Fellowship Week 1 – Monday 6 May 2019

This week we began our fourth Holy Habit – Fellowship! This doesn’t mean that we can forget the first three. Prayer, Gladness and Generosity, and Breaking Bread need to continue as the way we do church at Bents Green, and the way we each live day by day, whatever we are doing.

But in May and June we are going to give special attention to Fellowship. It’s not a word used much in everyday life, but used constantly in church circles. Indeed, we may use it so much that we don’t think about what it really means.

The word translated fellowship in the Bible comes from the Greek word koinonia. Koinonia is Christian fellowship and is a key aspect of Christian life. It includes practical sharing in common and deep spiritual times, such as Holy Communion. The early church shows believers in Christ meeting together in love, faith, and encouragement. It involves a willingness to share life in depth. In Acts 2 the followers of Jesus can be found eating, praying and sharing goods together. They are sharing their lives together in a way which is opposite to self-centred living.

What does fellowship mean to you? There are no right or wrong answers, and there are probably as many ideas as there are people receiving this email. Although social media and email contact with others can never replace true meeting together, it does offer an extra means to communicate and have a connection with other people. I would really like us, over the next two months, to engage with each other on this topic. The experience and insights of us all can then feed into worship in church, into these weekly emails, and into all we do together.

So, an invitation. What does meeting your brothers and sisters on a Sunday mean to you?

Do you already belong to one of the small groups that meet for Bible study, prayer, looking at how we follow Jesus in our everyday lives? What does that group mean to you?

Do you belong to Games, Chat and Craft or the Friendship Club? What does that add to your week?

If you can’t get out much now, how do you feel included in the Fellowship of the church, or do you feel forgotten?

Does your experience of Fellowship provide what you hope for, or do you long for more?

So, please let us have your thoughts. And please say if you would like to talk privately.

Daphne & John

*Produced by Daphne & John Wilkins on behalf of the Bents Green Holy Habits Planning Group (Debs Barnett, Glenn Evans, Martyn Read, Graham Wassell, Daphne and John Wilkins).  You can find more information on the Circuit Holy Habits Programme on the Sheffield Methodist Circuit website and also the Sheffield Methodist Circuit Facebook page.*