

Taste and See

The weekend of 4th to 6th March 2022 St Barnabas will be hosting 'Taste & See'! We will be welcoming back former TV Gladiator 'Ace' (real name Warren Furman) who visited St Barnabas in March 2020, just before the first lockdown. 'Ace' has a

great story to share about his faith in Christ, and we will be hosting a full weekend with a varied programme, involving plenty of food, activities (inside and outside the building) and fun!

This is a weekend for both church members AND for the wider community. You and I are invited and you might like to invite others. But once you have done that – it's job done. God does the rest. There is no pressure on us. It is said that one of the most powerful things in the Christian life is Christian community. And that is especially true after two years in which loneliness and isolation have had rocket-boosters strapped onto them by COVID. Have a look at the programme for Taste & See below – and come along!



Friday – 4th March

8am to 8.30am Prayer and Praise in church

Morning and Afternoon – Ace in local schools

7.30 to 9.30pm International Food Fare & Quiz

Our first event puts the ‘Taste’ into ‘Taste & See’! Join us at the church hall for a range of homemade, international food alongside an international-themed quiz with international prizes to be won!

If you would like to register a quiz team beforehand, please email office@st-barnabas.net.

Saturday – 5th March

8 am to 8.30 am Prayer and Praise in church

9.30am – 11.30am - a choice of mission activities with something for everyone – litter picking or first contact conversations – finishing up with prayer back at church.

1pm to 3pm Family Fun & Inflatables

Do you feel the power of the Gladiators? Can you face the challenge of the champions?

Join Ace the gladiator at St Barnabas Church for an afternoon of inflatables and fun activities for all the family.

7.30 to 9.30pm An Evening With Ace

Join us for an interview with Ace, as well as a meal and a message. We’ll hear more about Warren’s incredible story of celebrity, exploring faith and following Jesus. Food is served at 7:30pm.

Sunday – 6th March

Our weekend ends at church on Sunday morning at 9.30 and 11.15, as we launch Alpha. Join Ace again in church and in our children’s groups for more gladiator fun!

David Goodhew

Review of Peter Oakes, *Reading Romans in Pompeii: Paul's Letter At Ground Level*. London: SPCK (2009)

I have never been there; I have only seen the exhibition at the British Museum a few years ago. That let me see some of the more spectacular artefacts; it is surprising how affluent some people in a small port town were. Oakes visited Pompeii and explored the little things to be seen there, including the floors and walls of what is called the Island of Menander, a block in American parlance. Looking at the different houses gives us an impression of the lifestyle of its inhabitants, from rich to poor, as do the tools and utensils found there. Oakes concludes there were some people on the breadline, some artisans were prosperous, but the really rich looked down on them.

Chapter 2 looks at the sizes of dwellings and their decoration; only 33% of the people had houses larger than 99m², which size is probably the average for Ayresome. The smallest house described in detail is about 40m². Oakes takes this as a reflection of the wealth distribution in Roman society. I think much of that is speculation, but I think his conclusions are reasonably accurate. Rents in the Big City of Rome were so expensive that many people there had no fixed abode. Some readers might prefer to skim chapter 2 in a few minutes. Oakes postulates four slaves or workers, Iris, whose bar work may entail prostitution, Sabina who is on the breadline, Primus who works hard and unseen in unpleasant condition, and Holconius who is a prosperous artisan. Some of the names are real, but the four people are simply examples of what sort of people were Christians. Oakes believes a typical Church would have comprised such people. He goes through Romans chapter 12 to explain what this meant for the fellowship. Should one keep all your money for oneself, or use it to aid one's brothers and sisters in Christ? How does being a Son of God affect somebody at the bottom of the pile? Does it give them a status above their "owners"? How does teaching about endurance or being more than conquerors affect somebody who wonders where her next meal will come from? How does the death of the old person affect somebody whose body isn't hers to control? How does God's justice affect all the people depicted? How does the book reflect God's creation of a holy people, starting with Israel but now very actively encompassing people from all ethnic backgrounds? How does the book read to us in the 21st century? Oakes suggests that few commentators considered what Romans would have meant to its contemporary readers. He ends by telling us what appears to be the book's most important theme, but I shan't spoil the surprise by saying what that is.

I enjoyed reading the book and it showed me a new view of the early Church. It does in places, especially chapter 2, read like a scientific paper, something I am familiar with, but it would be unfamiliar to other readers. So I would give it 4* out of 5.

Campbell Ritchie



Diary

Week beginning 13th February	Life groups meet
Saturday 19th February	Mission morning, 9.30am—12.30pm in church
Week beginning 27th February	Life groups meet
Friday 4th—Sunday 6th March	Taste and See Mission
Monday 14th March	PCC meets, 7.15pm in the Reid Room
Week beginning 13th March	Life groups meet

PCC in February



The PCC were updated on the forthcoming Taste and See mission, the Community Grocery and ongoing work with children and young people. The PCC discussed children and Communion.

The replacement of the organ humidifier and the implementing of a CCTV policy were approved.

From the Registers

Funeral at St Barnabas

31st January

Lena Jean Askew

aged 90



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