

Welcome	Have you ever been ‘shown up’ - and learnt from the experience?
Worship	<p><i>Suggested songs: Songs of Fellowship: 89 Faithful One; 260 I want to serve the purpose of God; 716 Filled with compassion; 1193 Blessed be your name.</i></p> <p><i>(NB: 20 files containing about 30 newer songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)</i></p>
	<p><i>The sermon from Sunday’s service is available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the ‘Downloads’ tab)</i></p>
<p><u>Read</u> 1 Peter 5:5-11 (cf. Luke 14:7-11)</p>	<p><i>We continue with the Joseph ‘saga’, jumping from ch. 39 last week to ch. 41. If time, look quickly through ch.40 or have someone summarise the butler and baker’s dreams and their outcome.</i></p> <p>In v.5-6 the writer (Peter the apostle) quotes Prov. 3:34 and emphasises the importance of being humble – or humbled – before God can use us. Do you think this was based in his personal experience (can you give examples?) What examples do you have (from the Bible, other people or your own experience) of God exalting the humble or humbling the exalted?</p>
<p><u>Read</u> Genesis 41</p>	<p>Summarise vv.1-13 – is it now 2 years since Pharaoh’s chief cupbearer / butler was released and promptly forgot about Joseph (40:23). How would he have been feeling after 2 more years in jail? Might he have assumed that God had forgotten him too? Would you?</p> <p><u>Gifts</u> and how we use them - vv.14-32. God gives Pharaoh two dreams and only Joseph can interpret them. How do Joseph’s words to Pharaoh in vv.16, 25, 28 and 32 show how he has changed since he was a youth in Canaan? In what ways is he now better able to use his prophetic gift and advise Pharaoh than he was back then? How important is someone’s character when it comes to the exercise of such gifts and abilities?</p> <p><u>Growing in grace and obedience</u> - vv.33-43 (& 44-52) Joseph is now 30 (see v.46). In what other ways has his character been shaped over the foregoing 13 years in order to prepare him for this new role God has for him? Do you think he would say it had all been worth it? How does this point us to Jesus’ experience of suffering on the path to glory? How can this help us see times of testing and difficulty as part of God’s discipline and shaping of our character? Do you find the phrase ‘No cross, no crown’ helpful in describing this pattern?</p> <p><u>Greater plan</u> (vv.53-57) Behind the scenes, God is carrying out his greater plan for Joseph, Jacob’s family (v.57/ 42:3) and the whole region – one of bringing blessing to the nations through his chosen people. Can you recall times when God has brought good and blessing to others through Christians’ experience of trouble and suffering?</p>
Witness	<p><u>Pray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ for those going through times of ‘humbling’ – that they may soon experience God lifting them up ❖ for the Harvest supper at St B’s (this Saturday Oct. 3rd) - tickets may be available until Wed. 30th Sept if not ‘sold out’.

