



## St. Simon's Church Newsletter

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### New Sermon Series

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Our new sermon series “Life’s Difficult Questions” starts on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January:

- 7<sup>th</sup> January – Did God really create the universe?
- 14<sup>th</sup> January – Why does God allow suffering?
- 21<sup>st</sup> January – Why do good people suffer and bad people prosper?
- 28<sup>th</sup> January – Is Christ the only way?
- 4<sup>th</sup> February – Who am I?
- 11<sup>th</sup> February – What about other faiths?
- 18<sup>th</sup> February – What happens after I die?
- 25<sup>th</sup> February – Is there a sin God cannot forgive?
- 4<sup>th</sup> March – How do you define success?
- 11<sup>th</sup> March – Free will or predestined?
- 18<sup>th</sup> March – Can Christians get involved in politics?
- 25<sup>th</sup> March – How do you want to be remembered after you die?

## Tuesday Bible Alive – future dates

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9<sup>th</sup> January Journey of a lifetime: Part 1 - A Changed Man  
23<sup>rd</sup> January Journey of a lifetime: Part 2 – Encouraging and Sharing

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Church Lounge.

## Open Church Training Dates

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For those who were unable to attend the initial training at St Jude's on November 28th there is another opportunity to attend this meeting on **Wednesday 10th January** from 7 - 9.30 p.m. Venue to be announced. Please make a note of this date and try to attend if you didn't come to the earlier meeting.

In addition there will be some Risk Management and Risk Assessment training. This training is open to "church leaders". You will be invited if this applies to you. **Provisional date for this is Tuesday 9th January** (to be confirmed).

Furthermore specialised training for specific volunteers will also be offered in the week commencing **Monday January 22nd**. Invitations to take part in this training will be extended to certain volunteers once the exact dates and times are known.

Many thanks to all who have completed their volunteer registration forms. Approximately 30 people from St Simon's have volunteered to assist. Mike Taylor is working on the detailed rota and will be publishing this very soon after Christmas, at least one month before the start of the project. In order to assist communication between volunteers it is hoped to produce a contact list that could be circulated to all volunteers from St Simon's. Please contact Mike Taylor if you are not happy to share your contact details (email + phone) in this way, or if you have any other concerns.

## Knit and Natter

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Lois and Gail are starting a weekly knitting group from **Friday 12th January** 2-4 pm every week. All abilities welcome, needles can be provided. More details from Lois or Gail.

## Burns Night Supper

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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 Live Caller, Piper, Sing-a-long, Scavenger Hunt, Sporrán Competition, Scottish and Greek Dancing. Tickets £7.50/£4 with food or £3/£2 without food. 6.00 pm arrival to eat at 6.30 pm, dancing until 10.00 pm.

## Alpha

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The next Alpha Course will start on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018** with an Alpha launch supper, including a sit-down meal and interesting after-dinner speaker. All church members and friends are invited. Subsequent sessions will be on Wednesday evenings in February and March. Tickets available now, £6. Any offers of help with cooking or washing up gratefully received. Please contact Hilary Poley to book a place or to offer help.

## Chinese Grub Club

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Save the date – **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February** – Details to follow.

## Open Church

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Our first Open Church night is **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**. Please pray for this project which runs on every night through February.

## Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

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Yes, it's normally in September but we couldn't find a date then, so we are holding our customary fundraiser on **Saturday, 3rd February**, 3-5 p.m. at our house. Please contact us through the church office if you would like to come, so we know how many cakes to bake! Mick and Dinah Walters.

## Ash Wednesday

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There will be an Ash Wednesday service at 6.00 pm on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February**.

## **Barn Dance, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

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The Polite Mechanicals are returning to lead us in an all-age, all-ability, Barn Dance! Date: – **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February**, 7.30-9.30 pm. Cost:- £10 adults, £5 children, to include a ploughman's and 'pudding'. BYOB. Raffle prizes. Money raised will go to St Simon's church and "Beating the Blues", a local inclusive group meeting weekly at Bransbury Part providing music for wellbeing. Tickets are limited to 80. Available from Geraldine Poulter and the church office from 14<sup>th</sup> January. Suitable footwear please. Dress code – just come! For more information, please contact Geraldine Poulter.

## **Whole Church Day Away 2018**

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

## **Christmas Flowers**

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Many thanks to Chris Teuten for ensuring that we had lovely floral displays over the Christmas period, including an impressive wreath for the pulpit made together with members of Breakthru, and for providing and maintaining the Advent Wreath.

## **Shep Woolley concert**

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Thank you to all who supported this concert in any way – a total of £1,900 has been donated to Sunday Suppers and Open Church as a result.

## **A new initiative – a DIY Summer Ball!**

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The Social Committee would like to try out a completely new concept for our church – a Summer Ball where everyone brings their own food and drink! The idea is that people book a table of up to ten people, ideally inviting non-church friends, and provide everything needed for a three-course supper, and crucially, take it all away at the end. This means that there is a minimum of preparation and clearing up needing to be done. There will be dancing after the meal, to a mixture of live and recorded music. A modest ticket price (dependant on the cost of the entertainment) is envisaged, to cover the costs involved.

I have set this out in more detail in a paper attached to this newsletter. To make it viable, we need about 100 people i.e. ten tables of ten, or more tables of fewer people.

Please see [the further details](#) and if you would like to be a part of this, contact Dinah Walters by **31st January** at the latest.

## **New Wine 2018 at Shepton Mallet**

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If you may be interested in attending the New Wine summer event (28 July – 3 August or 5 – 11 August), please speak to Lorna Sandland or Hilary Poley.

## **Social Events January - June**

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The [list of social events](#) is now available on the website with printed copies on the Welcome Desk.

## **Open Church referral process**

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The following gives information about the referral process for the Winter Beds Service. The Open Church provision is in addition to this service but has the same referral process. Open Church does have some differences, such as meal provision.

### **PORTSMOUTH WINTER BEDS SERVICE**

**22-24 Kingston Road  
&  
Hope House, Milton Road**

The beds will open at 9.30pm each night and shut at 8am each morning. To book a bed you will need to go to the Homeless Day Services, Yew House, Milton Road between 8.30am and 12.30pm Monday-Friday and 9am-12pm on Saturday and Sunday.

**ACCESS TO THE BEDS IS BY BOOKING ONLY  
DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED  
ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE USE ON THE PREMISES IS NOT PERMITTED**

The provision is a mattress and bedding with a hot drink only (no meals). There are no shower facilities or laundry facilities for service users - these facilities are available at the Homeless Day Services at Yew House where people can also get a breakfast each day.

Unacceptable and anti-social behaviour will result in a temporary exclusion from the service.

If you leave the service after you have booked in for the night you will not be readmitted.

**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018 IS THE LAST NIGHT OF THE SERVICE**

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> January

09.00 am Shipmates  
10.30 am Holy Communion  
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January

10.30 am Holy Communion  
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

### Saturday 14h January

10.30 am Morning Praise  
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January

10.30 am Morning Praise  
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
Andrea Grainger (Children and Families Pastor)	c/o 023 9282 9440
Mick Walters (Administrator)	023 9282 9440



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