

Southsea September

11th and 18th of September

Back to Church Sunday. Back to Church Sunday has been going in this country for a few years, but up till now it has passed us by. Our invitations to people to join us at church have been limited to cards posted round the parish at Christmas and Easter. The trouble with those is that they're impersonal, and what really has an impact is a personal invitation. **This year, on 25 September,** we are joining with churches all over the country which observe Back to Church Sunday. More than 150,000 people have returned to church since the first Back to Church Sunday in 2004 – enough to fill Wembley Stadium and the Emirates Stadium put together!

"It's the shortest step in evangelism;" says the Bishop of Hertford, the Rt Rev Paul Bayes, "invite **someone you know to something you love: 'Would you like to come to church with me?'** And year after year, **people are responding positively."**

Simple, isn't it? But if we're honest we hesitate to ask a neighbor to come to church with us; perhaps because we are anxious about what they will think of us. The truth is that most people are pleased to be asked, whether they accept the invitation or not, and there are lots of people around who have had some link with Church in the past and would readily respond to a prompt to give it a try again; the reason why we hesitate is largely because we are made to feel anxious by the one who doesn't want more people to come and meet with Jesus. So what we have to do is consider who we might ask, pray about it and then just do it, using the invitation cards in the Church. It's wonderful to have that experience of God giving us the courage and freedom to take this small step in his name. What happens after that is in God's hands. If



they only come once, at least they know who we are, and the door is left ajar. If they don't come, it will have made them think, and God will use that sometime.

Michael

Many Thanks to all who took part in the



Prayers for the Building Project on Friday evening, and all who attended the Gift Day on Saturday. All of your prayers are greatly appreciated... and more information will follow soon! **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”** [Jeremiah 29:10-12](#)

RENDEZVOUS @ ST SIMON'S

Although this club is possibly aimed at the older age group, the meetings are open to people of any age who are interested in attending. There is no membership fee or obligation - come if you can, and if the subjects of talks are of interest to you. You will find a friendly welcome, and people who are young at heart. Added to this, we also serve tea and cake!

The next meeting is on Wednesday 21st September at 2.30pm when we have an informal service of Harvest Thanksgiving. Will we see you there?

VISIT OF MARILYN BAKER

This nationally noted singer/songwriter is visiting St Jude's Church in Southsea on Thursday, September 29th at 13.30hrs. Marilyn will be accompanied by Tracey Williamson. Marilyn is blind, and Tracey is profoundly deaf, and the way they work together is wonderful.

If you have never been blessed by hearing Marilyn, then come along on that day. She is a truly amazing lady, with a mischievous sense of humour! This is a great opportunity to invite someone you know who does not regularly attend church, or who is seeking. There is no charge, but a love offering will be taken. See Millie French for further details

Arts and Crafts Extravaganza!

We plan to hold an Arts and Crafts fair in aid of the Building Fund sometime in the late autumn... so please get creating whatever you love to create now so that we'll have lots of lovely things to sell. Baked goods / chutneys/jams etc will be welcome too.

Don't despair if you're not arty/crafty - there will be other ways you can get involved if you would like to! Watch this space for date and time!

Bubbles - Wha-wha (Baby crying!) – Bubbles needs some Volunteers! Only once a month on the 4th Sunday and is not at all arduous. Jo would also like to have Bubbles on the 3rd Sunday, which at present is not covered, so if anyone feels they could help, please see Jo Borley. Thanks Sue Piper

Mini-Bus Trip to Oxford - Dave is taking the Mini-Bus to Oxford on Saturday 17th September, departing the Church car park at 9:00am. There are seats still

available, at the suggested donation of £8. If you are interested, please contact Dave or Anthea on 02392 753 850 or mob: 07886999986.

Mission Board Challenge!

Here is a challenge for you! When you choose to give money, say to church or any charity or organisation, do you pray regularly for those to whom you have given? Or do you not notice that money is going out once a month to an organisation? I am sure we are all guilty at times of not thinking about money we give once we've set up a standing order/direct debit or written a cheque.

Here at St Simon's we choose charities to support with a percentage of our income. They are carefully chosen and thought and prayed about and when we feature them on the Mission Board it is to bring them to your attention and for you to pray about where your money is going. We challenge you to read the board at least once a month and to find some aspect of those shown to pray about. That way we all have ownership of where the church's money is going.

Very soon we will be considering which charities/organisations to support in the next two years. Please pray for us as we carefully and prayerfully make those choices on your behalf.

The new charities featured on the board from 6th September will be **The Youth of St Simon's** and **The Bible Society**. We will be celebrating **Bible Sunday** on **Sunday 16th October**. - Anne Gibson & Ruth Warner

Calendar

WEEKLY GROUPS:

Parent & Baby Club (Mondays 9.30 – 11am in Church Centre)

Parent Time (Cell Group for Parents with Crèche: Monday's 1 - 2.30pm tel: 92733068)

Youth Cell (Monday evenings: tel 92295739)

Tuesday Time Together (Praise and Prayer 10 a.m. in Church Lounge)

City Churches Prayer Meeting (Wednesdays 6.30 a.m.)

Beer and Bible (Wednesday, ask Kev or Rob)

Sunday Morning Worship with Children's Groups (see back page)

Sunday Suppers + Sunday Extra (Sunday nights 6 to 7.15pm)

There are also a variety of **Small Groups** for adults for discipleship, prayer and support. Phone Church Office on 92829440 or you can find a [list of our currently running groups](#) on our website.

Other Events:

Sat 17th Sept: Mini bus Trip to Oxford

Wed 21st Sept: Travelling Library, LCC, 10:30m

Wed 21st Sept: Rendezvous, LCC, 2:30pm

Thurs 22nd Sept: Sunday Team Leaders Meeting

Saturday 8th Oct: Church Work Day (am only)

If you would like more details of any of the events listed in 'Calendar' ... please phone the Church Office, open 10am - 12 weekdays. Or visit the Calendar on our website: www.stsimons-southsea.org.uk

For Youth and Children's Activities speak to Jo Borley (92295739)

Useful Contacts:

Matthew Holland (Vicar)

02392 733068

Joanne Borley

02392 295739

(Youth and children's' worker)

Church Office

02392 829440



Sunday Services



Sunday, September 11th

10.30 AM Morning Praise Service

6:30 PM Sunday Supper + Sunday Extra

Sunday, September 18th

10.30 AM Morning Service and Holy Communion

6:30 PM Sunday Supper + Sunday Extra

Sunday, September 25th

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY!!!!!!

10.30 AM Morning Praise Service

6:30 PM Sunday Supper + Sunday Extra

Sunday, October 2nd

9:30 AM KISS Service

11:15 AM Traditional Holy Communion

6:30 PM Sunday Supper + Sunday Extra

Deadline for next newsletter – September 20th 2011

Please send us your news and notices of events etc. Either phone the Church Office (92829440) Or email stsimonsnews1@yahoo.co.uk (attachments preferred.) *Would you like to read your newsletter in large print?* Please let the office know.