



St. Simon's Church Newsletter

Sunday 20th November 2016

Leading Your Church into Growth

You might be aware that John Bazley, Lorna and myself recently attended a residential course called "Leading Your Church into Growth". It was a great course and we were greatly challenged.

After the course we came home with a DVD and some resources which are called "Leading Your Church into Growth Local." Three of us met a few days ago to pray and plan so that the wider church family too can enjoy and benefit from what we've enjoyed.

This course has 2 sessions for leaders and 6 sessions for the wider congregation. (Each session is one and half hours). We have worked hard to find a day and time that you might be able to attend.

Further details are given on the next page. Please put these dates in your diaries – there is a choice of evening (Wednesday) or daytime (Saturdays).

Susi



Leading Your Church into Growth

The first leaders' session is on **Wednesday the 7th December** and the second one is on **Wednesday the 1st March** both from 7.00-9.00pm at the Church. **These two days are only for those who are involved in some kind of leadership role.**

Between these two dates there will be six evening sessions and 2 Saturday day sessions which is for both leaders and the wider church. (Saturday sessions are for those who couldn't attend the weekday ones and if you have attend the weekday ones you do not need to attend the Saturday one).

The dates are:

Wed 7th December 7.00pm-9.00pm (Just for leaders)

Wed 11th January 7.00pm-9.00pm (For everyone)

Wed 18th January 7.00pm-9.00pm (For everyone)

Wed 25th January 7.00-9.00pm (For everyone)

Saturday 4th Feb 9.am-2.00pm (for those who couldn't attend during weekday evenings)

Wed 1st March 7.00pm-9.00pm (Just for leaders)

Wednesday 26th April 7.00pm-9.00pm(For everyone)

Wednesday 3rd May 7.00pm-9.00pm (For everyone)

Wednesday 10th May 7.00pm-9.00pm (For everyone)

Sat 13th May 9.00 am-2.00pm (for those who couldn't attend during weekday evenings).

There is a reason for spreading this over the next 6 months. It might seem a bit complicated but I can assure you at the end of this 6 months with God's grace we will not be the same.

Thanks,
Susi.

An article on this was in the [November edition of Pompey Chimes](#).

Sermon series – The Apostles' Creed

Our sermon series, looking at the Apostles' Creed, continues:

20th November – “...the resurrection of the body,...”

27th November – “...and the life everlasting.”

If you do miss any of these sermons, recordings are normally available on the church website - <http://www.stsimons-southsea.org.uk/sermons/>

Coffee Afternoon

Some of you will remember Yvonne Holmes, who used to be our cleaner at St. Simon's and who also helped Lois to run Baby Club on Monday mornings for many years. However, she is facing a rather bleak Christmas as she is now a single parent, unable to work because of ill-health and with two dependent adult children who also have no work, and one small granddaughter. They have to live on benefits and so we would like to provide them with a hamper (well a large cardboard box!) of special Christmas goodies, together with some money to buy some more essentials to tide them over this season of goodwill.

To this end we are holding a Coffee Afternoon at our home from 3-5 p.m. on **Sunday 20th November**. If you would like to come, please contact Mick in the church office or Dinah Walters on 9281 4599, so we know how many cakes to bake! The coffee afternoon will be very similar to our Macmillan coffee afternoons, and/or if you would like to donate an item for the hamper, you could bring something along to us or drop it in to Mick at the church office.

Dinah and Mick Walters

Tuesday Bible Alive – future dates

29th November	The Miracles of Jesus(2): Part 1 – Lessons in Faith
13 th December	The Christmas Bell: Who am I?
3 rd January	Miracles (2):Part 2 – The Demanding Crowds
17 th January	Miracles (2):Part 3 – The Compassion of Jesus
31 st January	Miracles(2): Part 4 – All in a Day's Work

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Church Lounge.

Prayer Group for St. Jude's School

Tuesday 29th November 8.15-9.15 pm at St. Jude's Church, Kent Road (tea/coffee from 8.00 pm). Parents, staff, governors, and anyone else interested in praying for the school are all very welcome. For any more information please contact Kathy Bacon via either church office.

Christmas Voucher Scheme

The Christmas Voucher Scheme is running again this year. You are invited to buy gift cards from stores which will then be passed on to guests at events such as Sunday Suppers or used to buy items for them. Flyers are available on the Welcome Table giving details. Gift cards need to arrive at St. Mary's Church by **14th December**. A carol service will be held at midday on Friday 16th December at St. Mary's when these will be presented to the various organisation that will be using them. This is a public service which anybody is welcome to attend.

