

**Home
Groups**

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

Prayer

We meet to pray on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm: 5th September, "Friends who've moved on from BEC" (at Susan and Kebede's), Geoff to lead.
12th September, 'Schools, colleges and universities' (at David Wood's), Andy to lead.
19th September, 'World mission' (at Steve and Rachel's), Steve to lead.
Week commencing 23rd September, prayer triplets, "Thanksgivings".

Leaders

The elders meet to pray every Wednesday morning at 8am & for business on Tuesday 4th September at 9.30 am (at No 17).
Email: becelders@gmail.com

**Dates for
the diary**

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

September 2018

September 2nd, 10.30 am,
Jimmy Ratcliffe will be preaching on
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

September 9th, 10.30 am,
Andy Wood will be preaching on
1 Corinthians 1:10-17 & chapter 3
The service includes communion.

September 16th, 10.30am.
Dr. Stephen Turner will be preaching on
1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:15

September 23rd, 10.30am,
Andy Wood will be preaching on
1 Corinthians chapters 4 & 9.
(Please bring your lunch for a 'church
picnic' following the service).

September 30th, 10.30am,
Andy Wood will be preaching on
1 Corinthians 5 & 6:12-20

Communion & Notices - David Scott.

Co-ordinator - Geoff Wildsmith.

Requests for intercessory prayer to be given to Andy Wood.

Fellowship (from God's Words, Jim Packer, pp. 191-200, edited).

"They met constantly to hear the apostles teach, and to share the common life, to break bread, and to pray. A sense of awe was everywhere.... All whose faith had drawn them together held everything in common... With one mind they kept up their daily attendance at the temple, and, breaking bread in private houses, shared their meals with unaffected joy, as they praised God" (Acts 2:42-47).

Here is a glimpse of fellowship as the New Testament understands it: and there is a world of difference between this picture and most of the activities that we call 'fellowship' today. The truth is that the word 'fellowship' has been grievously cheapened. A great deal of 'fellowship', so called, is not fellowship, but something far less, and the true reality of fellowship has largely vanished from our midst.....

Christian fellowship is two-dimensional; it is first vertical and then horizontal. The vertical dimension of fellowship was described by John when he wrote: "our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3). This fellowship is what makes a Christian, indeed.... the [person] who is not in fellowship with the Father and the Son, however upright and pious [they] may be, is no Christian at all. The horizontal dimension of fellowship is the habitual sharing, the constant giving to and receiving from each other, which is the true and authentic pattern of life for the people of God.

Fellowship with God, then, is the source from which fellowship among Christians springs; and fellowship with God is the end to which Christian fellowship is a means. We should not, therefore, think of our fellowship with other Christians as a spiritual luxury, an optional addition to the exercises of private devotion. We should recognize rather that such fellowship is a spiritual necessity; for God has made us in such a way that our fellowship with himself is fed by our fellowship with fellow-Christians, and requires to be so fed constantly for its own deepening and enrichment.

Christian fellowship is an expression of both love and humility. It springs from a desire to bring benefit to others, coupled with a sense of personal weakness and need. It has a double motive - the wish to help, and be helped; to edify, and be edified. It has a double aim - to do, and to receive, good. It is a corporate seeking by Christian people to know God better through sharing with each other what, individually, they have learned of him already.

[In fellowship] the Lord's presence and power is realised, and he is known afresh, through the words of a fellow Christian.

The significance of fellowship

First, fellowship is a *means of grace*. Through fellowship, one's soul is refreshed and fed, and by the effort to communicate one's knowledge of divine things one's own grasp of them is strengthened.

Second, fellowship is a *test of life*.... "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light," wrote John, "we have fellowship with one another" - but not otherwise (1 John 1:7).

Third, fellowship is a *gift of God*.... It is only where the Holy Spirit has been given, where [men and women] are spiritually alive and anxious to grow in grace themselves and help others to do the same, that fellowship becomes a possibility (2 Corinthians 13:14).

What hinders fellowship?

Four things, at least.

Obstacle one is *self-sufficiency*. There can be no fellowship where individuals do not see that they depend on each other for spiritual help.

Obstacle two is *formality*. Some see their involvement in correct procedures in public worship... as the whole of Christian fellowship, and shrink from anything more intimate.

Obstacle three is *bitterness*, which expresses itself in attitudes of sustained hostility.

Obstacle four is *elitism*, the superior attitude that produces cliques based on exclusiveness.

As we value the health of our own souls and of the Christian church, then, we must learn to prize fellowship, and labour to reinstate it in its proper place as a means of grace for all members of the body of Christ.

Church Rota - September

Date	Children's Item	Crèche helper	Inter. Prayer	Refreshments
2nd	Andy (song)	Becky	Elke	Michelle/Diane
9th		Michelle	Pauline	Jimmy/David
16th	David	Elke	Steve	Sue Ayano
23rd		Becky	Geoff	Elke
30th		Michelle	Jimmy	TBC