

Parish Church of **St. Barnabas, Swanland** *Sharing Christ through friendship.*  
 Small Group notes for week beginning Sunday **7/7/13 (Trinity 6).**  
 James 2:1-6a; Luke 7:36-50. *“Meeting with Jesus: Simon the Pharisee”*

<b>Welcome</b>	What kind of parties do you like (or hate) going to? (eg ‘safe’ ones where you will know everyone, wild ones where anything might happen, etc.)
<b>Worship ideas</b>	<i>Worship suggestions: songs about God’s unconditional love, e.g. SOF 375 Love beyond measure; 433 O Lord, your tenderness; 514 Such love; 851 I will offer up my life, etc.</i> (NB: 20 files containing about 30 never songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)
<b>Word (refs.↓)</b>	NB Check the church website <a href="http://www.stbchurch.org.uk">www.stbchurch.org.uk</a> (click on the ‘downloads’ tab) for Sunday’s sermon. Some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to focus on just 2 or 3 questions
<b><u>Read</u></b> Luke 7:36-50	<p>There are 2 people in this story who have a personal meeting with Jesus: the woman who had lived a sinful life, and Simon the Pharisee, the host at the meal</p> <p><i>Some commentators believe the woman is Mary Magdalene (see 8:2) and has come to thank Jesus for healing and forgiving her (read v.47, if possible in different translations if you have them). Others think she is the same person as the woman in the similar (but different) story related in Mt.26:6-13, Mk.14:3-9 and John 12:1-8 – where she is named as Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus). Either way, in Luke’s account the emphasis is on the contrast in how these two people respond to meeting Jesus.</i></p> <p>Rather than a ‘study this week, a chance to discuss what you think about these questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why do you think the woman came to Simon’s house?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To upset Simon</li> <li>b) To spoil his party</li> <li>c) To seek Jesus’ forgiveness</li> <li>c) To minister to Jesus out of gratitude</li> <li>e) To challenge those who rejected her</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. In the story about the two men who owed money, what was Jesus saying to Simon?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) You can’t really know grace because you have never thought of yourself as a sinner</li> <li>b) You are a bigger sinner than this woman, but you don’t know it</li> <li>c) The more you have sinned, the more you will love God</li> <li>d) The more you have been forgiven, the more you will love God</li> <li>e) Some other lesson</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Who in your life has acted like Jesus in believing in you and accepting you before you were able to believe in or accept yourself? Thank God for them.                  How might this help you in your relations with other people in difficulty?</p>
<b>If time... <u>Read</u></b> James ch.2 vv.1-6a ( <i>up to ‘the poor’</i> )	How does this passage relate to the story of the woman who had lived a sinful life in Luke ch.7? In what ways are we sometimes guilty of judging or discriminating against others (including in church) on the basis of their appearance or unusual behaviour? Can you think of examples of when you have had prejudices like these which you have later realised were wrong? How has this realisation helped you in your discipleship?
<b><u>Witness</u></b>	<p><b><u>Pray</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ for your mission link person(s) or project</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Plan</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ one way you can put the lessons from this week into practice</li> <li>❖ an activity as a group during the summer to which you can invite those who are not yet Christians (eg summer barbecue, garden party, etc.)</li> </ul>