

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 5 October

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

Sunday 12 October

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Trinity	United Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i> <i>Dr. Daleep Mukarji,</i> <i>Vice-President of the Methodist</i> <i>Conference and former Director</i> <i>of Christian Aid</i>
6.30pm	St N	United Service

Sunday 19 October

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 <i>Revd Justine Middlemiss</i> <i>Jeff Richards (assist/preach)</i>
6.30pm	St N	United Service

Sunday 26 October

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP singing)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Sarah Sewell</i>
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
Revd Mark Pullinger (St Nicholas)	020 8642 2757 mplarksong@aol.co.uk



October 2014

Dear Friends

Love conkers? It has been difficult to walk along Christchurch Park in recent days (as with many other local places I suspect) without having a Chicken Licken moment, as conkers have plentifully and playfully tumbled out of the branches above – so much that in certain gusts of wind one might feel the sky really is falling on one's head!

This delightful children's book is one of those escalating narrative story-types, that build up tension and wonder as character by character a crowd of ever larger animals joins Chicken Licken as finally he can make his complaint about the sky to the King.

And yet it is a tale born out of deep human experience across the millennia, that out of small and often insignificant matters, levels of escalation gather until there is a reality of disaster and the diminishing of life to its ultimate deaths in myriads of ways – metaphorically described as the sky falling in on us. Whether this be in family relationships, the breakdown of international relationships, the meltdown of financial markets, the onset and gathering for war etc. Look at the news stories of today! Once the momentum has started, very quickly these layers of escalation accrete and, due often to human pride and stubbornness, become very difficult to stop as they snowball devastatingly across the landscapes of our world.

This is nothing new in human history, and in many ways much of what Jesus came to share and teach was how to disrupt the energy of these escalations and show there is an 'other way' – not that it is an easy way– 'love your enemies', 'turn the other cheek', 'walk another mile', 'give him your coat as well', 'lay down your life' – in the many ways we do this in our everyday living, with the deep strength of transforming love, we can make a difference. A difference by not carelessly adding to the escalations, but by with the 'other way' strength of love absorb and deflect the energy from their destructive journeys. We may not think that what we do will make a difference to what happens across the world – but it can and will, because it starts with each of us who have been sacrificially shown the 'other way', and it leaves a sky where it should be, above the trees where all can rise up as on wings of eagles in the freedom and promise and hope of a fulfilled humanity. Love conquers!

Mark

Revd Mark Pullinger



Devotions

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.' (Genesis 8:22)

By faith

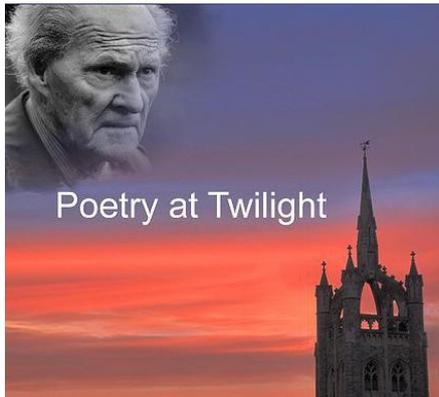
I gaze up to the heavens
and know
within its vastness
that this is your creation
planned and effected within eternity.

By faith

I pluck an ear of corn
and know
within its symmetry
lies the chemistry of life
the potential of creation within my hand.

By faith

I listen for your voice
and know
the whisper that I hear
breathed a world into existence
yet listens to the prayer within my soul.



At SCOLA Sutton

A series of three classes on

The Poetry of R S Thomas,

given by Revd Dr David Dickinson
from 4.00pm-6.00pm

- 6 November: R S Thomas: Poet Priest
13 November: God in R S Thomas' Poetry
20 November: R S Thomas, Poet of Celtic Spirituality.

Book at SCOLA or via www.scola.ac.uk
£5 per session.

Each session needs to be booked separately.

Diary Date! Tuesday 2 December 7.30pm

Trinity Advent Lecture

Modern Art: Enemy or Friend of Religious Art?

