

Welcome <i>(ice-breaker)</i>	What is the hardest fitness/ exercise regime you have ever been on? Did it help?
Worship ideas	Suggested songs: <i>Songs of Fellowship</i> 19 Amazing Grace 483 Restore O Lord; 593 What a friend we have in Jesus; 664 Beauty for brokenness; (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)
<u>Read</u> 2 Cor. 4:1-12	<p>The epistle we know as 2 Corinthians is actually on of several letters that passed between Paul and the church in Corinth; he wrote at least one letter to them before he wrote 1 Corinthians (see 1 Cor. 5:9) and they wrote back to him (see 1 Cor. 7:1); after writing 1 Cor. he wrote a third ‘severe’ letter (see 2 Cor. 2:3-4) before finally writing 2 Corinthians. It’s likely all these were written within the space of a year. Clearly Paul was very concerned for the Christians in Corinth. Read 2 Cor. 7:5-16 – do you think Paul was right to ‘chastise’ the church members as he did?</p> <p>In chapter 4 there are 5 pairs of contrasting themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. light shining in the midst of darkness (vv. 3-6), b. power in the midst of weakness (vv. 7-9) c. life in the midst of death (vv. 10-12) and two more pairs in vv.13-18. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In vv.3-6, Paul draws a parallel between the creation of the world and the ‘new creation’ that happens when someone is ‘in Christ’ (see 2 Cor 5:17). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you find this a helpful comparison? Was your experience of becoming a Christian one of turning from darkness to light? Should it be something we stress in sharing our faith with others? 2. in vv.7-9, Paul contrasts the glory of the treasure with the ordinariness of the human beings who hold it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is this treasure? Do you find it encouraging to hear yourself described as a ‘clay jar’? What is the point of emphasising the vessel’s humble nature? • Is your life experience like what Paul describes in v.8? If so, how? If not, what does that suggest about your Christian life so far? 3. in vv.10-12 Paul implies that the ‘normal Christian life’ should be one of constantly experiencing ‘death’. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what way is this true to Jesus’ example and teaching (see Mark 10:45; Luke 9:23-24)? In what way is it a true description of your life? How can we live these truths out more fully this week?
Witness	<p><u>Pray</u> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project; for courage to allow death to be ‘at work in us’ that life may be at work in others.</p> <p><u>Plan</u> ❖ an activity as a group this month or next to which you can invite friends neighbours and family who are not yet Christians (eg picnic, garden party, Father’s Day (17 June), Swanland festival events, etc.</p>