

# ST. SIMON'S NEWS

## JANUARY 2010



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)

### In the Beginning.....

The prologue of St. John (John 1. 1 - 18) must be one of the most extraordinary passages ever to have been written. I picture John gasping and staring almost in unbelief at the words on the page. He sits, tempted almost beyond endurance to erase or drastically modify what he has just written.

For in a few brief sentences he declares:

1. Jesus, Son of Mary, his crucified teacher, to be the uncreated Word, the Logos through whom the very universe and everything in it was made. He looks into his own soul and sees in its depths the reflection of this same generative Light who is before all things, yet who is also, impossibly the face of the Master he has loved.
2. ...that to all who receive him, God gives the power to become themselves children of God, to know and experience the glory of God even here upon earth, and to receive such an abundance of grace and truth in Christ that they become the very embodiment of the sacred law once given to Moses.
3. ...and yet I am close to tears because I also read in this same passage that many will reject... will simply refuse to receive the One who comes so graciously among us.

I feel that our experience these days echoes this prologue more than ever. There is a deepening awareness of Jesus in the church, even here at St. Simon's. People tell me of their dreams and revelations, of their sense of his presence among us. I have a constant longing within me to go deeper, '*to know even as I am fully known*', to become more aware the love of God for me and for all creatures. This vision of the love of God suffuses my understanding of the building project. My longing is not just to save the building, but to see it used well, to see it as an expression of this life that has come into the world, that Jesus has come to restore in and among all of us. I want to see the building buzzing with life, and not just on Sundays, and also alive as a place of prayer and stillness. That is why this great effort to increase our level of weekly giving, to raise a lot of extra money to see the building project through, and to keep reaching out with Christ's love to our neighbourhood is all one spiritual challenge. Colin will be speaking some more about this challenge on January 24th.

Continues ...

<b>Sunday Worship at St. Simon's</b>		<b>Preacher</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> January Christmas 2</b>		
09.30 a.m.	KISS	Team
11:15 a.m.	Holy Communion	Matthew Holland
<b>10<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany</b>		
10.30 a.m.	Morning Praise	Jan Ransom
<b>17<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 2</b>		
10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Matthew Holland
<b>24<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 3</b>		
11.30 p.m.	Morning Praise	Colin Noyce
<b>31<sup>st</sup> January Healing Service</b>		
10.30 a.m.	Morning Praise	Matthew Holland

## January Diary

### Every Wednesday evening

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

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

Rendezvous  
Alpha Course begins

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Standing Committee

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

Rendezvous  
Travelling Library and Coffee Morning,  
10.3-12 in the Church Centre

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Burns Night

\*\*\*\*\*

**The City Churches Prayer Meetings** take place every Wednesday at 6.30 a.m. Meetings in January are at St. Simon's Church.

Continued

However there is also the reminder that Christ is rejected. The love of many in these days has grown cold. We can see this in the nation. It affects the church too. It is so important that we don't harden our hearts towards one another or towards the world beyond the church. God came among us in love. We love him back by loving one another, and discovering God in one another in all our strangeness and quirkiness.

As I write, we are only half way through Christmas. I'm loving it, all the special music, the ska Calypso Carol, 'singing with the angels', the light, colour, hot punch, mince pies and our dramatic efforts too. Thank you so much, all of you for your love, your prayer, your hard work in this season of Christ's birth.

Matthew

## 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.

6<sup>th</sup> January Light-hearted quiz

20<sup>th</sup> January "Pub Signs" - Steve Harris

Please contact Millie French on 9285 1490 for further information.

## Social

### Burns Night

Once again we invite you to try out our haggis and your Highland Fling! Tickets are £5 which includes a traditional Burns Night supper and dancing. Please see Gail for tickets and more information.

### February Fling

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

## World Board

Welcome to 2010 and our first display of the year. We will be featuring most of the

organisations we supported last year, with just one or two changes. Please take time to read the board and learn about the charities so thankful for our support. We hope to soon have a second, smaller board up on which we can display news items about all our charities throughout the year. Over the year we have a lot of extra information come in and do not have space on the main board to display it.

The two organisations that we are featuring in January and February are **The Outlook Trust** and **Flame International**. These will be on the board from 5th January and both have links to St Simon's.

**Outlook Trust** is an evangelistic organisation in the UK reaching older people for Christ. They provide resources, training materials and encouragement for people sharing their faith with the older generation. Leviticus 19 verse 32 says 'Show respect for old people and honour them. Fear me; I am the Lord'. With a growing older population there are more and more people out there to be reached. **Millie French** is our Outlook representative here at St Simon's and she is able to tell you more about what is available. She also runs 'Rendezvous' for the over 50's twice a month.

**Flame International** works in some of the worst war-torn countries in Africa to bring God's healing, forgiveness and reconciliation to the people there. The organisation was founded in 2003 by **Jan Ransom**, whom many of you will know as well as her mother, Ray. Flame's vision is 'To reach out to broken and hurting people in the poorest countries of the world'. They seek to bring healing to individuals and their land. Jan and the team make several trips overseas to these countries every year and it is amazing to read of the miracles that happen and God's amazing work in the worst of situations.

Jan will be in church to speak at the morning service on **SUNDAY 10th January**. Try and be there to hear her wonderful testimony of God at work.

Anne Gibson

## Cell Pastors

We pray every week for each other and also for people in cells as well as those not in cells. In addition, over the last few weeks we have been looking at day time ministry and the pattern of corporate prayer. We are concerned that some church members, especially those who are not

fit enough to come to church, may have needs we don't hear about and also that there is inadequate cover for pastoral emergencies when Matthew is not immediately available. We are going to make a start by telephoning people we don't often see and asking them if they are in regular touch with someone who usually comes to church and if not, whether they would like to be. Once Matthew has purchased his mobile phone number will be given out on the church answer phone message, instead of Matthew's office number. Matthew could then pass the phone on to someone else from the pastoral team when he is unavailable.

We have had a number of interesting discussions about corporate prayer - i.e. prayer where a group of people are praying together. We are all different and whereas some find information about prayer topics helpful others find it distracting and prefer to just get on with praying when we gather together. We recognise that prayer is most effective when people have a particular interest in what they are praying for. Our attempts to organise a church prayer meeting at a time when theoretically most people are available has proved unsuccessful in practice. We are therefore considering a varied approach to corporate prayer. Groups that already meet (e.g. cells) will be encouraged to consider whether they want to pray regularly for one of the individuals or groups the church supports; people will be encouraged to join in praying for the service before the start of every Sunday morning service; and we will see if it is possible to start a daytime prayer group.

Peter Gibson

## Church Building Project Fund

As you are aware St Simon's intends to start the first phase of a major building project in the near future and there have been some enquiries on how members can financially contribute towards that work.

To that end the Treasurer has set up a separate fund within the church accounts for anyone who wishes to give towards this project. You can do this by the normal church means, by Dave's "pigeon hole" in the church office or contacting Dave Howell directly, (Mobile 07886 999986) but please ensure that you have clearly marked the envelope for Church Building Project. Cheques should be made payable to "St. Simon's Church".

## **Deadline for the February Newsletter**

9 p.m., Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 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.

