

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 6 September

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

Sunday 13 September

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

Sunday 20 September

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
6.30pm	St N	United Service

Sunday 27 September

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	SBC Anniversary Service Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Parade and Harvest Festival <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Morning Worship
6.30pm	St N	United Service

... 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



September 2015

Dear friends,

A television programme I was watching one summer evening reminded me of the separatedness of congregations. The programme about the economics of slavery examined the way the majority of the British population benefited financially from the slave trade. The Government of the time allocated a massive sum of money to compensate slave owners once the trade was prohibited. Striking though it was to see that a vicar was compensated for the loss of one slave while William Gladstone's father was compensated the equivalent of millions of pounds because he was heavily involved in the trade, what has stayed with me from the programme is a thought-provoking fact: the church in Clapham where William Wilberforce, widely regarded as the leader in the anti-slavery movement, worshipped was also where George Hibbert worshipped. Hibbert was the leading activist campaigning for the compensation of slave owners. There's the rub! In the same congregation, singing the same hymns and listening to the same sermons were two men with entirely opposed views.

One of Charles Wesley's hymns depicts church congregations in a rather idealistic manner:-

*E'en now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentred all, through Jesus;' name,
in perfect harmony.*

A Clapham-like diversity of views within a congregation is more the norm, I suspect!

In recent months, our three congregations have been conferring within themselves about the nature of our togetherness as three churches. Among the many comments I have read and heard, one has struck me. "I don't even know the people in my own congregation, let alone the other churches," said one respondent. I put that alongside some research into churchgoing from several years ago which revealed that many people go to church to meet friends. Of course we do. It's good to meet friends at church, but we could do more.

This pastoral letter invites you to action. Next Sunday or the Sunday after, or, indeed, any other Sunday, why not seek out someone you don't know in your congregation? We might thereby break down the separatedness of contemporary congregations and get to know each other better.

Revd Dr David Dickinson



News from the Churches

The new Bishop of Crediton!



On 22 July the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, led the ordination and consecration of the Ven Rachel Treweek who became Bishop of Gloucester and the **Revd Canon Dame Sarah Mullally** (on the right), former Team Rector of Sutton, who is now Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter.

Tennis Club Finals Day.

On 18 July a thrilling afternoon of tennis brought more new winners to grace the honours' boards with Mary Burstow presenting the trophies.

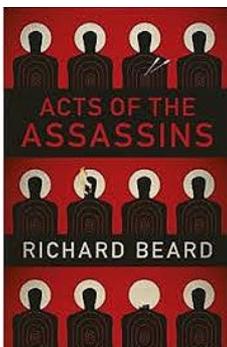
Many thanks to those friends who came to support the event along with those members who worked hard on the day to make it a success. If you would like to know more about the club and the sessions / coaching we offer look at our website at www.clubtennis.co.uk

Book Club Monday 7 September

You are invited to the Terrace Room at Trinity to discuss *Acts of the Assassins* by Richard Beard.

Although a 2015 publication, it is available on line at reduced prices - less than £10 for a hardback.

After a charismatic cult leader dies his followers are "bumped off" one by one. You might recognise this as the narrative of the first apostles!



Come and join the discussion even if you haven't read the book yet!

Coffee and Craft

Do you have a half finished craft project tucked away in a drawer at home?



Why not bring your sewing, knitting, papercraft or other craft work along to our new Coffee and Craft morning at Trinity Oasis café, from 10 -11.30am on the third Friday of every month, starting Friday 18 September 2015.

Beginners are as welcome as the more experienced - someone will always be on hand to offer help and ideas!

In Memoriam Roy Malcouronne

Roy Malcouronne, who died in June, was a long-serving member of Trinity Church where he and his widow, Jeanette, married in the mid-1950s. A man of quiet faith, he impressed many with his gentle kindness and dependability.

Back inside *The Clink*

Two years ago some of us from the churches in central Sutton visited *The Clink*, the restaurant at High Down Prison, for lunch and we were impressed by the quality of the food and the service.

A booking has been made for **Wednesday, 21 October** for us to return. The three-course lunch will cost £23 (soft drinks, tea/coffee, extra). To book contact Richard West at St Nicholas by **Sunday 13 September** and he will provide a copy of the menu from which you can choose. (8644 7834; richjwest@btinternet.com)

Sunday Outing 20 September

Join us for a walk around the river near Hampton Court. This is an easy-going, level, 4 mile walk on good paths and grass.

