

***Sunday in the Round:** it is helpful as Christians to see Sunday as a whole day and not just a day where we may attend one or two meetings. It is a day given to us for community worship, fellowship, hospitality and equipping. In our busy lives it is to be seen in the context of the whole of our lives: a chosen use of our time. The pattern for our Sunday evenings has been designed after consultation & evaluation following a six month pilot:*

Sunday 1. The Lord's Supper. 6.30pm – 7.30pm followed by coffee and biscuits. This provides continuity & security for the faith community. It is also a time for reflective and new types of worship. As it has proved helpful to people we are adding another one later in the month. (*)

Sunday 2. Hospitality Sunday. A challenge to all to invite others to lunch and get to know one another time. Lunch may be in a home, a local café or restaurant, or the church kitchen/ hall borrowed to do a demo meal or a Small Group meal. (Not the month of Vision Building Days when the whole church meets and eats together). It could be a meal with church people, family, neighbours or friends. (*Acts 2: 46*).

Sunday 3. (*)The Lord's Supper: 6.30pm – 7.30pm followed by coffee and biscuits.

Sunday 4. Flame Prayer. This time runs from 6.30 – 7.45pm. It is a time to listen to God as well as speak. Organised by 2 Deacons and music provided in the form of guitars and or keyboard. Building close 8pm unless there is a desire to keep praying.

Sunday 5. View Point? 6.30pm. A speaker and then some discussion on a topical issue or controversial area e.g. Global warming: so what? Genetic remodelling? This is an open meeting aimed at a wider group of people than Christians & we will advertise it more widely. The meeting is café style with coffee and biscuits and table talk until 8.30pm. (In 2009 these will be in : March, May, August, & November).

Pastor Jane replies:

Why has the Sunday in the Round programme been designed in this way?

Sunday at 10.30am is our main service which includes a crèche and children's groups. I think people will Opt In to evening meetings when they see the value of it in their personal growth as disciples and we have sought to design a pattern and programme for Sundays that works not just for the individual but for the common good. Research (not just by us) has shown that Christian believers generally attend just one service on Sundays. The reasons given include: very busy work lives, family responsibilities and the need to prepare for the working and school week and the need to rest. Some people, however, like to gather for worship in the evening rather than the morning or as well as the morning. Some like a quieter more reflective service. There is also a need recognised by some to meet together for prayer as a whole church and also to tackle difficult world and ethical issues.

I hope that individual Christians and families will consider carefully how they spend Sundays rather than just slip into an unchanging habit. There are so many good things about meeting together and also warnings about not meeting with other Christians.