

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

*'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUP NOTES for wk/beg 25 March 2018.
Notes for Palm Sunday and Holy Week - Bible passages: Mark 15:1-39; Phil 2:5-11*

Welcome/ icebreaker	What would prompt you to offer your life for another person?
Worship	<p><i>Suggestions for worship: 54 Brother, sister, let me serve you, 120 From heaven you came, 390 Meekness and majesty, 544 There is a redeemer, 1661 You chose the cross. And/or 633 which begins:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“You laid aside your majesty/ Gave up everything for me, Suffered at the hands of those You had created. You took all my guilt and shame/ When You died and rose again; Now today You reign, in heaven and earth exalted. I really want to worship you, my Lord...”</p> <p>- Perhaps use these words to focus a time of prayer and worship.</p>
Word (refs.↓)	<p><i>NB Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).</i></p> <p>For further study, why not watch Nicky Gumbel's talk on the Philippians passage as part of the 'Life worth Living' Alpha follow-up course – available online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_HSrj_uUcw (or on video from the office)</p>
Mark 15:1-39	Take a few minutes to reflect silently on this gospel account of Jesus. Respond with prayers of thanks.
Phil 2:1-4	<p>Reading between the lines of vv.1-4, do you there was a problem in this area in the church in Philippi? (compare ch. 4 vv.2-3). How about us? Paul lists three wrong attitudes which can hinder our unity as believers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Selfish ambition (v.3a) 2) Self-importance (v.3b) – ‘vain conceit’ (NIV) 3) Self-centredness (v.4) – own interests <p><i>Reflect:</i> What's wrong with being ambitious for self? What does ‘consider others better than yourselves’ mean in practice? What is at the centre of our thinking, acting, praying? What should be?</p>
Phil 2:5-11	<p>Jesus' life demonstrates the right attitude we should have towards others: being willing to give up any claim to: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) status – becoming a servant 2) self-reliance – being dependent on others 3) invulnerability – being willing to suffer and becoming obedient to death on a cross (cf. Mark ch.15) <p>How can we adopt the same 3 attitudes? What difference will it make?</p>
Prayer and Witness	<p><u>Pray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ forgiveness for any times when you have hurt someone by considering yourself better than them ❖ for grace to look to the interests of others - and opportunities to show it ❖ for grace to look to the interests of other groups and churches ❖ for grace as a church – not to be served, but to find joy in serving others