Fellowship Week 8

For the last of the weekly prompts on the topic of fellowship, first of all thank you to those who have contributed their thoughts. In 1 Corinthians 12 we are encouraged to see the church as a body with all contributing in different ways. Fellowship is very much EVERYONE receiving and contributing, according to the different needs we have and the different things we have to offer to each other.

Paul put it well in his first letter to the Corinthians: “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.” 1 Cor 12: 12 – 14

Our fellowship is firstly with each other, in our shared relationship with Christ, but can extend to include others of different faiths or none. Last week Daphne enjoyed ‘fellowship’ when she joined with a family to help complete a task that needed doing urgently. Although we were all working hard, what joy it was to come together with a shared objective and to meet people outside my normal circle.

For somebody living alone that ‘fellowship’ can just as easily come from a telephone call – something that gives some human contact and demonstrates care.

Many groups meet on our church premises. They may not consider they enjoy fellowship, but in reality many of them do. They are bringing people together, and those attending find warmth in a shared interest and the company of that particular group.

Our neighbours are not as visible as they once were – is there anything we can do as individuals to make contact with our neighbours, or even to make the effort to speak when we do see them?

In all this, the fellowship of the body at Bents Green is the starting point – this is what people who come into the church see, and it is also visible to those in the community. The early Christians were recognised by the love and care they showed one another. This was something that drew others in – the bottom line is that we all need the love of others – and one of the best ways of being loved is to show love.

Let us close with the words of John in his first letter: “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4: 7

*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.*