

## **South Western Synod Stepwise**

**Stepwise is the discipleship development programme from the URC. Stepwise is for everyone: all ages, shapes and sizes – including you!**

At the minute, we have three Stepwise Groups running in the Synod. One is in Bristol being facilitated by Sue Cossey, Helena McKinnon and Stephen Newell. Last I heard they were about 10 to 12 people in the group with an age range between 20 and 70, who are finding it energising.

I'm facilitating a small group in the pastorate where I'm a member that includes people from Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade. And though we've been hit by members suffering bereavement and other personal difficulties, we are still going and enjoying our interaction.

Both of those group groups are people meeting in person. But I'm also facilitating a synod wide group who are meeting on Zoom. There are about 10 of us with quite a variety of experience in the Church and a broad geographical spread across the synod.

Having had a number of groups now, we are learning how to adapt the programme to make it work best for the variety of circumstances in which participants find themselves.

All of these groups are undertaking the first Stepwise stream called Faith Filled Life. But there are other streams available that can be undertaken after having done Faith Filled life that focus on such things as worship and community. Our aim of course, is to further expand and have people who've done the Faith Filled Life Stream move into one of these other streams. We especially hope to develop a worship stream to support people in worship leading in local churches. We are also open to see ways in which Stepwise might be used as part of the processes in which local churches reflect on their life and mission. And we're hoping that out of the Synod wide group especially, some of the people involved might themselves become Facilitators of a stepwise stream in their local area.

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