



St. Simon's Church Newsletter

Sunday 2nd December 2018

Christmas Services 2018

Nativity Service, suitable for all ages

10.30 am Sunday 16th December

Carols by Candlelight

7.30 pm Sunday 16th December

with mulled fruit juice and mince pies to follow

Crib Service

4.00 pm Monday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Interactive Family Nativity with live donkey

Children are invited to wear Nativity costume

Midnight Communion

11.30 pm Monday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Christmas Day Family Service

10.30 am Tuesday 25th December, Christmas Day

Tuesday Bible Alive – future dates

4 th December	Christian Character: Habits, Vim and Vigour
8 th January	Christian Character: Coffee, Broken Pottery
22 nd January	Christian Character: A Disposable Nappy, an Old Dog!

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Church Lounge.

Empty Bowls Evening

Tickets for the Empty Bowls Evening on **Thursday 6th December** are now available from the church office at £7.50 per person. The evening will run from 6.30 to 9.00 pm.

Men's Christmas Drink (and curry) Evening

There will be a men's Christmas get-together on **Friday 7th December**, meeting at 7.30 pm onwards at The Fifth Hants Volunteer Arms and maybe a curry later on. If you are interested in a curry please contact Cliff Golledge to book a place.

UoP Christian Union Carol Service

We would like to invite you to attend the University of Portsmouth Christian Union's Carol Service 2018, including performances from the University of Portsmouth Gospel Choir, the Music Society Choir and Sea Breeze Band.

This event will be taking place in the main hall of Kings Church Portsmouth on **Saturday 8th December**. Doors open at 6.30pm and the service will run from 7pm - 9pm, with free refreshments served after the service.

Mince Pie Sunday, Sunday 9th December

We traditionally invite church members to donate some mince pies to be given out over the Christmas period, notably for Carols by Candlelight. We would thus be very glad to receive any contributions on **Sunday 9th December**, in time for that service on Sunday 16th December. Please just bring them along place them in a box in the church centre. Thank you so much in anticipation.

Christmas Grub Club

Christmas Grub this year will be on **Thursday 13th December** at the Duke of Buckingham, High Street, Old Portsmouth. Tables are booked at a slightly earlier time than usual, at 6.30 for 7 p.m. Please see the menu [on the website](#) or the Church Centre noticeboard, showing £20 for three courses. We have negotiated a special price of £15 for two courses. If you would like to come, a deposit of £5 is needed to secure a place. Please contact Dinah Walters for more information and to book by Monday 2nd December at the very latest.

Connect Christmas Dinner

The St. Jude's "Connect" Christmas Dinner will be held on **Friday 14th December** and all ladies at St. Simon's are invited. Booking forms are available on the Welcome Table. Completed forms together with full payment must be received at St. Jude's church by 9th December.

Local Vocals Christmas Party

The Local Vocals Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday 15th December** 2-4 pm in the Church Centre. Tickets are £5/£3, available from Neil Stevenson, and include refreshments and a charitable donation. Musical performances, Family Christmas Quiz and children's activities. Don't miss the fun!

Churches Homeless Action 2018

Churches Homeless Action is again requesting donations of £5 gift cards from stores which will then be given to people in need this Christmas. Donations need to be sent to the Deanery Office to arrive by **Wednesday 19th December** please. Donations are passed to people via a number of organisations including St. Simon's. There will be a carol celebration at 12.00 pm on Friday 21st December at St. Mary's Church when the cards will be presented. Flyers giving further details are available on the Welcome Table.

Open Church fundraising event

Last Christmas Shep Woolley and many other performers gave their time at a concert in the Square Tower in order to raise funds for our community work. This will be repeated this year on **Sunday 23rd December** starting at the earlier time of 2.00 pm. Proceeds will be donated to the Open Church project across the city. Further details will follow.

Harbour Coffee, Christmas Day

Harbour Coffee is again offering free “festive baps and treats” on Christmas Day 11.00 am – 1.30 pm. Harbour Coffee is at 97a Commercial Road, PO1 1BQ.



Church Office closure

Please note that the church office will be closed on **Thursday 27th and Friday 28th December**.

Choir walk gate

As usual, the choir walk gate near the north door will be locked for 24 hours on **31st December/1st January**. This date is chosen each year in order to minimise inconvenience to users.

New Year's Day Walk

Come and get some 2019 fresh air! We will be holding our annual walk along Southsea promenade on **Tuesday 1st January**. Meet at 2.00 pm at South Parade Pier. We will walk along the prom and finish with tea/coffee/cake at a local café.

All-Age Party, Saturday 5th January

A reminder that we will be holding our annual party for children and adults of all ages, in the church on the afternoon of **Saturday, 5th January**. A session of fun and traditional party games will be followed by a tea of sandwiches and cake, tea, coffee and squash. All are very welcome. Tickets will be available soon from the Church Office and Dinah Walters.

Christmas Offerings

Offerings at the following services will be given to [Tearfund's Christmas Appeal](#) for those affected by floods in Bangladesh and other needs.

Carols by Candlelight, 16th December

Midnight Communion, 24th December

Christmas Day Family Service, 25th December

Tearfund Big Quiz Night

Many thanks to all those who came to the Tearfund Big Quiz Night on the 17th November. We made a grand total of £290, for which the charity is very appreciative. They are already planning one for 2019 – pencil in the date, Saturday 16th November! #BigQuizNight

Regular Events

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

Temples for 10-18 year-olds (Mondays 7.00-8.30 pm)

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

Play and Praise (Tuesdays 1 - 2.30 pm for over 2s, term time only)

Shipmates Cafe (Tuesdays 3.30 - 3.30 pm for under 10s, term time only)

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

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

Fusion Café (youth club for 10-14s) (Fridays 4.00-5.30 pm, term time)

Sunday Suppers (Sunday nights 5.30 to 7.30 pm, from 5.15 pm to help set up)

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

Prayer for Israel (fourth Fridays 3.00–4.00 pm Lounge. Contact Ruth Warner)

Home Groups. There are several mid-week Home Groups, to which church members are encouraged to belong. There is a list of the groups on the website and on the notice board in the lower hall. More information is available from Michael Piper, the Home Group Co-ordinator, or from the church office.

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 complete [this online form](#).

Services at St. Simon's

Sunday 2nd December

9.30 am Shipmates Service
10.45 am Holy Communion
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 9th December

10.30 am Holy Communion
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 16th December

10.30 am Nativity Service
6.00 pm Sunday Supper
7.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

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:

Rev Andy Finn (Priest-in-Charge)	023 9217 6209
Lorna Sandland (Community Dev. Worker)	c/o 023 9282 9440
Andrea Grainger (Children and Families Pastor)	c/o 023 9282 9440
Mick Walters (Administrator)	023 9282 9440

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