

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

### Sunday 4 February

9.00am	<b>St N</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	<b>SBC</b>	Morning Worship <i>Revd Roger Hoath</i>
	<b>Trinity</b>	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	<b>St N</b>	Morning Worship Holy Communion <i>Revd David Butlin</i>
6.30pm	<b>Trinity</b>	<b>CUCS United Service</b>

### Sunday 11 February

9.00am	<b>St N</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	<b>SBC</b>	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Tim Saunders</i>
	<b>Trinity</b>	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	<b>St N</b>	All Age Morning Worship Jeff Richards
6.30pm	<b>Trinity</b>	<b>CUCS United Service</b>

### Sunday 18 February

9.00am	<b>St N</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	<b>SBC</b>	Morning Worship <i>Heather Clements</i>
	<b>Trinity</b>	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	<b>St N</b>	Morning Worship <i>Revd Sarah Sewell</i>
6.30pm	<b>Trinity</b>	<b>CUCS United Service</b>

### Sunday 25 February

9.00am	<b>St N</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	<b>SBC</b>	Morning Worship Communion <i>Phil Ellis</i>
	<b>Trinity</b>	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	<b>St N</b>	Morning Worship <i>Revd David Butlin</i>
6.30pm	<b>Trinity</b>	<b>CUCS United Service</b> <b>The Easter Experience</b>

for help or information please contact

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February 2018

Dear Reader,

Shortly before Christmas I realised that over the years I had inadvertently made a small collection of nativity sets. One of these is unique within the collection as it is pocket-sized. It was designed to be carried around. Whoever carries it carries the Holy Family. I was thinking of this when I visited the British Museum to see the 'Living with gods' exhibition, because a number of the exhibits were portable artefacts that religious believers would carry or wear as part of their religious practices.

The curator claims that there are over 4,000 religions in the world, engaging 85% of its population. A Hindu exhibit stopped me in my tracks. It was Nataraja, a depiction of the Hindu god Shiva as the Lord of the dance. Shiva Nataraja is the cosmic dancer who prepares for the creation of the universe. If you think that the modern world has left such gods behind and that we now live in a godless age, prepare to think again! For what brought me to a halt was the statement that a statue of Nataraja stands outside the CERN nuclear research station in Switzerland. Hardly anything in the world is more modern or futuristic than the laboratory, yet there is still space for religion.

The exhibition sets out to answer an intriguing question: "Are we homo sapiens or homo religiosus?" Are people essentially, naturally or irresistibly religious? Is it part of our nature to be spiritual beings? Is this what sets us apart from other creatures? And those questions prompt me to ask: if it is indeed the case that people are naturally religious, spiritual beings seeking glimpses of God, and if life always has a sense of transcendence about it, how do we in our churches help people either get in touch, or keep in touch, with this spiritual dimension? At a time in church history when so many churches seem to be on a dumbing down spiral of accessible music, accessible language, simplified images, shorter sermons with Power-Point and an emphasis on human friendliness, this is a pressing question. How do we lift our gaze beyond what's in front of our eyes to catch glimpses of God's glory?

*David*

Revd Dr David Dickinson





## Devotions

### Five short prayers for Lent

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

Lord, may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. **Amen**



### Come and sing Schubert and Mozart!

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to join Trinity Festival Choir on **25 March at 6.30pm, Palm Sunday**, for a performance of choral music by Schubert and Mozart. 'The main work will be Schubert's Mass in G, written when the composer was just 18 years old, but full of tender lyrical and melodic choral writing. It also includes some sparkling fugues, a triumphant Gloria and glorious solos for soprano, tenor and bass. Mozart's sublime 'Laudate Dominum' for soprano solo and choir and his popular 'Ave Verum' complete the programme. So I think it should be a really memorable evening of great choral music!

Rehearsals will be on Thursdays, starting on **Thursday, 1 February from 8.00-9.00pm** - in the Parlour at Trinity. Access is gained through a red door round the back of the church in Hill Road, and up two flights of stairs. Vocal scores will be provided. NB There will be no rehearsal on 15th February. Of course, it's much more exciting and fulfilling to sing in a really substantial choir for these kind of choral works, so do join us - and spread the word by forwarding this e-mail to friends, neighbours, members of your congregation (and anyone else I may have forgotten!) who might like to come along as well.

