



Church Communities Guidebook

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WELCOME

Welcome to your Church Community – we're so glad you're here!

City Life Church is home to a number of thriving Church Communities. Each one is a space to build meaningful connections, grow in faith and love for God, and journey together in everyday discipleship. They're also places of hospitality and friendship, open to our neighbours, colleagues, friends, and family who'd welcome the invitation and would like to join in.

Our communities are open to everyone, no matter your age, background, or stage of life. Each one has its own unique flavour, and we're excited to see what you'll bring to yours.

This Church Communities Guidebook shares the heart behind why we meet this way, how our Church Communities work, and the support available from our Church Leaders.

We hope you find it helpful as you get settled in.

CHURCH COMMUNITIES

City Life Church is a family of Church Communities across Southampton, sharing everyday life around Jesus. We're committed to creating spaces where we celebrate God and welcome everyone.

We've felt inspired by God to meet together in a new and exciting way. Instead of always gathering as one large group, our church family usually meets in home-sized communities. These 'Church Communities' transform homes, workplaces, and spaces across the city into places where we share life together, invite others in, and make time for God in the midst of everyday life.

Each Church Community is shaped by its members, who share responsibility for when and where they meet, how they practise hospitality, and what they do together. Many start with a shared meal around the table. Others might go for a walk, gather in a park, or meet in other meaningful ways. In this way, church life inspires us to go deeper with God, grow as disciples in leadership and service, and offer a welcoming space for those who don't yet have a relationship with God.

What Defines a Church Community?

- **Home-Sized:** Close-knit groups where deep, authentic relationships can be built
- **Discipleship-Focused:** Journeying together to grow in faith and follow Jesus
- **Everyday Faith:** Doing life with God and one another throughout the week
- **Hospitality-Centred:** Sharing food and life around the table and in other ways
- **Giving & Serving:** Supporting the church with financial giving, time, and spiritual gifts
- **Shared Responsibility:** Everyone plays a part, living out the 'priesthood of all believers'
- **Open to All:** Welcoming people of every age, culture, and background

Why This Way?

As we've followed God's leading, we've stepped away from a traditional congregational model to embrace something more like the Early Church – smaller communities that are Spirit-led, relational, and deeply involved in one another's lives.

This way of gathering allows us to grow naturally, raising up the 'priesthood of all believers' in leadership, service, and mission. The Kingdom of God is lived out through ordinary people doing life with God every day.

We believe this is a fresh and powerful way to live as God's people in today's world.

CHURCH LEADERS



Bev Webb



Paul Woodman



Nicky Porter



Dan Pooley

Our Church Leaders are here to support and encourage every Church Community. They provide teaching resources, Equipping Courses, pastoral care and guidance as well as helping people find ways to serve across the city and beyond. They create a meaningful presence within each Church Community in a few key ways:

Visits

Our Church Leaders make regular visits to each Church Community. These visits are a chance to catch up, share what's on your heart, and hear what's happening across City Life Church.

Gatherings

Throughout the month, City Life Church hosts a variety of Gatherings where Church Communities come together to celebrate all that God is doing among us (see Page 8 for more info). We also hold regular Church Communities Catch-Ups – spaces where our Church Leaders share what they sense God is saying to us as a church family and hear what God is saying to the communities. These Gatherings are a great opportunity to connect with leaders and other Church Communities.

Spiritual Guidance

Our leaders also host Spiritual Growth Days and Equipping Courses throughout the year – offering encouragement and teaching on different aspects of discipleship. These sessions are open to all Church Communities and individuals who want to go deeper in their walk with God.

Healing Prayer

Nicky and Bev also offer Healing Prayer appointments to those needing greater pastoral support at times on their discipleship journey.

Here When You Need Us

Whether you'd like to meet for a casual coffee or talk about something more personal, our Church Leaders are always happy to meet, listen and support.

If you've recently joined a Church Community, our Church Leaders would love to meet you, welcome you, and help you get connected. Please reach out at: leaders@citylife.org.uk.

RHYTHMS

As a church family, we don't want to be recognised for our buildings, structures, or meetings – we want to be known for our values and way of life with Jesus. That's why our Church Communities focus on four simple discipleship rhythms that shape how we live, grow, and walk with Him – both together and in our everyday lives:



Grow

Serve

Invite

Worship

Grow

Deepening our relationship with God and growing as disciples through our Resources, Bible study, or discussion, encouraging one another to keep learning, listening, and living out our faith day by day.

Serve

Serving the people around us, getting involved with our Community Connections and in other opportunities across the city and beyond – meeting real needs with love and action.

Invite

Creating spaces where others feel welcome, whether that's at a meal, a walk, or simply in everyday conversations. We love including friends and neighbours in our lives and offering prayer and support whenever there's an opportunity.

Worship

Making space to worship, pray, and rest, staying connected to God in everyday life. We encourage worshipping God as our first love, pursuing His presence in all of life.

HOW WE SUPPORT YOU

At City Life Church, we want our Church Communities to be full of life – places where people grow in faith and encounter the goodness of Jesus. To help make that possible, we offer Resources, Gatherings, and Community Connections.

Resources



Our Resources are designed to support Church Communities on their journey of discipleship. From teaching and equipping to carefully selected recommended materials, everything is designed to help communities grow together in faith. Our Resources include:

Teaching

Tune in to our monthly podcast exploring our latest teaching theme. Each teaching is supported by questions and activities to help Church Communities 'Reflect, Receive and Respond'.

Spiritual Growth Days

Retreat-style days and guided activities designed to create space for deeper spiritual growth and encouragement.

Equipping Courses

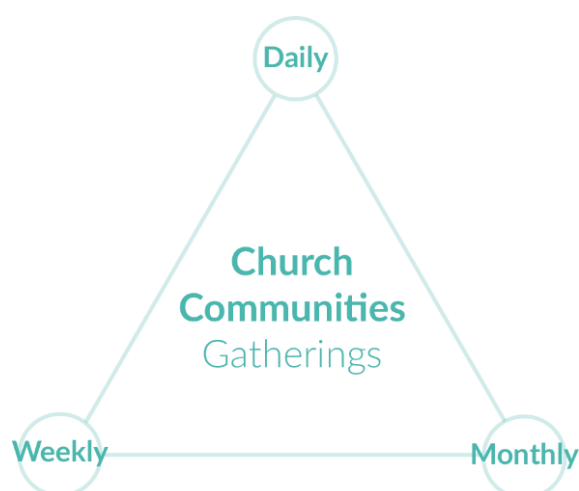
Running at various times throughout the year, these courses are ideal for anyone wanting to go deeper in their discipleship and relationship with God.

Recommended Resources

A handpicked mix of books, podcasts, and devotionals to inspire spiritual growth.

To find out more and tune in to our podcast, visit www.citylife.org.uk/resources

Gatherings



There's always something happening for Church Communities at City Life Church. Our Gatherings are here to help you walk with others and encounter God in the everyday. We offer daily, weekly, and monthly rhythms to support you through every season of life:

Daily

Join us each morning as members of our City Life Family meet online for a simple four-step rhythm of prayer: Pause – Rejoice – Ask – Yield.

Weekly

Come together each week for a welcoming space with reflection, prayer, and worship in God's presence.

Monthly

Celebrate everything God is doing with City Life Church. From family-friendly mornings full of fun, games and stories about Jesus, to spaces that help us grow in our spiritual gifts, to unhurried times of worship – our Monthly Gatherings offer something for everyone.

For all Gatherings, including times and locations, visit www.citylife.org.uk/gatherings

Community Connections



City Life Church offers practical care and support across Southampton, including for those not yet connected to a church. We partner with local groups to welcome people from overseas and walk alongside those in vulnerable situations. Everyone is invited to play a part by praying, giving, or volunteering. Our Community Connections focus on five main areas:

Homelessness

Providing food, shelter, friendship, and practical help for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Chaplaincy

Offering compassionate, one-to-one pastoral support for people in vulnerable or marginalised situations.

Overseas Welcome

Supporting international students, refugees, and asylum seekers with friendship, practical help, and a warm welcome into community life.

Overseas Trips

Partnering with global communities to share the love of Jesus and offer hands-on support where it's most needed.

Other Connections

Supporting a variety of initiatives making a real difference.

To find out more and get involved, visit www.citylife.org.uk/community-connections

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT CITY LIFE CHURCH

A key part of Church Community life is the way we all give and serve – being hospitable to others, generous with our resources, and blessing both one another and the wider community as we live life with God.

Financial Giving

City Life Church relies on the generosity of its members to continue the work we do together. Alongside regular tithing, we encourage giving towards the charities and projects we support across the city.

Serving

There are many ways to serve within City Life Church – from helping with hospitality, welcoming, or setup at Gatherings, to volunteering with our Community Connections. You might also want to get involved with our Worship Team or offer your skills in another area of church life.

Spiritual Gifts

Do you have a spiritual gift that you feel God is prompting you to use? You could serve within our Prophetic Community or at one of our prayer or worship gatherings – we'd love to help you find a way to use your gifts to bless others.

Starting Your Own Church Community

If you feel called to start your own Church Community, our Church Leaders would love to support you and explore what that could look like.

To find out more about giving and serving, visit www.citylife.org.uk

GET CONNECTED

We hope you enjoy being part of your Church Community, growing closer to God and practicing discipleship and mission in everyday life.

To get connected with all that's happening across City Life Church, make sure you're subscribed to receive our email updates. You're also welcome to join our 'City Life Family' WhatsApp Community – a space to stay connected, share news, and encourage one another.

You can subscribe to email updates and join our WhatsApp Community with the links below:

Email Updates

To subscribe to our email updates, visit:

www.bit.ly/citylifechurch-subscribe

Or scan this QR code:



WhatsApp

To join our WhatsApp group, visit:

www.bit.ly/citylifechurch-whatsapp

Or scan this QR code:



Thank you for exploring our Church Communities Guidebook.

To learn more about City Life Church, please visit www.citylife.org.uk.