

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 4 September

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

Sunday 11 September

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 <i>Jeff Richards</i>
6.30pm	SBC	United Service

Sunday 18 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 Communion <i>Revd Justine Middlemiss</i>
6.30pm	SBC	United Service

Sunday 25 September

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP singing)
10.30am	SBC	SBC Anniversary with Communion <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Parade and Harvest Festival <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Céclie Schnyder</i> <i>Revd Sarah Sewell (preach)</i>
6.30pm	SBC	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 2016

Dear friends

By the time you read this, the craze may be so over that we'll have forgotten what it ever was

But in late July and early August the Rectory at St Nicholas was under attack. Not from wasps or anything nasty but from Pokemon hunters, chasing the latest 'pocket monster' in the augmented reality game that swept the nation and indeed much of the world. In the game, which is played on mobile smart phones, the idea is to capture, train and evolve 'monsters', sometimes cute and sometimes less so. The augmented reality bit means that these monsters turn up on your phone screen superimposed onto the real world around you. Different places have been established as focus points for these 'monsters' and it just so happens that the St Nicholas Rectory, the mural along the alley way and several other points in the St Nicholas Churchyard received such an honour.

The good news was that I could capture huge numbers of monsters without leaving my house. The bad news was that on the first couple of days there were up to 30 people in a crowd by my front door trying to catch them too.

The game's designers have said that one of the objectives behind the game was to get people out from behind static screens and walking around their neighbourhood. It was about 'gamifying' (sic) exercise: making it fun and interactive. It may have achieved that goal – I certainly have spoken to lots of parents who have said how the game got their children out and about. But more than that: It got whole families, multigenerational groups out together. I met one lady in her fifties who was playing with her mum who was in her eighties. Similarly, I have had conversations with people I would otherwise never have encountered without the game as an opening topic of conversation. Yes there were potential risks but also a potential for good. Adults and children were learning from each other, walking together, talking together as equals. They were united in one task, with one goal in mind.

I wonder what it might be like if the Church were the same?

Justine

Revd Justine Middlemiss



News from the Churches

Getting to know you!

We look forward to getting to know the new member of the Sutton Team Ministry, Revd Philip Brooks and his family, following his licensing service at St Nicholas on 24 August. Philip will be Team Vicar with particular responsibility for Christ Church

Congratulations!

It was good to watch Harry Aikines-Aryeetey running in the final of the 4 x 100m relay as one of the GB team at the Rio Olympic Games! Harry is the son of Trinity Deacon William and Margaret Aikines-Aryeetey.

Women In Touch (WIT for short!)



The *Women in Touch* group is known to members across the churches, but by its former name, the *Growing Group*. It has been renamed to reflect better what the group is about.

We are in touch with the world and what is happening in it, we are in touch with our shared faith and we are in touch with our caring for one another. Furthermore, the acronym WIT reflects the laughter we regularly enjoy and share! We are a group which has no committee, no membership dues, no particular structure, except for meeting on a fortnightly basis.

Our ideas for places to meet and things to do come from each, all having an equal contribution in agreeing the programme which evolves. Some of the activities we have covered in 2016 include visits to gardens, coffee places, lunches out, lunches in, watching thoughtful films, acting out a play, sharing favourite music, to name but a few.

The group is open to women across the churches with new people and new ideas very welcome. If you feel a bit shy about coming on your own, bring a friend, all are welcome.

Our first meeting for the Autumn will be on **Monday 12 September** at 10.30am in the John Clifford Hall, next to SBC, when we will set our programme for the year. Please consider joining us, we would love to see new people with new ideas!

For more information contact Carole Adams: 07711879645 caroleadams1@btinternet.com

Ride and Stride Saturday 10 September



Saturday 10 September is the annual *Ride and Stride Day*. The object is to have an enjoyable time, visit interesting places and raise funds (via sponsorship) to be used for the maintenance of our valued places of Christian worship. Both Trinity and St Nicholas have benefitted from funding from the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust in past years. Details of the churches likely to be open can be found at www.rideandstrideuk.org

Anyone interested in enjoying a short or all day cycle please contact Colin and Shirley Quemby on 020 8642 3720

Reminder!

