

Welcome	Do you have a childhood dream (small or large) that has grown into a reality for you? How does it compare with what you imagined when you were younger?
Worship ideas	Choose worship that declares the reality of the kingdom of God e.g. 379 Majesty, 439 One shall tell another, 483 Restore O Lord, 714 Father of Creation, 2007 Praise is rising, etc. (NB: 20 files containing about 30 'newer' songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)
Word (refs.↓)	<i>some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to look at just one or two of the passages below:</i>
Matthew 13:24-33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These parables describe how God's kingdom often grows in unexpected ways. What does this teach us about the need to trust that God is at work even when we don't see the results we hope for? • What counts as evidence to <u>you</u> that God's kingdom is an active reality around you? (try as a group to come up with a variety of answers here). • Having listened carefully to what others have to say, what <u>other</u> signs might there be of the kingdom being at work which differ from what you personally might have been looking for until now? • How do you think God's kingdom can 'grow' in our community? (<i>If you looked at the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast a few weeks ago in July, have your views changed at all since then?</i>)
Matthew 13:31-2	<p>On the Saturday of the parish weekend, Steve Whittington drew out 3 main points from the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-2):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) God's kingdom is growing (not static); 2) God's kingdom is powerful (NB Mustard seeds release their 'power' by being crushed); 3) God's kingdom is for those in need - the 'birds of the air' (v.32) was an Old Testament picture for the nations of the world (i.e. people the NT Pharisees viewed as 'undesirables' and tried to keep away from). <p>Are there any 'scarecrows' that we put up at St Barnabas' (deliberately or otherwise) that have the effect of keeping people away? How can we work actively to reach and welcome these people instead?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you attended the parish weekend, share any thoughts/ insights – how was it? Give each other time to share stories of how God has been at work. • Feel free to feed back, via your group leaders, any constructive comments on the weekend (e.g. what went well, what would make it even better in the future?)
Witness	<p><u>Pray</u> <i>for one or two of the following</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ for fruit from the parish weekend ❖ that God will use each of us to grow his kingdom this week in our communities <p><u>Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ an opportunity as a group or as individuals to reach out in the weeks ahead to friends, neighbours, family members who are not yet Christians, eg Back to Church Sunday (this Sunday 25th Sept.), village Harvest supper at St B's (15th October).