

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton



March 2016

Sunday 6 March Mothering Sunday

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

Sunday 13 March Passion Sunday

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

Sunday 20 March Palm Sunday

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	Sutton Team Ministry United at Christ Church
6.30pm	Trinity	Mozart's Requiem Trinity Festival Choir

See details of Holy Week services and events in "News from the Churches"

Sunday 27 March Easter Sunday

6.15am	St N	Sunrise Service
9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Easter Communion and Celebration <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Morning Worship Communion
6.30pm		No evening 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

Dear friends

This month's pastoral letter tries to encourage us to consider the nature of our message to the world at Easter and, perhaps, explains one of the posters that might appear outside Trinity in the future.

I believe that the Church of Christ is called to speak of remarkable things, no more so than at Easter when our story is remarkable. In a world preoccupied with the mundane and quotidian, among people who are focussed on getting by and keeping going, the modern church is called to lift people's gaze from the daily grind to catch glimpses of the wonder of God and to recognise that there is more to life than meets the eye.

In 2002, Jon McGregor published a debut novel bearing the title *If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things*. It concerns the events of one long summer day in the lives of the residents of an anonymous street in an unnamed northern city. This odd book begins with an accident in which a child is knocked down and ends with the child getting up, barely hurt. But at the moment the child rises, another resident collapses and dies alone in his room. The author calls this "an interruption in the way of things." He lies there undiscovered for three days. Here McGregor makes a surprising connection between death and resurrection.

Earlier in the novel, a father had responded to his daughter's question about angels by stressing how important it is to bear witness to the 'remarkable.' He said, "This is a big world and there are many things you can miss if you are not careful. There are remarkable things all the time, right in front of us, but our eyes [are] like the clouds over the sun and our lives are paler and poorer if we do not see them for what they are. If nobody speaks of remarkable things, how can they be called remarkable?"

McGregor is the son of a clergyman and, though there is nothing specifically Christian about his novel, I feel sure it's about the realm of spirituality breaking in on ordinary lives. It moves from the utterly ordinary to the disturbingly remarkable. I simply ask how we, in our churches, open others' eyes to the vivid sense of epiphany amidst the everyday. Let us speak of remarkable things.

Revd Dr David Dickinson



Devotions

Matthew Guite has written a complete sequence of sonnets for the *Stations of the Cross* and which are intended to be read on Good Friday. Here we focus on the second and the fifth station.



Jesus is given his Cross

He gives himself again with all his gifts
And now we give him something in return.
He gave the earth that bears, the air that lifts,
Water to cleanse and cool, fire to burn,
And from these elements he forged the iron,
From strands of life he wove the growing wood,
He made the stones that pave the roads of Zion
He saw it all and saw that it is good.
We took his iron to edge an axe's blade,
We took the axe and laid it to the tree,
We made a cross of all that he has made,
And laid it on the one who made us free.
Now he receives again and lifts on high
The gifts he gave and we have turned awry



Simon of Cyrene carries the Cross

In desperation on this road of tears
Bystanders and bypassers turn away
In others' pain we face our own worst fears
And turn our backs to keep those fears at bay
Unless we are compelled as this man was
By force of arms or force of circumstance
To face and feel and carry someone's cross
In Love's full glare and not his backward glance.
So Simon, no disciple, still fulfilled
The calling: '*take the cross and follow me*'.
By accident his life was stalled and stilled
Becoming all he was compelled to be.
Make me, like him, your pressed man and your
priest,
Your *alter Christus*, burdened and released.

From *Sounding the Seasons: Poetry for the Christian Year* by Malcolm Guite

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 March	3.00pm
Monday	21 March	6.30pm
Monday	11 April	3.00pm
Monday	18 April	6.30pm

Saturday Prayer Meeting

10.00am - 11.00am at Sutton Baptist Church.

St Nicholas' Mothers' Union usually meets on the **first Wednesday of the month** in St Nicholas Community Hall. All are welcome.

For further information contact:

Janet Little 8715 6843

The Growing Group 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

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,

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.

News from the Churches



Sunday 20 March 6.30pm Trinity

Mozart's Requiem

Trinity Festival Choir

Musical Director: Stephen Haylett
Organist: Martin Ford
Soprano: Eve Mcgrath
Alto: Kate Warshaw
Tenor: Jon English
Bass: Graham Dinnage

Thursday 24 March 8.00pm St Nicholas

Maundy Thursday Service

Friday 25 March 10.00am

The Good Friday Walk of Witness organised by Churches Together in Sutton and Cheam will leave Asda at 10.00am and conclude with a short service in Trinity Square accompanied by the Salvation Army Band.

St Nicholas will be open for prayer and meditation from 11.30am-1.30pm

Sunday 27 March 6.15am St Nicholas

Celebrate **Easter Day** by attending the **Sunrise Service** in St Nicholas Churchyard. (remember that the clocks will have changed over night!)



4 March Women's World Day of Prayer

Everyone (men as well as women!) is invited to the service on Friday 4 March at 10.30am at the Salvation Army Church on the corner of Throwley Way and Benhill Avenue. This year the service has been planned by the women of Cuba.

Sunday afternoon outing

Join us on **Sunday 6 March** for a visit to the **Victoria and Albert Museum**, which has a special exhibition celebrating **40 years of Theatre in London and New York**.

We also hope to join a one hour tour of **Britain 1500-1900**. These tours are free.

We will meet at the back of Trinity Church following morning service, aiming to leave soon after 1200. Bring a packed lunch to eat on the train and you will need an Oyster Travelcard or equivalent for train and underground travel via Victoria to South Kensington. We will return to Sutton by 6pm.

For more details please contact:
John and Deborah Wroe 8642 9064,
email: john.p.wroe@btinternet.com



Wednesday 16 March

Over 70 people have been taking part in Lent Study Groups. Everyone, in a group or not, is invited to the final session at 8.00pm at SBC when we will be summing up our thoughts on the essentials for our spiritual journey.

Friday 1 April The House of Reeves

On Friday, 1 April, Trevor Reeves will give a brief history of the five generations of the Reeves family and its business. From its sole trader foundation in mid 1800s through to the private limited company selling furniture in Croydon we see today and how the business withstood over 145 years in the same family!

This talk will be preceded by supper at 7pm in **St Nicholas Community Hall**. Tickets at £8 each are available from Richard West: richjwest@btinternet.com; 020 8644 7834.

Revd John Joseph

John Joseph, a former minister of Trinity, will be retiring from full time ministry on Easter Sunday.

Trinity will be represented at the farewell celebration organised by Redhill United Reformed Church on 2 April.

Book Club Tuesday 12 April 8.00pm

Join us in the Terrace Room at Trinity to discuss *Silas Marner* by *George Eliot*.

“Government challenged on refugee policies”
by Mike Dales, adapted from an article in
The Baptist Times



Christians in West Yorkshire have challenged the Government to significantly improve conditions for asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. In a statement issued on Ash Wednesday, the West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council has expressed its concern “at policies which cause homelessness and poverty among people seeking sanctuary”

In light of the “largest refugee crisis since World War II,” it has called on the Government to change national policy in four ways:

- to establish **safe and legal routes** for refugees to find protection in the UK and Europe;
- to regard and respect people seeking refugee protection as **future citizens**, willing and able to make a positive contribution to the UK;
- to increase **Asylum Support** to at least 70 per cent of Income Support and to grant asylum seekers **Permission to Work**;
- to prevent the homelessness of new refugees by increasing **the transition period** from 28 to 40 days for those granted protection in the UK.

The statement concludes that our national attitude towards the most vulnerable is a guide to the spiritual health of our society. ‘In failing to support people seeking refugee protection, we are failing ourselves,’ the statement reads. ‘We uphold the words of Jesus on the judgment of nations: “Just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.”’

The statement has been affirmed by members of eight Christian traditions: Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, New Testament Church of God, Quaker, United Reformed Church, and the Wesleyan Holiness Church.

The Revd Kevin Watson, Moderator of the Yorkshire Synod of the United Reformed Church said, *We cannot ignore the biggest human crisis in Europe for 70 years. Let's open our hearts and open our borders to people fleeing persecution. Let's treat asylum seekers with the dignity and respect they deserve; let's see them as future citizens; let's recognise them as children of God.*

This month we focus on another local charity in which members of our churches are involved:
David Jones writes about Sutton Mental Health Foundation



Sutton Mental Health Foundation is a local charity for people who have experienced severe mental illness. It is one of the local charities which receives regular support from Trinity Church, for which we are very grateful.

We offer a safe place for people to meet and facilities and support to overcome obstacles to recovery. (For example it can be very difficult to start socialising again after a long period of illness – or concerns about money, housing or relationships can become overpowering if they cannot be shared.) We also support the Sutton 1in4 Network, an independent community organisation with a focus on mental health and wellbeing.

We believe strongly in mutuality and encourage people to learn how to draw on their experience of mental distress and use it as a resource to help others. We offer structured training in peer support, not just in Sutton but also further afield.

We visit the acute ward at Springfield Hospital regularly and offer one to one support for people coping with mental health problems at home. Our *Hearing Voices* groups allow people to explore together how to manage this aspect of their lives. We are widening our scope to offer mental health awareness and mental health first aid training to local churches, businesses and other organisations

We are working to attract new sources of funding and to meet a growing public appetite to understand what it is like to suffer mental illness and how to recognise and respond helpfully to its symptoms.

If you would like to know more, please look at our website www.smhf.org.uk, call us on 020 8770 0172 or speak to David Jones or Malcolm Booth at Trinity (who are both trustees). You might also be interested in the 1in4 website at www.sutton1in4.org.uk

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 April issue is 16 March. *Unite!* is also available online at www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk