

# St. Simon's News

## March 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)

## Treasure

A couple of Sundays ago our Holy Communion service was devised and led by our children and teenagers, with a little bit of help from Jo, Ofori and myself. The youth band provided the musical input, as they now regularly do on a third Sunday. It was great. I see what happened as a sign of what God is doing in the church, a further taste of what we saw even more fully and richly at our parish weekend at Chantemarle. God is bringing the generations together. He wants the young people to take their full place and play their full part in the body of Christ alongside the rest of us.

If the church really is that amazing earth-transforming gathering we have been reading about in the last few months in Ephesians.. *the body of Christ... God's household* on earth, then for this to work well, all the parts need to be getting to know one another, 'delighting in the differences' learning and working together in glorious harmony and contrast, just as was happening in those little gatherings of uptight Jews, dodgy gentiles, crafts women and men, slaves, merchants, soldiers that were springing up in the cities of Greece and Asia Minor in the time of Paul.

Of course, that does not mean you throw order and tradition out of the window. Bad behaviour is bad behaviour. There is teenage bad behaviour... and there is thoroughly respectable bad behaviour. But let us be very wary of poking around in one another's eyes.

In the last chapters of Ephesians there is a strong sense that the traditional values that underpinned family and community life for Greeks and Jews and everybody else have not just been abandoned. The difference was and is that the 'moral centre' has shifted from a set of rules and customs to.... JESUS HIMSELF!

Once a community receives Jesus as Christ and God, accepts by faith what he has done for us and begins to take him seriously, HE BECOMES OUR LIGHT, who we study eagerly and seek to honour and please with all our might and main. He himself exposes the darkness in us, shows us how to deal with it and causes everything good, lovely and wholesome to glow with the inward fire (Eph 5. 2- 14)

Continues/...

<b>Sunday Worship at St. Simon's</b>		<b>Preacher</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
09.30 a.m.	KISS	Team
11:15 a.m.	Holy Communion	Matthew Holland
<b>14<sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday</b>		
10.30 a.m.	Morning Praise	Matthew Holland
<b>21<sup>st</sup> March</b>		
10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Matthew Holland
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
10.30 a.m.	Morning Praise	Matthew Holland

## March Diary

### Every Thursday

Parents' Discipleship group (with creche)

### Tuesday 2nd

Fabric Committee meeting

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Women's World Day of Prayer

### Wednesday 3rd

Rendezvous

### Thursday 4th

Prayer for Mayville School

### Wednesday 10th

Annual General Meeting

### Friday 12th

Ladies' Night

### Tuesday 16th

Men4God

### Wednesday 17th

Rendezvous

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

### Thursday 25th March

Grub Club - the Florence Arms

### Monday 29th

Standing Committee meeting

**Don't forget to check the Church website for up-to-date information!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**The City Churches Prayer Meetings** take place every Wednesday at 6.30 a.m. Please contact Matthew for details of venues.

Continues

What happens is that if we can only learn to stop holding each other at a distance, but instead to bless and encourage one another in this wonderful relationship with Jesus, he does the rest. It is his work.

I once heard a story about a 'post-modern' type of congregation that made a curious discovery. This motley bunch of mostly twenty-somethings with their facial jewellery and bad upbringings used to meet, explore the scriptures and worship in a variety of weird ways of a Sunday night in an old, run-down episcopalian church somewhere in down-town Los Angeles.

One night a couple of them began to root around in the pews and came upon some copies of a funny little old book. They began to read the quaint language with mounting excitement and eventually went to look for their leader. 'Why don't we start using this? It's great.' The little book was called 'The Book of Common Prayer'

But when did you last let a teenager show you some treasures from his world?

Matthew Holland

## 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.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March** Concert by Dorothy and Friends

**17<sup>th</sup> March** The history and work of The Children's Society - Dennis Moore

Please contact Millie French on 9285 1490 for further information.

## Social

### Ladies' Night, Friday 12th March

Gail is hosting an evening for the ladies of St. Simon's, from 7.30 p.m. All ladies are very welcome to come along – please see Gail or ring her on 9264 1214. It's a case of bringing a plate of food to share and a bottle of what you would like to drink.

### Grub Club returns to the Florence Arms

Not content with having our annual Christmas dinner at the Florence Arms, we thought we'd

go back for an "ordinary" meal out. The date is Thursday 25th March and I will book tables for 7.30 p.m. They offer typical pub-style meals in their cosy restaurant. Please contact Dinah on 9281 4599 or [dinahwalters@gmail.com](mailto:dinahwalters@gmail.com) if you'd like to join us.