Book Club meets at 8.00pm on Tuesday 13 September in Trinity Terrace Room to discuss *Under the Udala Trees* by Chinelo Okparanto.

Supper Talk Discover Art Deco

Ian Gledhill will speak about Art Deco at the Supper Talk on Friday, 16 September. It will take place at 7.00pm at St Nicholas Community Hall, with a fish and chips supper before the talk.

Tickets at £8 each are available from Richard West: 8644 7834; richjwest@btinternet.com



Sunday Afternoon Walk 25 September

Join us for a longer ramble through the Surrey Hills. Bring a picnic lunch and wear suitable footwear. We will meet at the back of Trinity after morning worship, to leave by car at about 12.15pm.

Please contact John and Deborah Wroe if you can offer, or need, a lift: 020 86429064 john.p.wroe@btinternet.com

Friendly Places?

Just over a year ago, Trinity made the decision to join an initiative called '*Friendly Places*', pledging to be accessible, friendly and welcoming to people who might be struggling, to raise awareness, challenge stigma and develop a better understanding of mental health.

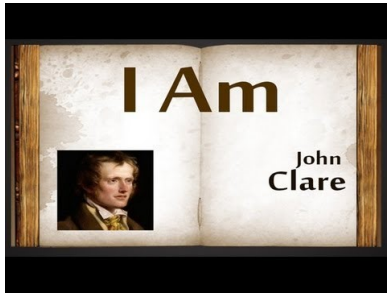
Rather than arrange meetings and activities, we wanted to build an awareness of mental health into the things we already do, recognising that we all face fluctuations in our mental health, just as our physical health varies from time to time.

Now we want to take stock. We are holding a short meeting after morning service on **Sunday 2 October**, which we hope many people will want to attend. We'd like to know whether you think progress is being made. Have you found more opportunities to talk about mental health? Have you become more aware of needs and issues or been able to share your own in new ways? What should we do next? Please come and share your views.

David Jones

In Memoriam Rene Finch

SBC sadly announces the death of Rene Finch at the grand age of 98. Due to her advanced age, it has been some time since Rene has been able to grace our worship in person but friends across the churches may remember her as the leader of the Women's Fellowship for many years.



by Dave Dickinson

At the Hay Festival in June, Salman Rushdie lamented the lost art of memorising poetry. It is a skill I never had. I used to “say my piece” at Sunday School anniversaries but it was always a chore. Intentional learning by heart did not work for me. The nearest I came to memorising a poem was through repeated reading. One I have often read is John Clare’s *I am*, written in 1845 when the poet was isolated from family and friends in Northampton General Lunatic Asylum. Is it one of the most melancholic poems ever?

The poem begins “*I am: yet what I am none cares or knows, My friends forsake me like a memory lost.*” Clare speaks of living “*with shadows tossed Into the nothingness of scorn and noise.*” These terms convey the nightmare of 19th century asylums. His life was shipwrecked and he dwelt in a sea of living dreams. It sounds hopeless.

But, there is a positive tone in the poem, for Clare expresses a hope, a desire, a deep longing to be free of his awful existence to abide “*untroubled and untroubling*” with his “*Creator, God, and sleep as I in childhood sweetly slept.*” The poem that began desolately ends with the poet at peace, “*the grass below – above, the vaulted sky.*”

The poem goes some way towards explaining my philosophy of church. Church is where your wellbeing is improved. What John Bell of the Iona Community called “*a touching place*” (that is, where we can be in touch with God) is a healing place. It’s a thin place where we can see through from earth to heaven, from nightmare to peace. Last year, Trinity Church signed a pledge to be “*A Friendly Place.*” This means it is committed to be a place of welcome for people struggling to achieve or maintain mental health. The pledge keeps us on our toes and there will be opportunities to talk further about what it means to be a healing, touching, friendly and thin place.

I suspect it means church is a place where ‘I’ can be who I am.



The Hollow Crown

a review by Mike Dales

Nobody would ever pretend that Shakespeare’s plays are ‘easy’. They can be difficult to watch and understand, partly due to the Elizabethan language used, and partly because most people are not all that familiar with them, apart from a few of the more accessible plays. Every now and then a film version of a play is released to greater or lesser acclaim: the Zeffirelli (with Olivia Hussey) and Baz Luhrmann (with Leonardo DiCaprio) versions of *Romeo & Juliet* and the more recent Michael Fassbender version of *Macbeth* come to mind.

