**Holy Habits: Fellowship – Week 6**

Yesterday was Pentecost Sunday, when the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in other languages. There was another miracle taking place too – the ears of the crowd were opened to hear. This invites us to consider how well we hear God, and how well we hear each other. Do we listen between the words of a conversation, to discern what is really on the heart of the other person? Do we hear God speaking in our fellowship with each other?

When we give each other our full attention, we become aware of God’s ongoing presence. We see, and are seen, with fresh eyes, we hear and are heard, with fresh ears. We come to understand the wonder of God’s grace in the everyday things of life.

What enables us to have rich fellowship? True fellowship depends on mutual trust, when we feel safe to say what is closest and most personal to us, and we don’t get that without commitment to one another. That commitment is often practical, eg making the drinks on a Sunday morning (this encourages conversation and fellowship amongst the congregation and many people experience love and care at these times). It may be commitment to make regular calls on a housebound neighbour.

Initially our commitment may be to attending worship, then we may join a small group for fellowship, or a prayer group, but is there more? Some people demonstrate their commitment to Jesus by having this ‘confirmed’ during a special service when they are accepted into ‘membership’ of the church. Membership of the community of the church is first and foremost a commitment to living our lives with Jesus alongside us, but it is also a commitment to each other, building the fellowship we can all share.

To conclude, some further thoughts from recipients of this email about Fellowship:

* It’s not family or blood relations, but can be deeper, more important, than either.
* It’s about deep acceptance of one another, not needing to agree on everything, but when necessary ‘disagreeing agreeably’.
* Romans 12:9 – ‘be devoted to one another’, like Acts 2:42.

*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.*