By Lord Harries of Pentregarth

(more details in next month's edition of *Unite!*)

Regular Events

All members of CUCS are warmly welcomed at these activities

Christian Meditation Groups will meet twice a month in future:

Contact Pamela Ford: 8642 5914

Monday 13 October: 3.00pm

Monday 20 October: 7.45pm

Saturday Prayer Meeting

10.00am - 11.00am at Sutton Baptist Church.

Trinity Women's Fellowship Club meets twice a month on Wednesday afternoons. For further information ring Sylvia Robinson 8642 1391.or Margaret Jeffery 8874 7108

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.

Mothers' Union meets at St Nicholas. Contact Janet Little 8715 6843.

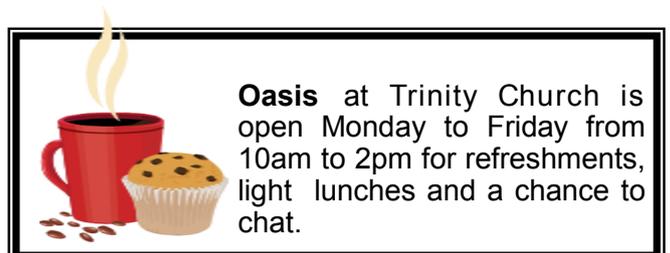
Trinity Toddler Group meets on Tuesdays in term time in Trinity Hall, 9.00-11.00am. Contact Paula Tidy 8642 2026.

Bunker, the youth club for CUCS, meets in Trinity Hall on Sunday 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

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



News from the Churches



Farewell Leah!

Everyone in CUCS would like to wish Revd Leah Philbrick every happiness in her future ministry in Tredegar, South Wales. We have valued her inspirational preaching and contributions to united events such as the Lent Study Talks and have been proud to have one of the few (only?) female cricketing curates in our midst! Leah.....

May the road rise up to meet you.....

And until we meet again

May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

Come and Sing!

Stephen Haylett invites you to join Trinity Choir for the following occasions:

CUCS United Service at Trinity on **Sunday, 12 October** at 10.30am. We will rehearse on Thursday 2 and 9 October at 8pm in the Parlour at Trinity to prepare an anthem for this service.

Fauré's Requiem at Trinity on **Remembrance Sunday 9 November** at 6.30pm. Rehearsals will start on Thursday, 9 October at 8pm and weekly thereafter. Invite your musical friends to join us!

First Tuesday

A series of Theological discussions at **Westminster Central Hall**.



Tuesday 7 October 10.30 for 11.00am

Dave Dickinson will be speaking in the Broadbent Room on: ***The Bible and Fiction***

In Memoriam

Margaret Raw

SBC sadly announces the death of Margaret Raw who, for several years, had been living in a nursing home in Portsmouth. Margaret, with her late husband John, were pillars of both SBC and our ecumenical partnership: there are many within all our churches who will remember their many kindnesses. John was for many years the editor of our ecumenical magazine, then called 'Four'

Betty Fell

Betty, widow of Ray, worshipped at St Nicholas before moving to Ewell where she died early in September. They were members of a stimulating house group in the eighties and valued friends to many local people.

International Lunch at Trinity Sunday 12 October

Dr. Daleep Mukarji, former Director of Christian Aid and currently Vice-President of the Methodist Conference is coming to preach at our **CUCS United Service** focussing on Public Issues.

You are invited to join us for an '**International**' themed lunch after the service and enjoy food from different parts of the world.

Tickets are £2 for adults and £1 for children which includes a cooked main course and drinks. We also invite you to contribute a *cold* starter or dessert to share, which can be brought to the kitchen before the service.

Tickets are available from: Carolyn Graham, SBC, (020 8642 3584), Alistair Cruickshank, St. Nicholas, (07860 312839) and Liz Wood (01737 833146) or Deborah Wroe (020 8642 9064), Trinity— from whom further details are available.

Worship Together then Eat Together!

Sunday Outings

Sunday 5 October Walk on Box Hill
(see last month's edition of *Unite!*)

Sunday 2 November Southwark Cathedral

Join us for a tour of Southwark Cathedral followed by Evensong at 3.00pm. Meet at the back of Trinity Church at 12 midday after morning service and bring a picnic lunch to eat on the train.

