

**WELCOME
to the
LENT COURSE 2008**

**Session 3:
NEW FORMS OF
HOME GROUP**

Christians have always met
in house churches

Romans 16:3-5, 14, 15

All Saints & St Richard's
have had
house churches/groups
since 1971

It's time for a re-think!

Introducing **GROWTH GROUPS**

(‘Growing in love for Christ, for each other and for the world’)

- House Groups
- Cell Groups

CELL GROUPS

- Meet weekly
- Develop closer friendships
- Do more together
- Aim to grow and multiply

What should Growth Groups be doing?

A biblical word study:
One Another

1. STIRRING UP & ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

Hebrews 10:24-25

- Spurring each other on (*24*)
- Encouraging each other (*25b*)
- Making the group a high priority
(*25a*)

Cell Groups: A high commitment to each other's spiritual growth

House Groups: More interaction outside the group meeting

2. LEARNING FROM & WORSHIPPING WITH ONE ANOTHER

Colossians 3:16

- Rich Bible study (*16a*)
- Learning from each other's wisdom (*16b*)
- Worshipping together (*16c*)

Cell Groups: Mutual
accountability

House Groups: Really applying
the Bible study to life today

3. CONFESSING TO & PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

James 5:16-18

- Being honest with each other
(*16a*)
- Praying expectantly for each
other (*16b-18*)

Cell Groups: Trusting each other
with our struggles

House Groups: Expecting our
prayer time to make a difference

4. SERVING ONE ANOTHER

1 Peter 4:9-11

- Inviting each other home (9)
- Using our gifts in the group
(10-11)
- Serving together

Cell Groups: Serving together
is seen as part of group life

House Groups: Expecting to
serve as well as be led

5. LOVING ONE ANOTHER & WITNESSING TOGETHER

John 13:34-35

- Being close to one another (34)
- Being close enough to the world, for them to see our mutual love (35)

Cell Groups: Expecting to be involved in evangelism and so to multiply

‘Friends and neighbours are to be invited to house churches: to introduce them to Jesus Christ and to discuss current events and moral issues in the light of Bible teaching’

House Groups: Encouraging
the 'loss' of people to the
Discovering Christianity Course

**Is this the way forward for
All Saints & St Richard's
in the 21st century?**

1. What do you see as the advantages of having Cell Groups?
2. What do you see as the disadvantages of having Cell Groups
3. Overall, should we introduce Cell Groups?
4. In what ways could House Groups be improved?