

# Kings Church Horsham

## Connect Communities: Quick Start Guide

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### Overview

Kings Church Horsham (KCH) is a family of families with group life at its core. We want to be a community of disciples who make disciples.

It is our passion to see groups emerge that facilitate mission in three key ways:

- Going on Mission to see People Saved
- Training People for Mission
- Caring for and encouraging those already on Mission

We know that there are, as many diverse ways of doing this, as there are people and so we want to create sense of community within KCH that allows us all to connect at the level and frequency that works for us. We want people to connect in a context that creates space for discipleship in many and varied ways, around a geographical location, an interest or a training need.

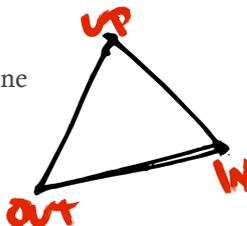
Some of these groups will meet weekly, some fortnightly and some monthly depending on the desire and availability of the leaders and the participants.

We believe that developing **Group Life** in this way allows for the many and varied needs of both leaders and participants in, and outside, of the church. We want to develop a model that caters for the majority of people, situations and needs with the church and then tailor specific solutions for those whose needs remain unmet by the general solutions provided within the **Group Life** model.

### Connect Communities

A Connect Community (CC) is what we might consider a more traditional home or connect group. These groups continue to provide community, family, care and support for those already in church but with a clear focus and encouragement for mission and making disciples.

All of the groups at KCH will be following our 3 C's of Connection. Connecting to Jesus (Up), Connecting to One Another (In) and Connecting to our Community (Out). All of life should be lived like this. Our lives should be ones of worship, growing and sharing/serving and making disciples.



We have three types of Groups at KCH and each one has a stronger emphasis on one of these attributes but never to the exclusion of the others. A Connect Community will, in the main, be weighted more towards the Up and the In but must be committed to giving time and effort to the out. The Out might be, once in the 10 week cycle, to have a BBQ or a cheese and wine evening where friends, neighbours, colleagues and family members can be invited and connected with.

*“We must change our ideas of what it means to develop a disciple, shifting the emphasis from studying Jesus and all things spiritual in an environment protected from the world, to following Jesus into the world to join him in his redemptive mission.”* Reggie McNeale

### Want to Join a CC?

All of our CC's are listed on our website at [www.kch.org.uk/grouplife](http://www.kch.org.uk/grouplife). Simply look at the different groups, select the one you would like to be part of and during the 2 week sing up window select SIGN-UP.

### Want to Lead a CC?

If you have a passion or feel like God is speaking to you about an area to impact and would like to lead one of these groups we would love to hear from you.

Just check out the criteria and information in this guide and then visit [www.kch.org.uk/startgroups](http://www.kch.org.uk/startgroups)

### How Can I Start a CC?

If you are a member at Kings Church Horsham then you can start a Connect Community (CC).

Here is a checklist of things to review:

- Discover Your Vision
- Form a Team
- Gather a Group
- Establish Up, In, Out Rhythm

When you have reviewed these then simply complete the form on our website at [www.kch.org.uk/glsignup](http://www.kch.org.uk/glsignup)

## Forming a Team

We believe in the value of team, or what we call plurality of leadership. Each team needs a leader who will often be the one with the *vision* and that is most likely you! You then need to gather a leadership team to lead the group with you who will play their own part in the seeing the vision realised.

Typically this team should consist of 2 or 3 other people who have the same vision as you, but having different but complimentary gifts to you. Ideally this will be a mix of *Ground Takers* (Pioneers) and *Ground Keepers* (Developers) because without pioneers you never take ground and without developers you never keep the ground you have taken. None of us are exclusively one or the other but most of us will have a propensity towards one.

If you are unsure which you, and your prospective team are, then take the free online test at <http://fivefoldsurvey.com> remembering Apostolic, Prophetic and Evangelistic are predominantly the pioneering gifts and the pastor/teacher predominantly the developer gifts.

We can, along with the coaching team, help you gather a team. If you are not sure who else is passionate about your vision drop us an email and we will see if we can point you in the right direction.

## Gather a Group

Typically people will join your group for one of 3 reasons, all of which are valid. They either love the vision or the group and want to contribute to it, they love you (the leader) and want to join whatever you are doing or they have nothing better to do but want to be part of something!

Connect Communities should feel more like a gathering of good friends than a formal meeting. When friends and family get together it is more often than not a fun filled and exciting place to be that is enjoyable and full of life! Start telling people about your vision and spread the news and invite anyone.

## Building a Group Rhythm

Even though Connect Communities are a new concept for us right now at KCH one of the things we are certain about is that these groups need to be balanced and have a healthy rhythm. Each group is expected to develop their own healthy rhythm of life together across each of the 3 dimensions (Up, In, Out), whoever and however you meet together as a group. This doesn't mean that you try to cover each dimension thoroughly every time you gather but rather that, over the course of your life together, the UP, IN and OUT are well represented.

It may be that you run a monthly wine tasting group where friends, family and neighbours attend (OUT). Then once a month you, your team and those from KCH meet again to worship and pray (UP/IN). Thus you are meeting every 2 weeks but the wine tasting (OUT) occurs once a month.

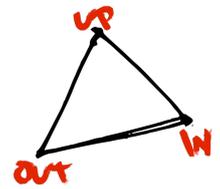
It may be as a group you want to meet twice a month in a pub for your OUT, then once a month in the pub for a bible study (IN) and then once a month in a home for worship and discipleship (IN & UP). This will vary depending on your mission.

## What's Your Rhythm?

We want people to be able to connect and engage in Group Life at a level that suits them and fits with their life and calling. We want many and diverse groups operating at many different time intervals that fit with the rhythms of your life. Chances are you are not alone and others will have a similar rhythm.

## Connecting: Up, In, Out

**UP:** Getting time to worship together and connect with Jesus is a key element of living a 3-dimensional life and therefore is an important part of a



Connect Community. Learning how to do this together as part of a group will give focus and bring the group together, remembering Jesus is at the centre of the group and the reason for being there and each member being refuelled and refreshed by the Holy Spirit and ready for mission.

**IN:** Connect Communities are to be places where we become disciples and make disciples. To be a disciple is to be someone who learns how to be like Jesus and do the things that Jesus did! CC's are brilliant contexts where this learning can take place, because discipleship was never meant to be divorced from mission. Jesus changes us as we move forward together. If we are making effective disciples who also look like Jesus, they will naturally be missional.

**OUT:** A Connect Community is a group large and dynamic enough to be able to effectively engage in an area of missional activity that brings real impact, change and life. Each CC has a missional vision that they personally own and take responsibility for. This vision is their part of the wider KCH family mission. These two tenets of ownership and responsibility are key to effective CC, which is why the establishing a clear vision at the start of each CC is such a vital process. Each Connect Community is built on a prophetic mandate from God!

## How do People Sign Up?

Our groups operate on four twelve-week terms and each group will get 2 weeks off in each term. Every term everyone will be asked to sign up for the next group that they will be committing to for the coming ten weeks. Don't worry! People can keep signing up for the same group.

Your group will be on our web site and during the 2 week sign up window your group will have a sign up button on it. When anyone signs up you will get an email with all their info in it.