



# Advent Visions for Learning & Caring:

being  
community  
together



*Stories from around the Connexion*





# Learning & Caring

1. How can we use small groups to learn together, and to affirm one another in our growth as disciples?
2. How can we encourage groups that we already run to grow as communities?
3. Are there any new developments that might help us to grow in our discipleship together?



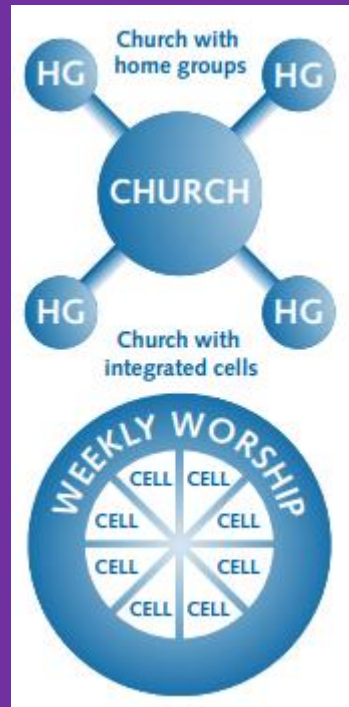
Being **community** together





# RESURRECTING THE CLASSES

An Introduction to Cell Church for Methodists



- In Cell Churches, the small group (of 5-14) is the basic unit of church.
- Cells meet weekly in each others' homes for worship, word and witness.
- Cells also meet weekly (or monthly) for celebration as a larger group.
- New people are invited to join cells, which multiply by subdividing once they reach 14 members.
- Cell members share in leadership and develop leaders for new cells when they multiply.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/what-is-distinctive-about-methodism/small-groups/>





At toddler groups:

- Parents and grandparents minister to each other
- Children learn to share and to play – and that they are not the centre of the world

At Sunday-morning church:

- Members of the congregation minister to each other
- Adults learn to share and to play – and that they not the centre of the world

What if...

- we saw toddler groups as a model for learning in community?
- we asked what church can learn from toddler groups?
- we saw the toddler group as an extension of church, not a recruiting-ground for church?

[https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/369055/Talking\\_Toddlers.aspx](https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/369055/Talking_Toddlers.aspx)





## Silchester Christian Retreat Centre

- Methodists continue to meet for Sunday worship at Silchester Methodist Church on the Hampshire/Berkshire border.
- In addition, the *Ebenezer Project* developed the grounds to enhance the building a retreat centre.



- Bi-monthly guided retreats are offered, and the Centre is also available to book for day retreats.
- In addition to the sanctuary and the gardens, there is a hall, a lounge and kitchen facilities.

<https://silchester-christian-retreat.org.uk/index.html>





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