

# ST. SIMON'S NEWS

## DECEMBER 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

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**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)

### Annunciation

I love the story of the annunciation, the angel appearing to the young village girl who amazingly says 'Yes', even though she has every reason to fear this terrible request and what it could mean.

### Birth

In the depths of winter, Christ was born. As the years roll by, the Feast grows in significance for me. At the heart of the work of God is a great vulnerability, the decision of God to 'empty himself' to be born as one of us, putting himself at the mercy of darkened minds and hardened hearts. So the Holy Spirit of the Lord came upon Mary, a descendent of David and she conceived and bore a child. That was how it all began. That is how it always is.

### Beginning

*Could I ask you to do one very special thing over Christmas? Spend some time with God asking whether there is someone you could invite to the Alpha Course we are planning to start in January, probably on Wednesday evenings.*

- It could be a complete stranger. Stranger things have happened.
- However, the place to start is with your friends and acquaintances.
- Try to be open. You may have an idea of whether a person is 'ready' or not. But this Jesus thing is a work of God, deep in the spirit, your spirit and in the spirit of the person you ask..
- Don't try to force anything. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Watch and wait, and if it feels right, put the invitation.

*What is the Alpha Course?*

- We are planning to run the Alpha Course at St. Simon's beginning soon after Christmas, probably on a Wednesday evening. There will also be a city-wide Alpha Course running on a Monday evening.
- It consists of evening meetings, once a week for ten weeks. Each meeting consists of a meal, a short talk and a discussion about some topic to do with the faith. There is also a Saturday away half way through the course. It is not the end of the world if a person misses one or two of the meetings.

Continues

<b>Sunday Worship at St. Simon's</b>		<b>Preacher</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> December Advent 2</b>		
09.30 a.m.	KISS	Team
11:15 a.m.	Holy Communion	Matthew Holland
<b>13<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3</b>		
10.30 a.m.	Morning Praise	Matthew Holland
<b>20<sup>th</sup> December Advent 4</b>		
10:30 a.m.	Family Nativity	Jo, Gail and Team
<b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
11.30 p.m.	Midnight Communion	Michael Piper
<b>25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day</b>		
10.30 a.m.	Family Holy Communion	Jo Borley
<b>27<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
10:30 a.m.	Morning Praise	Matthew Holland

## December Diary

### Every Wednesday evening

Beer and Bible, 8 p.m. at the Northcote Hotel

### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December

XCell Coffee Morning, 9.30-11.30 at Chris Teutin's  
All welcome- just turn up!

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Rendezvous

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Prayer for Mayville School

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Grub Club

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Rendezvous

### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Christmas Carols at Fratton Park

**The City Churches Prayer Meetings** take place every Wednesday at 6.30 a.m. Meetings in December are at the Oasis Church, Arundel Street..

the course is open to anyone who is interested to explore Christianity for the first time, and also to Christians looking for a refresher.

- We don't pressure people. I see my job as to present people with an account of the faith, leaving them to make their own minds up.
- My prayer is always that the members of the group will become really good friends with one another so that they feel able to talk about the things that matter to them. The Saturday away can sometimes be very special indeed.

God be with you

Matthew

P.S. Don't forget that there is also Christmas Carols with J.John at Fratton Park, 7 p.m. on 21<sup>st</sup> December. You could bring your friends to that as well!

## 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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December:** Social afternoon with entertainment

**16<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Carols

Please contact Millie French on 9285 1490 for further information.

## Social

### Grub Club

I have booked tables for the Christmas Grub on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at the Florence Arms, Florence Street. The menu is on the Notice Board in the Church Centre. The deadline for booking was 30<sup>th</sup> November but there may be room at this late stage, so please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to join us. We have 20 people at the last count!

Dinah Walters Tel. 9281 4599

E-mail: dinahwalters@gmail.com

**Also** On 20<sup>th</sup> February there will be a Murder Mystery dinner in the Church Centre – make a note and await further information.

The February Fling will be on 27<sup>th</sup> February – tickets at £5 available in January from Dinah.

## Youth Focus

Since September and the arrival of Ofori we have been able to review and expand our work with children and teenagers both in St Simon's and in the community.

We have been involved in four Portsmouth schools taking part in assemblies, lessons, breakfast clubs and lunch time visits. So far, it has been fantastic! We are looking to increase this involvement even more. Schools work is a great opportunity to meet large numbers of children and young people that we would never meet simply through Church based activities. As Christmas gets closer we are also getting ready for the many school nativities and carol services which will be happening in St Simon's Church. Two schools have invited me to share a few words at the end of their service and all the schools have invited us to advertise our own services. Please pray that both these things will be very fruitful.

As we have been reviewing St Simon's ministry to young people we have been drawn to two opportunities to grow and develop. These ideas and plans are explained below, but for us to make them work we NEED volunteers.

### MID-WEEEK CLUB

We plan to start an exciting fun filled and Christ centered mid-week club for 8-11year olds, reaching out to the children in the community and local schools. This is a big age gap in our Church and we believe that there are children in this age bracket who would love to be involved

**Time: 4:30pm-6pm on Thursdays**

**Venue: St Simon's Church**

### HOLIDAY CLUB

We have an excellent group of children in Splash! on Sunday mornings and we have a good number of children who regularly attend KISS. We really want to target our holiday club at this group and encourage them to invite their friends to join in the fun!

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010**

**Time: 9:30-12 noon**

**Age Group: 4-8year olds**

If you are interested in getting involved with either of these two plans, please get in touch with Jo (023 9229 5739) or Ofori. We are very welcome to

volunteers who would like to help in part with either project, perhaps fortnightly or monthly, maybe you could do a couple of days for the holiday club?

Jo Borley

## Prayer for Mayville School:

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 4.30 pm in the Church Lounge. All are welcome.

## Mince Pie Sunday

As in previous years we would be most grateful to receive donations of mince pies on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December, for use at the services the following Sunday. If you would like to contribute, please bring your pies to the kitchen. This really does help with our catering – thank you in anticipation!

## Choir Workshops

A reminder that choir workshops take place on Wednesday evenings 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 Play

This will be on the 20th December at the 10.30 service. We would love to involve as many people as possible and we are looking particularly for shepherds and angels. You do not have to learn any lines. We are rehearsing on the three Saturdays before Christmas at 10.00am in the Church. These are 5th, 12th and 19th December. If you do not wish to be involved then perhaps you would consider coming to the service on 20th dressed in Old Testament costume. Many folk did it last year and we felt it contributed greatly to the atmosphere. More details from Jo Borley Kathy Richardson or Gail Chipperfield.

## Christmas Collections

Our special Christmas collections this year will be in aid of the 'Off the Record' and the 'Naval Military and Air Force Bible society' (NMAFBS). 'Off the Record' is a 'home' charity which provides free and completely confidential counselling, information and support to young people in Portsmouth and Havant aged 11-25. "

## 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 and also towels, shower gel, & shaving cream. Kindly leave in the box at the back of the church. Many thanks. Sue Piper

## Fratton Park Carol Service

This will be on Monday 21st December at 7pm at the Fratton Park Jobsite stand. Free entry. Mince pies and mulled wine are available in the marquee from 6pm. There is free car parking at stadium from 6pm. For more information call: 023 9277 6823



## Sunday Suppers - Sunday 27th December

Last year we asked for volunteers to work in the kitchen for Sunday Suppers, to give the usual team a break at Christmas. We should like to do the same again this year. We need folk to cut & butter bread, fill sandwiches and serve soup from 5.30pm until about 7.15pm. Anyone willing please contact either Sue Piper or Rejenna.

## Thank you for supporting ...

... The Shoe Box Collection 2009

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who contributed in any way to the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box campaign here at St. Simon's. We have had another successful year. On the day of the Shoe Box Social we went from 0 to 71 boxes just in that afternoon! Rejenna reports that over 100 boxes were collected by Samaritan's Purse. So well done everyone, I know all the festive boxes will be enjoyed by children around the world. Next year we will do it all again, so keep knitting and collecting bits and pieces to go in next year's boxes! Happy Christmas!

Ruth Taylor and Trinity Cell Group

## ... Joe and Rejenna

With your wonderful and generous support in sponsors and prayer, we have in total raised £384 for Street Pastors this year by running the Great South 10-miles Run. It was a great day with beautifully sunny weather and lots of blessings. We crossed the finish line six minutes quicker than last time! Quite a number of runners took notice of us when they saw the words 'Street Pastors' on our T-Shirts, some of them even asked us to pray for them.

Thank you so much for your support!

Joe & Rejenna Graham

## ... Kathy's Coffee Morning

This was a great success and we made £250 including donations. A stall at the table top sale made a further £85 with donations, so we made a grand total of £335. Many thanks for all your support. May the Lord bless you as we have blessed both the Chernobyl children and Joshua Radio/Health Centre.

Kathy Richardson

## Deadline for the January Newsletter

9 p.m., Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 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.

