

**ALDRIDGE PARISH CHURCH AGM**  
**SMALL GROUPS REPORT 2011**

There are 13 groups at the time of writing, with just over 205 people attending (this does not include Beta groups which amount to a further 25). The number of groups has therefore dropped from 15 last year but the overall numbers attending increased slightly. The numbers attending all or most of the time amount to some 90% which is wonderful.

Most groups meet fortnightly and are encouraged to include at each meeting; Worship, Teaching/Bible Study, Prayer and, as from 2010, Service. They are expected to provide pastoral cover for their members and have an outward outlook. Social events and the linking up with other groups are ways in which the outward outlook is achieved. Members are expected to participate in all this so that the responsibilities are shared. Most Groups use Bible Study material which links to the morning sermon series, this being achieved since August last year through circulation of the text of sermons together with questions prepared by the preacher.

The Group Leaders meet bi-monthly for sharing, teaching, training, prayer and encouragement. Following special meetings of the Leaders in the autumn of 2010, it has been decided that the Beta leaders will also join this meeting for fellowship, teaching and communication.

Discussions were held in 2010 about re-organising the groups along the lines of pastorates or clusters, which has been successfully introduced into other large churches. It was decided to not pursue this as a strategy but to welcome in the future any natural progress in that direction.

Freedom in Christ was completed with one group in 2010, led by Gavin and Maxine. This was so successful that Maxine is now leading a joint group of those in the Chowns and Daniels group together with others currently in no group at all.

Three group leaders stood down in 2010, Andy and Ellie Hardisty, Michelle Hart, and Steve and Angie Mills. We welcomed in their place Colin and Frances Tyne

Alan and Gillian Winsor