

Parish Church of **St. Barnabas, Swanland** *Sharing Christ through friendship. Easter 3 wk/beg 8/5/11*  
Small group notes. Luke 24:13-35 / **Acts 2:36-41 – Jesus is alive – and so...?**

<b>Welcome</b>	When were you last moved to tears (happy ones!) or to decisive action by someone else?
<b>Worship ideas</b>	Choose a mix of songs that praise God for Jesus' resurrection and the gift of His Spirit.
<b>Word (refs.↓)</b>	<i>some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to look at just one of the 2 passages</i>
Look through Luke 24:13-35 & Acts.2:1-4, 14a, 32-41	<p>* “Compare and contrast” the different ways God meets with the different disciples in these two passages (who, where, when, how, etc.).</p> <p>* How do you find <u>you</u> experience meeting with God? (dramatic events? quiet assurance of his presence? the voice of Jesus? the wind and fire of the Spirit? other ways?)</p> <p>* Then compare Acts 2:37 and Luke 24:32. Should our experience of God always impact our emotions? How would you react to the comment that Christian belief is about reasoned faith, not ‘emotionalism’?</p>
<i>(if you are looking at the <b>Acts</b> passage in more detail)</i>	<p>* The Holy Spirit comes on the disciples (vv.1-4) and the crowd (vv.5-11) asks what it all means (vv.12-13). Peter starts by explaining that God long ago promised to pour out his Spirit on ‘all people’ (vv.14-21) but then he switches to talking about Jesus (from vv.22-38) before mentioning the Holy Spirit again (vv.38-9). Why do you think he emphasises the facts about Jesus more than his personal experience of the Spirit? How far is this a good model for us to follow?</p> <p>* Looking back over this ‘witnessing situation’, what was God’s part and what was the apostles’ part? How does that encourage you as you seek to be a witness for Jesus Christ?</p>
<i>(if you are looking at the <b>Luke</b> passage in more detail)</i>	<p>* Do you have a ‘road to Emmaus’ – where Jesus has surprised you recently? Have you ever felt your heart ‘burning within you’ while someone was talking to you, and then later thought that it was really Jesus speaking? How do you feel about it now?</p> <p>* What would you say to Jesus if he were to share an evening meal with you? Why not share those thoughts with him this week?</p>
<b><u>reflect</u></b>	Have you ever been asked ‘what should I do to become a Christian?’ How might knowing Acts 2:38-39 (or knowing to turn to it) help in such a situation?
<b>Witness</b>	<p><b><u>Prepare</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ As a group, sit in silence for 2 minutes, during which each person can prepare a one-sentence answer to the question ‘what does your faith mean to you?’ (no more than about 15 words!) Encourage each other to share your answers.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Pray</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ for your mission link person(s) or project</li> <li>❖ for more people to join the ‘teams’ of our recent outreach initiatives, especially the ‘Friday Night Live’ youth club (started 8<sup>th</sup> May), café church at the Nurseries (next meeting 12 June) and ‘Dance Finje’ (dance/ keep fit class – starts 18 May)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Plan</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ your next social/ joint meeting – maybe around the Spring Bank holiday weekend (28-30 May) or over the half term that follows it (ends 4 June).</li> </ul>