

## Annual Report

(for year ending 30 September 2009)

### Small Groups

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Small groups within the church include home groups (currently 13) and other groups such as 'Women on Tuesday', the Student Group, the theological reading group and the Reflective Prayer Group.

The central aims of home groups continue to include being a place to build community where people can feel they belong within the church and can get to know others at a deeper level, as well as to grow to know more of God and to be encouraged as they serve God through their daily lives.

Although small groups have been seen mostly to be within the 'Love Others' part of our church strategy there is a lot of overlap with other areas - as groups that function well also help people to 'Worship God' and 'Serve the World'

### Summary of preceding year

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Over the past year there have been a fairly stable number of home groups meeting (13-14). This ministry has been led by a group of enthusiastic and skilled small group leaders who have kept the groups going despite a lot of change. Duncan MacLaren co-ordinated the home groups until his departure in Jan 2009, after that Dave Richards kept things going until August 2009 when Di Hollow took over the co-ordination. In addition to this two of the supporters stood down and one new one was appointed – there are now three in place (David Beamish, Sarah Roberts and James Bryce).

In addition to the traditional activities of Bible study and prayer, groups have been involved in a variety of other activities including meals, weekends away, decorating parties and even worship with the help of songs from 'You tube'!

The other small(ish) groups within the Small Group structure ('Women on Tuesday', the student group, the reflective prayer group and the theological reading group) have continued to flourish throughout the year, although the number of theological reading groups has dropped from two to one.

## Targets for the coming year

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There are a number of areas which we plan to develop within the next 12 months. These include:-

1. Opening up some of the Small Group leader training events to other members of small groups.
2. Clarifying and developing the role of the supporters.
3. Starting up a new review process.
4. A new North Edinburgh group is due to start in the next couple of weeks.
5. There is the possibility of a new current issues small group which would meet fortnightly from Jan 2010.
6. The new website will allow Small Groups to communicate in fresh ways.
7. In addition to all this we want to encourage small group leaders to continue the high quality ministry they are already providing.
8. We will need to liaise with those involved in starting up any pilot Pastorates if this occurs within the next 12 months – so that the two ministries complement each other rather than compete with each other.

## Resource Implications for the coming year

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1. Administrative support – help with practical matters eg updating the website, notices in notice sheet etc.
2. Financial – for books, course materials, leaders workshop expenses.
3. Some supervision and advice from Myra Martin (Vestry lead for 'Loving Others' part of strategy) and Dave Richards.
4. Use of church venues for leaders meetings.