**Holy Habits: Fellowship – Week 5**

Yesterday most of us will have seen on tv the huge crowds in Liverpool celebrating the football team winning the European Championship. Many of the crowd will never go to a football match, but will remember that day all their lives. Why? Because they felt part of something wonderful, an overwhelming experience, almost you might say a spiritual experience.

Our fellowship at church links us to something even bigger than the crowds in Liverpool. ‘As for us, we have this large crowd of witnesses round us.’ (Hebrews 12:1) When we meet with even one or two in the name of Jesus, we are part of a limitless fellowship. We are joined through the Holy Spirit with people across the planet, and with the countless believers from previous centuries, and all those yet unborn who will follow us. Wow !

Most of the time our focus will be on here and now. But sometimes we may get a glimpse of that endless fellowship. How can this happen? Jesus needed to meet on his own with his heavenly Father. So do we. When meeting with each other, we need to invite God to be with us too. We can do this silently, before, during and after even a brief conversation, to give us a link to the eternal fellowship in which we share.

Wow!

And to finish, a few more of your comments and observations:

* The richest fellowship is a small group, it’s intimate, where you trust others, feel comfortable, safe to be yourself, to share, to be vulnerable. Its strength is revealed in a crisis.
* It’s about commitment to each other, being available, rather like our Covenant with God.
* It’s based on a shared faith in Jesus, a bond that goes deep. It’s about putting Jesus first, and the interests of others before self.

*Produced by Daphne and 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.*