



St. Simon's Church Newsletter

Sunday 3rd January 2016

Restart of Regular Activities

Following the Christmas break, all of our regular activities restart in the next week or two:

Little Shipmates – Monday 4th
Tuesday Time Together – Tuesday 5th
Tuesday Bible Alive – Tuesday 5th
Rhythm of Prayer – Wednesday 6th
Breakthru – Friday 8th

Tuesday Bible Alive – future dates

5th January Christmas: Part 3 – A miraculous Escape
19th January The Miracles of Jesus: Part 5 – Alive and Well

Disposal of Pews and flooring work

The flooring work is due to commence on Monday 18th January. The pews will be removed 11th-16th January. We will be holding a work session on the morning of Saturday 16th January at which we will move or remove a number of items of furniture, etc. from the nave. We would be very grateful for any offers of help during the morning please.

Personal Christmas Cards

A number of personal Christmas cards are accumulating at the back of church. Any that are uncollected by **Monday 4th January** will be recycled.

Prayer for Susi James

The prayer meetings for our new vicar will continue on the first Wednesday of each month 06.45-7.15 pm. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 6th January**. Offers from people to lead these meetings would be appreciated please – to the church office. Other meetings will be 3rd February, 2nd March and 6th April.

All-age traditional games and tea party

Saturday 9th January 3-5 p.m. in the Church Centre. Come along and join us for some of the games you loved in years gone by – pass the parcel, statues, pin the tail on the donkey etc. followed by sandwiches, cakes, jelly and ice cream! Tickets £4 for adults, £2 for under 16s from Dinah Walters and Gail Chipperfield.

The late Doris Freathy

A thanksgiving service for the life of Paul Freathy's mother, Doris, will be held at 2.30 pm on **Saturday 9th January** at St. Jude's church. Paul would be pleased to see any of us from St. Simon's that knew Doris. There is no need to wear "funeral" dress; it is a thanksgiving service.

Out of School Education Settings consultation

You may be aware that the Department for Education is currently consulting on proposed changes that are likely to affect many voluntary groups such as “Sunday schools” and other church work with children. CARE has produced a [short document](#) giving an introduction and a [further document](#) giving details and advice on how to respond if you wish to. Responses are required by **Monday 11th January**.

Babette

Please note that Babette is currently on annual leave until **18th January**.

“Reaching the Margins” event

**Please come and join
Churches Homeless Action
at Portsmouth Cathedral
Saturday 23rd January 10am -12pm**

‘Reaching the Margins’

A networking and information sharing event to support all helping those at risk of and those who are homeless.

- **Stands from Portsmouth organisations who support those at risk of or who are homeless.**
- **Speakers sharing information about what is currently available in Portsmouth.**
 - **Tea, coffee and cake!**

Churches Homeless Action – In Portsmouth and South East Hampshire *Ensuring that homelessness issues are kept on the churches’ agenda..*

Scottish Evening

Friday 29th January. Scottish Evening in the Church Centre. Traditional Burns Supper and a Scottish-themed ‘Orrible ‘Istory sketch or two. Tickets £10 for the general church fund, available soon.

Exploring Christianity course

Exploring Christianity is a course “to explore the meaning of your Christian faith” and “makes theology accessible to those with no previous study of the subject”. It starts on **Wednesday 17th February**. Leaflets are available on the Welcome Table or further details are available from the church office.

Walking with the Wounded event

Walking with the Wounded is a charity which works to retrain and re-skill wounded service men and women and support them in finding new careers outside the Military. They will be holding a “Massage Marathon” fundraising event at St. Simon’s on **Saturday 20th February**. A number of physical/sports therapists will be available 11.00 am -5.00 pm offering 15-minute treatments for a minimum donation of £6.

Licensing of Rev. Susi James

The licensing of Susi as Priest-in-charge of St. Simon’s is due to take place at an afternoon service on **Sunday 1st May** when his formal appointment begins.

Other dates for your diary

Friday 29th January – Scottish Evening social event

Bishop’s Foundation Course 2016

If you're looking to explore your faith alongside others in a safe space, this course might be for you. It's a series of 20 talks on themes in Christianity which are designed to encourage discussion. Click [here](#) for more details and [here](#) to book a place. Starts Wednesday 6 January 2016, 7.00-9.30 pm at St. Luke's Church, Southsea.

Minibus Drivers

Please note that approval to drive the church minibus needs to be renewed each calendar year. If you wish to drive the minibus in 2016, please complete a new set of forms (available from the church office) after 1st January and before you next drive. A fresh copy of your driving licence is also required please.

Social events

The initial list of social events for January – June 2016 is now available on the [website](#) and the Welcome Table.

Every week

Little Shipmates (Mondays 9.30 – 11 am, Church Centre, term time only)

Youth Cell (Monday evenings. Contact Babette – see below)

Tuesday Time Together (Praise and Prayer, 10 am in the South Room)

Tuesday Bible Alive (Alternate Tuesdays, 7.30 pm in the Church Lounge)

City Churches Prayer Meeting (Wednesdays 6.30am, at Oasis, Arundel Street)

Breakthru Self-Help Community (Fridays 10.30 am to 2.30 pm)

Sunday Morning Worship with Children's Groups (see back page)

Sunday Suppers + Sunday Extra (Sunday nights 6 to 7.15 pm)

Rhythm of Prayer (Wednesdays at 6.00 pm and Fridays at 09.30 am)

There is also a variety of **Small Groups** for adults for discipleship, prayer and support. Phone the Church Office on 9282 9440 or you can find a list of our current groups on our website.

Notes

These Newsletters are published fortnightly. The deadline for contributions is midnight of the Tuesday before publication. Please send your news, notices of events, etc. to the Church Office.

Would you like to read this Newsletter in large print? Please let the office know.

This newsletter is available on the church website.

If you would like to receive notification via e-mail when future Newsletters are available, please request this from the Church Office.

Services at St. Simon's

Sunday 3rd January

09.30 am Shipmates
11.15 am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th January

10.30 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Sunday Suppers

Sunday 17th January

09.30 am Shipmates
10.30 am Holy Communion
6.30 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 24th January

10.30 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 31st January

10.30 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Sunday Supper

If you would like more details of any of the events listed here, please contact the Church Office, or visit the Calendar on our website:

www.stsimons-southsea.org.uk



Useful Contacts:

Amy Allen (Children and Families' Pastor)
Lorna Sandland (Community Dev. Worker)
Babette Shaw (Youth Outreach Worker)
Mick Walters (Administrator)

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