**Stephen Haylett**

## Regular Events

CUCS is Sutton Baptist Church, St Nicholas and Trinity URC/Methodist who are Churches Uniting in Central Sutton, and who regularly meet together for prayer, worship and shared activities. All members of CUCS are warmly welcomed at these activities

**Saturday Prayer Meeting (1st and 3rd Saturdays)**  
10.00am - 11.00am at Sutton Baptist Church.

**Sunday Prayer Meeting** after the morning service in the Terrace Room at Trinity.

**St Nicholas' Mothers' Union** All are welcome  
Contact: Emma Cann 020 8641 6530

**Women in Touch (WIT)** meets fortnightly on a Monday at 10.30am at different venues, to enjoy a variety of activities including coffee, films and outings. It is open to women of any age. For further details of the programme contact: Carole Adams 07711879645 or see: [www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk](http://www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk)

**Trinity Toddler Group** meets on Tuesdays in term time in Trinity Hall, 9.00-11.00am.  
Contact: Sheila Booth 8715 0514

**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.

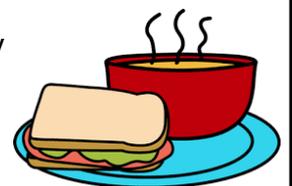
**Badminton Club** meets 7.45-10.00pm every Monday in Trinity Hall.

**Sutton Churches Tennis Club** can be found between 99 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)

**Coffee and Craft** meets in the Oasis at Trinity, 10.00-11.30am usually on the third Friday of the month. Meet with others and work on your knitting, sewing, paper craft or other project. Beginners welcomed!  
Contact: Deborah Wroe: 8642 9064,

**Art and Fellowship Group** meets most weeks on Tuesday at 2.30pm in the Minor Hall at Trinity. Painting, drawing and other media with fellowship and mutual support.  
Contact: David Ovenden (07874 643 659)

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



# News from the Churches

## Lenten Activities in CUCS

14 February Ash Wednesday

7.00pm Frugal Supper at SBC

8.00pm Service of Ashing, St Nicholas



We mark the beginning of Lent with a Frugal Supper, accompanied by devotions. Tickets, at £2, are available in each church and the proceeds will be given to Christian Aid. The supper will end in time to attend the traditional Service of Ashing in St Nicholas Church.

## Lent Talks 2018

Lent is a season of self-examination. Our CUCS Lent programme this year includes a series of talks: given by Revd Dr David Dickinson

**What are human beings that God is mindful of them? (Psalm 8: 4) :**  
**Three talks on being human**

Tuesday 20 February 7.30pm Trinity  
*People with a dream of paradise*

Tuesday 6 March 7.30pm Sutton Baptist Church  
*People living with imperfection*

Tuesday 20 March 7.30pm St Nicholas-  
*Proper selfishness*

## Daytime Discussion Group

A Lent discussion group led by Sylvia Robinson will meet three times, at 2.30pm in the Terrace Room at Trinity on:

Tuesday 27 February

Tuesday 13 March

Tuesday 27 March

The group will follow the ecumenical York Course **On the Third Day** which includes an audio presentation with contributions by: Revd Prof Tom Wright, NT scholar and former Bishop of Durham; Paul Vallely, journalist and broadcaster; Revd Ruth Gee, former President of Methodist Conference and Bishop Libby Lane.

To join the group fill in the form available in each church or contact Sylvia Robinson: 020 8642 1391 srobinson968@yahoo.co.uk

## Sunday Outing to the London Mithraeum



On **Sunday 4 February** we will visit the London Mithraeum in the heart of the City of London to be transported back in time to London in 240 AD and to experience the Temple of Mithras.

There is no charge for entry to the Mithraeum which also has displays of antiquities excavated from the site and some modern art, but we have a limited number of entry tickets and booking is essential so please book your place if you want to come - contact John Wroe 020 8642 9064 or email [john.p.wroe@btinternet.com](mailto:john.p.wroe@btinternet.com)

Meet at the back of Trinity after morning service, and bring a packed lunch. We will go by train to London, probably eating our lunch on the train. If the weather is reasonable, we will follow a walk around the locality discovering some of its history, walking a total of about 2 miles.

## Women's World Day of Prayer 2 March



On the first Friday in March, people around the world meet together for a service prepared by women from a different country each year. The 2018 Women's World Day of Prayer Service has the theme **All God's Creation is Very Good!** It is written by the Christian women of Suriname who focus on creation and our responsibility to care and look after it.

This year's local service, will be held on **Friday 2 March at 10.30am at the Salvation Army, Benhill Avenue, Sutton** with similar services taking place in Carshalton and Wallington in the evening.

It is always an inspiring occasion and members of several local churches will be taking part. Do come if you can - men are welcome too!

## Revd Mike Dales.....a tribute from Carole Adams

It was in May 1996 that a new era in the life of Sutton Baptist Church began. For in that month the Revd Mike Dales, his wife Gill and the children moved into the Manse and life as our Pastor began. Mike was not particularly looking for a busy town pastorate and definitely did not think he would remain in the same place for nearly 22 years!

These few words will not do justice to the ministry Mike has performed at and for SBC and, indeed, CUCS. SBC has always sought ministers with a strong teaching and preaching focus, and in Mike we have not been disappointed. Indeed his historical and contextual approach to biblical interpretation has enriched many.

Undoubtedly, it has been the creative side of his nature that has encouraged the listener to look for the unexpected in scripture and to listen beyond what they are hearing. He would say that many of his inspirational moments have come whilst browsing the aisles of Morrisons, where he has been spied on a regular basis!

Mike's gift as a wordsmith has inspired many of us across CUCS - a relationship which has been a very important part of his ministry in Sutton; over the years he has been a 'constant' when changes have occurred in both Trinity and St. Nicholas. His passion for ecumenical working has seen him lead services and participate in shared events with our partner churches, which for him was considered a privilege or him as he has gained many friends.

And, it is the friendships which endure. His open, friendly, down to earth manner has made him beloved of many in each of our churches. Where his pastoral gifts have brought comfort to people in dark times, his sense of humour has lifted us all up.

Mike has contributed so much more, and Gill's contribution to working with our young people must not be overlooked. Many lives have been touched by this ministry, in so many different ways.

We will all miss Mike, may God bless him and his family wherever his path takes him.

## CUCS Farewell Service Sunday 21 January



Sutton Baptist Church was packed to the gallery on Sunday 21 January for the CUCS United Service, which fittingly marked the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Using the Bunyan Window as a springboard Mike spoke about his personal journey as a Christian pilgrim from his student days to ordination and on through his ministries.

The service was followed by a reception where the current congregations could bid farewell to Mike and Gill and meet old friends again including Revd Sara Goatcher and the Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, former Rectors of St Nicholas. We remembered Mike's varied contributions to CUCS life: Mike as photographer and film buff, charity quizmaster and cyclist and Mike as tour operator leading pilgrims in the footsteps of St Paul. But it is Mike as preacher and pastor that we have valued most, preaching a gospel that challenges us to be open, inclusive and compassionate in response to God's love for us in Jesus.

The three CUCS churches presented Gill with flowers and Mike with a calligraphy by artist Tessa Cooling, the words of the blessing reminding us of his Northern Irish roots. We hope that Carole Adams' photograph of

the sanctuaries at Sutton Baptist Church, St Nicholas and Trinity will be a reminder of his time, not just at SBC, but within the three Churches of Central Sutton.

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



**From the Editor** I would be delighted to receive comments and suggestions on the future of *Unite!* Contact me by my new email: [olwenmedwards@gmail.com](mailto:olwenmedwards@gmail.com) or by phone: **020 8643 2525**. Copy date for the March issue is 14 February. Links to the electronic version of *Unite!* can be found on each church's website.