Southwark Cathedral makes no formal charge but invites donations towards its costs (with a guide of £5 per person). For more details please contact:

John and Deborah Wroe
020 8642 9064, email john.p.wroe@btinternet.com

Bunker

Young people at senior school are invited to Bunker at Trinity on Sunday evenings from 6.30– 8.00pm

5 October: Sorting Harvest contributions
13 October: Games Evening
19 October: Making Christmas cakes to sell
26 October Half Term no Bunker
2 November: Film night 6.00pm start
9 November: Bangers and Bangers at the home of the Oliver family. Fireworks and sausages. Transport provided.

16 November: **Tuesday 7 October 10.30 for 11.00am**

Christmas Craft Night at the home of the Dawson family in Cheam.

23 November: Decorating the Christmas Cakes!
30 November: Film Night 2 6.00pm start

Join the celebration!

Barbara and Simon Merren would like to invite you to help them celebrate the wedding of their daughter Anna to Darren Phillips at Trinity on Saturday 1st November at 1.00pm.

Woodbine Willie

Mike Dales continues our reflections on the First World War

This year we are commemorating the centenary of the First World War. We will rightly honour the many who were killed. But it is also timely to remember the almost forgotten chaplain who became known for giving Woodbine cigarettes along with spiritual aid to soldiers.

Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy was born in 1883, and served as a priest in a poor parish in Worcester. When war was declared against Germany, he encouraged parishioners to join the army and himself enlisted as a chaplain. In Christmas 1915 he was stationed at a railway junction in France where he held communion, prayed with young soldiers, and gave them New Testaments and cigarettes - after which he became known as Woodbine Willie.

Soon he was in the front line at the Somme where in one day 21,000 British troops were killed. In June, 1917, in Ypres, he was helping in a first aid post which ran out of morphine. Woodbine Willie volunteered to get supplies from another post. He ran through bullets, and succeeded in bringing back the morphine for men screaming in agony. He was awarded the military cross for bravery.

The award made him famous. Even so, he changed his mind about the war, coming to regard the slaughter as cruel and futile. He wrote home to his wife that he wished his sons "to be bitter rebels against the cruelty and folly of war."

On leaving the forces in 1919, he returned to a post-war Britain riddled with poverty and unemployment. Having little time for politicians, and regarding the church as being the primary voice for the poor, he became a campaigner for peace and justice. He preached all over Britain for a socially-just society declaring, "I believe that hungry children make God mad."

At the height of his endeavours, he died suddenly in 1929 at the age of just 45. His funeral at Worcester had working class people pack the streets while ex-soldiers threw Woodbines into his grave.



Reviewed by Dave Dickinson

A small number of us from Trinity went to the cinema last month to see *Medea* broadcast live from the National Theatre. First performed in about 431 BCE, Euripides' play is one of the darkest and most harrowing tragedies of all time. In Greek mythology Medea is the wife of Jason, he of the Argonaut and the Golden Fleece. Before the play begins, Jason has been unfaithful and plans to marry King Creon's daughter.

The play tells the story of Medea's awful revenge against the philanderer: she murders their children.

Helen McCrory, with tears coursing down her cheeks almost throughout the performance, played the part of Medea with such passion that we wondered what effect it had on her physically and emotionally to play such a part night after night. It's powerful stuff!

I cannot write this review to encourage you to go and see the play, as the run at the National is now over, but I can write it to draw some lessons. First, watching a tragedy on stage – or reading a tragic novel – is cathartic. You might feel you have gone through the wringer, but the important thing is you have gone *through* it and come out of the other side.

Second, some people might wonder why we might watch such an old mythological drama. Ancient does not mean non-contemporary. Mythic does not mean untruthful. That is good news for Christians who 'trade' in myths and ancient narratives. Our old, old story is still pertinent.

Third, Medea murders her children for revenge: by killing them, Jason can't have them. McCrory's performance as this child killer made me feel much more sympathetic towards parents who are driven to similar extreme actions in the modern world. I began to understand the mother who kidnaps her own children to prevent an estranged father seeing them and the mother who kills her children because she feels she can't give them what they need (shocking though all of that is).

At one point in the play, Medea proclaims, "My heart is wrenched in two." Ours were, too, as we watched.

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 November issue is 15 October. *Unite!* is also available online at www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk