



Pressing into  
heaven's culture

## New Small Group Structure

The important thing is to get started. We will constantly review and refine what we are doing together.

We aim to harmonise Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells together as far as is practicable. You may be part of the Tunbridge Wells congregation yet want to have an involvement in a Tonbridge specialism. We want to be flexible

We anticipate having two forms of group life which will meet on alternate weeks.

Both forms of group are to be **presence-centred** – that is enjoying and nurturing the tangible sense of God's being with us in love. We want to build in line with our core-values.

We don't want to squeeze members into a structure, we want to recognise the varying gifts and graces in our midst and build a light, flexible structure that releases life. Riverbeds serve the river.

There will be both day-time and evening expressions of both forms of group.

### THE TWO FORMS OF GROUP

#### Life Groups

Think of Acts 2:42-47 and you won't go far wrong. Food – fun – fellowship and faith.

These are "in the box", reasonably predictable and "all on the same page". They are intended for all **members** to attend.

Life Groups are led by FACILITATORS: mature Christians with initiative, who can organise the diary, exercise hospitality and basic care. We are not looking for mini-teaching-pastors.

These are groups of approx 8-10 people in number.

#### Life Streams

These are "out of the box" type groupings. Think of flowing streams which at times interweave, merge into one another, and are far less predictable. They will meet at varying times, some less frequently than others, etc. Life is allowed to get messy – "life finds a way".

LIFE STREAMS will probably take longer to take shape and get established by their very nature.

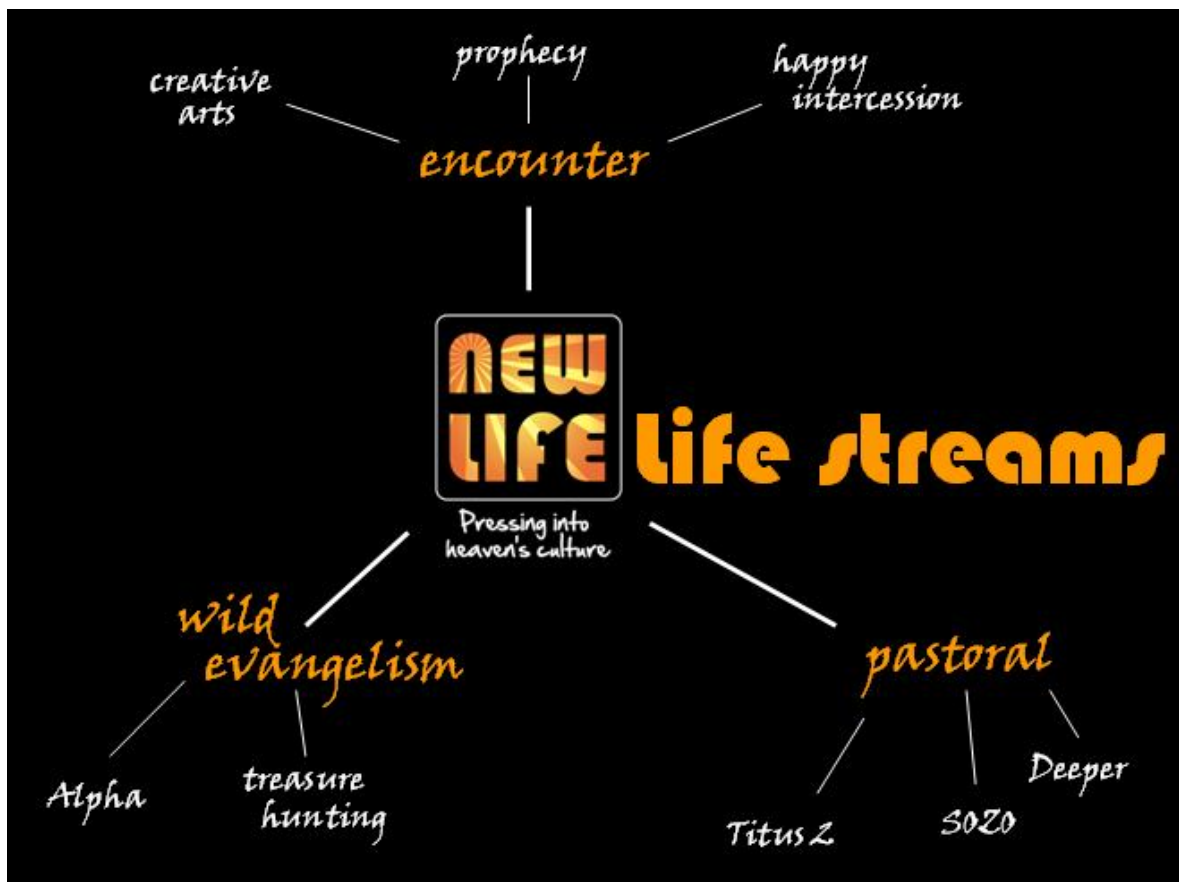
The numbers of those involved in each STREAM will vary from time to time and from group to group.

