

## Cell Notes 15 January 2012

### Welcome

Have you ever been asked to do something which you thought was beyond you but you decided to do it anyway and see what happened? Or have you ever felt you ought to do something you knew would be difficult but you just had to do it? How did it turn out? If the outcome was good, what helped you most in achieving it? If the outcome was bad, what helped you through it? Share it with the group.

### Worship

It was Plough Sunday at Byley on Sunday when the plough was blessed before ploughing and planting begins.

Say the following prayer of thanksgiving together, taken from Sunday's service. Follow it with a few minutes of prayer, giving an opportunity for personal prayers of thanksgiving:

From God comes every good and perfect gift.

The rich soil, the smell of fresh-turned earth

**We thank you Lord God**

The keenness of a winter's frost,

Our breath and animals steaming

**We thank you Lord God**

The hum of the tractor, the gleam of a cutting edge

**We thank you Lord God**

The seamed hand, the knotted arm, the seat of the brow, the skill of the farmer

**We thank you Lord God**

The beauty of the clean cut furrow and the sweep of the well-ploughed field

**We thank you Lord God**

Blessed be God in all his gifts

**And holy in all his works**

## Word

- Read Matthew 3:13-19
- Jesus called the twelve to go out and do his work. They were not the theologians of the day - just ordinary people and a mixed bunch at that! What were they called to do?
- What does the fact that Jesus called ordinary people to do his work tell us about ourselves and our calling?
- Read Romans 8:28-39.
- Paul says we have all been called according to God's purpose. So there is work for us all to do. What form does that work take today (it will be probably be different for everyone in the group!)
- Verse 29 says that we are being 'conformed to the likeness of his Son'. What do you think this means?
- We have been called - but we are also justified (vs 30). What does this mean?
- Look at verses 31-35 and pick out the things God has done/is doing/will do for us. (I make it eight - any advance on that?!). What does this tells us about how much he values us?
- The difficulties listed in verse 36 encompass much of human suffering. What point is Paul making here?
- What does the term 'more than conquerors' (vs 37) mean and how can we apply it to our lives? [Note that in Greek one word is used and it means 'we more than conquer' and it implies victory by a wide margin, with plenty to spare].
- What is Paul convinced of on our behalf (verses 38-39).

## Witness

- Pray we will be willing to do all that God calls us to both as individuals and as a church as we reach out to the community.
- Pray for the PCC meeting on 23 January that God will give clear direction in identifying goals for the church in the coming year.
- Pray for those who are sick and those who are bereaved.
- Pray for each other - ask each person to share one particular need.