

# 3

# Being 'Church'

## 3. Church is a Christ-centred and Word-based community

### Key idea

What did you think was the most important point made in the sermon on this topic?

Were there any issues raised in the sermon that you'd like to discuss further?

### Clarifying the message

We are going to focus on Acts 2:42-47. Take a brief moment to remind yourself what happened just before these verses.

#### Read out Acts 2:42-47.

1. To which things did the community of Christian believers devote themselves?
2. What does the expression 'devoted themselves' suggest to you?

### Living the message today

3. How ought we 'devote ourselves' to:
  - The Apostles teaching?
  - Fellowship?
  - The Breaking of Bread?
  - Prayer?In each of these, what helps?
4. What impresses you about the first Christians' manner of life?
5. What diminishes our experience of Christian community?
6. What enhances our experience of Christian community?
  - What part do you have in relation to each of the matters you raise?
7. What priority do you think participating in Christian community should have in your life (and, if you have one, your family's life)?

*What is the difference between descriptive and prescriptive?*

*The first Christians' desire to share all things in common challenges us—even selling possessions to fund the community's need! The wider context of these verses shows us that this was a voluntary act and that possessions were sold only as the need arose (not all at once). If you think this principle of 'holding things in common' is a good one, can you think of some creative ways we might begin? Is there a 'down-side'?*