

Welcome	Share one thing that has encouraged you this week, or where you have been able to encourage someone else.
Worship ideas	<i>Suggested songs: Songs of Fellowship 433 O Lord your tenderness; 510 Spirit of the living God; 544 There is a redeemer; 629 You are the vine; 2034 Strength will rise (NB: 20 files containing about 40 ‘newer’ songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)</i>
Word (refs.↓)	<i>Sunday’s sermon available at www.stbchurch.org.uk/informationpage.php?mainsection=8 Some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to focus on just 2 or 3 questions</i>
<u>Read</u> Acts 11:19-30	<p>Read Acts 4:36-37 & Acts 9:26-28. What do we learn about Barnabas from these verses? <i>Acts 11:24a describes Barnabas as ‘a good man’. In the questions that follow, try to see the evidence for this in what he <u>saw</u>, <u>felt</u>, <u>said</u> and <u>did</u> and in who he was.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ v. 19-22. Why do you think the apostles sent someone to Antioch? Why did they choose Barnabas specifically (or did he perhaps volunteer)? What do you think he was expecting to find there? ➤ v.23a – what did he actually <u>see</u>? What can we learn here about looking for and seeing the best in others rather than the worst? ➤ v.23b (i) – how did Barnabas <u>feel</u> when he saw the grace of God at work? What is our response when we see God blessing others? Jealousy or joy? ➤ v. 23b (ii) Barnabas “encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord”. What did he <u>say</u> (in general) to the church in Antioch? What might he have said in practice - to new believers, to those facing persecution, to those tempted to give up their faith? <p>What could you say to encourage others this week? – for example to a new Christian whose initial enthusiasm may be waning, or to someone who has experienced disappointment, or to someone who feels God is far away?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (Read these verses and see how they might help in such a situation: Hebrews 10:25; Hebrews 12:2; 1 Corinthians 15:58; John 15:4-5). <p>v.24 – Barnabas was not perfect (see e.g. Acts 15:36-39) but he will always be known as ‘a good man’ who was ‘full of the Holy Spirit’. Could this be said of us? In what ways can we seek to be ‘full of the Holy Spirit’ in what we see, say and do and in who we are?</p>
Witness	<p><u>Pray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ for opportunities to be a ‘Barnabas’ (or a ‘Barnabess’!) in your place of work, friendship groups, family or neighbourhood <p><u>Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ be an active encourager this week for someone you know who needs to hear it! ❖ Plan an activity as a group this month or in July to which you can invite those who are not yet Christians (eg summer barbecue, garden party, etc.) – perhaps linked with events coming up locally.