

ST. SIMON'S NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010



St. Simon's Church, Waverley Road,

Southsea. PO5 2PW

Vicar:

Rev'd Matthew Holland
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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

Kingdom Giving

From Rev. Colin Noyce's Sermon preached 24th January 2010

2009 was quite an eventful year for St. Simon's Church. After a great deal of prayer over the years, but particularly concentrated last year, a vision for the future of our church building and therefore the Church itself, was formed. The PCC engaged the congregation by asking for views and for answers to prayer, all of which culminated in the decision to employ an architect and begin to make the building more comfortable, more welcoming, more accessible, more useful for outreach and caring for the needs of the people of this community in which we live. Exciting stuff! It was also eventful in another sense because that same PCC was faced with the fact that spending was fast exceeding income. This caused them to look very carefully at ordinary every day costs and any plans for the future. This brought about the realisation that before we can do anything we need to ask ourselves:- How deep is my commitment to the God who gave His all for me?

Firstly we should be encouraged that this Church has quite a good record of financial giving; we never fail to meet the large amount paid to the Diocese each year for running costs and for the payment and pensions of the clergy. As a Church we give away a good proportion of our income and often give generously to extra appeals that come along and this is good. But it is not enough and the question we must ask ourselves is:- Am I personally doing enough, all that I can, in giving of my money and also my time and talents in the service of Our Lord?

We read in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians (who excelled in most things) how he encouraged them to excel also in their giving after the example of the Macedonian Church who gave sacrificially as much as they could and beyond. How does your giving match up to that? And in St. Mark's gospel chapter 12, we hear of Jesus watching the people putting their offering into the temple treasury and seeing a poor widow give all she had to live on. How would you feel if Jesus was there watching what you give each week?

... Tithing is a universal ancient custom which the teaching of the Old Testament picked up on and held as a good way to begin to give. Then of course Jesus Himself accepts this and refers to it when He berates the teachers of the Law and Pharisees for being hypocrites and so He commends it as a way to live and to give; after all He

came to complete the Law not to abolish it! When asked to re-examine their giving and knowing that Our Lord cares about families and loved ones, some will say - "Well I have a big mortgage to pay and a family to feed etc., etc.". Well do you remember the guy who said that he would follow Jesus but must first go bury his father? Jesus said, "Let the dead bury the dead, you come follow me!"

It's a tough business this Christianity if we do it right but there's nothing else like it in the world and there's no one who cares for us more than our Heavenly Father. Jesus also said that if you're concerned, above everything else, with the Kingdom of God and what He requires then all other things will be given to you. Of course that doesn't mean that we give irresponsibly but we should be thinking about giving sacrificially.

Over the years I have been associated with Churches and Charities that have raised a lot of money for various projects and in every case it was not about rich benefactors or rich or poor areas but about the commitment of ordinary people like you and me. Whether extending the Church building in Four Marks, raising money for the Mission to Seafarers in Africa and Trinidad or to create a new operating theatre in the Eye Clinic in Yemen, the same thing has applied. The people have been committed to God, to the task in hand and good stewards of all the Lord has given them. You see, the response to God comes first and this leads to the response to the need, rather than the other way round. Read King David's words in the first Book of Chronicles chapter 29 when he grasped the true immensity of God and praised Him for the gifts given for the building of the temple in Jerusalem. We're really talking of the practical application of the Biblical teaching about commitment of life in response to the outgoing Love of God. That response of giving must be regular and constant, not just 'one offs', the 'one offs' are needed for emergencies and come from our abundance, like responding to the need in Haiti at present and our need for start-up money for the building project. Normal giving, regular and constant is essential.

... It has been my experience and I'm sure that of many of you, that when we get our priorities right and put God first by exercising good stewardship and giving Him the first fruits of all that we have (not the last little bit left over) we find that, when it's needed, there is always a little bit more to come because our loving Father multiplies all that we give so that there is an abundance.....

St. Paul says that the Macedonians, although extremely poor, begged to be allowed to share

in the giving for the needs of fellow Christians. I could quote several examples of such sacrificial giving over past years as a Minister of Christ all of them wonderful examples. The strange thing is that so often, if there is a hitch in your Christian growth it is to do with your stewardship of money and it is hard to set aside a particular proportion of all you have. To do so requires a relinquishment of control, a trust in the leader, in the PCC you've elected, but above all it requires a faith in God and His love that transforms obedience into joyful release. It's not about giving reluctantly or under compulsion "for God loves a cheerful giver", says St. Paul and the Greek word he uses is 'hilarious' Are you that glad to give?

The message then, in all of this? Yes! we need to increase our giving in order to keep this Church running as it is. Yes! we need to raise a very large sum to turn the building into a useful tool for evangelism. But what I really want to impress upon you is that this WILL ALL COME if, first and foremost we put our faith in Jesus and truly seek the Kingdom of God.

