

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUP NOTES Wk/beg 12 April 2015.

Bible passages: Acts 3:12-20, Luke 24:36-49: The way of the cross, the way of victory – Jesus, God's promises fulfilled

Welcome/ icebreaker	What's the longest time you've had to wait between being promised something and having it come about? – Or what's the longest time you've waited before delivering on a promise?
Worship	<i>Song suggestions:</i> 40 Be still; 303 Jesus stand among us; 441 Only by grace; 551 Thine be the glory; 1067 To be in your presence; 1562 This is the air I breathe;
Word (refs.↓)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB Sermon & Annual Report available on www.stbchurch.org.uk (via 'downloads' tab).
Acts 3:12-20	Peter here is speaking after he and John have prayed for the man at the Beautiful Gate to be healed (3:1-9). Look at 4:1-3. Which has more impact – the healing, or the proclamation of Jesus' death and resurrection? Do we need both today?
Luke 24:36-49	<p>Look back over vv.30-35. The two who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus have their eyes opened and say that their hearts were 'burning within' them. When do we most often have such experiences of eyes being opened and hearts burning?</p> <p>Luke emphasises the physical nature of Jesus' resurrected body (vv.39-43). Is it important to you that Jesus rose physically from the dead? Why?</p> <p>Jesus opened the disciples' minds to understand the Scriptures (v.45). Note the outline in verses 44-49:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's promises in Scripture now fulfilled (44-5) • Jesus' suffering (46a); • his resurrection from the dead (46b); • the message of repentance and forgiveness to be preached to all nations (47); • disciples as witnesses of these things (48); • the Holy Spirit ('power from on high'), as the Father has promised. <p>How far should this be a model for our sharing of the gospel today?</p>
APCM reflections	<p>Our 'Annual report' highlighted 3 ways in which God has been moving in the life of St B's this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing the kingdom (prayer, worship, Alpha, etc.) • Serving the community (increasingly being the 'parish' church for the village) • Building for the future (both 'plant' and releasing people in ministry) <p>Share any reflection you may have of the last year, or of one of these points.</p>
Prayer and Witness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for your mission link partner or ministry • Pray how you as a group can serve the wider fellowship of the church • Pray about how you as individuals and as a group can play your part in growing God's kingdom at St Barnabas in the coming year. • Perhaps plan a social to invite friends/ family to over the bank holiday weekend (1-4 May)?