

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

CELL GROUP NOTES: Easter 3, w/beg 15 April 2018. Scriptures: Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48

Annual Church meeting

Welcome/ icebreaker	What are you like at waiting for something that has been promised to happen?
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 miracle, or the proclamation of Jesus' death and resurrection? Do we need both today?
Luke 24:36-48	<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 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?/ why not?</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 is this a good a model for our sharing of the gospel today?</p>
APCM reflections	<p>My 'Annual report' as vicar highlighted some of the different ways in which God has been moving in the life of St B's this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our 'Silver Jubilee' year – celebrating God's faithfulness over the last 25 years • Developing our children's and youth work (including significant developments with our pre-school and secondary age groups • Challenges faced by the absence of churchwardens and the PCC meeting the challenge to move forward despite this. <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 (3-7 May)?