



St. Simon's Church Newsletter

Sunday 17th January 2016

Nave Flooring Works

The initial work to remove the pews has begun and the contractors are due to start the restoration works on Monday 18th January. Further details are available later in this Newsletter.

We hope to continue to use the nave for most Sunday services but please do be aware of the dangers that will inevitably be present. We must expect some disruption during this time – thank you in advance for your patience.

Tuesday Bible Alive – future dates

19th January Easter Part1 – A New Dawn
2nd February Easter Part2 – The Traitor

From pews to chairs – Prepare for Change

It's been a topic of conversation for years, but now at last we are really going to do it, and it's going to affect us all. The pews have been taken away this week (several to church members) and the work to refurbish the nave floor and re-carpet the chancel begins on **Monday 18th January**. Obviously this is going to cause a lot of disruption and it will involve some ad hoc planning, so please be as patient as you can. Sunday services will probably be possible in half of the church while the other half is being worked on, using chairs from the centre, but we will have to be conscious that that the main church will be a 'construction area'. As a result of the need to clear everything out of the worship area the South room will be a bit more cluttered than usual, having some of the big toys kept there. Another aspect is that the audio system will be disconnected and so will be largely unavailable until we reconstitute it after completing the floor work. In this mix is the need to repair the high level window stonework where there has been some crumbling masonry, and we are hoping we can do this at the end of the floor repairs and before the final finishing process.

How long will this all take? A rough guess is that the floor repairs will take about a month and the finishing work (when the church will be fully 'out of bounds') will take about a week, with a space of a week or two in between for the stonework, and a week at the end for laying the chancel carpet and setting up the AV systems. Our hope is that we will be back in a refurbished church by Easter, at the end of March.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25th January

The Sisters of Bethany will be holding an act of worship at 2.30pm on **Wednesday 20th January**, led by the Rev. Dr. James Grenfell, Director of Portsmouth Ordination Training. Please let the sisters know (023 9283 3498) if you plan to attend. Tea will offered following the worship.

“Reaching the Margins” event

‘Reaching the Margins’ is at Portsmouth Cathedral on **Saturday 23rd January** 10am -12pm. *A networking and information sharing event to support all helping those at risk of and those who are homeless.*

CHIMES Quiz

CHIMES (Churches Together in Milton, Eastney and Southsea) are planning a quiz with fish and chips 7.00-9.30 pm on **Saturday 23rd January** at Eastney Methodist Church. Teams of 4. Please contact Rev John Mills (02392 731858) in advance if you plan to attend this event.

Fostering and Adoption

The Christian charity Home for Good and Portsmouth City Council are working together with Portsmouth Diocese to encourage families to consider fostering and adoption. A further information evening will be held at St. Jude's church from 7.00-9.00 pm on **Tuesday 26th January**. At this event, some information about how church leaders can support those in their congregations who adopt or foster should also be available.

C.A.P. Job Club

Christians Against Poverty are launching a CAP job club on **26th January** for Portsmouth. This is a new Job Club ideally for those longer term unemployed who have really struggled in their quest for employment. The first course starts on Tuesday 26th January for 8 sessions 10.00-14.00 at City Life Church, 85 Tangier Road, Portsmouth. Each session will offer:

- A meal
- Community Time
- Part of a structured course that covers all aspects of the job searching and interview process with an individual workbook
- Support from trained volunteers from various backgrounds that understand the challenges involved
- Friendship and the chance to socialise with others
- Opportunity to regain the motivation and skills required to successfully gain employment.

To register for this course anyone can contact CAP on 0800 328 0006 free of charge and mention the Baffins Portsmouth Job Club. They will take individual details and pass these on to us locally. Or, to discuss anything in more detail then please contact the Local CAP Job Club Manager Steve Jarvis on 07754 009 960.

Scottish Evening with Burns Night Supper

Come along to our Scottish-themed evening on **Friday 29th January** in the Church Centre. There will be a three-course dinner of Scottish fare and entertainment in the form of Gail and her team performing some 'Orrible 'Istories sketches loosely based on characters from north of the border. Tickets are £10 and are available from Gail and Dinah. For catering purposes you need to have purchased your ticket by Thursday 28th at the very latest if you would like to come.

Second Sunday Stroll

Our strolls continue each month. Meet at 2.30 pm at South Parade Pier for a casual social stroll along the seafront. The next one is on **Sunday 14th February**. Everybody is welcome.

House Groups – Lent Course

We have agreed with St Jude's to repeat last year's pattern of joint house groups following a special course for Lent. As before part of the objective is to have groups with people from each church in the course of the development of our Mission Partnership with St Jude's. We want to build on what we achieved last year by seeking to involve as many people as possible, with no other groups meeting then. To this end leaders of the regular groups will be invited to suspend their groups for the 5 weeks of the Lent Course, which will start in the week beginning **Monday 15th February**. Once again we will be looking for people who would be willing to host or facilitate a joint group. We are also hoping that those who are not in a regular group will take this opportunity to commit to a Lent group. Please note it in your diaries and expect further information.

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.

Revision of the Electoral Roll

The church electoral roll (the formal list of church members) will be revised during the period **Monday 15th to Monday 29th February**. Your name needs to be on the roll if you wish to attend the annual meetings on **Wednesday 16th March** or if you wish to stand for election as a member of the PCC, a churchwarden or a member of the Deanery Synod. You may apply to have your name added during the revision period. If your name is already on the roll and you wish to remain on it, you do not need to take any action. The formal notice of the revision is now on the Church Administration noticeboard in the Church Centre.

The revised roll will be displayed during the period 1st to 15th March; no additions or removals are allowed during this period, although any errors may be corrected.

For any questions on this process or for forms, please contact Mick in the church office.

Annual Meetings 2016

Please note that the two annual meetings (the meeting to elect the churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will be held on **Wednesday 16th March** this year. This date is different from the provisional date agreed at the November PCC meeting.

Nearer the time, nomination forms for churchwardens, deanery synod and lay members of the PCC will be available at the back of church or on request from the Church Office.

Nominations for churchwardens must be received by midnight on the preceding Sunday, 13th March. Nominations for lay members of the PCC may be made in advance or at the meeting.

Porn – the Naked Truth

The Naked Truth Project aims to open eyes and free lives from the damaging impact of pornography, through awareness, education and recovery programmes. A team will be visiting Portsmouth in April 2016...to inform, inspire and provide practical support. Internet porn affects men, women and is overwhelming children and this does not exclude the church family...we can no longer sweep it under the carpet. Subjects explored... 'Is Porn Good?' 'How to get free from Porn and How to help Others'.

FRIDAY 22ND APRIL 2016 - 7:30-9pm

Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn PO7 5QB

SATURDAY 23RD APRIL 2016 - 9:30-11am

Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn PO7 5QB

SATURDAY 23RD APRIL 2016 - 7-8:30pm

City Life Church, 87 Tangier Road, PO3 6JH.

Licensing of Rev. Susi James

The licensing of Susi as Priest-in-charge of St. Simon's is due to take place at a service at 3.00 pm on **Sunday 1st May** when his formal appointment begins. Light refreshments will follow the service.

Susi, Ruth and family are due to move in to the vicarage on Tuesday 29th March. He particularly asks for the following prayer requests please:

- To find a right schools for the boys
- God willing we are planning to invite my parents for my licensing (from India) would you please pray that they would get Visas
- Please pray that I will have a smooth handover here at Holy Trinity
- Please pray that we will end our ministry well
- Please pray that I will be able to strengthen all the ministry that I am leading so that it will continue to flourish after my move (specially the youth)

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.

Cathedral Lunch Club help required

Can you help to prevent weight loss and social isolation for older people? Volunteers are needed to help with the Cathedral Lunch Club on occasional Tuesdays in the Becket room; anyone interested in helping with this important and much appreciated service – cooking and serving a hot two-course lunch for older people – please contact the Cathedral Office on 023 9282 3300. Thank you.

Twinning the Ladies' Toilet

Just so that you are all aware, as the men don't generally use the Ladies toilet (!) Tuesday Time Together have sent money for the Ladies' toilet to be twinned with a toilet in the Gambia. The notice is actually in the toilet as opposed to on the door, so you are welcome to take a peek! Great news! See <http://www.toilettwinning.org/> for further details of the scheme.

Traditional Games and Tea Party

Many thanks to everyone who supported this event on Saturday 9th January – we not only had a wonderful, fun afternoon but managed to raise £128 for the General Fund. There were about 30 adults and 10 children and everyone enjoyed it so much that we are planning to make it an annual event. Dinah Walters.

First Aiders

If you hold a current first aid certificate and would be happy to be added to the list of church members who are first aid trained, please supply a copy of your certificate to the church office. For any questions on this matter, please contact Cliff Golledge.

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 17th January

09.30 am Shipmates
10.30 am Holy Communion
6.30 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 31st January

10.30 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 24th January

10.30 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 7th February

09.30 am Shipmates
11.15 am Holy Communion
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)

c/o 023 9282 9440
c/o 023 9282 9440
07850 992 721
023 9282 9440



StSimonsChurchSouthsea



@StSimonsSsea