

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 1 May

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>John Ellis, Moderator of the General Assembly of the URC</i>
	St N	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Sarah Sewell</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	United Service

Thursday 5 April Ascension Day

8.00am	Christ Church	Holy Communion <i>Revd Justine Middlemiss</i>
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Sunday 8 May

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	Morning Worship <i>Jeff Richards</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	United Service

Sunday 15 May Pentecost and the start of Christian Aid week

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP with singing)
10.30am	St N	CUCS United Morning Worship
5.45pm	Methodist Circuit Service Epsom	
6.30pm	Trinity	United Service

Sunday 22 May Trinity Sunday

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	Morning Worship Communion and Baptism <i>Revd Justine Middlemiss</i> <i>Revd Cecile Schnyder</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	United Service Choral Evensong

Sunday 29 May

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 Service <i>Revd Canon Stephen Hance</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	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



May 2016

Dear friends

For those of us who are a little (ahem) less structured and (ahem) spontaneous in our lifestyle the feast of Pentecost is one that surely brings a great deal of joy into our lives.

If through the Prologue to John's Gospel ('In the beginning was the Word') Jesus is often linked to the idea of Logos, the Stoic and Platonic principle of organization and structure, the Holy Spirit laughing, dancing and cartwheeling through the disciples is one that brings a smile to my lips. One of my favourite lines in scripture is Peter's comment: *They are not drunk as you suppose, for it is only 9 o'clock in the morning*. I love the idea of the Holy Spirit causing a bit of chaos and upset; turning preconceptions upside down; bringing joy and exuberance and just basically shaking the disciples (and that means us) out of a sense of complacency and certainty; revealing to us gifts that we didn't know that we had; challenging us to proclaim the Gospel in ways that we couldn't imagine.

It's often easy for the Holy Spirit to be tucked away in the corner, the added extra to the Trinity. When we say or sing the Gloria, the Spirit is tucked in as *with the Holy Spirit*, when we say the Creeds the Holy Spirit often seems to get short shrift. And yet for me it's the enlivening force and power of the Spirit that drives the Church forward; that pushes us onwards and outwards stopping us from feeling safe, in control and complacent.

I'm delighted and excited that this year we are going to be celebrating Pentecost together in one of our regular CUCS United Morning Services. At that service we are all going to be worshipping together – there will be no separate children's provision; but we will be looking and listening out for the Spirit's coming and will anoint each other as a sign of the ministry that each of us has in the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Please do come wearing your brightest, most flame like clothes and be prepared for anything to happen.

Justine

Revd Justine Middlemiss



News from the Churches

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May

This is the week we love every neighbour

Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. **Christian Aid Week** unites over 20,000 churches to put this love into action.

How you can help:

There are lots of ways you could help - some are easier than others! But we hope you will find you can support Christian Aid in at least one of the following ways:-

As a house-to-house collector

This is the most valuable way you can help. If you might be able to do this please ask for more information from:

SBC	Mike Dales
St N	Clive Orton
Trinity	Colin Howard



Helping at our Mile of Money event on Saturday 21 May

Give just an hour of your time to help at this event - we need several volunteers for each 1 hour rota slot from 10am to 4pm. Contact John Wroe: 8642 9064, or john.p.wroe@btinternet.com

Donate quality second hand books

Free up some space on your bookshelves and donate books for us to sell on 21 May - quality and easily sellable books only please!

Bake a cake

Provide a cake for sale on 21 May.

Donate

Give money to Christian Aid - and if possible Gift Aid it. Envelopes will be available in churches.

Come along on Saturday 21 May

Why not come along with friends or family to the Mile of Money in St Nicholas Churchyard? Enjoy coffee, lunch or tea and have a chat!

Pray

Remember in your prayers the work of Christian Aid and the many people giving their time in Christian Aid week to make it financially possible.

A prayer from Christian Aid

O God, our refuge and strength, our help in times of trouble,

Have mercy on the lands where the earth has given way.

Have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed livelihoods.

Strengthen those who rebuild houses and who rebuild hope so that communities may face the future without fear. Amen

What the Bible says about.....

Everyone is invited to the next series of *What the Bible says about.....* led by Dave Dickinson in the Terrace Room at Trinity at 8.00pm

Tuesday 24 May -

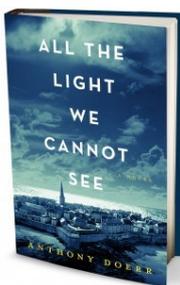
What the Bible says abouthow we treat older people.

Tuesday 28 June -

What the Bible says about..... poverty.

These sessions combine Bible study with discussion to explore important current issues.

Monday 20 June 8.00pm Book Club



All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. It is set in both occupied France and Germany during World War II and tells the story of Marie-Laure, a blind French girl and Werner, a German boy, whose lives eventually overlap.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn wrote that "the dividing line between good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being." *All the Light We Cannot See* is filled with examples of human nature at its best and worst

Members of our churches have enjoyed this book and recommend it as "a good read" so come along on 20 June at 8.00pm in Trinity Terrace Room to share your response to it and to discuss the ethical issues it raises.

1 May Sunday Afternoon Outing

Join us for a walk amidst the bluebells in Banstead Woods. This is not a strenuous walk, but is on country paths with slopes, tree roots and possibly a little mud.

We will meet at the back of Trinity Church after the morning service. Bring a picnic which we will eat in the woods or at Trinity before we go.

Please let us know if you are coming, and whether you can offer a lift or will need a lift.

Contact John and Deborah Wroe:

8642 9064, or john.p.wroe@btinternet.com.



27 May 7.00pm St Nicholas Supper Talk

On Friday, 27 May Sheila Collis and Mary Shepherd will talk about **A Visit to Ghana** last year. This Supper Talk will take place in St Nicholas Community Hall from 7.00pm.

They were part of a party of SPAs (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries), linked with a charitable organisation in Ghana. As well as the adventure of experiencing life in Ghana, the purpose of the journey was to reflect together on pastoral and practical ministry outside an explicitly Christian context.

Tickets are £8.00 each from Richard West :

The Implacability of God

by Dave Dickinson

Flannery O'Connor was a Roman Catholic writer from the southern states of the USA who died in 1964 before she reached the age of forty. Her short story *The Enduring Chill* begins as a retelling of Jesus's parable of the Prodigal Son as its main character, Asbury Fox, returns to his mother. While tending cows (not pigs!) he had contracted a disease from unpasteurised milk and he has come home to die. His damp childhood bedroom has water stains on its walls and one, directly above his bed on the ceiling, is shaped *like a fierce bird with spread wings*. It had always irritated him. At the end of the story we see the significance of this water stain. Asbury's breath comes short as he dies and *the fierce bird which through ... the days of his illness had been poised over his head, waiting mysteriously, appeared all at once to be in motion ... A feeble cry, a last impossible protest escaped him. But the Holy Ghost, emblazoned in ice instead of fire, continued, implacable, to descend.*



This is a story about the Holy Spirit and the key word is "implacable." God cannot be placated, accommodated or turned aside from the divine pursuit of our beings. We can turn our backs on God. We can run as fast as we like in the opposite direction, but God, undeterred, will seek us out. In the story, Asbury has run all his life but only when he is forced to stop running, as he lies in bed with an enduring chill, does he discover that God has always kept close.

In the last fifty years or so of Christian history, since the so-called charismatic movement began, there has been much scope for misunderstanding about the Holy Spirit. O'Connor's story reins us in and corrects us. The Spirit expresses the unceasing presence of God, the implacability of God and the power of divine love which persists in drawing us nearer and deeper into relationship with God.