Christmas Services 2016

Christmas Services are as follows:

Sunday 18th December 10.30 - Nativity Communion Service

Sunday 18th December 19.30 - Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 24th December 16.00 - Crib Service

Saturday 24th December 23.30 - Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

Sunday 25th December 10.30 - Christmas Day Family Communion



Local Vocals Christmas Concert – 10th December



Local Vocals
Southsea



Christmas Concert

Saturday 10th December 2016 7:30pm

St Simon's Church, Waverley Rd, Southsea,
PO5 2PW

Tickets Adults £5 / Concessions £2
(including refreshments)

Tickets available by emailing
localvocalssouthsea@gmail.com or
from the Church Office
023 9282 9440



www.facebook.com/LocalVocalsSouthsea/



*The church office is open 10am (often earlier) to 12 midday Monday-Friday
A charitable donation will be made to the Congenital Myotonic Dystrophy Fight Fund*

Christmas Day Sunday Supper

Christmas Day this year falls on a Sunday. We plan to offer a Sunday Supper as normal but we particularly need people to be in the Church Centre with guests. If you are able to help or would like further information, please contact Lorna or Mick in the office.

New Year's Day Walk

Come and get some 2017 fresh air! We will be holding our annual walk along Southsea promenade on **Sunday 1st January**. Meet at 2 pm at Speakers Corner (near Rocksby's restaurant – note the change of starting point from previous years). We will walk along the prom and finish with tea/coffee/cake at a local cafe.

Church Weekend at Home 2017

We are planning a whole-church "Weekend at Home" for next year. This will be from **Friday evening 23rd June through Sunday 25th June 2017**. There will be a number of events across the weekend. Please put the date in your diaries. Further details will follow.

University Students

It is such a joy to see the increasing number of university students becoming part of our Church Family, at the moment we have 5 students attending regularly. Could I request our wider church family to invite these students for lunch after a Sunday service please. This is a great ministry and this will mean a lot to them. I really hope and pray that we can do this as part of being a welcoming church family. If you are willing to do this please let me know as I can pass their contact details so that you can prearrange a date with them. Thank you in advance, Susi.

Parenting Course

"Enjoy the little things (with your children), for one day you may look back and realise they were the big things"

At St. Simon's we are hoping to run a parenting course in early 2017 to give parents the opportunity to share their own experiences, learn from others and explore some essential parenting principles based on the "Care for the Family" resources <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk>

This will be suitable for parents/carers whether your child is 2 months old or 12 years old. The course could run during 4 or 5 weekday evenings (7pm-9pm) or Saturday 10am-4pm.

At this point what we need to know is how many of you would like to make use of this opportunity and which is the best timing for you (weekday evenings or Saturdays).

If you are interested could you please email me or the church office.

"The more we hear the better it will be".

Susi

All-Age Party

Last January we held a very successful all-age afternoon tea and games party in the church centre and I undertook to make it an annual event! To this end, I have booked the church for the afternoon of **Saturday 7th January**. Please make a note in your nice new diaries and come along for an afternoon of traditional fun, games and tea. Dinah Walters.

More Street Pastors needed

More Christians are needed to train as Street Pastors in Portsmouth. If you are interested and would like further details, please contact Mick in the church office or speak to any of the existing Street Pastors. Fran Sherren in particular would be very happy to discuss this with you.

Shoebox Finale!

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Collection. We completed 76 boxes at the Pack and Wrap Party. Well done to everyone! The boxes will soon be on their way via Samaritan's Purse to children in need around the world.

We will be doing it all again next year, so keep knitting, collecting stuff etc!!

With many thanks, Ruth Taylor

Regular Events

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

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)

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

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 20th November

10.30 am Holy Communion
6.30 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 27th November

10.30 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 4th December

09.30 am Shipmates
10.30 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:

Susi James (Priest in charge)

023 9242 1745

Lorna Sandland (Community Dev. Worker)

c/o 023 9282 9440

Bryn Jenkins (Youth Worker)

c/o 023 9282 9440

Mick Walters (Administrator)

023 9282 9440



StSimonsChurchSouthsea



@StSimonsSsea