



St. Simon's Church Newsletter

Sunday 3rd December 2017

Christmas Services

Christmas services in December that are particularly suitable to invite your friends to are:

Carols by Candlelight, 7.30 pm Sunday 10th

Nativity Service, 10.30 am Sunday 17th

Crib Service, 4.00 pm Saturday 23rd

Midnight Communion, 11.30 pm Sunday 24th

All-age Christmas Day Service, 10.30 am Monday 25th



Tuesday Bible Alive – future dates

12th December Christmas 2017

9th January Journey of a lifetime: Part 1 - A Changed Man

23rd January Journey of a lifetime: Part 2 – Encouraging and Sharing

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Church Lounge.

Mince Pie Sunday

Please bring along your mince pie donations to the morning services on **Sunday 3rd December** and leave them on the table outside the kitchen. They will then be offered at Carols by Candlelight on the 10th and the Nativity service on the 17th, and any left over will go to the Sunday Suppers guests. Many thanks in anticipation! Dinah Walters

Cathedral Carol Service

A dementia-friendly Christmas Carol Service will be held at the cathedral at 3.00 pm on **Wednesday 6th December** and will be followed by refreshments. Further details are available from Jill Phipps, Older Person's Champion, on 07710 394 351.

St. Nicholas “Empty Bowls” Supper

This is a community event at 7.00 pm on **Wednesday 6th December** where members of a local pottery group, The Maker's Guild Potters, and St. Simon's Church come together to raise awareness of and fight hunger in Portsmouth. Tickets are £7.50 and include a handmade ceramic bowl with a choice of 2 homemade soups and bread. Tickets are available from the church office or Louise Roulston.

Lads' Pre-Christmas Drink

Friday 8th December - Meet for a drink or two at The Duke of Devonshire in Albert Road @ 19:45 hrs, then probably grab a curry/Chinese afterwards. Please contact Cliff Golledge.

Carol Singing in Palmerston Road

On **Saturday 9th December**, St. Jude's will be leading carol singing in the Palmerston Road precinct from 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm. Please come along and join them – the more the merrier.

Minibus trip to Salisbury market

Dave and Anthea Howell are running a minibus trip to Salisbury on **Tuesday 12th December** if there are sufficient numbers. Tickets are £6 per seat, available from Dave or Anthea.

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. Faith's church by **13th December**. A carol service will be held at midday on Friday 15th December at St. Mary's church 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 Grub Club

As usual, we are going to The Jolly Sailor on Clarence Parade for our Christmas Grub Club Dinner on **Thursday 14th December**. See the [TJS website](#) for prices and menu choices. A hard copy can be found on the church noticeboard. I have booked tables to sit down at 7.30 – drinks at the bar from 7 p.m. All are very welcome so if you would like to join this merry band, please contact me, with a £10 deposit and your menu choices. **Last orders will be taken on Sunday 3rd December**. Dinah Walters.

Shep Woolley concert

[Shep Woolley](#) and various other performers will be holding an event at the Square Tower on **Sunday 17th December** from 5.00 to 10.00 pm. Proceeds will go to St. Simon's (Sunday Suppers in particular, to be confirmed). Tickets, £5, are available from the church office.

Carol Singing

CHIMES (CHurches together in Milton, Eastney and Southsea) is organising a Carol Singing event in Tesco Extra by Fratton Park on **Tuesday 19th December** 3-4 pm and 6-7 pm. Everybody is welcome.

Home Coffee, Christmas Day

Home Coffee in Albert Road (and in Cosham) will be open on Christmas morning for “hot drinks, sweet treats, conversation, laughter and friendship” for anyone who would otherwise be on their own. Please feel free to spread the word.

New Year's Day Walk

Come and get some 2018 fresh air! We will be holding our annual walk along Southsea promenade on **Monday 1st January**. Meet at 2 pm at Speakers Corner near Rocksby's restaurant. We will walk along the prom and finish with tea/coffee/cake at a local cafe.

Burns Night

Members of St. Simon 's and St. Margaret's churches are invited to St. Jude's on **Saturday 20th January** for a Burns Supper with dancing and haggis. More details in due course. If anyone would like to help out as a volunteer, please contact the St. Jude's office directly.

Alpha

The next Alpha Course will start on **Thursday 25th January 2018** with an Alpha launch dinner, including a sit-down meal and interesting after-dinner speaker. All church members and friends are invited. Tickets available in January.

Any offers of help with cooking or washing up gratefully received.

Please contact Hilary Poley to book a place or to offer help.

Christmas office closure

The office will be closed during the week **25th-29th December inclusive**. E-mails and telephone messages will be monitored on an occasional basis during this time.

All-Age Traditional Games and Tea Party

Traditional fun and games for everyone, 3-5 p.m. on **Saturday 6th January** in the Church Centre. Join us for an hour of fun and games, followed by a traditional party tea! Tickets £4 for adults, £2 for under-16s, under-fives go free. Tickets available from Dinah Walters or the church office. Please book by Thursday 4th January.

Barn Dance

Save the date! – **Saturday 24th February** – Barn Dance with Supper. Details to follow. Please contact Geraldine Poulter in the meantime.

Sunday Suppers @ Christmas

We would love to remain open throughout the Christmas season. If you would like to join us either in the Church Centre, spending time with our guests, or in the kitchen preparing food please do get in touch with Lorna, via the church office.

Dates we need additional cover for: 24th December, 31st December, 7th January

Window repairs

The formal public notice regarding the window repairs is now displayed in the outside notice case and in the Church Centre. The notice gives details of how to raise any objections. However, in the case of the windows repairs this is retrospective.

Thanksgiving event

Thank you to all who supported our recent Thanksgiving 'Orrible 'Istories event. A profit of £330 was made, to be split equally between the window repair work and WaterAid.

Whole Church Day Way 2018

A Day Away for the whole church is being planned for **Saturday 9th June 2018**. Please put the date in your diaries. Further details will follow.

Street Support

[Street Support](#) is a new website listing homelessness support in Portsmouth and other cities. Please have a look at this and spread the news. [Sunday Suppers](#) is listed along with many others.

Open Church

The Open Church project, where we will offer overnight accommodation for up to 10 rough sleepers on Fridays through February, needs more volunteers.

If you are able to offer to volunteer for any of the shifts (Evening 6.30 pm - 10.00 pm, Night 9.30 pm – 6.45 am, Morning 6.00 am – 8.30 am) for any of the dates (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd February) please contact the church office or Mike Taylor.

Volunteer registration forms and further information are available on the church [website](#). You can now complete a Volunteer Registration Form [online](#).

Enthusiastic bakers required

Breakthru, would love to build a team of volunteer bakers to work with small groups of people, or 1-2-1 during the morning of a Breakthru session (10:15 am – 12.00 pm). Sharing your baking skill, really helps people practically. Baking with others also gives the ideal opportunity to get to know people. You can tailor this time to what you enjoy baking & plan future bakes with people in the Breakthru Community. Please speak to Lorna, or leave a message in the office, if you would like to find out more information. **Thank you!**

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 (youth club for 10-14s) (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 3rd December

09.00 am Shipmates
10.30 am Holy Communion
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 17th December

10.30 am Nativity Service
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 10th December

10.30 am Holy Communion
6.00 pm Sunday Supper
7.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 23rd December

4.00 pm Crib Service

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)

Lorna Sandland (Community Dev. Worker)

Bryn Jenkins (Youth Pastor)

Mick Walters (Administrator)

023 9242 1745

c/o 023 9282 9440

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023 9282 9440



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