

A caring community with every member equipped to demonstrate Christ, working with others to advance God's Kingdom in Chard and the world

Seek God – in prayer, worship, study of the Scripture and fellowship, we value the pursuit of God in Jesus Christ;

Love Generously – in time, talent and treasure, to stimulate one another to good works and a lifestyle of generosity;

Expect transformation – to see God's Holy Spirit move in individual lives, in the church and across our community

You may have been coming to Forefront for years. Or maybe you just popped in for one Sunday. Either way, if you feel moved to act on anything mentioned in the talks, we would be pleased to pray with you.

Ask someone in the service to point you in the right direction, or call in during the week at Forefront Community Centre (next to Chard Post Office sorting centre).

Contact details and more at forefront.org.uk

God's gifts of grace



To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

Ephesians 4:7



- 28 May God's gifts of grace—Keith Barnard
- 4 June Gifts of leadership—David Burfield
- 11 June Gifts of care for each other—Tom Smith
- 18 June Gifts of personal and church growth—Nigel Marsh
- 25 June Gifts in practice—Keith Barnard



Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1Cor 12:7

28 May God's gifts of grace—Keith Barnard

[John 14:15-18; 16:12-15; Acts 2:38,39; 1Cor 13:1-3]

Who's alongside you? As your helper, advocate, comforter, strengthener? When Jesus left his time on earth walking alongside his disciples, he sent another person to be with them, the Holy Spirit. For us too, the Spirit produces fruit and gives us gifts so that we can, together, be the body of Christ: his arms and legs in his world today. As we welcome him into our lives, he will lead, empower and equip us to live for him. What a privilege!



4 June Gifts of leadership—David Burfield

[Eph 4:1-16]

Jesus promised the disciples that the coming Spirit of Truth would lead and guide them (John 16:13-15). This can be understood in terms of personal inspiration and guidance but also refers to the corporate leadership given to the church. Leadership in Ephesians 4 is understood to be a gift of grace given by Christ to the body of believers. Paul describes this leadership in terms of a five-fold ministry that is intended to equip the believers for life and service so that the body of Christ may be built up. Leadership embraces a wide range of skills that range from administration to proclamation, from teaching to pastoral oversight. Ultimately these are gifts, although the skills involved can be developed and honed.

11 June Gifts of care for each other—Tom Smith

[Rom 12:1-13]

Some of the gifts in the Romans 12 passage seem rather ordinary compared with the gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. Yet Paul uses the same word, *charismata*, to describe **all** the gifts in all three passages.

The Word of God says that there is a wide range of gifts, including serving, encouraging, showing mercy. The *charismata* (grace gifts – gifts of the Spirit) are distributed to believers **as God determines** [1Cor 12:11]. We have different gifts, **according to the grace given us** [Rom 12:6]. The gifts equip us to do the work of ministry in the church, the body of Christ.



18 June Gifts of personal and church growth—Nigel Marsh

[1Cor 12:1-13]

If Jesus is truly our Lord—meaning, we delight in obeying his commands as completely as we know how—then the Spirit of God wants to give us the tools necessary to play our part in building the Kingdom. He will continue to fill us, exercise us and guide us to become the fully-functioning organ of the body of Christ he has called us to be. If God gives a tool, then it is needed; if we use it, we must do so for his glory and the common good.

25 June Gifts in practice—Keith Barnard

[1Cor 12:27-31, 14:1-12]

How does all this happen in real life? We have the assurance that if God calls us to do a task, he will equip us with the gifts we need (Hebrews 13:20,21). There is no set pattern or tradition to follow;

rather we should always be asking God to fill us with his Spirit and expecting him to be answering our prayers in all sorts of creative ways. The Bible encourages us to seek and welcome the gifts of the Spirit, but also to be discerning. The key to effective Christian living, as the Spirit gives us his gifts, is to focus our lives on Christ.