

# Midweek Matters

Issue 16

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*Take your everyday, ordinary life- your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life and place it before God as an offering." Romans 12:1 MSG*

It suddenly struck me, as I've reflected on the Lord's Prayer series we've been going through, that it starts with the word "Our". Why the use of the plural? It's as if Jesus was teaching us to pray together, yet in Matthew's account of this teaching it's in the context of a person going into their room to pray in secret, presumably on their own. (Matt 6:5-14).

There's a line to pursue about individual prayer another time, but this use of the plural by Jesus; "Our Father," "Give us today," "as we forgive others," gets me thinking that Jesus is expecting us to take the chances to pray together. Praying with each other and conscious of each other. (Thank you for that phrase, you know who you are!)

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 MV*

Now in the current circumstances, that's harder than usual, but not impossible. We've managed it a couple of times with video meetings. We can do it down the phone with each other, and we can do it if we're meeting in the currently permitted small groups of up to 6 people – we'll just have to make sure that our prayers are loud enough to be heard at a metre's distance! I've even seen prayers "said" in chat groups. One thing we've been able to do, to show our community that we were still active, even though our building was closed, was set up the prayer tree. Prayer is something we can give to each other and use a ministry to those around us. If there's a chance to pray together, take it.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020 Peter Hayes** <https://www.bgb.org.uk/content/peter-hayes-sowing>

Peter spoke on Ecclesiastes (Cast your bread upon the waters) and the parable of the sower. We are encouraged to share the good news, but what are we doing to prepare the soil?

- How can you deepen and cultivate your friendships so that when it's right to plant a seed in a conversation it is more likely to take root?

*God Bless.*

*Steve*