

Parish Church of **St. Barnabas, Swanland** *Sharing Christ through friendship.*
Small Group notes for week beginning Pentecost Sunday, 19 May 2013.
 Bible passages: Acts 2:1-11; John 14:8-17 - *“The coming of the Spirit”*

Welcome <i>(ice-breaker)</i>	What’s your usual response when someone tells you a surprising fact? – Believe it implicitly? Ask someone else? Look it up in an encyclopaedia, etc.? Google/ Yahoo/ Wikipaedia?
Worship ideas	<i>Suggested songs: Songs of Fellowship 40 Be still for the presence; 1346 In Christ alone</i> <i>(NB: 20 files of ‘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>
<u>Read</u> Acts 2:1-11 (+ read the rest of the chapter if you have time)	Why do you think Luke goes to the trouble of listing all the places in vv.9-11? (If you have maps in your Bible, you might try to locate them). How is this list linked to Jesus’ words in Acts 1:8? If you were one of the crowd, would your reaction have been more like v.12 or v.13? Notice how many times the words ‘all/ each/ every’ are used in vv.1-8. How is this reinforced by the words Peter quotes in vv.17-21? How might our lives prompt other people to ask ‘what does this mean’ (as does the crowd in v.11)?
<u>Read</u> John 14:8-17	What part does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will play in the lives of his followers when he is gone from them physically? (see also verses 25-26; chapter 15 verses 26 -27 and chapter 16 verses 7-15). Which of these ‘roles’ of the Spirit do you most value at present?
<u>Reflect</u>	From these two passages, which of these two aspects of the Spirit’s ministry is more important to you at present – being equipped for to speak out for God (Acts 2:4, 17-18), and being indwelt by the Spirit of truth, to lead us into all truth (John 14:17 and 16:13)? How closely related are these two truths?
Witness	<u>Pray</u> for one or two of the following ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project, especially for Dave and Siyoli Waters working in Cape Town but visiting Swanland this week ❖ for opportunities to reach out to family/ friends/ neighbours in the days ahead (eg barbecue lunch at church on Father’s Day (Sun 16 Jun)) <u>Plan</u> ❖ an activity as a group during June or July to which you can invite friends neighbours and family who are not yet Christians (eg picnic, garden party, etc.).

If you have internet access, why not log on to <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/> and watch the short (6 minute) film, ‘The Spirit of Pentecost’. (Other recommended resources: video message from John Sentamu at <http://www.archbishopofyork.org/> or Sunday’s “Songs of Praise” for Pentecost, available on BBC iplayer until 26 May).