

Parish Church of St. Barnabas, Swanland *Sharing Christ through friendship. Group notes*  
*Week beg. Pentecost, 27/5/12. Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27 & 16:12-15. The power of the Spirit.*

<b>Welcome</b>	How did you learn to swim - gradually gaining confidence, or 'sink or swim' approach?
<b>Worship ideas</b>	<i>Suggested songs: Songs of Fellowship 40 Be still for the presence; 136 God of all comfort; 894 Lord, I come before...; 1030 The Lord's my shepherd; 1346 In Christ alone</i> <i>(NB: 20 files containing about 30 'newer' songs are still available to borrow from the office for groups)</i>
<b>Word</b> (refs.↓)	<i>some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to focus on just 2 or 3 questions</i>
<b>Read</b> Acts 2:1-21 (+ read on quickly to v.41 if you can)	Try and place yourself in the room with the disciples. How might you describe what you see and hear (vv.1-4)? <u>vv.5-12</u> What attracts the crowd to the room where the disciples are? (v.8) What is the significance of the list of places in vv.9-11? If you can, use maps in your Bible or an atlas to locate some of them. Given that many of those present in Jerusalem that day would be returning to these places, how is the promise of Acts 1:8 being fulfilled in the events of ch. 2? If you were one of the crowd, would your reaction have been more like v.12 or v.13? Notice how often the words 'all/ each/ every' are used in vv.1-8. How does this illustrate what Peter says in vv.17-21? What was the relative importance of God's part in the events of this day, compared with the disciples' part? How does this help in terms of being ready to be a witness to Jesus where you are, or in new areas of life/ work? Can you recall an experience of being overwhelmed with the Spirit that has caused someone who is not a Christian to ask 'what does this mean'? What happened? Do you agree with the statement that the primary purpose of the sending of the Spirit was to equip Jesus' followers for mission? What difference does this make to you?
<b>Read</b> John 15:26-27 & 16:12-15	What role does Jesus say that the Holy Spirit will play in the lives of his followers? (see also 14:16-17; 14:26-27; 16:7-11) Is this your experience? Which of these aspects of His ministry do you most value? How does this help explain Jesus' statement that it is 'good' for the disciples that he is going away (16:7)?
<b>reflect</b>	Ask someone to read Romans 5:5 aloud; pray for the love of God to be poured out into each other by the Holy Spirit whom he has given each of us.
<b>Witness</b>	<b>Pray</b> <i>for one or two of the following</i> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ for Chanti and Lily Raju and the work of Good News Ministries, India ❖ for opportunities to reach out to family/ friends/ neighbours in the days ahead (eg over the coming Jubilee weekend, Father's Day (Sun 17 Jun), Swanland Festival and the Olympics, etc.)  <b>Plan</b> ❖ an activity as a group during June or July to which you can invite those who are not yet Christians (eg summer barbecue, garden party, etc.) – perhaps linked with the special events coming up listed in the prayer points above