

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 2 April Passion Sunday

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	United Morning Worship Holy Communion
6.30pm	Trinity	United Service

Sunday 9 April Palm Sunday

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP singing)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	Christ Church	STM United Worship
6.30pm	Trinity	United Service Handel's Messiah Trinity Festival Choir

Sunday 16 April Easter Sunday

6.00am	St N	Easter Sunrise Service
10.30am	SBC	Easter Celebration Communion <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Family Communion <i>Revd Cécile Schnyder</i>
6.30pm		No Evening Service

Sunday 23 April

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Anne Rusbridge</i>
	St N	Morning Worship
6.30pm	Trinity	United Service

Sunday 30 April

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Craig Bowman</i>
	St N	Morning Worship
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



April 2017

Dear friends

No one expected the Resurrection - not one single person.

And can we blame them? It was something totally outside of the frame of reference of every single disciple, even though Jesus had told them over and over again that it would happen.

On the day after the Sabbath - on Sunday morning - while it was still dark Mary Magdalene and some other woman went to the tomb of Jesus to finish the sad process of preparing his body for burial. Mary went ahead of the others - not because she was expecting a surprise, but because she wanted to be alone for a while in the graveyard, to grieve for a while before honouring his broken body with the dignity that the dead should receive.

You know the rest of the story! Mary sees Jesus standing there and she supposes he is the gardener. It then that Jesus calls her by name, "Mary", and it is then that her eyes clear and she realizes that Jesus is alive and standing in front of her.

And the world has never been the same since.

Death is not the end of the story of Jesus. Nor is it the end of our stories.

Look around you: the signs of God's love are all about us in the midst of our world's troubles and turmoil.

Listen: for the voice of the one who called Mary by name in the garden is here to speak to us.

It is not over. If were over - if Christ was not raised - the church would never have come into existence for the disciples would never have gone on to claim that Jesus was Risen. They would never have passed to us their testimony for they would have had nothing to testify about.

I thank God for Easter.

I thank God for Mary - and for Peter and for all the other disciples who did not believe. I thank God for them because their faith tells me that there is hope for me when I weep, hope for me when I do not believe, and hope for me when I face the cross and the tomb and feel despair rising up within me.

But most of all I thank God for the living Christ: for the one who was raised up on the third day and who has broken the power of sin and death.

Your friend

Mike

Revd Mike Dales



News from the Churches

Celebrating Lent and Easter

Final Lent Study Group

Over 70 people have been meeting in groups across CUCS and the Sutton Team Ministry and we are very grateful to those who have welcomed people into their homes and to those who have been group leaders. Everybody (even if you have not been in a group) is invited to the final session:

Celebration of Life I
led by **Cécile Schnyder**
8.00pm Tuesday 4 April
Sutton Baptist Church.



Palm Sunday 9 April

6.30pm Trinity Trinity Festival Choir
Handel's Messiah

Maundy Thursday 13 April

8.00pm Trinity Service of Holy Communion

Good Friday 14 April

10.00 am Trinity
A Celebration of Christ's Passion:
a short service of reflections, prayer and music.

11.15 am St Nicholas
Quiet Prayer and the Stations of the Cross

(There is no Walk of Witness organised by Churches Together in Sutton and Cheam this year)



Easter Day 16 April

6.00am St Nicholas Churchyard
Sunrise Celebration of Easter

Easter Tuesday 18 April

10.00am Trinity
Easter Garden Service.— a short service for children 0-7yrs with their parents and carers.

In Memoriam Gordon Miles

Gordon Miles, who died on 7th March 2017 aged 89, had the distinction of being the first male Nurse Tutor at St Helier Hospital. A member of Trinity Church for many years, he helped in the Oasis Café from its inception until 2016. He was a man who held strong moral, political and religious beliefs.

Sunday Afternoon Outing 2 April

Join us for a visit to the new Design Museum and for a walk around the historic village suburb of Kensington.

Meet at the back of Sutton Baptist Church after the united morning service at around 12.15pm. We will be travelling by train, bus and underground so you will need an Oyster Card or Travel Pass. Bring a packed lunch to eat on the train. There are no admission charges.

