



St. Simon's Church Newsletter

Sunday 21st January 2018

New Sermon Series

Our new sermon series “Life’s Difficult Questions” started on Sunday 7th January and continues:

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

Obituary - Margot Parkes

Some church members may have known Margot and wish to be aware:

Margot Parkes, died peacefully in her sleep 29th December 2017. Funeral and Celebration at Oasis Church, Arundel Street, Portsmouth **Monday 22nd January** 2018 10 am - 11.30 am. Funeral Thanksgiving Service at Oasis Church, 22nd January 2018 1.30 pm- 2.30 pm.

Tuesday Bible Alive – future dates

23rd January Journey of a lifetime: Part 2 – Encouraging and Sharing
6th February Journey of a lifetime: Part 3 – The Irrepressible Gospel
20th February Journey of a lifetime: Part 4 – Dynamic Growth

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Church Lounge.

Away Days

Please note that the Away Days for the Staff Team (23rd January) and the PCC (27th January) have been cancelled.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25th January

The Sisters of Bethany are holding an act of worship on **Wednesday 24th January** at 2.30 pm with Rev Connie Sherman, to be followed by Tea (Please let the Sisters know if you will be attending – 023 92833 3498).

Alpha

The Alpha launch event will be at 7.00 for 7.15 pm on **Thursday 25th January 2018**, including a sit-down two-course supper and interesting after-dinner speaker. All church members and friends are invited. Tickets available now, at no cost. If you have already paid for tickets, you will receive a refund.

Please note that this event WILL go ahead as planned.

The Alpha course will be on Wednesday evenings 31st January to 21st March. Any offers of help with cooking or washing up gratefully received. Please contact Hilary Poley or the church office to book a place or to offer help.

A new initiative – a DIY Summer Ball!

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are thinking of organising a summer ball where everyone brings their own food and drink and everything needed to consume it! However, I need expressions of interest by **31st January**, please, before I go ahead with plans for this event. The proposed date is Saturday, 7th July and more information can be found in [the further details](#). If you are interested, please contact me via the church office by the end of the month, so that I can gauge whether it is worth going ahead. We need around 100 people to make it an enjoyable and viable evening. Dinah Walters.

Chinese Grub Club

Save the date – **Thursday 1st February** – Details to follow.

Open Church

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

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

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

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

Men's Breakfast (now Brunch)

The next Men's Breakfast will be a brunch at 10.00 am on **Saturday 17th February**. The start time has been moved in order to avoid a clash with Open Church. A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table. Men, please sign up if you wish to attend. Ladies, please sign up if you can help with catering.

Job vacancy – Children, Youth and Families Minister

St. Jude's has a vacancy for a Children, Youth and Families Minister. Details are available on the [diocesan website](#). Closing date is **Monday 19th February**.

Barn Dance, Saturday 24th February

The Polite Mechanicals are returning to lead us in an all-age, all-ability, Barn Dance! Date: – **Saturday 24th 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 14th January. Suitable footwear please. Dress code – just come! For more information, please contact Geraldine Poulter.

Whole Church Day Away 2018

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

New Wine 2018 at Shepton Mallet

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

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

Revision of the Electoral Roll

The church electoral roll (the formal list of church members) will be revised during the period **Friday 9th March to Monday 26th March**. Your name needs to be on the roll if you wish to attend and take part in the annual meetings on **Sunday 22nd April** or if you wish to stand for election as a member of the PCC, a churchwarden or a member of the Deanery Synod. You may apply to have your name added during the revision period. If your name is already on the roll and you wish to remain on it, you do not need to take any action. The formal notice of the revision will be placed on the Church Administration noticeboard in the Church Centre.

The revised roll will be displayed during the period 26th March to 9th April; no additions or removals are allowed during this period, although any errors may be corrected.

For any questions on this process or for forms, please contact Mick in the church office.

Wanted – Bedding for Open Church

We need the following for Open Church:

- Clean, serviceable, single duvet covers
- Clean, serviceable, pillowcases
- Clean, serviceable, single sheets
- Volunteers to arrange laundering each week, either at home or in a launderette

Any offers to Mike Taylor or the Church Office please.

New Children's Projects

We have begun a couple of new projects:

Play and Praise

A second toddler group with a Christian input and

Shipmates Cafe

This will be a group for under 10's to attend with their families. Parents will attend with their children but I also need support in the kitchen and packing up either on a weekly or rota basis.

The positions needed are:

Tuesdays 3.30 to 5.30

Support welcoming and serving refreshments.

Tuesdays at 5.30

An additional fit able bodied volunteer to help pack up bouncy castle.

If there is a possibility you could help even once a month please let me know.

Many Thanks,
Andrea Grainger
Children and Families' Pastor

Thank You...

...to everyone who supported the traditional tea and games afternoon. We all had a wonderful time and £120 was raised for the general church fund.

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 21st January

10.30 am Holy Communion
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

Sunday 4th February

09.00 am Shipmates
10.30 am Holy Communion
6.00 pm Sunday Supper

Monday 28th 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



Useful Contacts:

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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