

Love  
One  
Another

**Connect Group Studies  
Summer 2018**



Dear Connect Group Leaders,

As you know, we're about to embark on Phase 2 of our ASPIRE project, perhaps the single biggest change to the life of All Saints Lindfield in the last 150 years. The scale of the project and changes involved make it somewhat daunting, perhaps some in your group feel anxious about upcoming changes. These changes also mark an exciting opportunity to refresh and re-envision our church life together.

After Easter, we will begin to meet for our Sunday services at Lindfield Primary Academy, as far as possible maintaining our existing service pattern. In our morning services we will be studying the book of 1 John and 1 Corinthians in the evening. Through both these series our focus will be on what the church is really all about - not buildings, but people. Connect Groups will play a key role in this time, in relieving concerns, promoting vision and practically sharing life together.

We're encouraging our Connect Groups to focus their study times in the book of 1 John. There'll be two main resources to help you get the most from this book. Firstly, the sermons and associated recordings preached at our morning services through the book:

15th April	The Word of Life - 1 John 1:1-4
22nd April	Walking in the Light - 1 John 1:5-2:2
6th May	Walking like Jesus - 1 John 2:3-11
13th May	A new commandment for all ages - 1 John 2:12-14*
27th May	Do not love the world - 1 John 2:15-27
10th June	Children of God - 1 John 2:28-3:3
17th June	Abiding in Christ - 1 John 3:4-10
24th June	Love one another - 1 John 3:11-20
1st July	Test the Spirits - 1 John 3:21-4:6
8th July	Living in God - 1 John 4:7-21
15th July	Overcoming the world - 1 John 5:1-13
22nd July	Praying with confidence - 1 John 5:14-20

*\*Not at the 11.15am service.*

Secondly, we're recommending that you get hold of a copy of 'Rest Assured' by Bryson Smith. It's a small booklet which covers the book of 1 John over 9 studies. You'll note that there are 12 sermons, so the study guide doesn't overlay directly with the preaching series.

We have a number of copies available to buy (£3 each - cheaper than online and with postage covered) or you can purchase your own copy:

*[thegoodbook.co.uk/1-john-rest-assured](http://thegoodbook.co.uk/1-john-rest-assured)  
[10ofthose.com/products/22549/rest-assured-interactive-bible-study](http://10ofthose.com/products/22549/rest-assured-interactive-bible-study)*

The first choice for you to make is whether you want to focus on the sermon series schedule (12 studies), and use the booklet to help prepare a study, or to focus on the booklet (9 studies) and draw inspiration from the sermons as you go. Either way, you'll find that there's too much material in the study booklets for a typical Connect Group study, so you'll want to filter out some questions and particularly focus on the application questions.

Once you've created a Bible study for yourself, probably focusing on applying the text, you'll still want to get a grasp of the book as a whole. It's well worth reading together the whole letter - at 5 chapters, or 105 verses - it's certainly manageable to read it together. You'll find that the study booklet gives you the questions to help you understand the text too, it's certainly worth the study leader tracing through these questions, along with the little breakout boxes which help to explain particular aspects of the text.

Those of us who studied the Minor Prophets series were greatly encouraged by the Bible Project videos which helped to give us an overview of books of the Bible. Can I commend another video which gives an overview of John's three letters:

*[thebibleproject.com/explore/1-3-john/](http://thebibleproject.com/explore/1-3-john/)*

For those who attend our Cornerstone service you may remember we studied 1 John back in Autumn 2016. We've now added these sermons from the archive on to the church website, to aid your studies - visit the 'Sermons and Media' page under the Resources menu tab, and search the database by selecting '1 John' in the Bible Reference.

# Connect Group Sunday

On **Sunday 23rd September** we're unable to hold our usual Sunday services in Lindfield Primary Academy. This is due to a long standing booking with the Lindfield Arts Festival. We're encouraging Connect Groups to do something together instead. You might consider: visiting another church together, going for a walk and pub lunch together, having a Connect Group style meeting in your home together, take part in the Arts Festival together. Whatever you do... do something together!

## Prayer Meetings

Please don't forget to include our monthly prayer meetings (12noon & 8pm) as part of your Connect Group programmes. We'd love to see as many as possible joining us to pray together:

**18th April, 16th May, 20th June, 18th July, 15th August**