

## Midweek 'Gear Change' Programme - Subject Guide

Over this season of midweek 'Gear Change' meetings we will usually aim to start at 8.00pm but sometimes we may meet earlier. Please arrive promptly so that we can get started altogether and note in the family news for updates or any other changes to the programme.

### Evenings will vary and include:

- Open time for questions and comments
- Group discussion and feedback
- Prayer and worship
- Planning together and forming of ideas for application
- Encountering God together
- Tea and Coffee!

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Speaker:</b>	<b>Subject Guide:</b>
<b>Weds 10<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Introduction - Coffee &amp; Desserts</b>		
<b>Weds 17<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	The Kingdom of God & the Church	<b>Adam Voke</b> from M.F.C	The church can easily become just another 'segment' in our already busy lives. We know it's important and that we should be in a church, but at times it's just another thing I have to do. Jesus spoke about 'The Kingdom of God/Heaven', not 'The Kingdom of the Church', so what is the difference between them? Do we need the church in order to live properly as citizens in God's kingdom?
<b>Weds 24<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	M.F.C. at Prayer. (Prayer triplets, prayer meetings and other changes)	<b>Adam Voke</b>	Prayer is not optional. It's something that must happen in order to mature as an individual Christian and also collectively as a church. It's the place where believers can directly communicate with the living God. Yet most people find personal prayer hard and judging by prayer meetings in many U.K. Churches you'd be forgiven for thinking it's a place of torture and ultimate boredom. Why is this? And what can we do to change it?
<b>Weds 31<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	M.F.C. Membership	<b>Adam Voke</b>	An essential session for all members repeated over two nights so all can attend. Why do we have membership? Is it in the Bible? What is the difference between someone who is a.....

			.....member and someone who just comes on a Sunday? Is membership irrelevant because once someone becomes a Christian are they not automatically a part of the 'Church'? Should there be any clear expectations for members? - What? This session will look at answering and clarifying such questions as well as introducing some new issues to do with membership at M.F.C.
<b>Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	M.F.C. Membership (Repeat)	<b>Adam Voke</b>	See above
<b>Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	The Authority of the Bible in life & Church	<b>Andy Faulkner</b> Andy leads the Maidstone newfrontiers church and is on the team that helps Pete Carter in overseeing the Kent region of Churches.	Does the Bible really have complete authority over your life? Where does it get this authority from and how should you live under it as a Christian? Also, with all the changes that we are making as a church and in stepping out in faith in response to prophetic words we need to make sure that we don't make silly mistakes or go way of course. The Bible's authority is our safeguard in this, how do we keep it that way?
<b>Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Social Event– Holidays</b>		
<b>Weds 21<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	Keeping in Step with the Spirit	<b>Pete Carter &amp; Team.</b> Pete has apostolic oversight for the Kent region of newfrontiers churches. He is a medical doctor and leads North Kent Community Church in New Ash Green.	An evening to encounter God together and receive ministry as well as teaching. How do you know if you are in step with the Spirit or not as spoken of in Galatians? We will explore something of what it means to walk with the Spirit, hear his voice and know his presence. Pete hopes to bring a small team with him to help him during the evening as we pray and seek God's presence.
<b>Weds 28<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	The Devotional Life	<b>Rodney Kingstone</b> Until recently Rodney was on the leadership team of a church in Columbia, USA, he has now returned and is based in a church in Worthing in Sussex. M.F.C. has appreciated Rodney's teaching and prophetic gift in previous years.	Our personal relationship with God should be something that is living and current. A casual prayer on the way to work, a few desperate prayers in the middle of the day or reading a couple of verses from the Bible before bed - Is that the full extent of a relationship with an eternal God who created the whole universe? How can we go about developing this and enjoying God more and what can we expect to find?

<b>Weds 7<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	The Kingdom of God & The World.	<b>John Oldfield</b> from M.F.C	The Kingdom of God has arrived is unstoppable, but it is currently not the only Kingdom that is at present and at work in the World. There is a clash of Kingdoms taking place! What are the ways in which the Kingdom of the World can subtly influence Christians? How can we recognize, resist and speak out against such things?
<b>Weds 14<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	Becoming a Prophetic People – 7.30pm	<b>Chris Smith</b> Previously the leader of the newfrontiers church in Canterbury, Chris is now part of the leadership at Penge Family Church. Chris is a gifted teacher who heads up the TIES training programme for the Kent region of newfrontiers churches.	It's encouraging to receive a prophetic word as an individual and as a church. But what should you do with them once they've been received? How do you weigh them and respond to them? As a church we have various prophetic words that we pray through and believe God has spoken to us through. Particularly the recent one by Julian Adam's. Why is it important for such prophecy to shape and fuel the church? We will also discuss and respond to some of the issues the prophetic raises for individuals and for us as a church.
<b>Weds 21<sup>st</sup> Mar</b>	Time Management	<b>Bryn Hughes</b> Formerly director of Leadership Training for MARC Europe, he conducts seminars through the UK church Spectrum as well as in other nations on various management and leadership issues. Bryn is on the leadership at North Kent Community Church.	So many people seem to be stressed out and too busy to get everything done, and this includes Christians. It can feel as if you don't have enough time in the day or you are too tired to do some of the things you want to. How do you know what you should do and what you should give up? How can you ensure that you proactively give yourself to the things that God has called you to instead of stressing through life reacting to one thing after another and feeling like life controls you rather than the other way around? A very practical session that will leave you with tools to implement straight away! Time for questions will also form part of the evening.
<b>Weds 28<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	The Welcoming Church	<b>Richard H.K.</b> from M.F.C.	In order to 'Gear change' and move ahead as a church, we mustn't lose our values of family and friendship. We have a responsibility to properly love and welcome others who we come into contact with, either privately in the context of our daily lives and also in church meetings such as a Sunday morning. How can we grow in this and what does the Bible have to say about it?

<b>Weds 4<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	<b>Social Event – Easter Holidays</b>		
<b>Weds 11<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	<b>No meeting</b>		
<b>Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	The Presence Centred Church	<b>Dave King</b> Dave is the leader of New Life Church, Tunbridge Wells. He is on the team with Pete Carter which oversees the newfrontiers work in Kent and is involved in training on TIES.	Moses prayed to God that his presence would be with his people in a powerful way, if it was not, he didn't want to go on! We want to be a people who are strong and clear in the truth of the word, but can we still expect God's presence to be with us in a more tangible way too? What might this look like? And is there anything that we as a church can do to prepare ourselves more for it? A practical session where we will give much time to seeking God together and opening ourselves up to his presence.
<b>Weds 25<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	Men Meeting Together	<b>Ray Lowe</b> Ray is based at Biggin Hill Christian Fellowship where he is on the leadership and also serves on apostolic teams into various nations and the U.K.	During these men and women together meetings we want to focus on issues that are particularly relevant for men and women. More details will be given out separately and we will write to you and ask you to book in for these sessions.
<b>Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	Women Meeting Together	TBC	See above for more information.
<b>Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	The Kingdom of God & Your Lifestyle	<b>Adam Voke</b>	Looking more deeply and practically at how the Kingdom of God should be worked out in your lifestyle. Being part of God's kingdom means it must influence such things as the way you spend your money, the TV and films you watch, the way you handle conflict in the family, the way you work, eat, spend your time and make choices. How can we work this out in practice in a real and grace filled way?
<b>Weds 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Men Meeting Together	<b>Adam Voke</b>	See above for more information
<b>Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Women Meeting Together	TBC	See above for more information
<b>Weds 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Discipleship	<b>Bryn Hughes</b> -see above for more information.	Our call as Christians is not just to make converts, but to make disciples. We are to introduce people to Christ and then lead and help them to follow him faithfully. What does it mean to make a disciple? How can we prepare ourselves as a church to do this well so we can serve new believers properly? What responsibility do we all have in this as followers of Christ?

<b>Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Prayer Night – Global Day of Prayer Week.		The Global Day of Prayer is an annual event held worldwide which aims to unite Christians together in prayer. There is a Churches Together in Medway event on Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> May from 2-5pm. During this 'lead-up' evening we will be praying together for our region, our nation and the world.
<b>Weds 30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Social Event – Buffet &amp; Drum Circle!</b>		Please bring food to share together at this social event. For those that want to we will also be having fun as we take part in a 'drum circle', an opportunity to work together in a rhythmic way under the leadership of our visiting guest!
<b>Weds 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Leadership in life & the Church	<b>Norman Blows</b> Norman leads Sevenoaks Town Church. He serves other churches in the region and also works into some of the newfrontiers churches in France.	Everyone is affected by leadership in life - you're either leading people yourself or following someone else! This may be within a family or work setting, but also within the church. As a church we need people to take responsibility and not to shy away from leading others. What is leadership really all about? Why is it important? How can we prepare ourselves for leadership or for following the lead of others?
<b>Weds 13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Missionaries to Medway....and beyond	<b>Billy Gilvear</b> Billy is an evangelist who is currently completing a degree at Spurgeon's Bible College. He is on staff at Gillingham Baptist Church.	It's not just Christians that work abroad that are 'missionaries'. Every believer has been called to be on a mission. We are saved for a purpose – to be involved with God in his work which touches the lives of the lost. Wherever we live and work, we are 24hr a day missionaries. What does this mean day to day? How can we become better missionaries? Where does it all start?
<b>Weds 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Small Groups at M.F.C.	<b>Adam Voke</b>	After the summer we are planning to go back into a new style of small groups, what might they look like and how will they work? A time to be freshly envisioned and commit our future groups to God in prayer.
<b>Weds 27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Passion for the Church	<b>John Hosier</b> John is a gifted Bible teacher who trained at Spurgeon's College and led CCK in Brighton for 8 years. He now travels widely to teach and is the author of a	One famous Christian author referred to the church as 'the hope of the world'! A big statement. Why would someone think this? And is it really true? What do you understand about the 'Church'? Does the thought of the church fill you with passion like it does Christ? A time to hear about the kind of church that excites God and gives hope to the World.

		number of books.	
<b>Weds 4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Pastoral Care in M.F.C.	<b>Adam Voke</b>	Over this period we are reflecting on and discussing how we can improve our care for one another as a church. Which things do we need to sharpen up on? What structures do we need to change or to put in place? This session will address such things and outline plans for the way ahead.
<b>Weds 11<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Social Event - Brighton conference week</b>		
<b>Weds 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Building on good foundations	<b>Dave Holden</b> Dave serves in teams alongside men such as Terry Virgo. He gives apostolic input into the U.K. and other nations. Dave recently handed responsibility for the U.K. to Dave Stroud and now travels more widely.	As we finish our season of midweek 'Gear change' meetings we want to engage the new gear by taking hold of all the things we've looked at. It's important that we move ahead by keeping, maintaining and building on good foundations. A final session that will encourage us to move on in faith and to fulfill all that God has for us as a church.  This final session will be very flexible so we can address any other relevant themes and tie things together.  Please make every effort to come along for this last special evening!
<b>Weds 25<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Summer Social Events Start</b>		