The historical plays are especially ignored by most people. This is why the two sets of plays with the overall title of ‘*The Hollow Crown*’ produced for TV and available on DVD are so exciting.

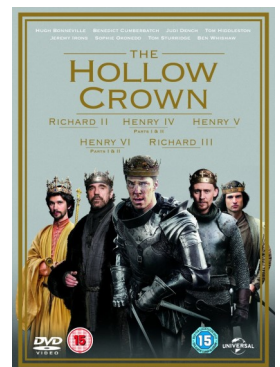
The first set was first seen in 2012 and contained: *Richard II*, *Henry IV (part I)*, *Henry IV (part II)* and *Henry V*. It starred Ben Whishaw, Jeremy Irons and Tom Hiddleston among many others. Ben Whishaw and Simon Russell Beale won BAFTAs for their performances while Jeremy Irons was nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Actor for his role as Henry IV. The second set was seen in 2016 and consisted of the ‘*Wars of the Roses*’ plays: *Henry VI (part I)*, *Henry VI (part II)*, *Henry VI (part III)* and *Richard III*. Benedict Cumberbatch starred as Richard III.

All the films were filmed largely on location in Kent (including Leeds and Dover Castles) and were marked by the high production values we would expect from BBC historical dramas.

However, all the nice costumes and great locations in the world would amount to nothing unless the dramas turned out to be both inspiring and exciting. It is a mark of the quality of the adaptations and the excellence of the acting and production that you find yourself simply enjoying it and being able to follow it despite the relatively unfamiliar cadences of Elizabethan poetry and language.

A favourite moment? Many! However, one that comes to mind is Patrick Stewart’s ‘*This sceptered isle*’ speech in *Richard II*. You can see it at: <https://vimeo.com/45513719>

Both sets are available from the usual sources and come very 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 October issue is 14 September. *Unite!* is also available online at www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk

I love this hymn because.....

by Harry Graham (SBC) -

Will Your Anchor Hold?

Better known as *The Anchor Song* to all serving and ex-members of The Boys' Brigade, I have had the privilege of 50+ years of service in the Brigade and have sung this hymn around camp fires, at BB rallies at the Royal Albert Hall and during many parade services and Bible classes.

The words of the hymn were written by Priscilla Owens who was born in Baltimore USA in 1829 and are based on Hebrews 6:19:

*We have this hope as an anchor for our lives.
It is safe and sure and goes through the curtain
of the heavenly temple into the inner sanctuary.*

The BB has a badge which contains an anchor and a motto which is *sure and steadfast*. Sir William Smith, the founder of the BB in 1883, was a keen sailor being born and brought up on the NE coast of Scotland in a strong Christian family and he originally called the junior section *life boys*.



The hymn has a roaring chorus which has lifted many a roof and I hope will continue to do so:

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul;
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

The Armed Man – a Mass for Peace by Karl Jenkins



Stephen Haylett invites you to come and sing!

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to participate in a performance of Karl Jenkins' *'The Armed Man' ('A Mass for Peace')* at Trinity Church, Sutton on **Sunday, 13 November** at 6.30pm.

Some of you will be familiar with it. It's a thoroughly accessible piece, both for singer and audience, with musical pastiches of Renaissance choral music as well as more contemporary musical idioms. It will be great fun to learn and I think will make a really powerful impact on the audience when we perform it on Remembrance Sunday.

Rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings, starting on **Thursday, 8 September** from 8.00 - 9.00pm in the upstairs Parlour at Trinity. Access is gained through a red door round the back of the church in Hill Road, and up two flights of stairs. Vocal scores will be provided.

As I always say, it's much more exciting and fulfilling to sing in a really substantial choir for this kind of choral work, so do join us - and spread the word to friends and neighbours to come along as well, either to sing or to listen on 13 November!

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 12 September 3.00pm and 6.30pm

Monday 10 October 3.00pm

Monday 17 October 6.30pm

Saturday Prayer Meeting (1st and 3rd Saturdays)
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. Contact: Janet Little 8715 6843

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

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 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.



Oasis at Trinity Church is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm for refreshments, light lunches and a chance to chat.