

Parish Church of **St. Barnabas, Swanland** - *Sharing Christ through friendship* - 1st Sun. in Lent: **13/3/11**
GROUP NOTES: Phil. 3:12/3:20-4:3. Theme: **Feeling Good even when opposed** (and worn out).

Welcome	Recount a time when you were rescued/ saved from a perilous situation. How did you feel? Eg - about the person/people who rescued you? - about the circumstances that led up to the problem? – about how others must feel in similar or worse situations?
Worship ideas	<i>Choose songs of praise/ worship which thank God for his salvation in Jesus</i>
Word (refs.↓)	<i>some suggestions for discussion here</i>
Phil.3:1-19	† Paul warns against two dangers here: i) legalistic faith (thinking we can be saved by our good works/ own efforts), vv.2-11 ii) 'laissez-faire' faith (thinking our behaviour doesn't matter), vv.17-19 Which of these two temptations do you think is more of a danger for us today?
Phil.3:20-1	† How important to you is the promise of final salvation, as promised in v.21? † Do you see the church/ your group as being like a lifeboat – with a mission to save people from disaster? If so, how is it going about that mission? If not, what do you think the church's/ group's attitude to those outside the 'ship of faith' should be?
	† If you have time, look at the chart overleaf – do the three aspects of 'salvation' in the New Testament make sense to you? Does the church tend to overemphasise one aspect over the others? - if so, in what ways does this matter?
Phil. 4:1-3	† How can we avoid the sort of clash of personalities that was going on here in Philippi? (NB these ladies were <u>leaders</u> in the church, see. v.3) † If people in the church are arguing and 'rocking the (life)boat' they are likely to be distracting others from the church's primary tasks (eg saving lives). How can such people best be encouraged to 'sit down' and sort out their differences? How might such principles help you to sort out disagreement within your own group?
	This week's memory verse is 4:1 (or keep working on 2:6-11)
Witness	<u>Discuss</u> where St Barnabas and/or your group could better fulfil its role as a rescue ship/ lifeboat (or perhaps a different type of ship if that is how you envisage it). <u>Pray</u> (perhaps in 2s or 3s) ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ for any people whom you have had a sharp disagreement with in the past – in the church or outside it ❖ for God to prompt the right people to be nominated for PCC, Deanery Synod and churchwarden(s) at the AGM (March 27 th , 10am) <u>Plan</u> ❖ for some kind of social to which you can invite others – perhaps over Easter/ the early May bank holiday weekend – as a group, maybe with another group or as a cluster.

Salvation - in the New Testament

Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
<i>(past - with present effect)</i>	<i>present continuous</i>	<i>future certainty</i>
3⁹ “the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith”	2¹² “work out your salvation with fear and trembling”	3²¹ “who... will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body”
legal righteousness <i>‘imputed’</i> <i>(‘counted’ righteous);</i>	personal righteousness <i>‘imparted’</i> (<i>‘changed from glory into glory’</i>);	actual moral perfection; resurrected bodies <i>(‘like the angels’);</i>
Delivered from sin's Penalty	Delivered from sin's Power	Delivered from sin's Presence
one act of faith	many acts of faith	no act of faith
once-for-all	progressive, dynamic, continuous in this life; <i>(“spiritual growth”)</i>	once-for-all-time

Note to give to anyone not in a cell group (or for groups considering taking a break over Lent)

Have you done - and enjoyed - the Alpha course? Perhaps you planned to join a small group afterwards but never got round to it – or perhaps a few years on you’d now appreciate an Alpha-style refresher course? Or maybe you’d like to try a fellowship group but are unsure about joining a ‘cell’?



Alpha

During this Lent, Francis will be leading another informal ‘Alpha follow-up’ course called “A life worth living”. Based on the book of Philippians, the course covers a range of issues and “explains how it is possible to live the Christian life positively, practically and joyfully”. Each evening will include a talk (on video) by Nicky Gumbel followed by a chance to ask and discuss questions in an informal group.

The course will be run at St Barnabas on **Tuesday evenings** 22 and 29 March and 5, 12 and 19 April, from 7.30 for 7.45 to 9.30pm. All welcome. Please let the office know (632941) if you would like to come along, or just turn up on the first evening – everyone will be very welcome.

Please note, there will also be an informal **Alpha course** at Jean and John Ayre’s (4 The Paddock, Swanland), starting at 6pm (for supper). This will also be on Tuesdays and starting on 22 March for about 10 weeks. Please ring 632941 for details and to discuss arrangements.

Also: Are any of your group free on occasional Friday evenings? Would you be willing to help set up, with Hellen, a group for young people in Swanland aged 11-14. No experience/ skills necessary – just a willing heart! Interested? - please contact me (631271) or the office (632941).

Francis Scott – Vicar