

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Wk/beg 3 March 2013. Bible passages: **Ephesians 4:11 – 16; Matthew 22:34 – 40.**

'Generous Churches – making and nurturing disciples'

3). Partnership: working with other Christians and groups within our communities

Welcome/ icebreaker	Think of and share examples of partnerships which have had a significant impact on you
Worship	Suggestions: <i>Songs of Fellowship</i> Be still for the presence of the Lord; Brother, sister, let me serve you; The King of love my shepherd is
Word (refs. ↓)	<i>NB 9am Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).</i>
Eph. 4:11 - 16	In what ways do the various parts of our bodies work together 'in partnership' and what is the difference when they work separately? How are the separate ministries affected when they work with each other?
Matt 22:34-40	If our primary partnership is with God how do we achieve this – and what does that show us about human partnerships? What effect does love, or the lack it, between partners have on the effectiveness of the partnership? How important is it for partners to be 'in tune' with each other – singing from the same hymn sheet? How do we find out with which people or churches or organisations we should be partnering ? The effectiveness of the parts working together is greater than the sum of the individual parts. Discuss! What is our most important partnership and how do we establish and maintain it? How do we improve the quality of our partnerships? What does 'partnership in the gospel' mean? (Phil 1:5)
<i>(General information)</i>	The five marks of Growth being highlighted on each of the 5 weeks of this series are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> † Christ-likeness – becoming more like Jesus † Commitment – to God, to God's ways and values, to one another † Partnership – working with other Christians and groups in our communities † Influence – seeing God's kingdom transform society around us † Numbers – seeing more people come to faith, friends becoming worshippers and followers of Jesus Christ.
Wind	Pray for - a greater sense of God's presence - God's guidance about who you should 'partner in the gospel' with.
Witness	Be open to the Holy Spirit leading you into 'partnerships' with other people