

Parish Church of **St. Barnabas, Swanland** *Sharing Christ through friendship.*

Small Group notes for week beginning Sunday 17 June 2018 (Trinity 3)

No pain no gain: studies in 2 Corinthians (3) – Putting the past behind us. Bible passage: 2 Cor. 5:10-end

Welcome <i>(ice-breaker)</i>	Which would be your country of choice if you were to be an ambassador? Why?
Worship ideas	Suggested songs: - choose songs which dwell on God's love for us made known in Jesus (e.g. <i>Songs of Fellowship</i> 398 Amazing love, 514 Such love, 780 How deep the Father's love, etc.) (NB: 20 files of 'newer' songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)
Word (refs.↓)	Sunday's 9am sermon is available to download from www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on Downloads tab)
Read 2 Cor. 5:10-end	<p><i>(See previous week's notes for the background to this letter.)</i></p> <p>Paul here challenges the church in Corinth about their call to be ministers of reconciliation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vv.10-11. What motives does Paul give here for his evangelism? What about in v.14? • How do these two approaches complement each other? How do they compare with other motives such as in v.12 or in ch. 2 v.17? • v.11 - How does our lifestyle affect our witness for God? • v.14 – “Christ's love compels us” – does Paul mean our love for Christ or his love for us shown in his death on the cross? How have you experienced Christ's love for you most powerfully? In what way does this affect how you live today? What motivates you to share your faith? What holds you back from doing so? • vv.15-16 How does Paul's statement that Christ died 'for all' fit with belief in people's need to be reconciled to God? Many would say it means that Jesus' death is potentially effective for all but is only actually effective if it is applied through faith. Do you agree? Why?/ why not? • v.17-20 What does Paul say God has achieved through Christ (v.18)?^[1]What has God done for us (vv.17-18)?^[1]What has God want to do through us as a result (v.18,20)?^[1]Which of the phrases in vv.17-20 is most meaningful for you? Can you say why? Are there people you have 'implored' to be reconciled to God? What has been the result? • v.21 How does Isaiah 53:6 illustrate this verse? Read 1 Peter 2:24-25 and thank God that Jesus bore your sins so that you might both receive God's righteousness and live it out!
Witness	<p>Pray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project; ❖ for confidence to be an ambassador of reconciliation for Christ <p>Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ firm up your plans as a group for an event to which you can invite friends neighbours and family who are not yet Christians (eg picnic, garden party, inter-church cricket match (20 June), Swanland festival events, etc.) ❖ Consider inviting someone along to the youth-led Morning Celebration on 15 July