.... Proper giving is essential to our development as Christians and as a Church, so essential that there is no adequate substitute. Why? because it is as much a part of Christian gratitude and obedience as any commandment God ever gave. The only way to discover the transforming power and experience the joys is to DO IT and do it right now then see just what our Gracious God will do! Fantastic!!

| Sunday Worship at St. Simon's | | Preacher |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| 7th February | | |
| 09.30 a.m. | KISS | Team |
| 11:15 a.m. | Holy Communion | Matthew Holland |
| 14th February | | |
| 10.30 a.m. | Morning Praise | Matthew Holland |
| 21st February | | |
| 10:30 a.m. | Holy Communion | Matthew Holland |
| 28th February | | |
| 10.30 a.m. | Morning Praise | |

February Diary

Every Tuesday morning

Tuesday Time Together

Every Wednesday evening

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

Wednesday 3rd

Rendezvous

Thursday 4th

Prayer for Mayville School

Monday 8th

Quiz Night at the White Horse

Wednesday 10th

East Southsea Neighbourhood Forum

Thursday 11th

Sunday Suppers Team meeting

Wednesday 17th

Rendezvous

Travelling Library and Coffee Morning,
10.30-12 in the Church Centre

Saturday 27th

February Fling

The City Churches Prayer Meetings take place every Wednesday at 6.30 a.m. Meetings in February are at Drayton Community Centre.

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.

3rd February Concert by Dorothy and Friends

17th February The history and work of The Children's Society - Dennis Moore

Please contact Millie French on 9285 1490 for further information.

Social

Quiz Night at the White Horse

Come and make up a team for the regular Quiz Night at the White Horse pub, Southsea Terrace (at the back of the Common, by Castle Road). It's free to enter and they offer free half time snacks. The evening starts at about 7.30 so come in good time for that.

February Fling

The February Fling takes place on 27th February – at the Irish Club in Elm Grove. It's a disco of mostly golden oldies and the music isn't so loud that you can't hear yourself talk! We raise money every year for Macmillan Cancer Support. Tickets are £5, available from Dinah and Anthea. There will be a raffle on the night.

Prayer for Mayville

The next prayer for Mayville school meeting is on Thursday 4th March at 4.30pm in the Church Lounge. All are welcome.

Tuesday Time Together

This will be held every Tuesday, starting on 9th February, from 10 a.m. until approximately 11 a.m., in the South Room. It will be a time when we let the Spirit lead us into open worship, waiting on God and listening to Him. Also, we shall pray for any special requests given to us each week. Do hope you can join is – even if not every week – you will be welcomed whenever you are able to come.

Contact Kathy Richardson for more information.

East Southsea Neighbourhood Forum

This forum meets again in the Church Centre on Wednesday 10th February at 7 pm. St Simon's supplies tea and coffee at the start, which is much appreciated. If you have never been, do give it a try, as we learn about what's going on in the neighbourhood, what the police are doing & you can bring up ideas for discussion if there is something bothering you. The present discussion is about cycle paths along the sea front. Come and have your say! I believe Jeremy Brown is the new Chairperson.

Sue Piper

Sunday Suppers Team Meeting

This will be held on Thursday 11th February at 7.30pm in the South Room.

Celebration of marriage

All who think marriage is a good thing are invited to a celebration of marriage in the Church Centre on Friday 5 March at 8pm. It will include film clips, entertainment, light refreshments and information about the Marriage Course being run at St Jude's in April, May and June. There will be no charge, but if you would like to come please tell the Church Administrator beforehand.

Michael Piper

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 5th March, 2010.

The day will be marked by events at

10.30 a.m. St. Mark's Church,
Derby Road, North End
7.30 p.m. Salvation Army Citadel
Albert Road, Southsea

The theme this year is:

"Let Everything that has breath praise God"

More details next month.

Christmas Gifts for Sunday Suppers

Thank you to all who gave gifts or vouchers for our Sunday Suppers Christmas bags. Our guests were truly delighted with their gifts. We also received vouchers at the Carol Service at St Mary's and these will be used through the year for those in need & then go towards the Christmas bags next Christmas. We now have a short look at the Bible after Sunday Suppers, and get a regular 4-7 people staying for this. Do pray that this will bear fruit. We also meet to pray for Sunday Suppers every 1st Thursday in the month at the Bazleys'. If you are interested in coming, please ask for further details.

Sue Piper

Milk Bottle Tops

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate their milk bottle tops. However, someone is still leaving bags of them which also include tops from squash, peanut butter and other jars. Please note: for some reason, **these are not acceptable** and I have to spend time picking through the tops and sorting out the ones which can't be used. I'd much appreciate it if they weren't included. Thank you.

Dinah Walters

Deadline for the February Newsletter

9 p.m., Tuesday 23rd February to Dinah Walters at 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.



