**Eating Together......Week 7**

Hello everyone,

The verse in Acts from which this Holy Habit comes talks about the believers “eating together with glad and generous hearts“ (Acts 2: 46). This has made me think about that other Holy Habit we focused on, Gladness and Generosity. It seems like ages ago.

   I remember that at the time, I was struck by the different ways that phrase was translated in the various versions of the New Testament. Sometimes they ate together with “glad and generous hearts”, sometimes with “glad and sincere hearts”, sometimes with “gladness and simplicity of heart”.

   It turned out that the original Greek word translated in these different ways occurs only here in the New Testament. This is its only appearance, so there are no other examples to compare it with, and which is why it is translated in a variety of ways.   
     The root meaning of the word is of a field or an area of land without any rocks or stones. In other words, uncluttered, open, no obstacles.

    So, the believers ate together with uncluttered hearts, no agenda, open to each other and the activity of the Holy Spirit. Not only would they eat together like this but they would pray together like that, they’d break bread together like that, they’d share fellowship together like that, they’d study the Word together like that.

      As Christmas approaches, this is surely the time for us, as a church, to pray that we might be decluttered, that we might be fully open to one another and to the Holy Spirit, so that we can receive the Lord Jesus into our midst and celebrate his Incarnation. May we eat together and share this time together with gladness, generosity, sincerity, simplicity.

    Happy Christmas everyone,

         Graham W

*Produced by Graham Wassell 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.*