

## This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

### Sunday 5 July

|         |                |   |
|---------|----------------|---|
| 9.00am  | <b>St N</b>    | Holy Communion BCP  |
| 10.30am | <b>SBC</b>     | Morning Worship<br>Brigade Awards<br><i>Revd Mike Dales</i>                 |
|         | <b>Trinity</b> | Morning Worship<br>Sung Communion Service<br><i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i> |
|         | <b>St N</b>    | All Age Worship<br><i>Jeff Richards</i>                                     |
| 6.30pm  | <b>St N</b>    | <b>United Service</b>   |

### Sunday 12 July

|         |                |  |
|---------|----------------|--|
| 9.00am  | <b>St N</b>    | Holy Communion BCP singing   |
| 10.30am | <b>SBC</b>     | Morning Worship Communion<br>Infant Dedication Service<br><i>Revd Mike Dales</i>       |
|         | <b>Trinity</b> | Morning Worship<br><i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>                                      |
|         | <b>St N</b>    | Morning Worship Communion<br><i>Revd Sarah Sewell</i><br><i>Jeff Richards (assist)</i> |
| 6.30pm  | <b>St N</b>    | <b>United Service</b>  |

### Sunday 19 July

|         |                |  |
|---------|----------------|--|
| 9.00am  | <b>St N</b>    | Holy Communion BCP   |
| 10.30am | <b>SBC</b>     | Morning Family Worship   |
|         | <b>Trinity</b> | Morning Worship<br><i>Nick White</i>   |
|         | <b>St N</b>    | Morning Worship Communion<br><i>Revd Beverly Fraser</i><br><i>Jeff Richards (assist)</i> |
| 6.30pm  | <b>St N</b>    | <b>United Service</b>  |

### Sunday 26 July

|         |                |   |
|---------|----------------|---|
| 9.00am  | <b>St N</b>    | Holy Communion BCP singing  |
| 10.30am | <b>SBC</b>     | Morning Worship Communion   |
|         | <b>Trinity</b> | Morning Worship<br><i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>   |
|         | <b>St N</b>    | Family Worship Communion<br><i>Revd Justine Middlemiss</i><br><i>Revd Cécile Schnyder (prch)</i><br><i>Jeff Richards (assist)</i> |
| 6.30pm  | <b>St N</b>    | <b>United Service</b>   |

... for help or information please contact

**Revd Mike Dales** (Sutton Baptist) 07952 231723  
mg.dales@blueyonder.co.uk

**Revd Dr David Dickinson** (Trinity)  
Office: 020 8643 6884  
Home: 020 8643 0963  
todaviddickinson@gmail.com

**Revd Justine Middlemiss** (St Nicholas)  
020 8642 3499  
rector@suttonteamministry.org



July/August 2015

Dear friends

One of our best known hymns famously associates change with degradation. Henry Francis Lyte's classic hymn, *Abide with me*, may have been written as Lyte approached his own death or, twenty years earlier, as he nursed a dying friend. The hymn moves from earthly darkness towards heavenly light, and its central thought is a contrast between an unchanging God and the uncertainty and instability of human life. The association of change with decay – "Change and decay in all around I see" – is perhaps unfortunate.

CUCS feels full of change at present. Revd Mark Pullinger has now followed Revd Leah Philbrick's lead and moved on. Soon St Nicholas will be welcoming the Revd Cécile Schnyder as curate. Alongside these personnel changes, we are actively reviewing our togetherness as three churches. What will be the shape of CUCS in two or three years' time? We don't know. Life is full of change. And sometimes that feels unsettling, especially when the changes occur in church where we look for stability when all around us is in a state of flux.

But change can be good. When we are tired after a long day in the office, a change of clothes refreshes us. When we are weary of the same old routine, a bit of variety can spice up our lives. And because a change is as good as a rest, we go to different places for summer holidays.

Let's thank God for the opportunities that change brings; let's thank God that, with the psalmist, we can sing new songs; let's thank God that God comes to us afresh each new day, that, in the words of another classic hymn from the same era as *Abide with me*, "New every morning is God's love ... [bringing] ... new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven."

Revd Dr David Dickinson



# News from the Churches

## Congratulations to Sarah!

We are all delighted to hear that Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, Rector of St Nicholas 2006-2012, has been appointed as Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. She will be consecrated as Bishop in Canterbury Cathedral on 22 July but sadly places are limited – so please don't turn up on the day and expect to be allowed into the cathedral!

Sarah will then be installed and welcomed in a service in Exeter Cathedral in September.

## Congratulations to Mike!

14 July is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Revd Mike's Dales' ordination service. He was ordained at Bridgwater Baptist Church in 1990 by the Revd Dr John Morgan-Wynne who was the principal of the Bristol Baptist College where Mike was trained.



In Baptist circles it is common practice to be ordained in the 'home church' from which a candidate was sent. In Mike's case, somewhat unusually, he was ordained in the church which first called him to be its minister. In all this time Mike reckons he has delivered 1800 sermons and conducted 900 Communion services

## Easter Experience

For many years the Easter story has been performed for primary school children in central Sutton churches (SBC has often been a venue) and next year weekday performances from Monday 29 February to Friday 4 March will take place at Trinity. The performance is interactive, with the children involved in the drama.

New cast members are needed so if you think you could be, for example, a male or female follower of Jesus, a member of the crowd or perhaps a Jewish Priest or Roman soldier, you are invited to a meeting in the Oasis in Trinity on **Tuesday 21 July** at 12 noon.

If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to have more information contact:  
Malcolm Booth (8715 0514) or  
Malcolm Payne (8643 9646)



## Tennis Club Finals Day Saturday 18 July

All are welcome from 1.00pm to Sutton Churches Tennis Club (97-101 Gander Green Lane) to watch some great tennis followed by afternoon tea.

## Welcome to Cécile!

Welcome to Revd Cécile Schnyder who was ordained at Southwark Cathedral on 27 June and welcomed as Curate at St Nicholas on Sunday 28 June.



Cécile trained for ministry at Westcott House in Cambridge. She is originally from Zurich in Switzerland, but has lived in France and Belgium before coming to London in 2004. She holds a 'rather eclectic collection of degrees'. Before training for ministry she worked as an art psychotherapist and spiritual director in East London and she enjoys art, rowing (on water!) and drinking tea with friends.

Cécile is also a member of the L'Arche Community. L'Arche, founded by Jean Vanier, is an ecumenical and international community in which people with and people without learning disabilities share daily life together. She has lived as part of the L'Arche Community and continues to be closely connected with it.

We look forward to welcoming Cécile to our community here in Sutton. Her first CUCS service will be at 6.30pm on 5 July at St Nicholas.

## Book Club Monday 6 July at 8.00pm

Last month Dave reviewed *The Children Act*, a novel by Ian McEwan. Even if you have not had time to read the book come and join in the discussion in the Oasis at Trinity.

## Summer Evening Talk Thursday 23 July

A talk will be given at St Nicholas Church at 8.00pm by Kath Shawcross, Borough Archivist and Local Studies Manager. She will talk about David Knights-Whittome, local photographer, who was active in Sutton and Epsom between 1904 and 1918.

The Archives Service holds over 10,000 glass plate negatives of his and has been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding to digitise, catalogue and preserve them. The negatives were found in the basement of a shop in Sutton High Street, removed to a branch library for sorting then transferred into storage in the Central Library. The collection includes royalty, stately homes and photographs of First World War soldiers and nurses.

All are welcome and there is no charge

## Sunday Afternoon Outing 2 August

We will visit the **Ragged School Museum** in North-East London via a walk along the canals of about four miles.

Meet at the back of **Trinity Church** at **12.15pm** and bring a picnic lunch to eat on the train. You will need an Oystercard, Freedom Pass or similar as we are likely to use a mixture of train and tube travel. There is no admission charge but donations are welcome.

For more information contact  
John and Deborah Wroe: 8642 9064, or email [john.p.wroe@btinternet.com](mailto:john.p.wroe@btinternet.com).

## Worship in August in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

### Sunday 2 August

|               |                               |                 |   |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 9.00am        | <b>St N</b>                   | Holy Communion  | BCP   |
| 10.30         | <b>SBC</b>                    | Morning Worship | Communion<br><i>Revd Mike Dales</i>         |
|               | <b>Trinity</b>                | Morning Worship | Communion<br><i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i> |
| <b>6.30pm</b> | <b>St N</b><br><b>Trinity</b> | Family Worship  | <b>United Service</b>                       |

### Sunday 9 August

|               |                               |                 |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9.00am        | <b>St N</b>                   | Holy Communion  | BCP                                 |
| 10.30         | <b>SBC</b>                    | Morning Worship | Communion<br><i>Revd Mike Dales</i> |
|               | <b>Trinity</b>                | Morning Worship | <i>Alan Jameson JP</i>              |
| <b>6.30pm</b> | <b>St N</b><br><b>Trinity</b> | Family Worship  | <b>United Service</b>               |

### Sunday 16 August

|               |                               |                 |                             |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 9.00am        | <b>St N</b>                   | Holy Communion  | BCP                         |
| 10.30am       | <b>SBC</b>                    | Morning Worship | <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>      |
|               | <b>Trinity</b>                | Morning Worship | <i>Revd David Dickinson</i> |
| <b>6.30pm</b> | <b>St N</b><br><b>Trinity</b> | Family Worship  | <b>United Service</b>       |

### Sunday 23 August

|               |                               |                 |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9.00am        | <b>St N</b>                   | Holy Communion  | BCP                                 |
| 10.30am       | <b>SBC</b>                    | Morning Worship | Communion<br><i>Revd Mike Dales</i> |
|               | <b>Trinity</b>                | Morning Worship | <i>Revd Anne Rusbridge</i>          |
| <b>6.30pm</b> | <b>St N</b><br><b>Trinity</b> | Family Worship  | <b>United Service</b>               |

### Sunday 30 August

|               |                               |                 |                                |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 9.00am        | <b>St N</b>                   | Holy Communion  | BCP                            |
| 10.30am       | <b>SBC</b>                    | Morning Worship | <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>         |
|               | <b>Trinity</b>                | Morning Worship | <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i> |
| <b>6.30pm</b> | <b>St N</b><br><b>Trinity</b> | Family Worship  | <b>United Service</b>          |

## Devotions

Father, Creator of all, thank you for summer!

Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to you this summer.

Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.

Warm my soul with the awareness of your presence and light my path with your Word and Counsel.

As I enjoy your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for you. Amen



# Regular Events

**All members of CUCS are warmly welcomed at these activities**

**Christian Meditation Groups** meet twice a month.

Contact Pamela Ford: 8642 5914

Monday 13 July 3.00pm

Monday 20 July 6.30pm

No meetings in August

Monday 14 September 3.00pm

Monday 21 September 6.30pm

### Saturday Prayer Meeting

10.00am - 11.00am at Sutton Baptist Church.

**Trinity Women's Fellowship** has joined with **St Nicholas' Mothers' Union** and meetings usually take place twice a month on

Wednesdays at 2.30pm in alternate venues:

**1st Wednesday:** St Nicholas Community Hall  
**(July and August: confirm with Janet Little)**

**3rd Wednesday:** Trinity Minor Hall

For further information contact:

Sylvia Robinson (Trinity) 8642 1391.

Janet Little (St Nicholas) 8715 6843

**The Growing Group** meets twice a month at 10.30am in the John Clifford Hall, Sutton Baptist Church. Ladies' informal coffee mornings and activities. For details speak to Carole Adams 07711 879645..

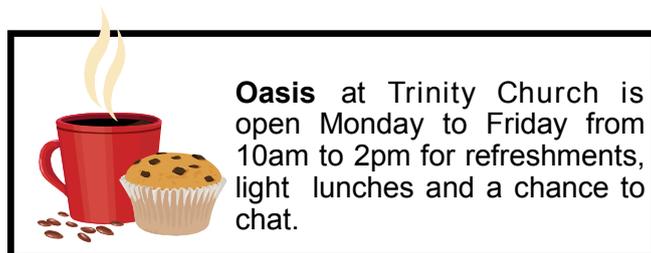
**Trinity Toddler Group** meets on Tuesdays in term time in Trinity Hall, 9.00-11.00am. Contact Paula Tidy 8642 2026.

**Bunker**, the youth club for CUCS, meets in Trinity Hall on Sunday evenings in term time from 6.30-8.00pm for young people at senior school. A chance to get to know other young people in CUCS and have fun together. Contact Jane Oliver 01883 346261.

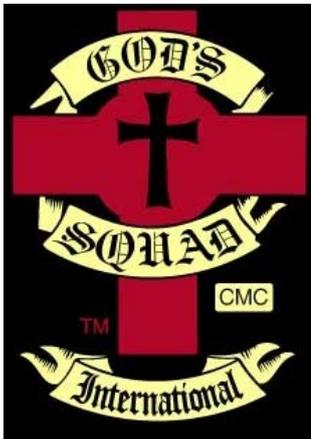
**Badminton Club** meets 7.45-10.00pm on Mondays and Thursdays in Trinity Hall.

**Sutton Churches Tennis Club** can be found between 97 and 101 Gander Green Lane, Sutton. All ages and abilities are welcome. See our website at [www.clubtennis.co.uk](http://www.clubtennis.co.uk)

**CUCS is St Nicholas, Sutton Baptist and Trinity URC/Methodist who are Churches Uniting in Central Sutton, and who meet regularly for prayer, worship and shared activities**



**Oasis** at Trinity Church is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm for refreshments, light lunches and a chance to chat.



## God's Squad Christian Motorcycle Club

Adapted by Mike Dales from an article in *The Baptist Times*

On warm summer evenings across the English countryside you can see fields with marquees, motorbikes, bands and tents. You can hear the sounds of laughter, revving engines and rock music. Inside the marquees are leather-clad men and women ... bikers, talking, laughing and drinking.

There's one in the middle with a cross on his back. Another biker walks up and pulls him into a hug saying "Hey mate! Let me buy you a drink. I got something to ask you." As they head to the bar, he starts to talk about what's going on. While he's listening, others nod or smile at him, some come and ask if they can have a chat later.

The biker with the cross on his back is a member of God's Squad Christian Motorcycle Club, a non-denominational ministry that was originally set up in Australia to spread the Gospel to bikers and people on the fringes of society. Over the last 40+ years the club has grown to well over 300 members with Chapters (groups) around the world.

"We are a legitimate biker club with a patch on our backs; all of us ride motorcycles and enjoy the biker lifestyle. The only difference is that we are Christians. Many of us are bikers who have come to accept God."

"The ministry of God's Squad has been called incarnational, cross-cultural and radical, but is essentially relational. We don't go preaching the gospel as most bikers see this as offensive Bible bashing.

Instead, we are part of the culture meeting them on their turf. We build friendships by spending time with them on the road and at parties. It's about sharing a common experience and when they are ready and curious, they ask about our faith which often leads to them discussing their faith".

"We take on a chaplaincy role for the biker scene. We conduct services for weddings, blessings, funerals and baptisms. We spend time with them when they grieve and when they celebrate. We help when they are struggling with a moral decision or a family crisis and visit them in hospital or prison."

As God's Squad became more visible in the south the numbers grew and in 2010 there were enough people to start a Chapter. With that growth there has been a change in how ministry is conducted.

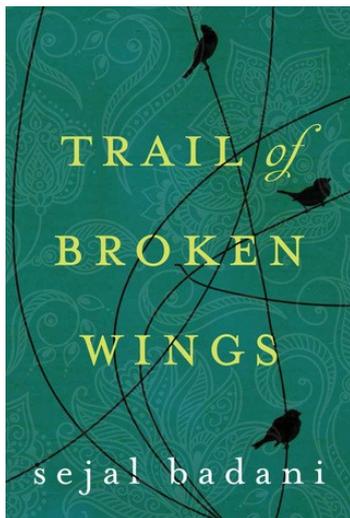
"It is easy to look at a biker and assume they have no faith, but often this is not the case. Many have faith in God – what they lack is faith in church. And even those that don't believe in God still have a faith they do believe in such as wiccans, pagans or Nordic gods. While they don't believe in our God, their faith is just as important to them as ours is to us.

We don't judge or condemn, but instead engage them in respectful discussions about faith. It is through discussion that we are able to share our faith."



## Trail of Broken Wings by Sejal Badani

reviewed by Justine Middlemiss



*Trail of Broken Wings* is a family tale set in the US around the hospital bed of Brent, the patriarch of the family. It is a tale of secrets – secrets withheld between siblings, between parents and children, between cultures. It's a story of the masks that we wear – masks to pretend to the world that we're OK, successful, competent, happy even and the faces and hearts that hide behind those masks, faces and hearts broken and damaged by words and actions that cannot, we imagine, bear the light of day.

The story is one of abuse – abuse of alcohol, abuse of trust, abuse of family relationships across multiple generations and the horrors seen and unseen that can play out as a result, even as parents and children try to do their best. It shows us the way people run from the horror of their experience; block it away and try to suppress it and yet the scars and injuries come through. The book is also a story of learning to acknowledge that, to face the fear and the shame and to try to build a new and more honest life with some possibility of healing.

I found it an amazing book, strong, passionate, vulnerable. It seems true to the realities of the lives of those who have been abused in so many ways, and therefore I would flag trigger warnings for some people. I also found it a hopeful book – in that it

suggests that some degree of healing is possible, that there is hope and new life but that to accept it, to enter into it requires a great deal of courage on the part of victims.

**From the Editor** I would be delighted to receive comments and suggestions on the future of *Unite!*. Contact me by email: [olwenstewart@hotmail.com](mailto:olwenstewart@hotmail.com) or by phone: **8643 2525**. Copy date for the September issue is earlier than usual: **10 August**. *Unite!* is also available online at [www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk](http://www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk)