



## **St. Simon's Church Newsletter**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

The last week has seen many changes for our community and across our nation. Please see my letter on the second page which was sent to church members on Tuesday regarding the advice from the Archbishops of the Church of England.

Whilst the activities and groups have had to stop and our public worship is suspended, it does not mean that we cease to be Church. As the Archbishops wrote on Tuesday, it is about “becoming a different sort of church.” Over the coming weeks we should be thinking and praying about what this means.

The first disciples were fishermen. One of the skills of fishermen was being able to adapt to the changing conditions out on the sea in order to catch the fish in the right place and right time.

For us, the challenge is to think about how we adapt our lives as disciples to the changing waters/ society around us.

It is important for us to keep praying for our community and one another. The church will be open for private prayer, starting on this Sunday between 10 and 11am (please see inside.)

The sermon for Sunday will be available on the website and our Facebook page. I will add a thought for the week each Sunday and a video to encourage us to pray together.

This Sunday, the first where worship has been suspended would have been Mothering Sunday. Churches across this Land are encouraged to light a candle and pray for one another and for our nation at 7pm. Please consider joining others in doing this.

I am also going to hold a time of prayer online on Wednesdays in order to pray for each other and our community. I will let you know of the time this will be available early next week. We are working on ways in which we can extend this to those without internet access – I will keep you posted.

As I said, St Simon's does not stop being church because we have closed the building. We need at this time to cling on to the Hope and Love of Jesus at this time and be prepared to share it with those around us.

Andy

## **Letter from Andy to Church Members (17th March 2020)**

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Dear all

The last few days have been uncertain times for all but as we read in Romans, "Nothing shall separate us from the love of God."

Following an announcement today the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have suspended all public worship.

This is not about suspending church, God's love still goes on, but about us finding new ways of caring and "becoming a different sort of church" to what we usually do.

For the next season we will not be able to run or operate any groups at St Simon's church.

There will no public worship on Sundays.

This will bring sadness to many but is necessary in our current time.

We will endeavour to keep in touch. The plan is to have members of our community ringing to check how you are doing whilst we are closed, to ask for prayer and to offer any support. Can I encourage us a church to spend time praying for each other and for those in our community?

I am looking at ways of making worship available online during the week and will make sure a sermon is posted each Sunday to help us during this time.

More details will emerge over the coming days.

If you require any support or would like to know more then please do not hesitate to ring me or email.

John writes "Perfect love casts out fear." As we journey through this remainder of Lent let us remember the Easter Hope that we journey towards. Whatever we are going through, God's perfect love for us remains. Let us cling to this Hope during this time.

Andy

## Private Prayer

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As we are not able to meet on Sunday for worship together, the church will be open between 10 and 11am for private prayer. Please note that this is for individual prayer only. Please wash your hands upon entering the church and maintain social distancing at all times. If you are in a vulnerable group or are feeling unwell then please do not attend. We are hoping to set up other occasions for this to occur. Please keep your eyes on the Website/ email/ Facebook for more details.

## Church Administrator

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The advert for a new church administrator is now live on the church website. Please be praying and feel free to pass this information to anyone who may be interested. The closing date is **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**.

## **Service of Healing**

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The Service of Healing at St. Cuthbert's Church on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March** has been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## **Maundy Thursday**

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In our last newsletter I said that St Simons, St Luke's and St Judes would gather together for worship on Maundy Thursday evening followed by a meal. Due to the current government guidelines, this event is under review and I will let you know more next week. Unless the restrictions take a sudden change it is likely to be cancelled. Andy

## **Just One – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

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We have heard the sad news this week that due to the current situation, the Just One event has had to be postponed. It is hopeful that this may take place in October. For those who have bought tickets, I will let you know as to what is happening as soon as I hear from the organisers.

## **PCC and Annual Meeting**

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Our PCC meeting due on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March is cancelled and due to the current Church of England guidance the APCM is currently under review. It is likely to be rescheduled.

## **Caring landlord with three-bedroom house sought**

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A message from the Deanery Office:

Three bedroom house in Portsmouth or Gosport wanted for relocation of a delightful Sudanese refugee family currently housed in Gosport. The family is officially here under Hampshire County Council's resettlement scheme, and rent is currently paid monthly direct from them out of their benefits. They have outgrown their current home in Gosport in which they have lived since May 2018 and are keen to live in Portsmouth – they have friends in the Fratton area where there is a small Sudanese community. If you can help please contact Charles Timberlake on 01329 845265 or 07840 347544 for further information.

## **Coffee Makers needed!**

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Would you be willing to help with refreshments on a Sunday morning on a rota basis please? (Obviously only once services have restarted!) We have an urgent need for more people to join those who help to create a welcoming, social atmosphere after services by providing tea, coffee, squash and biscuits. This doesn't even need to be once per month – occasional help would be appreciated and you can always do your duty with an experienced person. Any offers or question to Mick on the church office please.

## **Richard III**

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Thank you to all who supported the recent 'orrible 'istories event. A total of £200 was raised for the general fund.

## **Lorna Sandland**

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This Sunday we were supposed to be saying thank you to Lorna for her service as Community Development Worker over the last few years. Unfortunately this has had to be postponed as we cannot meet together. Please keep her in your thought and prayers.

## **Sunday Suppers**

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We are unable to host Sunday Suppers during the current period due to the new guidelines.

Andy is in conversation with the Deanery and HIVE with the aim of having three food distribution points across the deanery (one of which being St Simon's car park). We will also be donating the food from the Sunday Supper's store cupboard to this cause.

## **Regular Events**

**All regular events are suspended at this time.**

## **Notes**

These Newsletters are published fortnightly. The deadline for contributions is midnight of the Tuesday before publication. Please send your news, notices of events, etc. to the Church Office.

Would you like to read this Newsletter in large print? Please let the office know.

This newsletter is available on the church website.

If you would like to receive notification via e-mail when future Newsletters are available, please complete [this online form](#).

## Services at St. Simon's

**Public services, Activities and Groups  
have been suspended at the current  
time until further notice.**

If you would like more details of any of the events listed here, please contact the Church Office, or visit the Calendar on our website:

[www.stsimons-southsea.org.uk](http://www.stsimons-southsea.org.uk)



### Useful Contacts:

Rev Andy Finn (Priest-in-Charge) 023 9217 6209  
vicar@stsimons-southsea.org.uk

Andrea Grainger (Children and Families Pastor) c/o 023 9282 9440  
Mick Walters (Administrator) 023 9282 9440

To give information to the Pastoral Team about a pastoral need please contact the Administrator or the Priest-in-Charge

 StSimonsChurchSouthsea

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