

Parish Church of St. Barnabas, Swanland *Sharing Christ through friendship.* Group notes
Week beg. **2nd Sunday after Trinity/ Father's Day, 17/6/12.** 2 Cor. 5:11-21.

Welcome	If you were an ambassador, which country would you like to be sent to and why?
Worship ideas	<i>Suggested songs:</i> - choose songs which dwell on God's love for us made known in Jesus (e.g. 398 Amazing love, 514 Such love, 780 How deep the Father's love, etc.) <i>(NB: 20 files containing about 30 'newer' songs are still available to borrow from the office for groups)</i>
Word (refs.↓)	<i>some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to focus on just 2 or 3 questions</i>
2 Cor. 5:11-21	<p>Paul here challenges the church in Corinth about their call to be ministers of reconciliation.</p> <p>What motives does Paul give in vv.10-11 for his evangelism? What about in v.14? How do these two approaches complement each other? How do they compare with other motives such as in v.12 or in ch. 2 v.17?</p> <p>v.11 - How does our lifestyle affect our witness to God?</p> <p>v.14 – “Christ's love compels us” – does Paul mean our love for Christ or his love for us shown in his death on the cross?</p> <p>How have you experienced Christ's love for you most powerfully? In what way does this affect how you live today?</p> <p>What motivates you to share your faith? What holds you back from doing so?</p> <p>vv.15-16 How does Paul's statement that Christ died 'for all' fit with belief in people's need to be reconciled to God? Many would say it means that Jesus' death is potentially effective for all but is only actually effective if it is applied through faith. Do you agree? Why?/ why not?</p> <p>v.17-20 What does Paul say God has achieved through Christ (v.18)?</p> <p>What has God done for us (vv.17-18)?</p> <p>What has God want to do through us as a result (v.18,20)?</p> <p>Which of the phrases in vv.17-20 is most meaningful for you? Can you say why?</p> <p>Are there people you have 'implored' to be reconciled to God? What has been the result?</p> <p>v.21 How does Isaiah 53:6 illustrate this verse? Read 1 Peter 2:24-25 and thank God that Jesus bore your sins so that you might both receive God's righteousness and live it out!</p>
Witness	<p><u>Pray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ for someone you know who needs to know Christ's love in a special way (no need to share reasons if you don't want to) ❖ for the cricket match v. All Saints' Ferriby at 2pm on Sunday afternoon (supporters welcome!) <p><u>Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ an activity as a group during June or July to which you can invite those who are not yet Christians (eg summer barbecue, garden party, etc.) – perhaps linked with events coming up locally (festival)