

# **Welcome to Renewal Groups**

At Renewal, we're passionate about helping people build relationships and bringing people together. We want to grow connections and serve our communities, our families, neighbourhoods and workplaces. We love having fun doing the things we enjoy together: walking mountains, watching the footy, reading books, discussing films, making art and much more.

Our groups run seasonally from September to July.
Some groups are courses, and run for shorter periods.
This enables you to join groups for different stages of seasons in your life.

I hope that reading this will encourage you to join a group – or even consider leading one!

May God bless you

Karen Van der Poll

Assistant Pastor for Groups

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# Why we have groups

Groups help people to become a connected, growing and healthy community. Groups are where we care for each other, grow in our faith and reach out to serve our church and our communities.

We know one size doesn't fit all, which is why our groups are all different. People are drawn together by shared interests or goals, and there is a place for everybody.





Scan the code to find out mor

# Our groups

All our groups fit into one of six categories that we call 'collectives'. Collectives make it easy for you to find the group you'd like to be a part of.

Collectives create opportunities for groups to come together for events – such as all the family groups meeting for a picnic, or cultural groups getting together for an international celebration.



# **Life Groups**

From the young to young at heart, covering all ages and stages.

Find out more on Page 7



# **Support Groups**

A safe space for support through the ups and downs of life.

Find out more on Page 9



# **Workplace Groups**

Connecting professionals; helping you in your sphere of influence.

Find out more on Page 11



# **Outreach Groups**

Serving our community, having fun and helping those around us.

Find out more on Page 12



# **Growth Groups**

Growing faith by digging deeper into the Bible and life's big questions.

Find out more on Page 13



#### **Interest Groups**

Enjoying sports, leisure and creative hobbies with like-minded people.

Find out more on Page 15

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# **Life Groups**

We have all ages and stages in our life groups from the young to young at heart. Join a group and find real connection.

There are several types of life groups available in each category. Here's why these people love their group:



Scan the code to find out more



# **Young Adults**

"Being part of YA is great for support and a good laugh at a time when I'm navigating into adult life"

Caitlyn



#### **Mixed Adults**

"We love connecting, praying, having fun and looking out for each other's needs"

Stephen & Sarah



Doing

#### Senior Adults

"Being with like-minded people keeps me grounded. I can be myself and share heart."

Althea





#### Men

"Being part of a group is a decision to surround myself with solid guys to share my life with."

Ben



# Women

"I can be open with my group about life and be both challenged & supported."

Naomi

### **Families**

It is amazing to be part of a family group. There is a sense of belonging and feeling part of something, where people really know each other and look out for each other. The opportunities for our children to get to know others in the church is so meaningful, as it gives a solid foundation for them to grow up in the faith with a biblical foundation and friends who believe people in our group are there for us, and it's incredible to be able to pray for each other and for others outside the group. We have a or not and we can invite people who may not

Cliff & Jo

Find a life group at renewalcc.com/groups

# **Support Groups**

Our support groups are there to help you through the ups and downs of life. Mental well-being, support in pregnancy and parenting, bereavement and relationship support are just a few of the things on offer.

# **Relationship Support**

Preparing for marriage, couple to couple mentoring, marriage strengthening, divorce and separation course.

#### **Bereavement Support**

Groups for people experiencing loss, whether the loss is a parent, child, partner, friend or family member.

# **Parenting Support**

Groups designed to help and equip parents, from fostering and adopting, to toddler and teenage parenting.

#### Lifestyle & Wellbeing

Offering help for life's challenges such as addiction recovery, mental wellbeing and dementia support.

# Together through the ups & downs

# Navigating Grief Group

A few weeks after attending Renewal, I started attending a young adult's group, and little did I know I would need this group of people more than ever. We met twice a month and discussed the week's message, shared food and did life together. Not long after joining, my mum got sick and sadly passed away a few weeks later.

This has led to me starting a new group, Navigating Grief: Stronger Together, for younger adults who have been bereaved. Our hope is to connect people with similar experiences to support each other and share in our loss. It's like having an extended family, knowing people have your back through thick and thin and is just an amazing way of getting to know people.

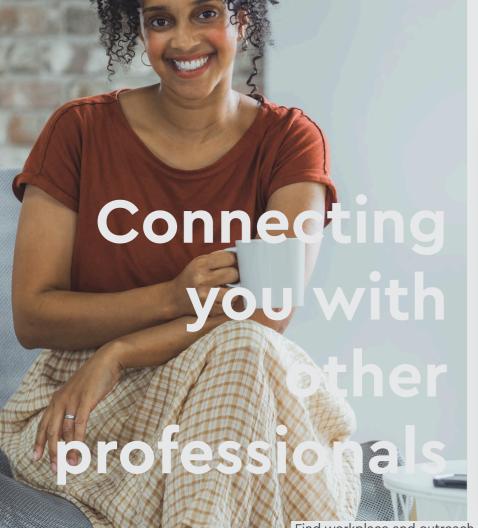
Kat



Scan the code to find out more

Find a support group at renewalcc.com/groups

# **Workplace Groups**



Business people, lawyers, teachers, healthcare professionals and entrepreneurs – these groups connect you with others in similar workplaces, helping and motivating you in your sphere of influence.

# Business Women Of Faith Group

"We started the Business Women of Faith group to focus on how our faith impacts our work and to be a space of accountability and encouragement.

It has been so good to bond with other women who have their own businesses, to encourage one another and pray into some of the difficulties and challenges we face each month, as well as share answers to prayers."

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Find workplace and outreach groups at renewalcc.com/groups

# **Outreach Groups**



Our community outreach groups serve people through group projects, events and day to day activities. Our cultural outreach groups bring people together for friendship, guidance & specialist support.

# **South African Group**

"Moving to a new country is a daunting process and the reality is that you need as much help as you can get as you adapt to your new home.

Being part of a group of people with similar stories and backgrounds to our own really helps, not only in settling in with support and guidance but also when things get tough.

Our new friends have become like family as we merge into UK culture."

Georg

# **Growth Groups**

Whether you're just exploring Christianity or want to dig deeper into God, the Bible and life's big questions, our growth groups are here to help you develop your faith.

# **Leadership Growth**

Invest in leaders to continue to grow and develop.

#### **Bible Study**

Find out more about the Bible – and dig deeper into any of our topics.

#### **Prayer**

Explore everything about prayer and spend time in prayer with others.

# **New Believers**

Discover Christianity and start your journey into faith.

# Alpha Group

"What would becoming a Christian look like, had I got God wrong and what was the true meaning of life? Alpha helped me answer these questions and many more. My Alpha group ran online and despite initial reservations, it's one of the best decisions I've ever made.

I instantly felt safe within my group, thanks to the most amazing leaders who were down-to-earth and 'real' people who I could trust. Within a couple of weeks, I felt a strong connection to the other members of the group too and I looked forward to Wednesday evenings. It was my safe space; a place where I felt totally at ease to be myself and share my feelings about both my faith (and lack of it) and life in general. It was here that I realised what had been missing in my life; that emptiness, discontent, and despair were all the result of me turning my back on the person who loved me the most. God never left me, he was just waiting patiently for me to reconnect and when I did, I felt more loved than I ever thought was possible.

Two years on, I'm so grateful for this group and I've made life-long friends. I genuinely feel part of a loving family at Renewal. There are so many people in my life who I can turn to for support and guidance, without fear of judgement, and if I'm feeling lost or down, they are my go-to people."

Rache

# Question Discuss Connect Learn



Scan the code to find out more

Find growth groups at renewalcc.com/groups

# **Interest Groups**

Groups range from golf to theatre, painting to creating and backgammon to singing.

This is where you can meet like-minded people to hone your skills, enjoy culture, play a sport, or set new challenges.

#### **Sports**

From rambling to trail running, table tennis to football – be active and healthy together.

#### Leisure

Groups that meet to discuss books, watch films, play games and even sing songs.

#### Creative

Encouraging you to grow in creativity – from craft and calligraphy, to theatre and acting.



Find interest groups at renewalcc.com/groups

Grab a coffee, read a book, play a game, make a masterpiece. Find others to share your interests.

# **Lettering God's Word Group**

changed over the years to suit the seasons we are in, but the one thing that remains the same is the connection, love and support we give and receive in these groups. I recently took up a new hobby... hand lettering! This time of writing, especially scripture, provided calm in the storm of uncertainty and helped me to stay focused on God's promises whilst being creative. I felt that sharing this hand lettering time with others would be great and so our group 'Lettering God's word' started. The group is open to anyone who is interested in lettering – no experience is required! We meet once a month on a Friday, drink tea, eat biscuits, talk (a lot!), laugh, cry, write, share, but above all love and support one another.

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# How to join a group

We have an up-to-date list of all the groups you could be a part of on our website.

Visit renewalcc.com/groups and search by day of the week, category, location or interest to find the right group for you.

When you've found the group you like the look of, tap 'sign up', fill in your details and a member of our team will be in touch to connect you to the group.

If you can't find what you're after, contact our office on 0121 711 7300 or email us at groups@renewalcc.com.

#### When groups meet

Groups officially run between September and July, with a summer break.

Meetings are flexible through the week to meet the needs of the group. Pick a day and time!

#### Where groups meet

Homes, coffee shops, parks, sports clubs, online or at a Renewal location: groups meet anywhere!

# How to start a group

Do you like bringing people together? Why not start a group?

If you're part of the Renewal family and interested in starting a group we'd love to hear from you.

Send us an email at **groups@renewalcc.com** and we'd love to connect with you.



Scan the code to find out more



