

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND
'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Wk/beg 24 March 2013. Bible passages: **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-end; Luke. 19:28-40**

Palm Sunday

Welcome/ icebreaker	Gary Lineker recently closed down his Twitter blog – abandoning his 1.3 million followers, because he realised he had become a <i>phone fiddler</i> and was neglecting his family. Share experiences of how time- consuming activities e'g Facebook, Twitter, golf, shopping till you drop etc. might become problems - and how to manage/balance our time, for the health of our relationships.
Worship	Suggestions: <i>Songs of Fellowship</i> King of Kings, majesty, You chose the cross, Ride on, ride on in majesty. Hosanna, You are the king of glory.
Word (refs.↓)	NB 9am Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Lk 19:-34 and Zechariah 9:9	Following on from all his teaching, healings and miracles, what message would Jesus' ride into Jerusalem on a donkey (Luke translates the word "colt" but see Jn12:15 and Mt21:7) send to the people who knew the prophecies of the Old Testament? Why a donkey? When the Pharisees told Jesus to rebuke his disciples, what does Jesus' reply suggest about his awareness of his identity?
Psalm 118 v1-2 and 19-end	For information: This is the last psalm in the <i>Egyptian Hallel</i> ,(Psalms 113-118) Jews use this collection of psalms in celebration of the Passover. Psalm 113 and 114 are sung before the Passover meal and Psalms 115-118 afterwards. So Psalm 118 might have been sung by Jesus and his disciples at the end of the Last Supper. V26 – compare with Mt 21:9,Mk 11:9 Jn 12:13. All are variations on this verse from Psalm 118. In Luke 19: 38 Luke adds in the word, "king".
Luke 35-38	How did the people show their acknowledgement Of Jesus as King? Share thoughts about what their expectations might have been. In light of this can you offer any possible explanations for Lk 23:21 Did Jesus come to earth to meet people's expectations? Why did he come? What are our expectations of Jesus?
Witness	Pray/Act – First – <i>Focus on Jesus, what he has done for us - and what that means in our lives.</i> Life can be described as being like an Impressionist painting. Close up all we see are dots and splodges. It isn't till we stand back that we can see the masterpiece. Pray about <i>close up</i> situations that you might be in. Trust God for the <i>masterpiece</i> and for the <i>Master's peace</i> until you get to stand back. This Holy Week spend time being aware of God's presence. Thank him for Jesus and the incomprehensible sacrifice he made for us, simply because he loves us. Pray for new ways of being a loving family. May we love one another as God loves us, so that our God-given and received love attracts others naturally. He died that we might be forgiven. As we are forgiven, so may we forgive. Pray that many may be drawn to Jesus' church of St Barnabas this Easter.