

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

Wk/beg 6 December 2015. **Bible passages: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; John 14:1-6, 25-27**

Theme: Advent (2) – Peace and light: the message of the Prophets)

Welcome/ icebreaker	Where have you found signs of hope and 'light' amidst the difficult news stories of the last few days?
Worship	Choose worship that reminds us of the light & peace Jesus brings (or some suitable Christmas carols) <i>Suggestions:</i> 40 Be still, 250 Isn't he?, 710 Father God, 891 Like a candle flame; 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? How can Hull's preparations for her year as City of Culture be an opportunity for to the church to highlight God's light shining on a city 'coming out of the shadows'? 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 that Jesus brings help the disciples to deal with their 'troubled hearts'? How can it help you?
Witness	<u>Pray for:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your mission link(s) • Those who need to know God's peace today, especially those affected by recent terror attacks, floods, etc. • People whom you could invite to a Christmas service or event over the next month. <u>Plan</u> Finalise plans for a group event to which you can invite/ bring friends and family who are not yet Christians (e.g. group Christmas meal/ party, or coming as a group to an organised event/ service such as the Mother's Union carol service (16 th), 'Mistletoe and Wine' (20 th) or the Christmas Eve/ Day services).