## **Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.**

LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE GOD

Services at

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

This year the service is prepared by the Christian women of Cameroon. Cameroonian women are involved in the struggle for peace, justice and integrity. There seems to be no equal rights for women for inheritance in or employment. Of great concern in the land are malaria, poverty and malnutrition, child trafficking and proper education.

Yet in spite of all this, the women say "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

Please come to one of the services if you can. All are welcome – men, women and children.

## **Maundy Thursday – Passover Meal**

It is St Simon's turn to host Passover Meal on Maundy Thursday, 1st April this year. We will invite St Jude's church to join us as usual. We need someone to run it with a team. If you are interested to take part in preparing this special event, please contact Rejenna. We already have a couple of people signed up to help. Last time, Jayne did it really well with help from Alireza and the youth group and others. This year the meal begins at 6 pm and Holy Communion at 7.30 pm.

## **World Board**

We would like to draw your attention to a new board which has been put up next to the World Board. On this we hope to feature any updated information on all the charities we support, including thank-you letters we receive.

On the World Board are the following charities:

### **Street Pastors**

These were pioneered in London in January 2003 by Rev. Les Isaac, Director of the Ascension Trust, and have seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime in areas where teams have been working. Each city project is set up by Ascension Trust and run by a local co-ordinator with support from the Trust, local churches and community groups, in partnership with the police, council and other statutory agencies. Elly Mulvany is our Portsmouth co-ordinator. Several people in St. Simon's are on Street Pastor teams that go out on the streets on Friday and Saturday nights while others support them in prayer. Their vision is to change the "climate" on the streets by offering "God's first aid" - time and love, helping people in need who are often referred by the police or door staff.

### **CMS (Church Missionary Society)**

This was founded in 1799 as the Church Missionary Society. CMS is an international fellowship of Christians doing local mission around the world. CMS supports people in mission in 30 countries and has mission involvement in 60 countries. God's love is shared among people by mission partners filling ordinary roles in society. Tasks of caring are done with local people and in ways appropriate to them. Support and development is a two-way process, involving exchange of prayer, people and money. Mission partners, people who work in different parts of the world, need our support in prayer. Our mission partners in St. Simon's are John and Rachel Waters, with their children, Connie and William, and they work in the Middle East.

Ruth Warner and Anne Gibson

### **Ebenezer Cell**

As you may know, Ebenezer Cell is a group of men who have in common an interest in performing small "DIY" jobs, among others things.

Our emphasis is on performing small one-off jobs for those who would benefit from some practical help and who would otherwise be unable to get the work done affordably.

If you know of someone who would benefit from our help, please speak to Mick Walters or Michael Piper in the first instance.

## Singing Workshops

Paul Freathey will be leading a series of Singing Workshops in May, together with Janet, who has worked with our choir previously. The workshops will cost £3.50 and will culminate with a grand finale on Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May at 10.30! More details to follow.

## Pastoral Team

Recent discussions by the Team, meeting now on Wednesdays at 9.30, have centre around devising a better system for the Sunday Support Teams and reviewing Matthew's plan to introduce a discipleship concept into the way our small groups operate.

## Celebration Of Marriage

The event announced in the last newsletter for 5th March, related to St Jude's plan to run the Marriage Course, has had to be postponed; we hope to have it later in the year, possibly in July.

## Mayville Prayer

We meet again on Thursday 4th March at 4.30pm in the Church Lounge to pray for Mayville School. All are welcome.

## Sunday Suppers

One kind person nominated Sunday Suppers to Waitrose, to be one of their local charities for the month. We have now received a gift of over £400, for which we are so very grateful.

Sue Piper

## Television

We have a black Sanyo 20" approximately screen TV going spare. We don't want anything for it but it would be nice if the buyer could make a donation to the Building Fund. We will deliver if in Southsea or Portsmouth.

Diane and Gorik Melikian

## Electoral Roll

A revised Electoral Roll is on the Church door at Centre.

## Rotas

Sunday Support and Service Rota (March to May) is on the Welcome table at the Centre, for those who are on the Rota & requires paper copy, please pick up your Rota. You can also find it from St Simon's website.

## Easter Collection

Our Easter Collections this year will support the Bishop's Appeal.

## Deadline for the April Newsletter

9 p.m., Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to Dinah Walters at [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.

