

ST. SIMON'S NEWS



AUGUST 2009

**St. Simon's Church, Waverley Road,
Southsea. PO5 2PW**

Vicar:

Rev'd Matthew Holland
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Youth and Children's Worker:

Jo Borley
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Church Administrator:

Rejenna Graham

Church Office Hours:

Mon – Fri : 10 am – 12 noon
023 9282 9440

admin@stsimons-southsea.org.uk

Children and Youth

We have children's groups at all
10.30 services.

KISS at 9.30 on 1st Sunday every month
is specially for kids.

We have Youth Cells

There's also Football Club every other
Thursday at St. Luke's Sports Centre.

Contact Graham Farr on 9282 0418 if
you are interested.

Contact the Office or see website for
further information.

Community

Parents & Toddlers Mondays: 9.30-11 am
School term times only

Rendezvous (over 50s) at 2.30 pm on 1st
and 3rd Wednesdays of the month

Sunday Supper. Free.

Every Sunday at 6.30 pm

To find out about

Cell Church and other things we do,
visit:

www.stsimons-southsea.org.uk

Do you know about Portsmouth Churches
own Website?

www.portsmouthchurches.co.uk

Chantmarle

We all had a wonderful time at Chantmarle. Once again, a big 'Thank You' to all of you for helping to make it so special, and such fun! I truly believe that we caught a glimpse of the kingdom of Christ. Where else in modern society would you go to find such a diverse gathering of people... different ages, personalities and backgrounds doing such daft stuff together, and Jesus there in the midst of it all?

'The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, and a little child shall lead them' Isaiah 11.6

I see the church as a vessel that God is shaping to bring healing to a society that has sold or lost its soul and has become desperately sick in all sorts of ways. As they are discovering at Deal, Jesus restores and heals inwardly, but also outwardly as we practice what he preaches and wholeheartedly embrace life in community with all its sorrows and joys, its struggles and hopes and dreams.

It's strange the way the little text from **1 Peter 4. 8 - 11** kept cropping up. We do need to be wholehearted about what we do especially loving, speaking and serving, doing these things as for Jesus himself. If we are wholehearted about Jesus and wholehearted about the community he has called us to be part of then we will find healing and will become salt and light in the world.

Building Project

For me, Chantmarle further strengthened my resolve to press ahead with the building project. This great building will become the outward expression of this wonderful community that Jesus is shaping, in all its richness and variety with, at its still centre the life of of prayer, sacrament and attention to God's word.

I totally agree with those of you who say that opening up the building... having lots more people coming through the doors *in itself* won't achieve very much. The real point at issue isn't whether or not we should open up the building, but whether we are ready to make the most of the opportunities that *God is opening up for us* through the building. And that depends above all on the quality of our faith in Jesus, the Son of God. Do we believe in him? Do we believe in his gospel? If we truly believe in him and his gospel has become our gospel, then we will hardly be able to wait for the opportunities that opening up the building are going to bring. We will find that we have the resources of energy, creativity and love that we need.

Sunday Worship at St. Simon's		Preacher
2nd August Trinity 8		
09.30	KISS	Team
11:15	Holy Communion	Matthew Holland
9th August Trinity 9		
10.30	Morning Praise	Matthew Holland
16th August Trinity 10		
10:30	Holy Communion	Matthew Holland
23rd August Trinity 11		
10:30	Morning Praise	Colin Noyce
30th August Trinity 12		
10.3	Morning Praise	Michael Piper

August Diary

Tuesday 4th August

XCell Coffee Morning

Thursday 6th August

Cream Tea at the Vicarage

The City Churches Prayer Meetings take place every Wednesday at 6.30 a.m. Meetings in August are as follows:

5th Portsdown Hill 12th Guildhall Square

19th Round Tower 26th Guildhall Walk

Continued ...

I have been studying in church the thrilling story of the Acts of Jesus' first followers. In order to flourish and grow, they were willing to be stretched and changed as they followed Jesus out into a difficult and dangerous world. He is doing the same with us.

As I hope you will see when we unveil some plans in the autumn, we are not going to allow the building project to absorb all our energies, but will be reaching up to God and out into the community in new and imaginative ways. The PCC on July 16th approved a 'shopping list' of what we will be looking for in a renovated building. This will shortly be posted on the website. Do speak up if you think we have forgotten anything! The Project Team, after some more consultation will be commissioning an architect to turn these aspirations into a realistic, costed plan.

Thank you so much for all the forms which were returned to the Church Office on this subject. Please keep praying for the building project and for our ongoing mission.

Matthew

Rendezvous

Rendezvous does not meet in August. Meetings will resume on the first and third Wednesday of the month from September.

Social

XCell Coffee Morning

The ladies of XCell (Gail, Dinah, Chris, Sally and Lesley-Ann) invite friends from St. Simon's to join them for a regular coffee morning at Gail's home. We shall be holding this on the first Tuesday of each month, from 9.30-11.30 a.m., starting on Tuesday 4th August. Just come along! Please contact Gail on 9264 1214 if you would like further information.

Cream Tea at the Vicarage

We are holding a Cream Tea at the Vicarage on Thursday 6th August, from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Tickets are £5 for a Cream Tea with freshly baked scones, cream and jam and bottomless cups of tea or coffee! We haven't yet decided who will benefit from the proceeds, but it will be for a worthy cause! Tickets are available from Jayne Holland, Dinah Walters or the Rejenna in the Church Office.

Dinah Walters

Youth Focus

The summer is finally here!!! Shame we can't say the same about the weather. :-{

You will have seen in last month's news letter

that, very sadly, The Rock CYFA Venture had to be cancelled. The Rock has been cancelled due to low numbers; this year CPAS has seen a real lull in the number of teenagers signing up for camps. Please pray that this is just a blip, during these more economically challenging times.

This means that we have had to make quick changes to our summer plans. We are now heading to Shepton Mallet for the Soul Survivor B, festival. We are going on the 12th August for five days of worship, teaching, gigging, shopping, skating, but probably not sleeping!!!

So far we have 9 young people signed up for the trip, including three young people from St Jude's. Lisa Toon will also be joining us as a leader for the five days. We have booked out the minibus and we have a driver to take us, but we are still in need of somebody to bring us back. If you're free on Monday 12th August, are able to drive the Church minibus and feel like helping us out then please let me know, asap. It will be much appreciated.

There is still time for more young people to book onto the trip, so if you know of any teenager who might like to join us please do let me know.

The summer is also a time for all our hard working children's volunteers to have a well earned break. This does mean that the normal Sunday groups will not be happening during the month of August. I will be running an all-age group on Sunday 9th and 30th August, but there will be no supervised provision on the 16th or 23rd.

During the month of August I will also be planning for the exciting arrival of our gap year volunteer, Ofori. Ofori is joining us from Ghana, for one year to help develop the youth and children's work. As you all know, when joining a new church it can take some time to make friends. As Ofori is only with us for one year we need to take extra time and effort to make him feel part of St Simon's family. In light of this, there will be a sign up sheet in the church centre for the next month, if anyone would like to invite Ofori to their house for dinner, please take a look at the sheet and sign up for an available date.

Jo Borley

Christian Aid Week 2009

We have now got the final figure for how much we raised for Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week this year. We collected £1200.20 in cash and cheques, a further £150 in CAF vouchers

and, since so many people made their giving tax efficient, we raised a further £162.10 in reclaimable tax. This makes a grand total of **£1,512.30**. I know that some people had more difficulties than others but all who helped played their part: thank you to everyone.

Hugh Mason

KISS Picnic!

Sunday 2nd August, 9:30am meeting at St Simon's or 10am at Canoe Lake. In the past we have cancelled KISS for the month of August; this year instead of cancelling we are having a KISS picnic.

Bring some food, a drink & a blanket. There will be games and snacks available.

An event for all the St Simon's family.

Deadline for the September Newsletter

9 p.m., Tuesday 25th August to Dinah Walters on dinahwalters@gmail.com or telephone 9281 4599.

Sunday Suppers

Every Sunday night

Soup, sandwiches, cake and fruit.

Prayer and friendship

6 p.m. to 7.15 p.m.

Food served from 6.30.

Prayer

There will be prayer for Sunday Suppers from 6.15 to 6.30 p.m. each Sunday in the Church Lounge.

All very welcome.

