**Questions for consideration.**

***Read Romans 12:9-21***

* ***With whom do your struggle to share fellowship***
* ***Who are the lonely and rejected in your community? How do you make them feel included?***
* ***How fresh are the fellowships in your community? Is Christ the focus or have they become insular?***

**Dare to dream**

Developing Holy Habits are not complicated or difficult, they can be lived out simply. They are a way of life to be lived; Love in action, embodied grace. To practice them we just need a willingness to follow Jesus, we don’t even need a church building , but we can invite people to develop Holy Habits together.

Excerpts from

**Roberts Andrew** *Holy Habits*, Malcolm Down Publishing 2016

Developing Holy Habits

**2. Fellowship**

**The Adventure of Discipleship**

Discipleship is an adventure, but there will be days when we are more enthusiastic about it and others when we would rather do spiritual equivalent of snuggling back under the duvet !

**The Aim of Discipleship**

The aim of Discipleship is to develop within ourselves a ‘Christ like character‘ as a focus to enable the transformation of the world, so the Kingdom of God can a visible and tangible presence here on earth. Discipleship is personal and relational. It flows from the relationship we have with the one who calls us to follow, Jesus.

**Sacrificial nature of Discipleship**

Sacrifice is at the heart of discipleship and suffering, and to a greater or less extent, it is inevitable on the adventure. Jesus was not slow in challenging Simon Peter and his companions to go beyond their experience and comfort zones, thereby helping them grow in confidence. Sometimes in our discipleship there will be those moments when we are called to go beyond our comfort zones and discover Gods resources in new ways, and there will be times when we need to encourage others to take steps of faith on the adventure of discipleship. However living sacrificially, in obedience to the call of Jesus, may also involve suffering because of our association with the one we follow. This could be in the form of snide comments, being excluded from conversation or activities, or to stand alongside the people whom the rest of society would exclude.

**The Nurture of Discipleship**

As we practice the art of discipleship, so the fruits of holiness and Christ like character emerge and blossom, along with resilience, strength and faith to keep going. We need to learn to live rhythmically if we are to nurture 10 Holy Habits.

**Holy Habits**

If we are to commit ourselves and to encourage our church community to live rhythmically and develop discipleship, then we need guidelines; we need to develop tools to enable us to be ‘Christ like’ in character and focus. In other words, to develop and nurture ‘habits’ and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us on the adventure and excitement of discipleship.

**The second Holy Habit is Fellowship.**

**What does Fellowship mean for you?**

What Is Koinonia?

* A Greek word translated as ‘fellowship’.
* However is has more richness, depth, meaning and challenge than our understanding of fellowship
* It points a quality of relationship and activity, which is so much deeper that a chit chat over a tea or coffee
* Koinonia is profoundly practical and deeply relational and it is a Trinitarian experience
* Koinonia bring a wonder of Hope and reconciliation to relationships
* Such ‘fellowship’ is a powerful engine for mission

How to identify Koinonia

* Being and authentic community
* A community that represents a vision of the Kingdom of God
* A community of Visionary disciples
* Relationship with God, Each other and the world.
* Open and welcoming
* Committed
* Struggle to attain Koinonia.
* A safe place to be yourself