The Imitation Game (2014)



a film review by Mike Dales

The Imitation Game starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley, was one of the outstanding films of 2014. It was loosely based on the biography of the real-life Alan Turing, who was one of the leading members of the Bletchley Park team who decrypted German intelligence codes for the British government during World War II. The film was a commercial and critical success, being nominated in no less than eight categories at the 2015 Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor (Cumberbatch), and Best Supporting Actress. It was also nominated for nine BAFTAs including Best Film and Outstanding British Film.

Cumberbatch is outstanding as the difficult and complex Turing, a mathematical genius who found it almost impossible to work as part of a team. One critic, Todd McCarthy of *The Hollywood Reporter*, said that the highlight of the film was Cumberbatch, *whose charisma, tellingly modulated and naturalistic array of eccentricities, talent at indicating a mind never at rest and knack for simultaneously portraying physical oddness and attractiveness combine to create an entirely credible portrait of genius at work.*

The work of Turing and the other Bletchley code-breakers undoubtedly shortened the war, and if that were all there was to it, there would still be a great story to be told. However, there was more: Turing was homosexual and was convicted of indecency in 1952. He was given the choice of prison or chemical castration. He chose the latter but died just over a year later. He was only 41. The post-mortem suggested the cause as suicide due to cyanide poisoning. A partially eaten apple lay nearby. It was a sad and sordid end for a man who certainly saved many lives.

In 2013 the Queen signed a full pardon. Announcing the pardon, Justice Secretary Chris Grayling said Turing deserved to be *remembered and recognised for his fantastic contribution to the war effort* and not for his later criminal conviction.

The film is available from the usual sources: it can often be found in supermarkets for the reduced price of £5 - £8.

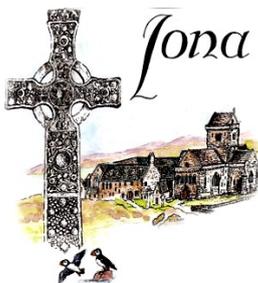
From the Editor I would be delighted to receive comments and suggestions on the future of *Unite!*. Contact me by email: olwenstewart@hotmail.com or by phone: **8643 2525**. Copy date for the June issue is 18 May. *Unite!* is also available online at www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk

I love this hymn because.....

by Deborah Wroe

I have always been drawn to the hymns of the Iona Community with their combination of lilting folk tunes and challenging words. The Iona Community, founded on the Scottish island of Iona by a Glasgow Church of Scotland minister in 1938, now has members across the world who are Presbyterians, Anglicans, Lutherans, Quakers, Roman Catholics and people of no denominational allegiance.

The community has a strong commitment to ecumenism and to peace and justice issues. Since the 1980s the community has published a number of hymns and songs by a small group led by John Bell and Graham Maule.



My personal favourite among Bell and Maule's hymns is *Inspired by Love and Anger* published in 2005, usually sung to the lovely old folk tune *Down by the Salley Gardens*. Although it is rich in scriptural references, from the messages of social justice in Isaiah and Amos in the Old Testament to the Gospel stories demonstrating Christ's love and anger in action, it has an immediacy which appeals to me.

The hymn is cast as a dialogue between people frustrated by the state of our modern world and God. The people ask such questions as : ***How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind? and Where are the fruits of Justice? Where are the signs of peace?***

One verse seems particularly relevant to the events of last month:

***From those forever shackled
To what their wealth can buy
The fear of lost advantage
Provokes the bitter cry,
'Don't query our position!
Don't criticise our wealth!
Don't mention those exploited
By politics and stealth!'***

God responds with his own questions and challenges: ***Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?*** and the hymn ends with a reminder that a saviour has come to ***tip the balance*** with a picture of Jesus which brings me a clearer appreciation of his humanity than any other hymn I know:

***Amused in someone's kitchen,
asleep in someone's boat***

That could be **my** kitchen or **my** friends' boat.

(Could you contribute to this column by writing about a hymn that means a lot to you?

If so, contact the editor:

olwenstewart@hotmail.com 020 8643 2525)

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	9 May	3.00pm
Monday	16 May	6.30pm
Monday	13 June	3.00pm
Monday	20 June	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.