

**Home  
Groups**

Groups meet at No 17 on Sunday evening @ 6.30pm, on Tuesday afternoon @ 1.30pm & also on Wednesday afternoon @ 1.30pm (studies commence in 'The Bible and Mental Health', and continue in Revelation & 1 Samuel). For more details on our Home Groups speak to Andy Wood.

**Prayer**

We meet to pray on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm:  
1st August, 'National needs' (at Elke's), Geoff to lead.  
8th August, 'Prayer for the people of Egypt, Sri Lanka & Uzbekistan' (at Beth & Geoff's), Geoff to lead.  
15th August, 'Personal witness' (at David Wood's), Andy to lead.  
22nd August, 'World Mission' (at Diane and Becky's), Steve to lead.  
Week commencing 26th August, prayer triplets, 'Church needs'.

**Leaders**

The elders meet to pray every Wednesday morning at 8am & for business on Tuesday 14th August at 9.30 am (at David's).  
Email: becelders@gmail.com

**Dates for  
the diary**

Day for praying, Wednesday October 17th.  
Billy Graham event, Oct/Nov (date to be announced).

## August 2018

**August 5th 10.30 am,**

Michael Luehrmann will be our guest preacher.

**August 12th, 10.30 am,**

Andy Wood will be preaching on  
Philippians 3:17 - 4:4  
The service includes communion.

**August 19th, 10.30am.**

Steve Walker will be preaching on  
2 Corinthians 1:23 - 2:13.

**August 26th, 10.30am.**

Paul Thomson will be preaching on  
John 14:1-14

Communion & Notices - Andy Wood.

Co-ordinator - Geoff Wildsmith.

Requests for intercessory prayer to be given to Andy Wood.

## *The Grace Awakening, Charles R. Swindoll.*

Who wrote the “let’s compare” rule book? Will you please show me from Scripture where God is pleased with such negative attitudes? Why can’t a person be spiritual and enjoy expressions of music or art totally different from those I like? Who says it is carnal to have nice things or enjoy a few extravagant luxuries, especially if one’s generosity is also extravagant? Why can’t people drive any car they can afford or vacation anywhere they please or live in whatever size home they enjoy or wear whatever clothing they prefer? Just because you or I can’t or don’t choose or would prefer not to doesn’t mean others can’t or shouldn’t. Comparison fuels the fire of envy within people. It prompts the tendency to judge, it makes us prejudiced people. The worst of all is that it nullifies grace. It was never God’s intention for all His children to look alike or embrace identical lifestyles. Look at the natural world He created. What variety! The buzzard and the butterfly, the dog and the deer, the zinnia and the orchid, the wriggling minnow and the sleek shark.

The church is not a religious industry designed to turn out mass-produced reproductions on an assembly line. The Bible wasn’t written to change us into cookie-cutter Christians or paper-doll saints. On the contrary, the folks I read about in the Book are as different as Rahab and Esther, one a former prostitute and the other a queen.... as unusual as Amos and Stephen, fig-picker turned prophet and deacon who became a martyr. Variety honours God, predictability and mediocrity bore him. And if there is proof that He prefers differences, take a look down the long hall of fame in church history. Some of those folks would never have been welcome in most evangelical churches today: “too extreme.... too eccentric..... too liberal!” Can you imagine fiery John Knox in one of today’s sophisticated pulpits? Or how about Martin Luther on

television! You’re smiling if you are familiar with the man’s uninhibited provocative style. He was the one who once admitted that he never preached better than when he was angry. Before we will be able to demonstrate sufficient grace to let others be, we’ll have to get rid of this legalistic tendency to compare (yes, it is a form of legalism.) God has made each one of us who we are. He is hard at work shaping us into the image He has in mind. His only pattern (for character) is His Son. He wants each one of us to be unique ... an individual blend and expression unlike any other person. That is by His design. There is only one *you*. There is only one *me*. And the same can be said of each member of His family.

Legalism requires that we all be alike, unified in convictions and uniform in appearance, to which I say, “Let me out!” Grace finds pleasure in differences, encourages individuality, smiles on variety, and leaves plenty of room for disagreement. Remember, it releases others and lets them be, to which I say, “Let me in!” I agree with and often quote the old saying, “Comparisons are odious.” Not until we put a stop to them will horizontal grace flourish in the body. (pp. 155-156).

*“You don’t really know Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have”. Tim Keller, American Pastor*

### *Church Rota - August*

Date	Children's Item	Crèche helper	Inter. Prayer	Refreshments
5th	Geoff	Elke	Geoff	Sue A.
12th		Becky	Jimmy	Elke
19th	Pauline	Michelle	Beth	TBC
26th		Elke	Sue A.	Beth