

Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 6 December

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SCB	Morning Worship <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Patronal Festival <i>Revd Justine Middlemiss</i>
6.30pm	St N	United Service

Sunday 13 December

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	All Age Worship <i>Revd Justine Middlemiss</i>
6.30pm		Carolling at St Barnabas

20-27 December See Christmas Worship

Sunday 3 January

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship
	Trinity	Covenant Sunday Communion <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Morning Worship Communion

Sunday 10 January

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Gill Long</i>
	St N	Morning Worship Communion

Sunday 17 January

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SCB	United Morning Worship Week of Prayer for Christian Unity <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>

Sunday 24 January

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
6.30pm	St N	Morning Worship Communion
	Sutton Christian Centre, Tate Road Churches Together in Sutton and Cheam	

Sunday 31 January

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Morning Worship Communion

With the exception of **24 January** United Evening Services in January are at St Nicholas Church at 6.30

... 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



December 2015 January 2016

Dear friends,

*Christmas is coming
and the goose is getting fat!*

Grumpy of Sutton here.....

For the first time ever I have almost been moved to write to the Council with my seriously grumpy head on. What really got me going was the Christmas Tree turning up in Trinity Square before the Act of Remembrance and that Act being squished round the corner. It all felt too much, too soon and as if the world is hurtling on at such a rate that we can't stop to think where we are at all.

It's the same with the perennial leap to Christmas that happens straight after Hallowe'en. Not even a pause to recognise Advent – we should probably have bought our Advent calendars in July; and then on Boxing Day we'll be hunting for Easter Eggs.

It all seems really sad. We seem to be too scared to stay in the present season, never mind the present moment, as we rush to consume the next season or festival, never pausing to savour what we have, always wanting what is just beyond reach and around the corner.

So this Advent, Christmas and New Year I invite you to buck the trend. To consciously spend some time each day in the present (in all senses) of the day; to sit, to feel, to simply be in that moment; to reflect on the season you find yourself in. And to be the person that you are that day – a beloved child of God, loved so much that God came to inhabit earth to be with you, to share your time, to bring the Kingdom of Heaven into your life as it is now – not waiting until you're ready, have got it sorted and the house and your life looks perfect. God loves us as we are, here, today, NOW. Let's not wish that present away.

And so now I leave you to enjoy the rest of *Unite!* with its reflections on Advent, Christmas, New Year and yes – even pushing us towards Lent. Ahh the problems of writing for a magazine that covers two busy months in our year. But let me put Little Miss Grumpy away and take this opportunity to wish you and all you love a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Justine

Revd Justine Middlemiss



Christmas – the feast of human vulnerability by Cécile Schnyder

I am a member of the L'Arche Community and have been for a while. L'Arche is a Christian, ecumenical and international community in which people with and without learning disability live and share daily life together. In a world that places high value on success, independence and youth, L'Arche offers a place of hospitality where people can be transformed by an intense experience of living in community, relationship, disability and difference.

L'Arche tries to be a sign.

In L'Arche we are a very mixed bunch of people, erratic at times, self-seeking and argumentative, theologically very slow on the uptake, each of us broken, spiritually disabled and hindered by our own egos: just ordinary people. We are made of flesh and blood, we cry and laugh, sweat and sometimes swear. The bridge between disabled and non-disabled community members is humanity and our fragile humanity lived out in community is probably the most powerful thing in the world.

One of the days when this becomes most tangible in the community is when we celebrate Christmas together. As we sing, pray, celebrate and cook together, differences vanish. And as we eat, help each other to eat, drink and help each other to drink we declare each other broken yet holy. It becomes unclear who is teaching whom as I am invited to confront my own disability, vulnerability and neediness.

But no, L'Arche is not simply a nice cosy place. There are L'Arche communities in war torn countries such as Ukraine, Palestine and Syria. However "normal" this crisis has become for Al Safina (L'Arche Syria), they will never get used to it. Faced with fuel and food shortages, lengthy power and water cuts, unsafe conditions, the deafening noise of planes and shooting, and the threat of rockets, they have chosen to stay; to stay as a sign of humanity amidst the insanity and inhumanity of war.



