

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

3rd Sunday of Easter - w/beg 14 April 2013. Bible passages: **Acts 9:1-8; John 21:1-19**

'Life in the Spirit' (2) - Surprised by the Spirit of Jesus

Welcome/ icebreaker	What examples can you share of your life (or the life of someone you know well) being 'turned around'?
Worship	Choose songs of trust and commitment to follow Jesus: <i>eg. Songs of Fellowship nos. 79 Dear Lord and Father, 89 Faithful One, 873 Jesus, lover of my soul, 1120 Will you come and follow me? 1449 May the words of my mouth</i>
Word (refs.↓)	NB Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Acts 9:1-8	How surprised was Paul to be met by the risen Jesus? How have you been surprised by the Spirit of Jesus in recent times?
<i>Both passages</i>	Compare Paul's conversion in Acts 9 with Peter's 'reinstatement' in John 21. Which most echoes your own experience?
John 21:1-14	Jesus called his first disciples from catching fish to be 'fishers of men and women'. What do the details that John record about this miraculous catch of fish suggest about effective ways to go about 'fishing' for people (thinking particularly about vv.5-6 and v.11; look also at John 15:5).
	Read John 18:15-18 and 18:25-27, then John 21:15-19. How do Jesus' questions in John 21 help restore Peter to full fellowship and commitment? What does Jesus mean by the three commands he gives Peter at the end of verses 15, 16 and 17? In the light of all this, how do you feel about the fact that Jesus chose Peter to lead the 12? Surprised? mystified? encouraged? the obvious choice?
Witness	Pray - for your mission links; - For the outcome of last week's workshops - For the upcoming APCM at 10am on Sunday 21st. Action: what ways might you as individuals or as a group be being challenged to 'throw your net on the other side' in order to fulfil your calling to be "fisher(s) of men and women"?