

ST SIMON'S NEWS



JUNE 2009

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

Do you know about Portsmouth Churches
own Website?

www.portsmouthchurches.co.uk

Building Project

After a break for Easter, the Building Project is under way once again. The PCC has approved a plan of action and has appointed some of the core members of the Project Team.

Our first task when we meet on June 1st will be to put together two proposals for the congregation to respond to.

- **Using the Building to reach more People** We are Jesus' body in this neighbourhood. How do we reach more people on Jesus' behalf? If we want to reach people we need to get to know them and build friendships. Could we use the building creatively in some new ways to do this, making friends with many different sorts of people who may be searching for God, even though they might not put it like that? We are going to set out proposals for this on June 14th. However, to move forward confidently we need to know that the congregation is behind the proposals, and that there are members who are willing to commit to making them happen.
- **Worship Area and Prayer Room** We worship God in all sorts of ways, with our minds, bodies, with our senses, singly, in groups, silently, noisily. Does our worship area need to be remodeled to accommodate this variety? Many have been saying how much they would value a dedicated prayer room or chapel somewhere in the building, even more so if the building becomes busier than it is now. We will set out proposals for the Worship Area and Prayer Room on June 21st.

Once we know what we are aiming for in these two important areas of our life, it will be easier to make plans for the whole building, accommodating the needs of all the different users, being aware of needs in the local community, consulting with other local churches, thinking about how we can make the building as 'green' as possible. Then there will be the process of briefing the architects, steering the project through the planning process, raising lots of money and supervising the work once it is under way. As I said at the AGM the offices of the proposed Children's Centre are now to be located at the Havelock Centre; but we are being asked if we might be willing to accommodate quite a number of activities for 0s to 5's and their parents. The PCC is looking again at the guidelines for deciding the kinds of activities we would want and not want in the church building.

A lot of hard work! If you think you can help in some way, do get in touch with one of the Churchwardens or with other members of the Project Team, the full membership of which will be announced shortly. And please pray. We need someone on the Project Team whose main job will be to keep people informed and encourage prayer at every stage.

Matthew Holland

Sunday Worship at St. Simon's		Preacher
7th June Trinity		
09.30	KISS	Team
11:15	Holy Communion	Matthew Holland
14th June Trinity 1		
10.30	Family Service	Matthew Holland
21st June Trinity 2		
10:30	Holy Communion	To be confirmed
28th June Trinity 3		
10:30	Holy Communion	Matthew Holland

June Diary

Sunday 7th June

Church Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 3rd June

Rendezvous

Cell Leader's meeting

Saturday 13th June

Sisters of Bethany - Hospice Garden Party

Monday 15th June (moved from 11th May)

Standing Committee meeting

Wednesday 17th June

Rendezvous

Travelling Library and Coffee Morning

Thursday 18th June

Prayer for Mayville School, 4.30 pm in the Church Lounge

Bible Study course on Exodus commences

Tuesday 23rd June

Men4God

Tuesday 23rd June

Violin Recital

Wednesday 24th June

Whole Church gathering

Saturday 27th June

Barbecue for Habitat for Humanity Project

The City Churches Prayer Meetings take place every Wednesday at 6.30 a.m. Meetings in June are at King's Church, Elm Grove, Southsea.

Ofori Oteng

I am delighted to be able to announce that Ofori Oteng will be coming to work at St. Simon's for a year starting in September, helping Jo and her teams with our youth and children's work. He has been commended to us by Careforce. He has already been working for a year with a church in Harrow. Ofori is a mathematics graduate who was active in student Christian ministry in his own country, Ghana. He is also a keen footballer. We are very grateful to Coffee Tavern Trustees for providing the funding and to Chris for offering accommodation for his stay.

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.

3rd June Carrie Pithier - Police Force and Street Pastors

17th June Michael Gunton - Sherlock Holmes Collection

Please contact Millie French on 9285 1490 for further information.

Social

Saturday 27th June

Gail is holding a barbecue to raise money for the Habitat for Humanity Project. Tickets are £5 for the food and you are asked to bring your own drink. Please see Gail, Dinah or the Rejenna for tickets.

A full list of dates for Social Events appears as a separate paper – available from the Welcome Desk.

Youth Focus

On Saturday 9th May at 6am 15 tired people headed north from St Simon's in our shiny red minibus. We travelled for 4 and a half hours to Stoke-on-Trent to go to **The Ultimate Event** at Alton Towers.

How was it, I hear you ask? The Ultimate Events website described it in this way:

This year a near-record-breaking 9,400 throng piled into the Alton Towers theme park to hear some of the best artists in Christian music and on this fun filled, thrill seeking day the event lived up to expectations.

Among the comments left on the site were:

"JUST LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU AGAIN FOR AN ABSOLUTLY SENSATIONAL DAY YESTERDAY!! THE BEST ULTIMATE EVENT YET!!"

"Thanks for an amazing weekend! I truly feel that it was the best year yet..."

We had a fantastic, though very long, day. We arrived back at St Simon's at 2:30am on the Sunday morning. The day was spent in the theme park on rides and then at 5:30pm we headed to the gig where we saw five Christian bands; Bluetree, Yfriday, Superchick, Bandwithnoname and Kutless. The gig finished at 9:30pm and 15 very tired but happy people headed back to the minibus for the long journey home.

Mick and Dinah Walters were absolute stars and shared the job of driving. Chris Walters also came as a leader and was a brilliant help during the day, looking out for the young people and getting them to the right place at the right time.

Driving home we seemed to journey with another mini bus full of young people, coming from the same event. We happened to stop at the same services and talking to them discovered they had come up from Southampton for the day. Though it was a long journey it was truly worth it. We had much fun in the theme park and in the evening worshipping with so many other young people from all around the country was awesome.

A sensational day!

Jo Borley

Street Pastors Thanks!

A big thank you to Geraldine and everyone in Duracell for organising a wonderful "Singing Together" Event on Saturday 25th April.

Nearly 60 people came along and were soon singing 4 part harmonies together which was very moving and lots of fun thanks to Janet, our talented teacher.

We raised £170 for Street Pastors which is really appreciated to support our new teams as the

work is going from strength to strength on the streets, and we are starting to get Prayer Pastors coming to Oasis which is making a real difference.

Waitrose Community Matters scheme have just given us a cheque for £247 so thanks everyone for voting for us!

Thanks also to Diane's Cell group for their donation of £20 – much appreciated.

Do get in touch if you would like any more info – 07809 627770 or a copy of our Newsletter.

Many Thanks and Blessings

Elly

Bible Study course on Exodus

A six-week study of Exodus that will run on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.00 starting on 18th June. It will not be at such a hectic pace as the God's Book course and will provide more opportunity for discussion and participation. If you are interested, please contact Amy, Rob or Gail.

New Cell

From 7th July, 'Ebenezer' Cell will be meeting on Tuesdays fortnightly at 8 pm at 2, Hamilton Road. Ebenezer is a men's Cell with a practical approach to the Word and in Outreach, which hopes to set up a small team of people prepared to do small DIY jobs for needy people. Belonging to the Cell doesn't imply you want to be part of that team, but simply that you support such a practical approach. If you want to know more (such as why 'Ebenezer') ask Michael Piper.

Pastoral Team

If you are new to St Simon's (welcome!) you might wonder what the Pastoral Team is or does. We are 9 people who in different ways have some oversight for the care of people in the church. Our names and mug shots are up on the notice board. But to save you looking we are - Jo Borley (youth worker) Susan Brown (cell pastor) Alison Fox (prayer ministry team along with husband Malcolm & Love in Action) Peter & Anne Gibson (cell pastors but currently having a sabbatical) Sue Piper (cell pastor & Sunday Suppers) and Michael Piper (churchwarden) as well as Matthew Holland (vicar !) and myself (I

love seeing people pastorally with Matthew whenever possible, especially helping him with marriage preparation.) Sometimes Rejenna, our administrator, joins us and leads us in wonderful times of worship.

As well as having a time of worship together and praying for church members and one another, we chew over various pastoral issues together and try to seek God's way through. If someone requests to join a cell group or needs some other kind of support we try to enable that to happen as quickly as possible.

However, we are very aware of the way God uses many different people at St Simon's to pastor one another. So we certainly don't claim to have a monopoly on this ministry. Many of you have pastored us at different times (thank-you !) We do love it when people are honest with us and make their needs or issues known. We may not always have an instant answer but you will always be taken seriously.

So what have we been up to in May? Well, quite a lot of routine but important stuff like sorting out groups for people. But also we re-visited the Kingdom Values Document which was approved by the PCC in January and thought about how we are living them as a church. (If you haven't seen a copy of this see the website or ask Rejenna). We had a strong sense that all these values are increasingly part of the life of the church. However, there is a concern to see our prayer life develop and deepen as a church. We are very aware that a lot of prayer happens within the church family that is not publicised. However, if it is your burden to be used in developing the prayer life of the church, please let us know.

By the way, if you are new and you are not sure where to find out about what you need to know, drop by the Welcome Table before or after church one Sunday - there's lots of information there and someone to answer your questions.

Jayne Holland

Chernobyl Children's Charity

In June the Chernobyl children will arrive in Portsmouth for a visit. These children arrive basically with nothing. Spending a month here will boost their immune systems by two years.

If anyone would like to bless these children, we are collecting NEARLY-NEW clothes, NEW

underwear (or donations to buy) for boys and girls aged 11-14.

Please give to Kathy Richardson on Sunday 7th June. Thank you on their behalf. These children and their families are so grateful for all your help.

Kathy Richardson

Mission Worship Conference

13-15th November

This is a conference which takes place once a year in Eastbourne over a weekend in November. It is for all worship leaders, musicians, singers and worshippers – so that's everyone! There are great times of worship and teaching with a wide variety of worship leaders and speakers including Mike Pilavachi, Graham Kendrick, Lou Fellingham, Godfrey Birtill, Stuart Townend and Bob Hartman. The cost is £85 for the conference place and £35 per person per night for bed and breakfast in an hotel, with additional meals needing to be purchased in nearby cafes etc. A small group from St. Simon's has gone for the last three years and been much blessed by doing so. Lifts can be offered. More information can be seen by going to www.kingsway.co.uk and clicking on 'Mission Worship: In Christ Alone'. Please contact Susan Brown on 9282 8206 if you would like to know more or are interested in going.

Rowans Hospice Garden Party

The Sisters of Bethany have been invited by the Rowans Hospice to host a Garden Party during Hospice Awareness Month and this will be taking place on Saturday 13th June, between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Entrance Tickets are £2.50p, which include Tea. They hope that some of us will be able to attend the event which is for such a good cause. If anyone would like to assist at the event, or have any items which may be sold on the day please contact the Sisters and let them know.

Gwenyth SSB Reverend Mother

House of Bethany, 7 Nelson Road, Southsea

Tel: 9283 3498

Wedding of Laura Brown and Alex Trowern

Any friends of the Brown family are very welcome to attend the marriage service of Laura to Alex Trowern. This will take place on Sunday 14th June at 2.00 p.m. in St. Thomas'

Cathedral, Old Portsmouth. Following the advice of the Cathedral, we would request that all members of the congregation are seated in good time before the start of the service, preferably by 1.45 p.m.

A letter from Jan Ransome

Dear Matthew, Anne and Michael,

Thank you so much for inviting me and also my mother to St Simon's yesterday. We had a wonderful day and we were delighted to have so much time with the church congregation. Lunch was just a real treat.

Not only did you listen to me but you were hugely generous to Flame International. We received £642 and with Gift Aid of approximately £130 your gift of £760 was very much appreciated and will go towards our trip to Sudan in April/May. Thank you all for your generosity. Please pass on my thanks to your lovely congregation.

I will let you have our prayer requests for our next trip before we leave.

Every blessing, Jan

Violin Recital

At 1.10 p.m. on Tuesday 23rd June, Jason Weir will be performing, accompanied by Valentina Seferinova on the piano, at St. Thomas's Cathedral. For tickets and more information, please ring the Box Office of Portsmouth Festivities, 9282 6722. Please see the website www.portsmouthfestivities.co.uk for more information.

Thank you ...

To everyone who helped out with the Jumble Sale. We raised £423 for the Habitat for Humanity project and the Chantmarle fund.

Travelling Library and Coffee Morning

Come along to the Church Centre between 10.30 and 12.00 on 17th June for coffee, biscuits, fellowship and an opportunity to browse through the selection of books, CDs, DVDs in the library. It is a free service, though there is a box for contributions. They also carry a wide range of birthday, anniversary and special occasion cards for very reasonable prices. It is open to any interested person, and is an opportunity to meet members of other churches and make new friends.

Plastic Milk Bottle Tops

Thank you to everyone who brings milk bottle tops to be recycled for charity. **Please note** that no other tops can be used – e.g. squash bottles, small jars, or indeed **any other** kind of plastic top. Someone has to take them all out and throw them away! But do keep bringing them in for me.

Dinah Walters

Deadline for the July Newsletter

9 p.m., Tuesday 23rd June 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.

