

## ECUMENICAL LENT GROUPS 2020 : THE CHURCH IN THE NIGHT-TIME

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Two years' ago, the churches of Burley and Menston shared together in a series of Lent housegroups and a service of celebration. They were very well received and all sorts of new ideas and groups have flowed from them. Plans are afoot for a new series of ecumenical Lent groups based on some material that has been developed by Rev Tim Perkins titled, 'The church in the Night-time'.

The material has come out of Tim's experience and reflections during his sabbatical two years' ago. It focusses on the challenges we face both as individuals and as churches when we find ourselves in dark places and difficult time.

- How can we experience God in the midst of a life or church that might be marked by anxiety?
- How do we respond when God challenges our own need to be in control of what is happening in us and around us?
- What will the future look like for a church which in many places is in decline?

The material will help us to live with the tension of these, and other questions, but also to see beyond them and discover that God works best in times of chaos and confusion because it is out of the darkness that he causes light to shine. The story of Scripture from the first page to the last is that God is always doing a new thing. The challenge for us is to live loosely with the old and discern where God might be showing us a new path to tread.

The groups will run weekly for 5 weeks from the beginning of March and conclude with a united service at Menston on the evening of Palm Sunday.

**Sign up sheets are on the noticeboard for the following group:**

**MONDAY 2-3pm : 19 Southfield Road, Burley (Lizzie Reynolds)**

**MONDAY 7.30pm : Cornerstone Café, Menston (Julie Jennings)**

**MONDAY 8.30pm (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> weeks then 7.30pm) : The Burley Tap. MEN ONLY (John Spencer).**

**TUESDAY 1.30pm – 3pm : Room 1, Menston Methodist (Jo Dixon)**

**TUESDAY 7.30pm – 9pm : The Vicarage, 21 Southfields Road, Burley (Alistair Kirk)**

**In addition a group will be held for the residents at Abbeyfield in Menston.**