

The Parish Church of ST. BARNABAS, SWANLAND - 'Sharing Christ through friendship'

CELL GROUP NOTES: Easter 7, w/beg 13 May 2018. Scriptures: Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:36-49

The Community of the Kingdom (4): *Evangelism* ("You are witnesses of these things")

Welcome/ icebreaker	If you were called to be a witness in a court case, how important would it be to prepare carefully what you were going to say, compared with simply being prepared to answer any questions you were asked?
Worship	<p>Have one person ready to read out each of these verses in a moment: <i>Acts 1:8; 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 4:20; 4:33; 5:32; 10:39; 13:31; 1 Peter 5:1.</i></p> <p>Now read Luke 24:36-43, then v.36 again. Spend some time in silence, recognising Jesus' presence in the room with you as he promised (Matt. 18:20). Choose some songs/ hymns that reflect this truth, eg. Songs of Fellowship nos. 28 <i>As we are gathered</i>; 40 <i>Be still</i>; 441 <i>Only by grace</i>; 781 <i>How lovely is</i>; 1067 <i>To be in your presence</i>; etc.</p> <p>Now take turns to read the verses listed above. Pray about our own experience of being 'witnesses' (as individuals and as a fellowship).</p>
Word (refs.↓)	<i>(NB Sundays' 9am sermon is on the church website (www.stbchurch.org.uk) & go to 'downloads' tab).</i>
Luke 24:44-47	<p>Note the outline in vv.44-46:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fulfilment of Scripture; • Jesus' suffering; • his resurrection from the dead; • the message of repentance and forgiveness to be preached to all nations; • disciples as witnesses of these things; • the gift of the Holy Spirit. <p>How does this compare with what Jesus says in Acts 1:4-8? How do you account for this comparison? What differences are there and are they significant?</p>
Luke 24:48-49	<p>"You are witnesses to these things" says Jesus (v.48). Compare Acts 5:32. What 'things'? Are we today 'witnesses' to the same things or to different things? How? Read 1 Peter 3:15 – how does this explain what it means to be a 'witness'?</p>
Acts 1:1-11	<p>Look at vv.7-8. Jesus says that his followers will be witnesses in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Jerusalem' (where they are now) • 'Judea' (the area around, i.e. people like them) • 'Samaria' ('enemy territory', people who are different from them) • and to the ends of the earth' <p>Where are the equivalent places for you? (e.g. where is your 'Judea?') Is it easier to bear witness to those closest to us, or can that sometimes be the hardest place?</p>
Luke 24:44-49	<p>In a moment's silence, allow Jesus' words in v.48 - 'You [plural!] are witnesses of these things' - to speak to you as a group. Are we? How?</p>
Prayer/ Witness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for your mission link person project • Firm up plans for a social event to which you can invite friends neighbours & wider family around the bank holiday weekend/ half term week). • Sign up for the 24/4 prayer room (open from 10am Thursday 17th to 12 noon Sunday 20th) – there is still time and space (<i>you can ring / email the office if you like</i>).