



## St. Simon's Church Newsletter

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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### Harvest Thanksgiving

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Our Harvest Thanksgiving service is at 10.30 today, **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September**.

In addition to focusing on God's provision, we will be regarding the day as a Gift Day with a specific opportunity for us to give financially towards the ongoing work on the windows. We have a target of £22,500. Please come prepared for this and please consider using Gift Aid where applicable – this increases the value of your gift by 25% at no cost to yourself.

Please also bring any offerings of food. All dried/tinned food will be given to Sunday Suppers this year.

The service will be followed by coffee as usual and then a bring-and-share lunch. Please bring a plate of food to share on the day. Michelle McGannan is coordinating this event.

## Tuesday Bible Alive – future dates

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3 <sup>rd</sup> October	God's Plan for us: Part 5 - God's Promises
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Women of the Bible (2): Part 1 – Motherly Love
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Women of the Bible (2): Part 2 – It takes all sorts!

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Church Lounge.

## Spring Harvest Local

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You can join a Spring Harvest celebration without making the pilgrimage to Butlins! [Tickets](#) are just £7 or £5 for concessions. Worship leaders and speakers are detailed on the website. **Wednesday 11 October** at Testwood Baptist Church, Southampton.

## Further LYCiG follow-up events

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Two events coming up:

### **Whole-Life Discipleship and the Local Church**

Friday 6th October 2017 7pm-9:30pm

### **Whole-Life Discipleship and Work**

Saturday 7th October 2017 9:30am-2pm

These are free events and will be held at St. Jude's Church. Booking is required. Further details were in the 13<sup>th</sup> August Newsletter and are available from St. Simon's church office.

## Rowans Hospice events

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From Christine Banerjee:

1. It is the Rowans Open Day on **Saturday 14th October**. It is open to all at 10 am until 3 pm. A guided tour will be available. All free. Anyone may go to find out about the hospice and the new Living Well Centre next door.

2. Unfortunately our Southsea Fundraisers are putting on an event at the same time! The South Down Singers will be performing at The British Legion Club, especially for The Rowans as they do every year. 1.45 to 4 pm on **Saturday 14th October**

Last year many people came and really enjoyed it. There will be refreshments ...Bucks Fizz and savoury biscuits to help it all go down! It makes a change.

The cost is £7.50.....ALL proceeds to the Rowans Hospice

Please let Christine Banerjee know if you would like to join us preferably before 7th October.

## Ladies' Breakfast

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The next Ladies' Breakfast is at 08.30 am on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October**. Suggested donation of £4. Please sign up on the list on the Welcome Table. Numbers are needed by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> at the latest for catering purposes. Men, please sign up if you are able to help.

## Job Vacancy – Maintenance Person

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The Sisters of Bethany have a vacancy for a Maintenance Person:

We require a friendly capable person to be responsible for the general maintenance of the Convent House and grounds. Must be able to undertake manual duties and an ability to drive would be desirable. Hours – three half days per week. Would suit a mature DIY enthusiast with basic electrical, plumbing and carpentry knowledge.

(Contact details are available from the church office).

## News from Andrea, Children and Families' Pastor

As I'm nearing the end of my first month as Children and Families Pastor I'd like to thank everybody for their words of support and encouragement and their prayers. It means a great deal to me. I've had the opportunity over the last month to meet up and chat with most of the volunteers and I'd like to thank them for their continued work and dedication. We literally couldn't do it without them, to comply with safeguarding procedure we need a minimum of 2 adults with each and every group of children we work with.

I'm looking forward to exciting times ahead, with Christmas approaching we will have the Nativity Service and parties to prepare for and after last year's success I'm planning another Crib Service. Those of you who attended last year may remember that several people helped out with a few lines in character. Who could forget Ross's grumpy innkeeper or Bryn's singing Shepherd? If you would like to be involved this year please let me know. It's a small commitment, probably only one rehearsal and then turn up on the afternoon to do your bit and enjoy the rest of the service.

I hope soon to be starting a second toddler group, with a Christian input, the working title is Little Shipmates Play and Praise and I am attending a Care for the Family Conference with workshops on Godly Play which I hope will feed into this. As always we will spread God's love with hospitality and welcome, something the original Little Shipmates is famous for. If anyone could spare a couple of hours either once a week or on a monthly rota to welcome families and serve teas coffees and refreshments to help with this ministry it would be greatly appreciated.

Our Sunday Morning groups have been working really well over the last year since splitting the age groups. The one thing we have on occasion struggled with is two groups working on different things in a relatively small space. We do tend to disturb each other! So in the new year we hope to be able to move one group into the church lounge twice a month and on the third Sunday, God willing I'd like to bring both groups together for a new project, **Lego Church**. I'm feeling really excited about this and hope the children will be too. My vision is it might develop into something that they would like to invite friends to on a Sunday morning.

## **So how can you help?**

Continue to pray for the Children's Ministry, the Children and everyone involved in it. Consider volunteering either on a weekly, monthly or occasional basis to support the increasing number of groups, our Sunday team is stretched very thin at the moment, and the more volunteers we have the less often we have to call on them.

Positions available:

**Sundays** – Helpers especially for Under 3's group, Volunteers to join us for Lego Church

**Mondays** – Stay and Play - Volunteers to help in the kitchen, welcome families and serve refreshments. Help setting up or packing away.

**Tuesdays** – Play and Praise – Volunteers to help in the kitchen, welcome families and serve refreshments. Help setting up or packing away.

**Saturdays** – Occasional support with special events.

**Christmas** – Support with Crib service and or Nativity.

**Lego Church** – Support in the group weekly or monthly, Donations of old lego **(Not special kits just regular old fashioned blocks that you don't want back!)**

## **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)

**Temples for 11-18 year-olds** (Tuesdays 7.00-8.30 pm)

**City Churches Prayer Meeting** (Wednesdays 6.30am, at Oasis, Arundel Street)

**Breakthru Self-Help Community** (Fridays 10.30 am to 2.30 pm)

**Fusion Café** (Fridays 4.00-5.30 pm, term time)

**Sunday Morning Worship with Children's Groups** (see back page)

**Sunday Suppers** (Sunday nights 6.00 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 24<sup>th</sup> September

10.30 am Harvest Thanksgiving  
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

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

9.00 am Shipmates Service  
10.30 am Holy Communion  
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

10.30 am Morning Praise  
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October

10.30 am Holy Communion  
6.00 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 Pastor)

c/o 023 9282 9440

Mick Walters (Administrator)

023 9282 9440



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