in the blue "bin" at a Sunday meeting **OR**
- Talk to one of the Elders (Andrew, Ken or Maurice) **OR**
- E-mail office@christchurchliverpool.org for more details **OR**
- ...just turn up at a group one week – going to a group once doesn't mean you have to stick with that group. You are welcome to visit the groups before deciding which day / venue / group suits you best.



House Groups

What are housegroups?

Housegroups are small groups (usually between 6 and 12 people) that meet on a weekly basis in church members homes.

The main emphases of our housegroups are:

- a) Interactive small group Bible study
- b) Prayer for the needs of the group, the church and the wider world
- c) Developing godly relationships amongst church members and regulars

Why do we have housegroups?

Writing to some of the first Christians in Colossae the Apostle Paul said that they must "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (*Colossians 3:16*)

At Christ Church we are committed to the life transforming power of the good news of Jesus Christ found in the Bible. So we want every person who comes to our church to have as many opportunities as possible to get to know the Bible and have opportunities to live out its life changing message.

One way in which we do this is through our Sunday meetings when we publicly proclaim the message of Jesus from the Bible through our preaching. But it is also important that we learn to study the Bible's message for ourselves. There are lots of ways we could do this (churches don't *have* to have housegroups!) but small group Bible study in people's homes is one excellent way of doing it.

In a small group it is often possible, having looked carefully at what the Bible has to say, to think more personally about the implications of a particular truth for our lives. This is one reason why we often study the same passages of the Bible in our small groups as we have looked at in our Sunday morning meetings.

Housegroups also provide a great opportunity to live out the Christian life – to learn to pray together, to learn to love one another

and to think together about how we can encourage one another in sharing the good news of Jesus with our friends.

Who should go to housegroups?

We encourage everyone who considers Christ Church to be their church to be a committed and regular member of a housegroup. The only exception to this is that we do not generally encourage undergraduate students to join housegroups (see below).

At Sunday meetings it can be quite easy to get "lost in the crowd". Being a regular at a housegroup helps us to get to know others in the church family better and helps the church leaders to provide better pastoral care and support.

Being in a housegroup also provides opportunities to serve within the church family and discourages us from seeing church as if we are simply consumers – the Bible's picture is of a body, a building or a family (for example *Colossians 3:15-17; Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Peter 2:4-10*)

Why don't you encourage students to go to housegroups?

We believe that the years people spend as students give unique opportunities for evangelism amongst the people you live and work with. So we encourage all students to be actively involved in the work of the Christian Union groups on campus. CUs are specially set up to share the gospel with students.

We would expect every student who considers Christ Church to be their church to be an active and regular member of a CU small group and to make the most of the opportunities for evangelism and discipleship this brings.

If you are a student who for any reason is unable to be involved in a CU small group come and talk to a church leader about being in a housegroup.