

# ST. SIMON'S NEWS

## NOVEMBER 2009



**St. Simon's Church, Waverley Road,**

**Southsea. PO5 2PW**

**Vicar:**

Rev'd Matthew Holland  
023 9273 3068  
matthew758@btinternet.com

**Youth and Children's Worker:**

Jo Borley  
023 9229 5739  
joanneborley@gmail.com

**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](http://www.stsimons-southsea.org.uk)

Do you know about Portsmouth Churches  
own Website?

[www.portsmouthchurches.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthchurches.co.uk)

**CHANGE FROM BELOW**

During October, in church we have taken a bit of a tour round the World. We were invited to contribute to the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box appeal; we went to Uganda to find out what has been happening with Joshua Radio, we went with a group of young men to build houses in Kenya and lastly some of us became 'Slum Survivors' for a weekend. This is Church... God's worldwide family, and it is good to know that we have been able to do something to bring comfort and hope to a few thousand of our struggling brothers and sisters. Nevertheless we can still feel paralysed and helpless as we look at the prospects for the human race as a whole, including our own children and grandchildren. The problems are so dauntingly huge.

As we discovered on Harvest Sunday when we looked at Jesus' sermon in the synagogue at Nazareth, He has come to change *everything*. (Luke 4) He does not want his beautiful world to perish, but to be changed. His gospel is about eternal life *and* temporal transformation, changed lives and transformed communities.

In my understanding, there are three kinds of actions that carry the promise and power of the Gospel of Jesus with them.

**Supporting the poor directly... helping them to help themselves.**

This is the most important, because the good news is actually not about turning the world into some gigantic welfare state, but enabling local communities to be self-sustaining. God ordained through Moses (Leviticus 25) that Israel would be the sort of society where everybody would be able to hold his head high... no more wage slavery or landless misery. So, we can continue to support small projects of immense local significance such as Joshua Radio which weaves the gospel in with farming tips and local news. We can support countless more such small development projects through Tearfund and Christian Aid, who usually work in partnership with local churches and other organisations.

**Campaigning politically to Change the Rules.**

The two most urgent issues are Climate Change and Trade Justice...the ongoing battle to give a fighting chance to communities and whole nations that have been left behind by the same system that fills our supermarket shelves and is turning large parts of Asia into a building site. (see again Tearfund and Christian Aid campaigns)

Continues

<b>Sunday Worship at St. Simon's</b>		<b>Preacher</b>
<b>1st November All Saints</b>		
09.30	KISS	Team
11:15	Holy Communion	Paul O'Gorman
<b>8th November Remembrance</b>		
10.30	Morning Praise	Michael Piper
<b>15th November 2nd before Advent</b>		
10:30	Holy Communion	Matthew Holland
<b>22nd November Christ the King</b>		
10:30	Morning Praise	Matthew Holland
<b>29th November Advent 1</b>		
10.30	Morning Praise	Matthew Holland

## November Diary

### Every Wednesday evening

Beer and Bible

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Half-term Light Party

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Standing Committee

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

XCell Coffee Morning, 9.30-11.30 at Gail's

All welcome- just turn up!

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Rendezvous

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November

Prayer for Mayville School

Ladies' Night Out

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Table Top Sale

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November

Travelling Library and Coffee Morning (10.30-12)

Rendezvous

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Prayer Ministry Team meeting

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Kathy's Coffee Morning

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November

PCC meeting

**The City Churches Prayer Meetings** take place every Wednesday at 6.30 a.m. Meetings in November are at the Salvation Army Citadel, Albert Road.

### Becoming ourselves the agents of Change from

**Below** Jesus said 'You are the light of the world. You are the salt of the earth' And he pronounced an extraordinary blessing upon 'the meek', that they should 'inherit the earth', and told the peacemakers and those that hunger and thirst for righteousness that they shall be satisfied. The Fairtrade Movement was very largely pioneered by Christians and it is a fantastic success. The famous logo can now be seen all over the place. Douglas Alexander said recently 'These are exciting times for the FAIRTRADE Mark, which is 15 years old this week. Sales in 2008 rose by 43% in the UK and 22% globally, helping more farmers and workers in the world's poorest countries to make a decent living'...and this in the teeth of the recession. One in four bananas sold are now fairly traded, and UK consumers eat 3 million Fairtrade bananas a day. Last week I saw a dazzling display of Fair trade ceramic bead necklaces made by a women's co-operative in Kenya... in the John Lewis store in Southampton.

However, I believe that Jesus wants to change more than our shopping habits. He wants to change us deeply so that we become agents of change on many levels. He wants to temper the power of the multinationals with the emergence of a multiplicity of nature-friendly and human-scale enterprises that strengthen family and community life and help all sorts of people to recover dignity and worth. He wants the Church itself to help to pioneer such 'social enterprises', new ways of doing business that turn the desert into a garden, and yet are thoroughly businesslike, able to survive in the market place and free of dependence on government or charitable handouts. A 'social entrepreneur' is someone who uses her gifts, skills and resources to bring change in this way. A friend of mine, Martin Clark, has recently published an inspiring book called 'The Social Entrepreneur Revolution', describing what can be achieved, and analysing the gifts and skills needed through his studies of success stories from all over the world. You are welcome to borrow my copy. Why am I so confident? Read the New Testament. Gospel change begins in the heart and works outwards. Nothing remains untouched. The great Awakenings of the 18th and early 19th Centuries bore fruit in profound social change.

Blessings, Matthew

## World Board

On display during November and December

### Oasis-En Gedi, Mexico

Gail Diani (John and Barbara's daughter) had the vision for this place of refuge when God called her to Mexico in 1995. En-Gedi was the place where David fled to, when King Saul was pursuing him. At this place, in the desert, David found safety, rest, fresh food and water. With this in mind, this project was so named, with the aim of creating a place where street children can go for exactly the same reasons.

Guadalajara, the second largest city in Mexico, has some 2,500 street children, some who return to poor homes at night, some who live totally on the streets. The project involves four stages in Rescuing, Restoring and Reintegrating the street children. Gail later married Chris Robbins and currently they are living and working in the United States, with Gail making regular visits back to Mexico.

### Barnabas Fund

Barnabas Fund serves the suffering church and makes their needs known around the world, encouraging prayer support. It provides practical help to strengthen and encourage the church in many different ways. Barnabas Fund supports Christian minorities that suffer discrimination and persecution around the world.

*Please take time to look at the display board and perhaps learn something new about an organisation you support.*

**Ruth Warner**

### Rendezvous

Rendezvous is an open meeting and all are welcome. Meetings start at 2.30 p.m. In the Church centre. Talks are followed by light refreshments and the opportunity to socialise.

**4<sup>th</sup> November:** Jenny Bartlett with a talk called "They kept the home fires burning" about the role of women in WW1.

**18<sup>th</sup> November:** Norman Jackson with an illustrated talk on the Crown Jewels.

Please contact Millie French on 9285 1490 for further information.

## Social

### Half-term Light Party

Looking for an alternative to a Halloween Party? Then come along to an **all-age Disco** on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October** at **Devonshire Avenue Baptist Church**, Devonshire Avenue, Southsea, at **6.30 – 10.00 p.m.** Tickets are £2.50 for adults, £5 for a family ticket (no unaccompanied children please). A no alcohol event but Hot Dogs, crisps, cookies and soft drinks available to purchase. Tickets can be bought on the door. This is a fund-raising event for the building fund of Family Church, Portsmouth. For more information please contact Katy Davis by leaving a message on 07913 605391.

### Grub Club

I have booked tables for the Christmas Grub on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at the Florence Arms, Florence Street, I don't yet have the menu but typically the price is £20-£25 for a two or three course meal with coffee and the food is excellent! Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to join us.

### Ladies' Evening Out

Ladies of St. Simon's - why not join us for a Chinese dinner at the Mayflower Restaurant on the corner of Castle Street? For £10 they offer as much as you can eat, although it's not a help yourself buffet (you have to buy a drink to qualify) and again, the food is very good. I will book tables for 7.30 to start at 8 p.m. on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November – please let me know by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> if you would like to come.

Dinah Walters Tel. 9281 4599

E-mail: [dinahwalters@gmail.com](mailto:dinahwalters@gmail.com)

### Kathy's Coffee Morning

Kathy Richardson is holding a coffee morning in aid of the Chernobyl Children and the Joshua Radio/Health Centre on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. at 48 Francis Avenue. Lots of lovely things to buy and great fellowship! Please come and support us – all are welcome.

### Chernobyl Children's Clothes

Nearly-new children's clothes in good condition can be given for all ages between 8-14 years. New underwear and donations also welcomed. Please give to Kathy Richardson.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

The church garden was entered in the "Portsmouth in Bloom" competition a few months ago (at the suggestion of one of the judges). Barbara Diani, who is responsible for the upkeep of the garden, heard on in October that the garden had received second prize in the church gardens category. She duly went to the Guildhall to receive her award on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

I received a letter from the Lord Mayor some months ago, in which she says that she lives in St Simon's Road, and often takes a short cut through to St Ronan's Road. She made very favourable comments about the garden and how much pleasure it gives her.

Millie French

## Shoe Box Collection 2009

The St. Simon's Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Collection 2009 is underway! See the display board in the Church Centre and take a leaflet to find out what it's all about. You can pack your own shoe boxes or alternatively come along to the **Shoe Box Social** on Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2-5pm in the Church Centre. Come and help wrap and pack shoe boxes. Free tea and cakes provided!

Donations of items to go in boxes welcome. To help remember what goes in the boxes a little rhyme:-

Something to cuddle  
Something to chew  
Something to play with  
Something to do  
To keep me warm  
Something to wear  
And £2.50 to get it all there

All filled boxes need to be taken to the Church Office between 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November. November 18<sup>th</sup> is the closing date.

Please take leaflets to give to friends, family and work colleagues - we can never have too many shoe boxes!

For more information see any member of Trinity Cell, or Ruth Taylor ( 023 9283 3318 ) On behalf of all the disadvantaged children who will receive the boxes....

Ruth Taylor

## Table Top Sale

If anyone would like to have a table at £5, please contact Linda O'Gorman on 9283 9323. Also, Linda needs a couple of volunteers to help load up the car at her flat in Southsea on the morning of the sale, at about 8 a.m., and to unload it at the church. The sale takes place from 10 a.m to 12 noon. Any contributions for sale can be left at the back of the Church in the pews, from 8<sup>th</sup> November onward. There will be light refreshments so do come along, and tell your friends!

## Beer and Bible

Beer and Bible is an informal time to have a drink and discuss the Bible. All are welcome. We meet every Wednesday evening, 8-10 p.m. at the Northcote Hotel, Francis Avenue, Southsea.

## Church Heating

As our old heating system is no longer usable and the new one has to await its incorporation into the church development project we have bought a temporary gas-fired system to use this winter. To keep down costs we have only bought one heater which will operate from the South side of the church, so it would be helpful if people would sit on that side, where it will be warmer. Also, on the first Sunday of each month, since numbers at the 11.15 Communion service are lower than at the other services and there is no need for projection on the screen, we will be holding those services in the Church Centre.

Michael Piper

## Prayer Ministry Team Meeting

The next meeting takes place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 7.45pm at 36 Nettlecombe Avenue.

For further details contact Alison and Malcolm  
Tel : 07714762012

## Pastoral Team

We have now moved our meetings to a Wednesday morning, in order that Jayne can attend. Peter Gibson has returned to the team, and Anne will attend when she is able to. Ofori now joins us once a month when we are praying for Jo & the youth/children's work. Alison is not able to attend as frequently as she did previously. Susan Brown is no longer a cell pastor, as she has left St Simon's. We wish her

every blessing in her new church. We have been looking at how we can, as a church, put "discipling people" into good effect. We are also trying to make sure we really do focus on pastoral matters rather than digressing into other areas.

Sue Piper

## Prayer for Mayville School:

5th November at 4.30 pm in the Church Lounge. All are welcome

## Sunday Suppers Prayer

Learning our lesson from Street Pastors, which has hugely benefited from prayer going on during the time they are on the streets, one or two of us are continuing to pray for Sunday Suppers beyond the set time of 6.15 to 6.30, until about 7.00 pm. If talking to the guests or helping in the kitchen is not your thing, do consider coming to join the prayer support.

Michael Piper

## Work Days

The members of the Fabric Committee want to say how grateful they are for all the help given by those dedicated DIY people and committed cleaners who have done such splendid work on the Work Days this year, and at other times. This is really appreciated, as it keeps the appearance up and the costs down.

## Whole Church Gathering

The Whole Church gathering on 11th November is cancelled due to the Choir Workshop for our 'Carols by Candlelight' this year."

## Christmas is coming .....

### Choir Workshops

A reminder that choir workshops take place on Wednesday evenings in November (11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>) and on Thursdays 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December, all from 7.30-9 p.m.

### Christmas Services

We warmly invite/encourage you to come to the family Christmas Carol Service on Sunday morning, 20<sup>th</sup> December, dressed as a character from the Nativity scenes – be it an angel, shepherd or sheep! Please see Gail if you'd like ideas ...

## Fratton Park Carol Service

On Monday December 21st in the evening, there will be a carol service held in Fratton Park Football stadium. The speaker will be J John and it is hoped that Christians will encourage their non Christian friends and families to come. More details to follow.

## Christmas Collections

The Church would like to invite members to propose charities for this year's Christmas Collections. If you have any suggestion please contact Rejenna or Matthew before the third Sunday in November.

## Christmas bags for Sunday Suppers

Once again we will be giving folk who come to Sunday Suppers some Christmas bags. We should be grateful for any of the following donations – Woolly hats, scarves, gloves, also vests/t-shirts/pants, both for men and ladies. Kindly leave in the box at the back of the church. Many thanks

Sue Piper

## Harvest Lunch Proceeds

The Harvest Lunch made a profit of £124, which will be paid into the Buildings Project Fund.

## Deadline for the December Newsletter

9 p.m., Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November to Dinah Walters on [dinahwalters@gmail.com](mailto: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.