And so as we in L'Arche London act out the Christmas story we embody something of the mystery of the incarnation. It reminds us of our calling beyond disability and brokenness; the calling to be human.



Revd Cécile Schnyder is a Curate within the Sutton Team Ministry

Mr Holmes a film review by Mike Dales

Imagine the great detective, Sherlock Holmes, at the age of 93. Mrs Hudson and Dr Watson are long gone, and Sherlock lives in retirement in Sussex, keeping bees and being cared for by a housekeeper and her young son. It certainly is a very different take on the usual stories based on Conan-Doyle's great creation.

The Holmes we meet here is very much a fallen idol, far from the prying eyes of the fans who once gathered outside his rooms in Baker Street. The year is 1947, and Holmes is showing the signs of short-term memory loss. He longs to recover one memory in particular, the details of the last case he worked on some 30 years earlier. It was a case in which Holmes got something terribly wrong - wrong enough to provoke his retirement. Now it is Holmes, rather than Dr Watson, who is setting pen to paper in an effort to set the record straight and to give himself peace of mind.



Mr Holmes is a gentle, touching and thoughtful film. Rather than a great mystery, it's a tale for grownups about the gaining of wisdom, even in old age. It is a story about ageing, regret and redemption and that is why it is so effective in tugging at our emotions.

Ian McKellen, as Holmes, is wonderful and it would not surprise me if he gained nominations when the awards season comes around. Milo Parker, too, is a revelation as the housekeeper's son.

Mr Holmes was released in cinemas in June and has now been released on DVD. It comes highly recommended.

From the Editor I would be delighted to receive comments and suggestions on the future of *Unite!*. Contact me by email: olwenstewart@hotmail.com or by phone: **8643 2525**. Copy date for the February issue is 13 January. *Unite!* is also available online at www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk

News from the Churches

CUCS Christmas Worship

Sutton Baptist Church

Sunday 10.30am	20 December Christmas Family Service <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
6.30pm	Service of Lessons and Carols united at Sutton Baptist Church
Thursday 11.30pm	24 December Christmas Eve Midnight Communion united at St Nicholas
Friday 10.30am	25 December Christmas Day Family Christmas Worship united at Trinity
Sunday 10.30am	27 December CUCS United Worship at SBC No evening service

St Nicholas Parish Church

Sunday 9.00am	20 December Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Morning Worship Holy Communion <i>Revd Beverly Fraser</i>
6.30pm	Sutton Team Carol Service united at Christ Church
Thursday 3.30pm	24 December Christmas Eve Christingle Service
11.30pm	Midnight Communion united with Sutton Baptist Church
Friday 10.30am	25 December Christmas Day Family Communion <i>Revd Sarah Sewell</i>
Sunday 9.00am	27 December No service
10.30am	CUCS United Worship at SBC No evening service

Trinity URC/Methodist Church

Sunday 10.30am	20 December Junior Church Nativity Service
6.30pm	Service of Lessons and Carols united at Sutton Baptist Church
Thursday 3.30pm	24 December Christmas Eve Crib Service for young children
11.15pm	Candlelight Service
Friday 10.30am	25 December Christmas Day Family Christmas Worship united at Trinity with SBC
Sunday 10.30am	27 December CUCS United Worship at SBC No evening service

In Memoriam Joan Atfield

SBC sadly announces the death of Joan Atfield, our longest serving member. Joan was baptised in the old church, where Waterstones is now, and was present at the opening of our present building in 1934. Joan was a great supporter of our ecumenical work. A thanksgiving service will be held at SBC on Friday, 4 December at 3.15pm.

Reminders!

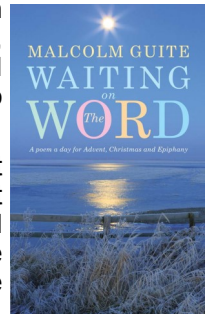
- 1 December 7.30pm** Trinity Advent Lecture
Christmas Carols, from Village Green to Church Choir
- 3 December 7.30pm** Sutton Street Pastors
10 year Celebration at St Nicholas
- 6 December 12.15 pm** Sunday Afternoon Outing
to the Wallace Collection. See November *Unite!*
- 8 December 8.00 pm** in Trinity, Terrace Room
Bible Study on Contemporary Issues: Sexuality

New Notices!

