

Welcome	Of all Jesus’ parables, which is your favourite and why? Does it comfort, challenge, or both?
Worship	<p><i>Suggested songs: Songs of Fellowship: 26 Ascribe greatness; 589 We shall stand; 599 When we walk with the Lord; 1346 In Christ alone;</i></p> <p><i>(NB: 20 files containing about 30 newer songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)</i></p>
	<p><i>The sermon from Sunday’s service is available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the ‘downloads’ tab)</i></p>
<u>Read</u> 1 Peter 2:4-8	<p>Here Peter describes Jesus as the ‘cornerstone’ in the temple of ‘living stones’ that God is building. What does a cornerstone do and how does this apply to Jesus? If the church family were a building, what part of the building would you be (wall, window, door, roof, pipe, cable, etc.) and why?</p> <p>Read on to verses 9-10. Who is being addressed here? How does verse 9a (quoted from Exodus 19) now apply to believers in Jesus? What does Peter say in 9b is God’s main purpose in making us his chosen people? What other reasons does he give in 9b and 10 for declaring God’s praise? How far are these true for you?</p>
Matthew 7:24-29	<p>Jesus’ parables have been described as ‘earthly stories with a heavenly meaning’: the word ‘parable’ is derived from the Greek ‘to throw alongside’, i.e. it’s a story with a parallel spiritual meaning. Although the details of the story may be of interest, there is usually one key point to each parable (though some are closer to allegories with several layers of meaning).</p> <p>v.24 Jesus’ phrase ‘these words of mine’ looks back to all of chs. 5-7 – the ‘Sermon on the Mount’. What key teachings from these verses are most important for you?</p> <p>v.25-7 Here Jesus links obedience (‘putting his words into practice’) with having firm foundations to a house. Are there more similarities or differences between the two houses and their builders? What does the parable suggest about the Christian’s ability to withstand the storms of life?</p> <p>How is it that people hear Jesus words but don’t put them into practice? Do you feel your need at present is to learn more from Jesus, or to put into practice what you already know?</p> <p>Can you agree what the key point is that Jesus is making in this parable?</p> <p>vv. 28-9 – how is Jesus’ teaching different from that of other teachers/ philosophers you may know?</p>
Witness	<p><u>Pray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ for grace to understand Jesus’ teaching and to put into practice <p><u>Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ If your group is taking a break in August, plan when to meet up again and perhaps a ‘social’ meeting at some point (e.g. walk, day out, barbecue, etc.) for those who are around. Why not join the ‘CakeWalk’ on 26th August (9.45am onwards)?