

# SERMON NOTES

## Sunday 30 April

### sunnysidechurch

#### The Greatest Story Ever Told:

“All who believed were together and had all things in common...”

**Bible passages: Act 2:41-47 and John 10:1-10**

#### Introduction

- Reflections on the early church
- How, who, why, when, what did they do together?
- Living out our faith by growing spiritually, relationally, practically.

#### Growth of the Church

- How? Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- Who? All who believed
- Why? Live out faith together
- When? Regularly, steadfastly, continually, consistently
- What? Teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayers

#### Life in the early church

- Sharing resources
  - Within the Fellowship or more broadly?
  - Sacrificial giving

#### Hope into Action

- Investing into God's account: community larders, not locked barns
- Charity providing homes for ex-prisoners, refugees...
  - “A House Built on Love”. Ed Walker.  
ISBN 978-0-281-08119-6

- Growing in faith: spiritually, relationally, practically

#### Conclusion

What message do we send to the world about God by our own attitudes and deeds concerning our possessions? How can our own lives better reflect what God has done for us and the living presence of Christ in our midst?

#### Some questions for discussion

1. Should the early church be a template for how we should live in faith today?
2. Who should we make as our priority for our charity?
3. Read Romans 12:13. Who are the saints and strangers who we are called to support?
4. Remind yourself about the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Who is our neighbour?
5. Are you challenged to consider your investments? Could your pension fund be invested in God's economy to feed the poor rather than the commercial economy to feed the rich?
6. What are the priorities in deepening your relationships: UPWARD with God, INWARD with one another, OUTWARD with the stranger or neighbour.

Perhaps spend some time thanking God for the example of the early church, asking him to show you how to live as faithfully in our own context.

Revd Paul Boddam-Whetham