**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**May 20thth 2018. Living as Witnesses**

**Discussion notes: Wonders. Acts 4:30-31**

In the Church Calendar we are in the season leading up to Whitsun, Pentecost Sunday. The book of Acts documents the first Pentecost and the gift of the Spirit to enable the disciples to be witnesses (Acts 1:8). Our series this May will look at what it means to be a Witness in the power of the Holy Spirit (alliterating around the letter W quite strongly!).

The book of the Acts of the Apostles could be called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. The spread of the Church documented in its pages is undergirded by ‘signs and wonders’; miracles of healing in particular. How normal should sign and wonders be in our Church life?

1. How would you define a miracle?
2. In Acts 4:30, why did the early Church pray for signs and wonders?
3. ‘Power evangelism’ was a phrase made popular by John Wimber in the 1980’s. What does it mean? Can you describe any first-hand experiences of witnessing ‘power evangelism’?
4. Are there conditions in a local Church that make signs and wonders more likely to occur?
5. In your reading of the book of Acts where do signs and wonders tend to happen, in the Church or in the world outside Church gatherings?
6. If miracles are a strategic gift of the Spirit for witness why don’t we see more of them?
7. Are miracles by definition rare? How do we know when to pray for healing if the sick person hasn’t asked for prayer?

Do you feel willing and able to pray the prayer the Church prayed in Acts 4:30? What would be the implications of living in the light of that prayer?