

Welcome to St. Simon's Church

Southsea 15th & 22nd January 2012

2012...

So the year 2012 has begun! Let me first say how wonderful 2011 was, especially the last month and Christmas season. I feel that St. Simons was so supportive in actively celebrating the birth of Jesus.

We had a number of events throughout December, all of which were well attended and enjoyed. December started with the Christingle service, which included making our own Christingles, and understanding the meaning behind them. Then we had the Baby Club Christmas party, where Mums and toddlers socialised before the Christmas Holiday, and had a visit from Father Christmas! (Many Thanks to Lois for all of her efforts!) Then the Nativity Service was a huge hit! Gail and I were overwhelmed by the support and efforts put into this production, and it was very well performed! Thanks to all involved! The carol Service followed that evening, and was a beautiful night. Paul, his musicians and choir did a wonderful job in leading us through a favourite part of Christmas.

The Children's Christmas Party followed on the next Monday, and was a wonderful opportunity for the Children who attend St. Simons to bring their friends along to Church, where we had lots of activities and games, food, a nativity treasure hunt and another visit from Father Christmas! The Youth also celebrated together with a Christmas Dinner. It was wonderful that everyone came to celebrate together. We ate A LOT and had a lovely time!

Our Midnight service was another beautiful night. With carols and sharing communion, it was a wonderful way to honour Christ's coming to our world. Christmas Day was a Party! We actually celebrated Jesus' Birthday together, and learned a bit more about how his birth affected those around him, and how his birthday is so important that we still celebrate today!

We had a wonderful end to the year 2011. I thank God for all he has blessed and given us, and pray for those blessings to continue into 2012. We have a lot

of exciting social things to look forward to, and some fabric changes (HEATING!) as well.

Here are some important days for meetings and events to remember in 2012....

AGM - Wednesday Mar 14th

Harvest Festival - Sunday October 14th

5 PCC Thurs – Thurs Feb 2nd, April 19th, July 5th, Sept 27th, Nov 29th

5 Standing Committee - Mon Jan 9th, Mar 26th, June 11th, Sept 3rd, Nov 5th,

3 Fabric Committees - Tuesday Mar 6th, June 26th, Oct 9th

3 Work Days - Saturday Feb 25th, June 16th, Oct 6th

1 Sunday Supper Team -Thursday Feb 23rd

3 Small Group Leaders - Feb 7th (Tue), Jun 6th (Wed), Nov 20th (Tue)

Sunday Team Leaders - Feb 21st July 11th

Welcome Evenings - Thursday May 10th, Sept 20th

Soul Survivor Camp - Tues 7th - Sat 11th Aug

Slum survivor - Oct 26th – 28th

Thanks and blessings always,
Abigail

Newsletter – If anyone wishes to receive the Newsletter electronically via e-mail, please let Abigail know. If anyone who does receive these by e-mail but would prefer a paper copy, also please let Abigail know!

Coffee morning- Gail Chipperfield is holding a coffee morning in aid of the Development Campaign on Saturday 11th February at 31a Granada from 10am onwards. There will be coffee, cakes and a 'bring and buy' table. All welcome.

Southsea does Strictly! Fundraiser to help Chris Walters take some young people from Kent on a voluntary work project to Malawi next August. Tickets will be £5 for a two-hour lesson in St. Swithun's Church Hall, with tea, coffee and home-made cakes available to purchase. Please speak to Dinah Walters.

RENDEZVOUS @ ST SIMON'S –January 18th – Eric Watts talking on public transport in Portsmouth 1901 – 1987. 2:30pm in the Lower Church Centre.

Alpha - Just how does a person 'receive' God? We are running two Alpha Courses starting in the week beginning January 15th, one in the daytime and one in the evening. Alpha is a wonderful way of finding out whether this new life is for real, whether it is for me and what is involved. There is no pressure. This is a supernatural process. It's about seeing and letting things happen, not forcing anything. If you are interested, please phone or email the church office to book yourself in. It's free, and you get fed!



Good News Travelling Library January 18th from 10.30 - 12.00 open to everyone. Good selections of books are available: fiction, prayer, personal stories, bible study, DVDs and teaching tapes and much more. Greetings cards are also on sale. Coffee and biscuits available.

Tapes - As we no longer record sermons on audio cassette tapes we have a large number of tapes that are no longer required. These are available free to a good home. If you would like any please contact Mick Walters. We also have a few carry cases that hold a number (30?) of tapes if you would like those.

Finally, we have a good quality cassette deck (a Yamaha KX-390) that is also available free to a good home.

Open time of prayer for the Development Campaign

7.30 p.m. Thursday 19th January 2012

The Church will be open via the Garden Door

Please join us to lift the Campaign before God

ALL WELCOME, HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Christmas Collection - The cash collection for TearFund at Christmas raised £105.17 which has been sent off. There were other gifts in sealed envelopes which were sent direct to TearFund without being opened and our thanks to all those who gave to this very worthwhile charity.

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 07505 053320)

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

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

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:

Wed 18th Jan – Good News Travelling Library

Wed 18th Jan – Rendezvous

Wed 18th Jan – Alpha

Wed 25th Jan – Civil Service Retirement Fellowship afternoon.

Sun 29th – Southsea does Strictly!

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

Useful Contacts:

Matthew Holland (Vicar)

02392 733068

Youth and Children's' worker

07505 053320

Church Office

02392 829440



Sunday Services

Sunday 15th January

10.30 AM Morning Praise Service and Holy Communion

6:30 PM Sunday Supper + Sunday Extra

Sunday 22nd January

10.30 AM Morning Praise Service

6:30 PM Sunday Supper + Sunday Extra

Sunday 29th January

10.30 AM Healing Service and Morning Praise

6:30 PM Sunday Supper + Sunday Extra

Sunday, 5th February

9.30 AM KISS Service

11:15 Traditional Holy Communion Service

6:30 PM Sunday Supper + Sunday Extra

Deadline for next newsletter –January 24th 2012 - 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.