

The Parish Church of ST. BARNABAS, SWANLAND - 'Sharing Christ through friendship'

CELL GROUP NOTES: **Easter 6, w/beg 9 May 2010.** Readings: **1 Cor. 14:1-5 (& 26-33); John 3:31-36**

Gifts of the Spirit – the gifts of *Prophecy* and of *Distinguishing of spirits*

<p>Welcome/ icebreaker</p>	<p>Can anyone share a life-changing 'lightbulb moment' when someone else said something to you that proved really significant in your life?</p>	
<p>Worship</p>	<p>Pray or sing about God speaking to you as a group (suggested songs: 386 Master, speak; 79 Dear Lord and Father (vv.5-6); 418 O Jesus I have promised v.3; 443 Open our eyes, Lord; 904 Lord, pour out your Spirit; 1321 "The Father's song")</p>	
<p>Word (refs.↓)</p>	<p><i>(Remember, if you missed church on Sunday why not listen via the website? - www.stbchurch.org.uk & click on 'downloads' tab: 18.4.2010; 09-03-2010 - Tuesday may also help. If you are able to use the powerpoint slides from 10.30 on Sunday, they might help)</i></p>	
<p>Joel 2:28-32a; Acts 2:17-21</p>	<p>"Spot the difference"; using the same translation for both, read through these two passages (the second is from Peter's sermon in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost). Is there any significant difference between the 2 passages? How do you explain that fact?</p>	
<p>John 3:31-36</p>	<p>1. What thoughts do the words 'prophecy' or 'prophet' suggest to you? 2. Jesus gives the definitive explanation of prophetic ministry here in v.34. Does this just apply to him or just to Biblical prophets, or also to those with the gift of prophecy today? 3. How far are your answers to q.1 a description of Jesus (the greatest Prophet)?</p>	
<p>1 Cor. 14:1-5, and 26-33</p>	<p>Read through all these verses (or the whole chapter if you have time). Overall, what relative emphasis does Paul give to the gifts of tongues and prophecy? Are both important? Which (if either) is 'better'? Why?</p>	
<p>1 Cor. 14:23-25</p>	<p>Does anyone have experience of this happening in a church or group meeting? What was the long-term result? How did this experience help?</p>	
<p>1 Cor. 14:26-33</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These verses seem to suggest that this should be our normal experience as Christians when we come together. Did anyone come today with any of the things listed in v.26? How can you encourage them in your group? • Spend some time now asking God to release some of these gifts among you, and wait on him to give prophetic words/ pictures for each other or the church? • NB allow time also to 'weigh' them (v.29, cf. 1 Thess 5:19-22). 	
<p>Witness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been asked by those organising the 'Pentecost Praise'/ Festival of Faith in Hull city centre (23 May, 2-4pm) to staff a 'prayer tent' to offer to pray with people who approach with their prayer requests (perhaps for commitment, or for healing, family situations, etc - there might even be the opportunity to offer prophetic words as part of this). Could you as a group – or individuals within the group - commit to being part of this? It would help if group leaders could feed back to Francis or the office by Friday 15th. • Have you planned or had this month's cell social? Next Gathering at St. B's: 27 May 	