

Report on the House Group 2017

This report provides a summary of the House Group that was first set up in 2016.

1. Background

House groups are an excellent way to help parishioners grow and deepen their faith. Groups meet in people's houses in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, giving opportunities to develop friendships, worship with other Christians, learn more about the Bible and strengthen their relationship with God.

It involves study and discussion of the Bible, worship and prayer. The aim is to inform and encourage one another and share diverse opinions as we discuss what God is saying to us.

The Clay Hill House Group started in May 2016, with 20 people originally expressing an interest, and about 12 people attending. The aim is to meet on a monthly basis, although there hasn't been a meeting during the last four months of 2017 due to other commitments.

2. House Group Meetings in 2017

During 2016, the house group discussed a number of issues including the work of the Holy Spirit, the theology of money and debt, angels, and starting a six part Prayer Course, about teaching us how to pray.

In 2017, the group continued with the Prayer Course including the following sessions.

Purpose in Prayer: Adoration - how we can enjoy God's presence in prayer, and worship.

Power in Prayer: Petition - asking God for help. What it means to pray "in the name of Jesus" and why the answers to some prayers are delayed.

Prevailing in Prayer: Intercession - praying for the Kingdom of God to come in our world. How to pray for others powerfully and focussing on Jesus – the ultimate intercessor.

Perseverance in Prayer: Dealing with Disappointments - exploring unanswered prayer, the importance of honesty and lament, and how to deal with areas of deep disappointment.

The current house group will reconvene meeting during weekday evenings. Going forward, there may be scope to set up another group that meets during the day.

Peter Livermore