Waiting on the Word : A Poem a day for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany:

Prepare for the Christmas season by reading a poem every day, chosen by Malcolm Guite and ranging from spiritual classics to contemporary voices.

We will meet in the Oasis café at Trinity on Wednesday 6 January at 2.00pm to read the last poem and share our thoughts about the anthology. Come early and have lunch together!



Available at the reduced price of £8.70 from the online supplier *Wordery* and also as an ebook.

Waiting for the Word compiled by Malcolm Guite.
ISBN-13: 9781848258006 Canterbury Press Norwich

Bunker Quiz Night Saturday 5 December 7.00pm

Bunker are holding a Quiz Night in Trinity Hall with a two course hot supper. All money raised on the night will go to the Refugee and Migrant Network, Sutton.

Tickets: £8 for adults, £5 for children 11 and under.
Contact Jane Oliver (01883 346261)



Carol Singers wanted!

- When?** Friday 18 December 6.00 -7.00pm
- Where?** Outside Sutton Station
- Why?** To raise money for **Action for Children**
- Who?** Everyone! Both adults and children are needed to sing and collect the money.

Christmas Cyclamen

If you have been given a cyclamen which is now not wanted please could you give it to Sheila Booth (8715 0514) who is trying to grow them under Trinity's copper beech tree.



17 January Sunday Outing to Tate Britain

Meet at the back of Sutton Baptist Church after our United Morning Service for a visit to Tate Britain. We aim to leave soon after 12.00 midday. You will need an Oystercard or equivalent for travel by train to Vauxhall, and bring a packed lunch to eat on the train. We hope to have a guided tour of some of the exhibits.

For more information contact John and Deborah Wroe on 8642 9064 or john.p.wroe@btinternet.com.

Devotions

Prayer for the New Year

Lord,
At the beginning of this new year, I offer you
my life.

Come take my voice,
may the words I speak be filled with
encouragement and goodness.

Come take my hands,
may the work they create be generous and
giving.

Come take my feet,
may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit
within.

Come take my life Lord,
for I love your goodness, your kindness and
your leading.

Amen



Looking forward to Lent!

Yes, we have read Justine's letter! However Lent and Easter are early this year and the next edition of *Unite!* will not come out until the end of January.

This year we are planning to organise **Ecumenical Lent Study Groups** meeting four times, (in the weeks beginning 15/22/29 February and 7 March) in people's homes and ending with a united service on 16 March.

We will base our discussions on ***Lentwise: Spiritual Essentials for Real Life*** by Paula Gooder.

This is a chance to prepare for the celebration of Easter and meet new friends from Sutton Baptist Church, Trinity, St Nicholas, St Barnabas and Christ Church.

More details early in January but we ask you to consider the following questions:

- ♦ Would you like to join a group, either during the day or in the evening?
- ♦ Are you able to offer your home as a venue for a small group of people?
- ♦ With the course book as a guide, could you be a group leader?

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 7 December: 3.00pm

Monday 14 December: 6.30pm

Monday 11 January 3.00pm

Monday 18 January 6.30pm

Saturday Prayer Meeting

10.00am - 11.00am at Sutton Baptist Church.

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.

The Mothers' Union meets at St Nicholas Community Hall, usually on the first Wednesday of the month.
Contact Janet Little 8715 6843.

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 evening in term time. It is open from 6.30pm until 8.00pm for 11 to 18 year olds. 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 99 and 101 Gander Green Lane, Sutton. All ages and abilities are welcome. See our website at www.clubtennis.co.uk

Coffee and Craft Meet with others in Trinity Oasis Café and work on your knitting, sewing, paper craft or other project. Usually the third Friday of the month. Beginners welcomed!
Friday 18 December 10.00-11.30am
Friday 15 January 10.00-11.30am
Contact Deborah Wroe: 8642 9064,

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.