

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 3 March

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship <i>Dean Juster, Salvation Army</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd Naomi Whittle</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	CUCS United Service

Sunday 10 March

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

Sunday 17 March

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship <i>Revd Jonathan Findlater</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd Naomi Whittle</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	CUCS United Service

Sunday 24 March

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

Sunday 31 March

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

for help or information please contact:

Carole Adams (Sutton Baptist Church) 07711 879645
carole.adams@btinternet.com

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

Ginny Haizelden (Administrator St Nicholas)
020 8643 8271
administrator@suttonteamministry.org



March 2019

Dear Readers,

When I was preparing a sermon last month on Jesus's instruction to Simon to launch out into the deep and cast his nets, I remembered Ernest Hemingway, the American novelist whose final publication before he died was *The Old Man and the Sea*. This novella tells of a Cuban fisherman called Santiago whose recent run of bad luck stretches for eighty-four days without a fish. On the eighty-fifth day he ventures further out and his hook is taken by a giant marlin. The strength of this fish is such that it pulls his boat for two days and nights. During this epic struggle Santiago comes to admire the noble creature. Eventually, on the third day, he manages to harpoon the marlin and fasten it to the side of his boat to take it back to market. But his ordeal is not over. Sharks circle the boat and devour the carcass, so all he brings back is an eighteen-foot-long skeleton.

Immediately on publication in 1952, the novella was seen as being layered with meanings. Santiago, the old man, is up against forces more powerful than himself, and some aspects of his struggle come to mind when we contemplate the agony of Christ in Passiontide. The two days and nights wrestling with the fish are tortuous: his back is braced against the rod and line, as Christ's was against the cross; the rim of his straw hat marks his forehead under the blazing sun, as the crown of thorns marked Christ's; and his bleeding hands ripped by the line remind us of Christ's nail wounds.

Santiago's struggle is that of the human predicament, for each of us is up against the unknown and the unpredictable, facing a future which is always hidden until it becomes the present. The nature of human existence is that we must make our decisions, some of them life-changing, without full knowledge of all the facts. All we have is the ocean's horizon beckoning us towards what lies beyond it. There's no knowing – it's all a matter of faith based on one who went before us. Such is our Lenten journey – and such is our life's journey.

Revd Dr David Dickinson

Lent



Devotions

Lent



Lent is a tree without blossom, without leaf,
Barer than blackthorn in its winter sleep,
All unadorned. Unlike Christmas which decrees
The setting up, the dressing up of trees,
Lent is a taking down, a stripping bare,
A starkness after all has been withdrawn
Of surplus and superfluous,
Leaving no hiding place, only an emptiness
Between black branches, a most precious space
Before the leaf, before the time of flowers;
Lest we should see only the leaf, the flower,
Lest we should miss the stars.

By Jean M Watt and included in *The Hearts Time, a poem a day for Lent and Easter* by Janet Morley



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.

Meditation Group meets on the last Saturday of the month 11.00am-12 midday at the home of Sylvia Robinson. For more details contact:
Segun Akindele segun.akindele@yahoo.co.uk
020 8395 3243
Rosa Sawyer 020 8643 1374
Sylvia Robinson srobinson968@yahoo.com
020 8642 1391

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

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.

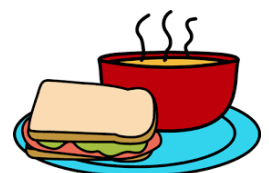
Badminton Club meets 7.45-10.00pm every Monday in Trinity Hall.

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

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.

Oasis

at Trinity Church is open Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 2.00pm for refreshments, light lunches and a chance to chat.



News from the Churches

World Day of Prayer Friday 1 March



Everyone (men included!) is invited to this service- formerly called the *Women's World Day of Prayer* - at 10.30am at the Salvation Army on the corner of Throwley Way and Benhill Avenue. This year the service has been planned by the women of Slovenia and members of various churches in Sutton and Cheam will take part. This event, celebrated by Christians worldwide, is always an inspiring occasion and we hope you will join us and stay for refreshments afterwards.



Ash Wednesday Supper 6 March 7pm

This year the supper is being hosted by **Trinity** and we will be sharing simple Kenyan food and hearing about a Christian Aid project to support children with HIV infection in Kenya.

Please pick up a free ticket from your own church; a collection for the project will be taken on the night. This project is match-funded and every £1 you donate will be matched almost 20 fold, helping to provide lifesaving healthcare, education and vital support to orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya.

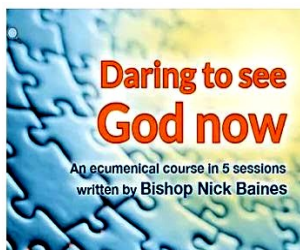
The supper will end in time for those who wish to attend the.....

Service of Ashing at St Nicholas 8.00 pm

The service will be led by Revd Phil Brooks, Vicar of Christ Church.

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Lent Study Groups from 11 March



There is still time for you to join a Lent Study group with people from each of our churches. Pick up a leaflet as soon as possible from your own church or contact: Olwen Edwards:

olwenmedwards@gmail.com 020 8643 2525

Still time to join Trinity Festival Choir!

Palm Sunday this year falls on 14 April and you are all warmly invited to sing in a performance of **John Stainer's *Crucifixion*** at Trinity Church at 6.30pm by Trinity Festival Choir.

Weekly rehearsals from **Thursday, 28 February**, will take place in the Parlour at Trinity Church at 8pm. Access to the Parlour is via the church keeper's driveway in Hill Road alongside the church, through a red door and up a flight of stairs. Scores of the music will be provided.

Easter Experience 2019 10 March

Our united evening service on Sunday 10 March will be a performance of the *Easter Experience*, the interactive Passion Play for primary school children. Do come along with friends and family - it is suitable for children aged 7 upwards and there is an opportunity to dress up and become part of the action.

An invitation from St Nicholas Church

The Church Wardens of St Nicholas Church, invite you to the Licensing of **Revd Frances Arnold** as Priest-in-Charge (Rector Designate) at **8pm on Wednesday, 3 April at St Nicholas Church, Sutton.**

RSVP: administrator@suttonteamministry.org by Wednesday 27 March.

Guests are asked to be seated by 7.45pm.

Sunday Afternoon Outing 24 March

The British Library



Meet at the back of Trinity Church after the morning service, and bring a packed lunch. We will travel by train, tube and perhaps bus to London.

We will visit the British Library (free entry). This modern building houses some fascinating old books, and has small exhibitions on *Friendship before Facebook* and *The New Londoners*-photos of families at home in London from all countries of the world.

Before visiting the library we will walk around part of the newly-developed area north of Kings Cross, seeing the canal, modern architecture, Gasholder Park and perhaps the Skip Garden!

For more information please contact John and Deborah Wroe: 020 8642 9064 john.p.wroe@gmail.com

Walking to Jerusalem - Blisters, hope and facts on the ground by Justin Butcher Hodder & Stoughton ISBN 9781473673717

This review by, John Rackley, was submitted by Trevor Campbell-Smith of SBC and first appeared in the Baptist Times. It is republished here with permission.

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we do act, in however a small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future.

A 3400 km walk from central London to Jerusalem over 147 days is hardly a small act. But in the light of the intractable issues burdening the people who live in Israel and the West Bank, the Just Walk could be considered of little consequence. Yet for Justin Butcher, his numerous companions, the Amos Trust and the Palestinian people for whom they trod the pilgrim routes across Europe it was a great undertaking.

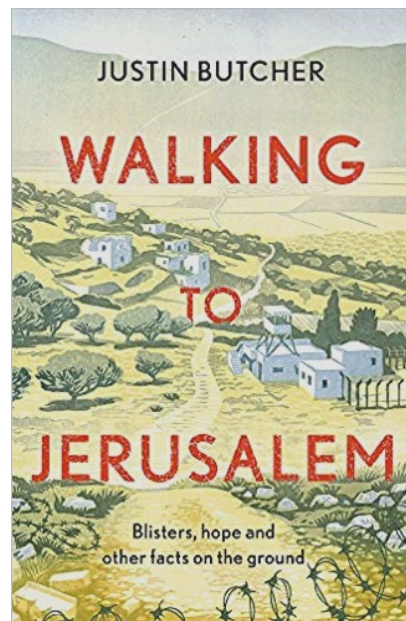
Between July–October 2017 more than a 100 walkers marked the anniversaries of the Balfour Declaration, the 50th year of Israel's military occupation of Palestinian territories and the 10th year of the blockade of Gaza. They walked to ask the question: when will equal rights exist for all in the so-called Holy Land?

Mountain passes and flower-strewn meadows, vivacious nuns, wary farmers, skilled drivers, old Mercedes cars, numerous coffees, scary border guards, dodgy dealers, hapless refugees, a debate over the relationship of the Incarnation and Justice-making all emerge from Justin Butcher's record of a labour of love and holy perspiration.

Butcher is an astute guide to the exhausting dilemmas that swirl around the three faiths and the two peoples who seek to live together in a piece of land that carries deep significance for all of them. But isn't he inevitably biased toward to one side? Now there's a question. If you ask that one, you need also to ask: Can you support victims of injustice and not be biased? And what if some of the strongest voices in the text are Israelis and Jews who speak against the policy of the current Israeli regime? And what if, as Butcher himself suggests, that due to the Balfour Declaration the UK should be apologising to both Israeli and Palestinian for a deal that created, to a significant degree, the current situation?

So this book is more than a shelf-filler in Waterstone's travel section. It is an exploration of the spirituality of justice-seeking. It is a parable of how to live with hope when the facts on the ground are grim. It is an encounter with the Beatitude of Jesus who declared that we are blessed when we hunger and thirst for righteousness. A Beatitude which like all blessings can only be received when we walk together.

The reviewer, John Rackley is a Baptist minister who studied in East Jerusalem where he began his continuing engagement with the issues described in this book.



MusicAid

Saturday 18 May 6pm

An entertaining spring evening



Proceeds to
Christian Aid

Tickets £5 online at
www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk

Cream teas
on sale
from 4pm

Is the date it in your diary?

We hope everyone will support **MusicAid** on 18 May, our CUCS concert at Trinity, in support of Christian Aid.

**an international programme
some familiar faces
some guest performers
singers, dancers, instrumentalists.**

How can you help?

buy a ticket for tea!
buy a ticket for the concert!
help to serve tea!
look after our guest performers!
take tickets on the door!
be a steward!
invite your friends and family!

Look out for volunteer forms in your church!

From the Editor I would be delighted to receive comments and suggestions on the future of *Unite!* Contact me email: olwenmedwards@gmail.com or by phone: **020 8643 2525**. Copy date for the March issue is **20 March**. Links to the electronic version of *Unite!* can be found on each church's website.