



## **St. Simon's Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

### **Christmas Services 2016**

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Christmas Services are as follows:

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

Carols by Candlelight  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 7.30 pm

Crib Service  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4.00 pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30 pm

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

## 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, 6 Festing Road.

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

Susi and Ruth

## Mince Pie Sunday

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More mince pies are needed please to contribute to our hospitality at our Christmas services. If you can do so, I'd be most grateful if you could bring them along to the morning service on **Sunday 18th December** and leave them on the table outside the kitchen. They will then be offered at both carol services on Sunday 18th December, and any left over will go to the Sunday Suppers guests. Many thanks in anticipation! Dinah Walters

## Leading Your Church into Growth

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A reminder that the dates are:

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).

## Tuesday Bible Alive – future dates

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3 <sup>rd</sup> January	No meeting
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Miracles (2):Part 2 – The Demanding Crowds
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Miracles(2): Part 3 – The Compassion of Jesus

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Church Lounge.

## Christmas Offerings/Collections

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The full offerings and retiring collections from the following services will be given to Barnabas Fund's Christmas Appeal

(<https://www.barnabasfund.org/appeals/christmas-appeal-2016>). All other offerings will be as normal.

- Carols by Candlelight
- Crib Service
- Midnight Communion

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Thank you from Beyond the Streets!

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A huge thankyou to the many friends in my lovely church community who kindly donated to sponsor our small charity's November awareness raising campaign – I raised £570 overall by giving up sugar and shopping including my own donation!

On 13<sup>th</sup> November 25 people came to my Women's Goodies party for some ethical Christmas shopping from our Global Seesaw charity and over £600 spent which is amazing as every item bought helps set a woman free from sexual exploitation in Calcutta 😊

Beyond the Streets is just 6 part time staff based in Southampton, East London and Derbyshire providing face to face or phone/web support to help women across the UK overcome the toughest situations on their journey towards freedom.

We need to keep raising funds as our work is growing from supporting 110 women last year to over 260 this year, and we also support train and develop 40 Christian projects across the UK.

Finally some feedback one woman has agreed to share,  
*"(Your support) makes me feel that I'm not on my own, it's good to have someone who understands and cares that I'm hurting. It's great to have help to try and see a way through it and makes me feel I'm worth it thank you."*

Many Thanks & Christmas Blessings. Elly Mulvany – glad to be back on chocolate reindeers now!

## Malcom and Alison Fox

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An Advent/Christmas letter from Malcolm and Alison is on the noticeboard in the Church Centre.

## Accommodation Wanted

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A lady in her 20s is seeking a room/bed for 7 weeks, from 15th January to 5th March 2017. She is a Christian and eagerly wishes to be with fellow Christians, if at all possible. Her funds are limited but is happy to pay £10 a day and would of course be out of the home at her studies for most of each day. If you are able to help and/or would like further details, please contact Mick in the church office or Christine Banerjee.

## Personal Christmas Cards

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Various personal Christmas cards, etc. are accumulating at the back of church. Any that are uncollected by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** will be recycled.

## Choir walk gate

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

## Susi's Day Off

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

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

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

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 am Family Service  
6.30 pm Sunday Supper

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December

4.00 pm Crib Service  
11.30 pm Midnight Communion

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January

9.30 am Shipmates Service  
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](http://www.stsimons-southsea.org.uk)



### Useful Contacts:

Susi James (Priest in charge)

Lorna Sandland (Community Dev. Worker)

Bryn Jenkins (Youth Worker)

Mick Walters (Administrator)

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