

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

4th Sunday of Easter - w/beg 21 April 2013 – Church Annual Meeting

Bible passages: **Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-30** **'Life in the Spirit' (3) – New Life in the Spirit**

Welcome/ icebreaker	When / where do you feel most at your most secure (physically/ psychologically)?
Worship	Free choice of songs that celebrate God's faithfulness: <i>eg. Songs of Fellowship nos. 26 Ascribe greatness, 89 Faithful One, 147 Great is thy faithfulness, 707 Faithful God, 851 I will offer up my life, 894 Lord I come before your throne</i>
Word (refs. ↓)	NB <i>Sunday's Sermon & Vicar's Annual report</i> available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Acts 9:36-43	Note the parallels here between the raising of Tabitha and Luke's account of the raising of Jairus' daughter in Luke 8:40-42, 49-56. What can you see that Peter has learnt about 'following Jesus' from these 2 stories?
John 10:22-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus makes 3 clear promises in vv.27-28 (check that you are clear about them too!). Are these promises unconditional or are they dependent on v.27 – if so, in what sense? • Jesus' Jewish critics refuse to believe either his works (v.25) or his words (vv.27, 30). Why then does he say to them, 'you do not believe because are not my sheep' (v. 26) rather than 'you are not my sheep because you do not believe'? What does this say about the relative importance of 'belief' (in certain truths) and 'belonging' (to Jesus)? Can you have belief (trusting faith) without being part of Jesus' flock? • Which most important in following Jesus: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Being addressed personally by Jesus (v.25a) ii) Being given life by Jesus (v.26a) iii) Being held secure by Jesus (v.26b) <p>Read v. 28-29 slowly and carefully. Then try this exercise Grip your hands together tightly. God is holding on to you more tightly than you can imagine. Are you holding on to <i>him</i>? Reflect on anything that you may be withholding from God. As you open your hands, give these burdens to him. <i>(Richard England, from Closer to God/ Wordlive)</i></p>
<i>If time:</i>	<p><u>Reflect:</u> What aspects of the annual report, or of the last 12 months in St Barnabas generally, struck you as important</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (a) for the life of your small group - (b) for the life of the church - (c) for your own walk with God?
Witness	<p>Pray - for your mission links; for those newly elected/ appointed to the PCC; for our church wardens John and especially Bev.</p> <p>Discuss and pray about anything that arose from your group out the recent workshops which might be leading to action and outreach in the coming year.</p>