



## St. Simon's Church Newsletter

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### Leading Your Church into Growth

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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**

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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](#).

## Ladies' Christmas Meal

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Ladies of St. Simon's are invited to join the St. Jude's Ladies' Christmas Meal at 6.45 for 7.15 pm on **Thursday 8th December** at Watkins and Faux, the Pavilion Café. The [menu](#) is available online or from the church office. Please contact Caire Beadnell from St. Jude's via the church office if you would like to attend. You are asked to bring a Secret Santa gift (value up to £5). You can take your own drink or buy from the bar. There will be some entertaining twists during the evening including a Chinese auction.

## Mince Pie Sunday

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This is your annual opportunity to contribute to our hospitality at our Christmas services by bringing along some mince pies! If you can do so, I'd be most grateful if you could bring them along to the morning service on **Sunday 11th December** and leave them on the table outside the kitchen. They will then be offered at the two carol services on Sunday 18th December, and any left over will go to the Sunday Suppers guests. Many thanks in anticipation! Dinah Walters

## Tuesday Bible Alive - future dates

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

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Church Lounge.

## Carol Singing in the Community

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On **Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> December** at the Leopold Tavern and The Co-Operative Food store, both in Albert Road, 6.00 - 8.00 pm. All are welcome to come and make a joyful noise as we take the Joy of Christmas into our local community. Meet outside the Church at 5.45 pm or 5.55 pm at the Leopold. Susi

## Christmas Voucher Scheme

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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 **14<sup>th</sup> December**. A carol service will be held at midday on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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

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Christmas Services are as follows:

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 10.30 - Nativity Communion Service

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 19.30 - Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 16.00 - Crib Service

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 23.30 - Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10.30 - Christmas Day Family Service



## Office opening over Christmas and New Year

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The church office will be closed for the week 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> December. E-mails will be monitored occasionally during this time.

## Local Vocals Christmas Concert – 10<sup>th</sup> December

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Local Vocals are performing a Christmas Concert at 7.30 pm on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December** at 7.30 pm. Come along and enjoy our Christmas concert this year. A variety of songs including many festive tunes to get you in the mood for Christmas.

We'll be joined this year by a flute ensemble from St Edmund's School and will be making a charitable donation from the proceeds to the Congenital Myotonic Dystrophy Fight Fund (CMMD.UK). Tickets are £5/£2, available from the church office.

## Christmas Drinks at the Vicarage

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We would like to invite everyone at St Simon's Church family to come and join us for a Christmas drinks to celebrate our first Christmas at St. Simon's. There will be plenty of Mulled wine, mince pies, nibbles and of course laughter.

When? Saturday the 17th December  
What time? 4.00-6.00pm  
Where? At the Vicarage.

Please do drop us a line so that we will know how many of you are coming.

Susi and Ruth

## New Year's Day Walk

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Come and get some 2017 fresh air! We will be holding our annual walk along Southsea promenade on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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We are planning a whole-church "Weekend at Home" for next year. This will be from **Friday evening 23<sup>rd</sup> June through Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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

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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

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**"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

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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.

## Susi's Day Off

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Please note that from now on, Susi's day off is **Saturday**, not Thursday.

## The Crinoline Church

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If you are interested in the history of St. Simon's Church, you might like to be aware that a book has recently been published on the subject of the Crinoline Church. The Crinoline Church was originally a temporary building for St. Bartholomew's Church in Outram Road, Southsea, subsequently a temporary building for St. Simon's during its construction and finally a church serving the Royal Marines at Eastney until St. Andrew's was completed. A copy of the book has been presented to St. Simon's by the author and may be borrowed from the church office.

For further details, see:

<http://www.dennisbillfamilyhistory.co.uk/the%20crinoline%20church.htm>

## Mayville High School – GCSE Exams

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Please note that Mayville High School will be using the upper hall for GCSE exams at various times **5<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> December** inclusive. It would be appreciated if noise could be kept to a minimum during this period please. A sign will be placed on the north stairs when exams are in progress.

## **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 023 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 4<sup>th</sup> December

09.30 am Shipmates  
10.30 am Holy Communion  
6.30 pm Sunday Supper

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 am Nativity Communion  
6.30 pm Sunday Supper  
7.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

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](http://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)

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