Some STREAMS are for all members or friends of the church, others are by invitation only. Church members are added to these other streams prayerfully and selectively. We will depend on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to develop what are in effect channels of naturally supernatural ministry flowing out of an encounter with God.

**Note** – we will be exploring the possibility of running some weekly LIFE GROUPS for any who are not attracted at this stage to LIFE STREAMS.

### **MORE DETAIL ON THE LIFE STREAMS**

The graphic below shows how the different streams will fit together within the life of the church:



All the STREAMS will share a strong emphasis on worship and enjoying the tangible presence of God.

### **The Encounter Stream**

All members, or friends of the church, are welcome to attend the ENCOUNTER STREAM. This stream will act like a reception funnel to the overall life of the church. Some will remain in this grouping, others will move off to other streams as God leads.

This will for the most part take place in the Old Ambulance Station on a Tuesday evening.

This STREAM reflects something of all the other STREAMS.

There will be:

- Soaking in God's presence
- Teaching and equipping on a range of topics
- Visiting input
- Room for the prophetic
- Room for the creative arts
- Room for intercession
- BREAK-OUT STREAMS – these will be **by invitation only** and will provide opportunities to: receive pastoral care; grow in the PROPHETIC; explore the CREATIVE ARTS; or for entering into HAPPY INTERCESSION.

These groups will, periodically, leave the main meeting hall and gather in other areas of the building.

Some or all of these BREAK-OUT STREAMS will have expressions which meet at other times to develop and exercise their ministries.

We will also have ENCOUNTER evenings that are opened up to the wider body of Christ and the general public.

### **THE THREE (INITIAL) BREAK-OUT STREAMS WILL INCLUDE:**

#### **Happy Intercession**

The engine room of the church. This STREAM may well meet more than once a fortnight.

- Creative and prophetic
- Not problem focussed, or issue single focussed, judgmental or subversive to the life of the church, but joyous, humble, gracious, loving and serving
- Experimental and varied expressions
- Teaching and training

#### **Creative Arts**

- Creative and outworking the prophetic
- Not "fluffy" but drawing on the weighty glory of heaven for inspiration
- Presence inspired whatever the medium
- Suitable to flow into the other STREAMS
- Experimental and varied expressions
- Training and equipping

#### **Prophetic**

- Training and equipping
- Visiting input
- Practicing together
- Grace and love imparting – not judgmental

## **THE TWO (INITIAL) DISTINCT STREAMS WILL INCLUDE:**

### **Wild Evangelism Stream**

- Training and equipping
- Varied life and expression
- Grace and love imparting
- Supernatural edge
- Gospel fruit bearing

Under this heading we include such ministries as:

- Alpha – an informal course for those interested in knowing more about the Christian faith.

### **Pastoral Stream**

- Supernatural edge
- Teaching, training and equipping
- Running various courses
- Grace and love imparting
- Varied life and expression

Under this heading we include such ministries as:

- Titus Two – senior members coming alongside others to impart life skills and help in practical ways
- Bethel Sozo – ministering inner healing to those afflicted by wounds and lies
- Deeper – a course which takes beginners a little further into the truths of the Bible
- Transform – a group which looks to foster significant life change to its members

It is highly likely that other STREAMS will emerge in the fullness of time.

For more information please contact:

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