

We hope that all home fellowship group members who are in agreement with the church's statement of faith will consider becoming members of the church.

What should I do if I want to join a home fellowship group?

Talk to our Pastor Adam Broughton or Madan Kallow

Rev Adam Broughton

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or e-mail info@oefc.co.uk for more details

or fill out a Welcome Card

or just turn up at a group one week – going to a group once doesn't mean you have to stick with that group. You are welcome to visit the groups before deciding which group suits you best.

What we believe
& What we do.

Home Fellowship Groups

Oadby

Evangelical Free Church



What are home fellowship groups?

Home fellowship groups are small groups that meet two weeks out of most months in church members homes. The main emphases of our home fellowship groups are:

- a) Interactive small group Bible study
- b) Prayer for the needs of the group, the church and the wider World
- c) Developing godly relationships amongst members of the church and congregation

Why do we have home fellowship groups?

Writing to some of the first Christians in Colossae the Apostle Paul said that they must 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly' (Colossians 3:16). At Oadby we are committed to the life transforming power of the good news of Jesus Christ found in the Bible. So we want every person who comes to our church to have as many opportunities as possible to get to know the Bible and have opportunities to live out its life changing message.

Bible study in people's homes is one excellent way of developing our understanding and application of the good news. In a small group it is often possible, having looked carefully at what the Bible has to say, to think more personally about the implications of a particular truth for our lives.

Home fellowship groups also provide a great opportunity to live out the Christian life – to learn to pray together, to learn to love one another and to think together about how we can encourage one another in sharing the good news of Jesus with our friends.

Who should go to home fellowship groups?

We encourage everyone who considers Oadby to be their church to be a committed and regular member of a home fellowship group. The only exception to this is that we do not generally encourage undergraduate students to join home groups (see further on).

At Sunday meetings it can be quite easy to get 'lost in the crowd'. Being a regular at a home fellowship group helps us to get to know others in the church family better and helps the church leaders to provide better pastoral care and support.

Being in a home fellowship group also provides opportunities to serve within the church family and discourages us from seeing church as if we are simply consumers – the Bible's picture of the Church is of a body, a building or a family (for example Colossians 3:15-17; Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Peter 2:4-10)

Why don't you encourage students to go to home fellowship groups?

We believe that the years people spend as students give unique opportunities for evangelism amongst the people you live and work with. So we encourage all students to be actively involved in the work of the Christian Union (CU) groups on campus. CU's are specially set up to share the gospel with students.

We would expect every student who considers Oadby to be their church to be an active and regular member of a CU small group and to make the most of the opportunities for evangelism and discipleship this brings. If you are a student who for any reason is unable to be involved in a CU small group come and talk to a church leader about being in a home fellowship group.

What is expected of home fellowship group members?

By nature home groups are small and work better if as many of the members as possible are regular and frequent in attending. Constant changes to who is present each week makes it difficult to get to know people, slows the building of friendships and hinders prayer and pastoral care. Joining a home group is therefore a significant commitment to keep that night of the week free, as far as possible, from all other commitments.

Other than in exceptional circumstances we would expect that anyone who is a member of a home group would be a regular attendee at our Sunday meetings, though we appreciate the pressures of contemporary life.