



CHRISTCHURCH

Programme

Jan-Mar

2023



Men's GROUP

The Men's Group in its current form began about 20 years ago. It developed out of a Men's Alpha which engendered a hunger to study God's Word.

There are several aspects to the Men's Group. We strive to include all men of all ages in all of our activities. Some men participate in some aspects; some participate in all aspects; some participate in none. You are free to come and go as you choose.

Study

Up to about 15 of us meet every Sunday night during school term between 7.30pm – 8.30pm in order to study the Bible. Most often we study a book in the Bible, but we also study themes and topical questions. In the last few years we have studied, Hebrews, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ecclesiastes, Joshua and 1 and 2 Samuel and have considered Tim Keller's 'The Gospel Life'.

As part of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we have viewed a DVD series on key figures and their theology much of which remains relevant today. In previous years we examined together the earliest and most important manuscript evidence of Jesus of Nazareth, including the writings of Josephus and Tacitus, the apostle Paul and the controversial Gnostic Gospels through a documentary called 'The Christ Files'.

Social

We also meet socially, both as a means of getting to know each other better and as a means of including new men in the life of Christ Church.

There are regular monthly dinners, sometimes with a short talk or discussion. We have coffee mornings on Tuesdays. From time to time we host breakfasts with a speaker, and arrange walks.

Service

Men like action, and we are not exceptional in this regard. We like to be of service to the Christ Church community and beyond. Most years, some of us take part in the Guildford-wide 'Ready-4-Action' weekend; in past years a group of us refurbished the upstairs of Church House; most years we endeavour to do a Besom project in the community. We also help with the gardening, DIY and other church activities.

Support

We have a desire more efficiently to provide support to the men of Christ Church and beyond and this is an area we would like to develop further. Unrealised ideas include prayer triplets, support groups and mentoring.

In past years one of us has arranged a quiet half-day, involving study, quiet reflection and prayer which has been well received. Every few years we host an Alpha or Christianity Explored course purely for men.

Bible Study

Nehemiah – God’s Building Project

Nehemiah tells the story of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. God’s people had been in captivity in Babylon but God had intervened so that they could come back to their own land and rebuild their broken city. It is a key moment in the history of God’s people.

But this isn’t just a tale of a rebuilt wall. The people had ignored God and that Jerusalem was intended to be a representation of God’s rule. Nehemiah had to rebuild the social and spiritual character of the people, dealing with justice issues, resist the distractions of enemies and reinstating the word of God at its place in the centre of the life of the city.

In our times, after the impact of the Covid pandemic in particular, we face the challenge of rebuilding our Church. The 2021 census with its data on the reducing number of people who describe themselves as Christians, increases the challenge. What can we learn from Nehemiah to assist us today?

The course is structured into eight parts with a study guide.

When and where?

Sunday nights, at 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm sharp. We will meet at Acre Holt, One Tree Hill Road, Guildford GU4 8PJ until half term; and then at Church House or other venue tbc.

Programme

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| 8 Jan 2023 | Redeemed to Represent (Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:8) |
| 15 Jan 2023 | Building a Team (Nehemiah 2:9 – 3:32) |
| 22 Jan 2023 | Development and Defence (Nehemiah 4:1-23) |
| 29 Jan 2023 | Walking in the Fear of God (Nehemiah 5:1 – 7:4) |
| 5 Feb 2023 | Stay Focused (Nehemiah 6:1 – 7:4) |
| 12 Feb 2023 | Rebuilt through the Word (Nehemiah 7:5 – 8:18) |

MID TERM BREAK

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| 26 Feb 2023 | Sacrificial Commitment (Nehemiah 9:1 – 12:43) |
| 5 Mar 2023 | Uncompromised Faith (Nehemiah 12:44 – 13:31) |
| 12 Mar 2023 | CS Lewis – The Making of a Mind & The Reluctant Convert |
| 19 Mar 2023 | CS Lewis – The Widening Circle & Joy and Beyond |
| 26 Mar 2023 | Spare Week for General Discussion: Update on General Synod |

Social

Special Events this term:

On Friday 3rd March 2023 the MG dinner will be in the Church with a talk by the Revd Greg Cushing.

Dinners.

Friday 27th January 2023 – hosted by Mike Houchin

Friday 3rd March 2023 – Dinner in the Church

Friday 31st March 2023 – Curry at a venue tbc

Coffee Mornings.

Each Tuesday at The Hideaway Café in Allen House Grounds, near Eastgate Gardens, at 10.30am. When it is Prayer Central (one Tuesday a month) coffee is at the Church after prayer.

Church Family Walk.

Saturday 25th February 2023 at 10.30 am starting at the Saxon Church, Albury. Contact **Mike Rigby** (613658) for further details.

Mowing Team

Join our mowing team and mow the Christ Church lawns once each year! Please offer your services to **Nick Nicolaou** (823275).

Contact

If you have any questions in relation to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact **Ray Bell** (07960 494834), Richard Algeo (07954 117243), (**Mike Rigby** (613658) or **Colin Griffin** (502276).



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Christ Church, 23 Waterden Road, Guildford GU1 2AZ