Meet at the back of Trinity Church after morning service ready to leave around 12.15. You will need a picnic lunch and £1.50 for a ferry fare.



We will travel to Hampton Court by car and plan to have a picnic in Hurst Park (if you wish bring garden chairs as we will picnic near the car park) Then we will take a passenger ferry across

the river, visit *Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare* have a Woodland Walk in Bushy Park, see *Diana's Fountain*, walk through Hampton Court Gardens and beside the river before having tea.

To let us know you are coming and whether you need, or can offer a lift, please contact us a few days in advance. John and Deborah Wroe: Tel 020 8642 9064, or email [mailto: John Wroe](mailto:mailto:John Wroe)

St Nicholas Supper Talks

On **Friday 25 September at 7.00pm** in St Nicholas Community Hall archaeologist **Clive Orton** will speak about:

The Medieval Potters of Cheam.

£8 for supper. £10 includes a copy of Clive's book.

For tickets contact:

Richard West 8644 7834 richjwest@btinternet.com



Can you help Andy Wilson (SBC)?

"My daughter, Mandie, is looking for a home in which to lodge, preferably with someone from one of the Sutton Churches, for 3 to 6 months starting in September this year. She is 35 and moving from Gloucestershire. If you have a room to spare or know someone who has, please contact: Andy Wilson 07956 241264 or email: andyw47@hotmail.com"

Devotions

Many of you may be familiar with this prayer, but it was new to the editor who heard it recently at a party to celebrate the 80th birthday of an Anglican priest who had spent some time in a Franciscan house.

The Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with **discomfort**.
Discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with **anger**.
Anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with **tears**.
Tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with **foolishness**.
Enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.
Amen

John's Church Belmont

Centenary Concert

Saturday 5 September 7.30pm

Crispian Steele-Perkins

An entertaining introduction to the trumpet and its music by the world's leading exponent of the Baroque trumpet.

Music by Handel, Haydn, Mozart and a new piece by Howard Goodall. Accompanied by Ian Le Grice



Tickets £10, £5 for under-16s

(family ticket £28, 2 adults + up to 4 children)

Tickets from Church Office Tel: 020 8643 4656

Email: office@stjohnbelmont.org.uk

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 14 September 3.00pm

Monday 21 September 6.30pm

Monday 12 October 3.00pm

Monday 19 October 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 take place twice a month on Wednesdays at 2.30pm in alternate venues:

1st Wednesday: St Nicholas Community Hall

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 99 and 101 Gander Green Lane, Sutton. All ages and abilities are welcome. See our website at 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.

Churches Uniting in Central Sutton (CUCS) — the journey so far!

Over the last few months we have been exploring the way forward for CUCS, but some people have asked how the journey began and how we have arrived at our current position.

Thank you to **Deborah Wroe** for plotting the key moments for us!

In January 1971 Sutton Baptist Church invited representatives of St Nicholas, Trinity and Sutton Congregational Church to explore the possibility of coming together in their work and witness.

In 1972 the four Churches entered into a formal Covenant “*to work and pray together with the aim of sharing life and buildings by Easter Day 1980*”

On Easter Day 1973 Sutton Congregational Church, which had just become part of the new United Reformed Church, moved from their building in Carshalton Road to unite with Trinity Methodist Church.

In March 1980 there was a vote on a scheme to sell the Baptist site and redevelop the St Nicholas site as a joint worship centre for all four churches. Sutton Baptist and Trinity voted for the scheme. St Nicholas voted against (by 116 votes to 91) and the plan did not proceed.

In 1986 a proposal to merge Sutton Baptist church and Trinity was rejected by both congregations.

In January 2001 a service of dedication committed the four churches to become a Local Ecumenical Partnership, now to be known as **Churches Uniting in Central Sutton**, which would

*present a clear and united witness to the people of Sutton
and
aim not to do anything separately that we could do together*



St Nicholas Parish Church
Church of England



Sutton Baptist Church



Trinity Church
Methodist and United Reformed

In 2006 St Nicholas became part of the Sutton Anglican Team Ministry with Christchurch and St Barnabas.

In 2015 we have united evening services every Sunday, at least three united morning services a year, pulpit exchanges, a joint magazine, united Lent activities including the Frugal Supper, shared social and musical events and united action such as the Christian Aid Mile of Money.

**Now all our congregations have been asked to consider
the way forward on our journey together!**

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 October issue is 16 September. *Unite!* is also available online at www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk