

Discipleship/Life Group Report 2025

Numbers:

14 Life Groups

17 Life Group Leaders (you don't have to lead a Life Group by yourself)

7 Life Group hosts (Life groups meet in houses, flats, the church upper room, and in various room in the centre)

100 (approx) Individuals in Life Groups

The future - 20/2028

The above data means that approximately 1/3 of the church are in Life Groups, with around 200 individuals not yet in a Life Group. As we look forward to the next couple years it is my hope that by 2028 we would have 20 new Life Groups, to facilitate discipleship across ages, life stages, and faith journeys.

Not about the numbers:

At the end of the day thought it's not about the numbers. It's about the opportunity and reality of us being disciples of Jesus. Following him in our day to day, and we need each other to do that - hence why Life Groups are an important part of ministry at St Paul's. It's been an exciting year for the Life Groups ministry at St Paul's with four new Life groups beginning, now helping a mix of young adults, women and men gather together to *read God's word, pray for one another, learn alongside one another and support one another* through highs and lows of life.

Life group leaders have met termly over the last year to share praise reports from the last term such as;

- A growth in confidence to pray for each other,
- A sense of ownership amongst the whole group for leading and content suggestions
- Being there for one another
- The encouragement of seeing individuals new to faith, grow in their faith journey and decide to take public steps in their faith journey, such as baptism or re-affirmation of baptismal vows

A mix of resources have been used from simple studies that involve opening the bible and reading through a book over several weeks and sharing thoughts and questions about the reading to *The Greatest Story Ever Told* and *Practicing The Way*. I'm excited for the next year as we see more people gather together, new groups form and grow, as we seek to encourage one another, lift one another up and point one another to Jesus, whom we gather together to meet with and learn more about as we follow him.