

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL CARE

The Gateway Elim Church has been enriched by the ministry gifting to encourage and develop the people of God. Pastoral care is vital to us because we want to be there for you. Your first point of contact is your Life Group leader; however, via the Church office or on personal numbers upon request, the team is available.

- Pastors Marty & Rebeca
- David & Denise
- Phil & Vera
- Alistair & Nadine
- Pastor Don & Doreen
- Pastor Jim & Margery
- Pastor Andrew

We are here to serve you.



Life groups form an important part of Church life at Gateway.

LIFE GROUPS

Speak with David or Denise Nicholas to find out more.

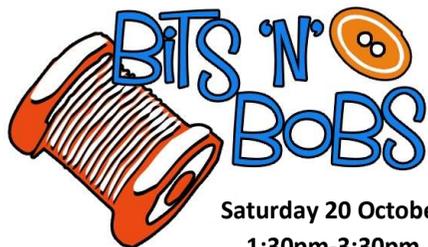
CARERS' SUPPORT

Carers

If you have any issues you would like to discuss, need help, advice, assistance with completion of Benefit forms and Appeals or support at Tribunals please contact David and Denise through the Church Office (01454 322616 option 0) and we will do our best to help you.

We are also available to pray with you and "just to listen" and will respect your privacy.

David and Denise



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Administrator: David Nicholas

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To the Gateway family

Acts 2:42 "And <de> they continued <en> steadfastly <proskartereo> in the apostles <apostolos>' doctrine <didache> and <kai> fellowship <koinonia>, and <kai> in breaking <klasis> of bread <artos>, and <kai> in prayers <proseuche>."

Above is Acts 2:42 taken from the King James translation with Greek translation alongside. We often read verses with our understanding of the English words. Yet as we study and look a little deeper into what the writers were writing to the readers of the time, all of a sudden, our understanding becomes enlarged.

The word "fellowship" comes from the Greek word "Koinonia". Now, Koinonia doesn't just mean the gathering of people (like we might refer to the church as a fellowship) or people who are connected socially. This word Koinonia is loaded with meaning, such as intimacy, communion, intrinsically intertwined. Koinonia is used to describe Jesus' relationship with us, that depth and intimacy. So we see that these disciples of Jesus had friendships that weren't passing or superficial but friendships that were significant, honest, open, deep, caring and loving as Christ's relationship towards us! Wow!

In Hebrews 10:25 it says that we shouldn't stop gathering together as was the custom of some. Many would read and interpret this as stopping to come along to the church building..... infrequent attenders and to a degree the understanding has been diluted to a roll call of physical absence or presence.

However, with a fuller understanding of the Word and what the Spirit yearns for, we can see that you can come along to church but still not be fulfilling the desire of God's heart in seeing relationships in Koinonia, true fellowship. Having an appearance of living the word but not!

Not living in Koinonia, not living in intimate relationship – openness, honesty, transparency with love.

1 John 1:3-7 says "that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship <koinonia> with us; and truly our fellowship <koinonia> is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship <koinonia> with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship <koinonia> with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

The above verses challenge us that our relationship with the church body is an overflow, a continuation of our relationship or lack of relationship with God.

We want to be a church that lives the word of God in obedience. A church that lives in Koinonia with God the Father and because of that true, real and intimate relationship with Abba, we live in Koinonia with our brothers and sisters in Christ around us.

I can see the church fellowship growing in such godly spiritual maturity as we endeavour to live and share life together, His life, together in Life Groups.

Much love and God bless
Pastors Marty & Rebeca