

**Study Sheet for week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008**  
**"Together In Ministry" 1 Corinthians 12:12-31**  
*(Last study sheet until Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept)*

## INTRODUCTION

We have just completed a sermon series on Acts 1-6, all around the theme of the word "together." This week we have just one more session on the theme "together" as it is a word that underpins so much of what active Christian discipleship is all about. We live Christianity together!

**BIBLE STUDY:** Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

We are called together to serve God as one Body, but there are some interesting aspects to this which we need to explore.

### 1) We are all Different

#### Activity

This activity will link in to your prayer time later. Get two sheets of A4 paper. On one, list all of the different types of jobs/professions there are in our area. List at least 20! Now use the other to list all the jobs people do at St Mary's, to make the Church tick! You may want to break into two groups with two different pieces of paper if it is easier!

- Why is it important that we have all these gifts and jobs in the Community and the Church

### 2) We are all One

- Read verses 12-13 again.
- Who creates and maintains unity in the body?
- We are told God does this by baptising us in his Spirit, and letting us drink of his Spirit

### 3) We are all Valuable

- What happens in society and in Church, when some people's gifts are not used or valued?
- Why is the gift of encouragement so important in this area?

- Try and share times when you have seen God use a real team spirit working brilliantly, and also share about times when things have not quite gone to plan!
- If we are all valuable to God, what attitudes should we have to those who are gifted differently to us?

### 4) We are all Entwined

- Using the body imagery, can you think of times when you have been ill in one part of your body, but the whole body has suffered? Or times when a part of your body has healed or been made well (I always think of tooth ache causing all sorts of other aches, and then the dentist relieves this, bringing relief and joy to the whole body! Perhaps you can think of other examples.)
- Church on Sunday is often too big to share as a body. That's why we need love and openness in our small groups to share both our blessings and struggles. Together we can be effective bodies!

Together in Ministry we are all...

**D**ifferent  
**O**ne  
**V**aluable  
**E**ntwined

Dove = Symbol of the Holy Spirit - and it is in HIS Spirit that we are United in one Body for Ministry into a Broken world that needs Christ.

## PRAYER TIME

Share your own prayer needs, and those for family and friends. Now lift these needs to God. And also have a time of thanking God for all the people and jobs you listed on your sheet(s) – for both Community and Church. Thank him for giving us the "Body" principle to live by.