

Some Christian Fellowship Thoughts.

The Editor was in discussion with some fellow Christians from our church and one of them shared these thoughts about 'Fellowship' and a prayer they had come across reflecting this concept. I felt sufficiently impressed to think it worth sharing with the rest of the church - be blessed by it.

"Dear Lord. Thank you for the unique bond that brings believers in Jesus together. Thank you for my church, for Christian fellowship, for how we care for one another. This bond is unique because it invites the living God into our midst and offers supernatural help in dealing with our problems. We have a common perspective on life because we know our sins have forgiven, we have experienced the joy of salvation and we know we have a future together in heaven. How encouraging that our gatherings provide a place for honest sharing about the things that really matter in life and the encouragement to stay strong in the face of temptation. Lord, I know that Christian fellowship is a good thing, for we help each other to stay strong in our faith and we encourage, comfort, warn and bless each other. Thank you for this wonderful gift of fellow believers which gives grace to us all and peace from God our Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ. When we gather together I want to encourage you and I also want to be encouraged by you. Amen.

From:- "365 Pocket Prayers" Published by Tyndale House.

I felt this was a simple heartfelt prayer without reams of theology and long words and was an expression of a deep desire of what Jesus words "to remain in fellowship" meant to the writer and was a concept we might well consider in our own lives with Jesus and our own church fellowship.

August Sunday Service arrangements

The Summer Sunday series in which other groups and different church members participate in facilitating our Sunday worship started on Sunday 27th July and goes on until 31st August. Here is the list of groups and people involved for each of the Sundays.

Date.	Hosting.	Preaching.
Sunday 27 th July	Peter Smallridge	Phil Smith
Sunday 3 rd August	Stevenson's Group	Rose Wild
Sunday 10 th August	Martin's Group	Peter Smallridge
Sunday 17 th August	Peer's Group	Nick Gleich
Sunday 24 th August	Woodlands Group	Jacob White
Sunday 31 st August	Martin's Group	Anne Martin

Phil has invited all of the people bringing the word to have a common linking theme or thread of "The Miracles of Jesus".

Calendar Notes.

Do keep an eye on the website Calendar because, in August, some groups do not meet and others vary their dates/times to accommodate holiday plans. It is also worth noting that the website calendar is the most accurate because the one on the back page of this Newsletter is printed in advance and can be up to a month out-of-date!

There is no 'Hollies' worship service in August.

A reminder that Phil will be back from his holiday in early August although he will not be 'leading' services during the 'summer 6 weeks'. Everything will be back to normal on Sunday 7th September.

People, Place & Presence

The world has been changed by many great combinations - John, Paul, George & Ringo; Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato; Thrust, Lift, Drag & Weight...

But none of these will ever be as significant as what happened at Pentecost.

People

Everyone was waiting. Jews waiting for the feast, Disciples waiting for the gift (Acts 1:4). All of them looking to God. We were created; created to worship. Jesus said that true worship is offered to the Father 'in spirit and truth' (John 4:24). It is in true worship that people find their purpose.

Place

It's the Feast of Weeks, Jerusalem is crowded with 'Jews from every nation under heaven' (Acts 2:5) The whole world is gathered - what happens next will impact the entire global community! Pentecost gives us a glimpse of how our fractured world will ultimately be healed.

Presence

Throughout the bible, fire has been a visual sign of God's presence (Exo 13, 2 Chron 7). But there is something different in this moment – in Acts 2:3 we read that 'the tongues of fire separated and came to rest on each of them'. God's presence is no longer restricted to a building; but now it is carried by every believer. Blessings flow when God's people, are in God's place, experiencing God's presence!

What a wonderful weekend that was and, additionally, blessed with good weather! But, very sadly, Alice and Martha fell ill overnight on Friday and Becks had to return home with them on Saturday morning.

The catering, planning and transport arrangements were faultless and we were all in awe at Karens on site detailed planning and the background influence of MaryAnn in the menu design even though she wasn't able to be with us. A particular mention of Phils Father and brother who came down all the way from Hereford on the Saturday to prepare us a sumptuous evening roast dinner.

Antony and Ruth were a delightful and very humble couple who led us in the sessions and introduced and challenged us in a different way to 'do' church and how to personally evangelize those who do not yet know Jesus. Backed up by personal testimonies of their own life and church experiences. They completed their weekend with us by ministering to many of our church members in the power of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps the value and success of the weekend can be assessed by the considerable number of people who expressed their appreciation by saying "Can we do it again?"