**Fellowship – Week 4**

So we have begun to think what koinonia or fellowship means to us as individuals and as a church. As fellowship is particularly interactive we wanted to include your thoughts on what fellowship is so below are some of the comments which have come from lots of different people, showing just how broad this topic is.

Fellowship can cover many aspects of sharing companionship, some of which are just that – spending time with someone over a cup of tea, maybe not even talking about anything directly connected to church, or faith, but can also include a deep level of connection, empathy and silent prayer. Another example is prayer triplets, where three people become very connected to each other and to God through their shared time together. As Christians the fellowship we participate in should not just cover church activities but also our daily life, which most likely includes people who are not part of our church, or indeed any church.

* One definition of fellowship is ‘small groups of care and prayer; study and conversation with fellow Christians; 1-1 encouragement and companionship with Christian friends’.
* We need to beware of forming groups that are closed to others. Our bonds should cause us to draw others in, not exclude them.
* In particular, be pleased to welcome others from diverse and 'uncommon' backgrounds; they will enrich your fellowship.
* Being together and relaxed, doing things together and asking opinions. Nearness to each other and able to share with another person/group. Companionable friendship. Different people being comfortable with each other and accepting each other (a good example of this being Games Craft & Chatter)
* I sent my mother in law one of the emails on breaking bread and she has requested that I send them to her regularly! It’s amazing that it only takes a spark to get a fire going!! That's an email from Bents Green touching lives in London.  Indeed how great is our GOD?! He makes it all the more wonderful that he has given us a church family to fellowship and grow with.

What are your thoughts on Fellowship?

If you don’t already belong to a small group would you be interested in joining one? If you are already part of a group is there anyone you could invite to join you? Is there anything your group could do to reach out to others either within the church or in the community?

And a final thought. Today is a bank holiday, when it sometimes seems that everyone else is busy with their families. A person who was to be on her own for the bank holiday was in two minds about contacting a friend who may be in the same situation, but then she was reminded about recent thoughts on the meaning of fellowship and gave her a call to suggest they do something together.

*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.*