

# Home Group – Alpheton & Shimpling

## “A Feast for Lent”

### 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30pm

#### HOME GROUPS

From the early days of the Christian church, Christians have met together in their homes as well as meeting together in larger numbers for public worship.

During recent years many churches have rediscovered the value of these smaller groups within the life of the larger church fellowship.

#### What is the purpose of Home Groups?

##### 1: To build up the individual believer.

Many people have found that in the smaller Home Group they are enabled to grow spiritually. Each member can feel valued and accepted as together they minister to one another through prayer, worship and fellowship.

##### 2: To facilitate ministry and service.

The smaller group is the ideal place in which we can learn to minister together and to one another. There may be specific ministries in which the Group as a whole can be engaged. Experience has shown that they grow in their fellowship with one another.

##### 3: To pastorally care for one another.

Small groups enable members to pastorally care for one another by supporting them when they are ill or in need of assistance. The Home Group can be a place where delicate and sensitive issues can be shared and prayed for.

##### 4: To facilitate faith sharing.

Home Groups can seek ways to encourage local missionary activity by actively being engaged in faith sharing within the local community.

#### What are we going to do in our Home Group?

**Bible study:** Bible Study is at the heart of our Home Groups. As we study the Bible we seek ways to put into practice what God may be saying to us from His word.

**Prayer:** Prayer should flow out naturally from the Bible Study. Home Groups are places where each and every person can be prayed for, and where they can pray for the needs of the Church and the wider world.

**Worship:** Worship is a key area which may use the talents of a musician if one is present or indeed may be silent worship and meditation on a Bible passage. Whatever the style of worship it should flow out of our desire to spend time together in God's presence.

**Fellowship and fun:** Home Groups are wonderful places for enjoying one another's company, and should have a time of fellowship over a cup of coffee or tea. Sometimes they share a meal or may also organise social events that give an opportunity to introduce friends to the Group.

**Training:** Home Groups are excellent places for us to try out our gifts and talents in a friendly environment. The Leader will facilitate and encourage each member to discern their gifts and then enable them to try them out.

#### How can I find out if a Home Group is for me?

**We plan to start a Home Group for the parishes of Alpheton and Shimpling at the start of Lent and in the first instance meet at Court Cottage, The Street, Shimpling at 7.30pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010.** If you would like to join in us please contact David Irvine on 01284 828159. Visiting a Home Group doesn't mean that you are signing up for life!