

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

Wk/beg 8 December 2013. **Bible passages: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; John 14:1-6, 25-27**

Theme: Advent crown – Jesus King of Peace: (Prophets)

Welcome/ icebreaker	Where have you found signs of hope and 'light' amidst the difficult local news stories of the last few days?
Worship	Choose worship that focuses on the light & peace that Jesus brings. <i>Suggestions:</i> 40 Be still, 79 Dear Lord and Father, 250 Isn't he?, 628 You are the mighty King, 710 Father God, 1026 The light of Christ, 1067 To be in your presence
Word (refs.↓)	NB <i>Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).</i>
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	<i>'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light' (v.2)</i> How does your current situation (as an individual/ group / member of the church) compare with that of the original hearers of Isaiah's message (look back briefly over ch.8 if you need to). In what ways can you see 'light dawning' in your situations? Do you see Hull's successful City of Culture bid as an example of God shining his light over a city 'coming out of the shadows' – or is all this just 'coincidence'? Look at the four titles of the promised Messiah in v.6. How are these illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus? In what way did he come as 'Prince of Peace'?
John 14:1-6, 25-27	How far are these verses a good example of Jesus as a 'Wonderful Counsellor'? How does Jesus being 'the truth' (v.6) explain the meaning of this title? Why does Jesus describe the Spirit as 'another Counsellor'? (v.16 and see v.26). Compare v.1 and v.27. How does the peace Jesus offers give his followers release from 'troubled hearts'?
Witness	<u>Pray for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your mission link(s) • People who need to know God's peace today, especially those affected by the floods. • People whom you could invite to a Christmas service or event over the next month. <u>Plan</u> Last chance to finalise plans for a group event to which you can invite/ bring friends and family who are not yet Christians (e.g. doing something yourselves, or coming along to an organised event/ service).