For more information contact John and Deborah Wroe (john.p.wroe@btinternet.com or 020 8642 9064)

Sutton Soup at St Nicholas Church Thursday 27 April 7.30pm



For a £5 donation to Sutton Soup you get a meal of soup and bread and the opportunity to help change our community. Eat soup and listen to four people pitch for funding for a local community project. Everyone who comes along gets to cast one vote for the pitch they like the best. The winning pitch gets to take away ALL the money donated on the night.

Book your ticket at **Eventbrite**. More details from Jeff Richards, Sutton Team Ministry

Welcome!

Trinity is delighted to welcome Davide de Sousa as our new Caretaker. Davide, his wife Daphne and children Cadelauro and Gianluca, who worship with us at Trinity, will soon be moving into Epworth Lodge.

Diary Date!

Look out for details of our CUCS town centre event at the end of **Christian Aid Week** on Saturday 20 May. Volunteers will be needed to provide and serve refreshments and collect for the Mile of Money. Put it in your diary now!

Devotions



Silent God

This is my prayer—
That, though I may not see,
I be aware
Of the Silent God
Who stands by me.
That, though I may not feel,
I be aware
Of the Mighty Love
Which doggedly follows me.
That, though I may not respond,
I be aware
That God—my Silent, Mighty God,
Waits each day.
Quietly, hopefully, persistently.
Waits each day and through each night
For me.
For me—alone.

From Edwina Gateley: *'There Was No Path
So I Trod One'*

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	3 April	3.00pm
Monday	10 April	6.30pm
Monday	8 May	3.00pm
Monday	15 May	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.

Drawing by Candlelight

Exhibition of drawings made
by Sutton College students

Friday 24th March
Monday 27th March
Friday 31st March

12noon-2pm

St Nicholas Church
St Nicholas Way
Sutton
SM1 1ST

Open Evening
Thursday 23rd March 2017
6pm-8pm



020 8770 5566
St Nicholas Way, Sutton, SM1 1EA
www.suttoncollege.ac.uk



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

How do we tell the Easter story few want to hear?

by Dave Dickinson

No one living in Britain can ignore Christmas, but it's easy for the general public to ignore Easter. At Christmas, Christmas music fills the shopping malls and Christmas lights light up the shopping streets. But Easter hymns aren't heard much outside churches. Some people think that Christmas is a public relations triumph for the Church inasmuch as almost everyone buzzes with Christmas goodwill, but Easter defies the spin doctors. Most of the general public sees it as a time for chicks and bunnies, eggs and chocolate.

The Church has a challenge on its hands when it tries to tell the Easter story, partly because it's about stuff that many people try to avoid thinking about – human mortality, human cruelty, injustice and God's capacity to overturn all that. The last on that list is, of course, good news, but it's a complicated notion. In what sense can we talk about the triumph of good in a story where Jesus is executed? To do so, three of the Gospel authors – Matthew, Luke and John – weave beautiful stories of a risen Christ. But the accounts are inconsistent.

That inconsistency demonstrates another reason why telling the Easter story is so challenging: it is mind-boggling and breaks all the rules. Individuals don't walk away from their own graves and once-dead people don't meet up with their old friends. Yet that is the gist of the story Matthew, Luke and John tell.

So what do we do? What do we say? First, the story is as it is because it is about no ordinary man. The story bucks the trend because it is about a man we believe showed us God in a unique way. For that reason, the Easter story makes no sense at all without the Christmas story. Second, we acknowledge that at Easter we stand on the edge of mystery. Some who look for more confident assertions of resurrection will say that's a cop out. It isn't. We always stand on the edge of mystery, and, when we no longer see that, we have lost our zest for life.



Handel's Messiah



**Palm Sunday 9 April 6.30pm
at Trinity Church Sutton**

**Eve McGrath - Soprano
Rosemary Clifford - Alto
Jon English - Tenor
Graham Dinnage - Bass
Ian Le Grice - Organ**

**Trinity Festival Choir
directed by Stephen Haylett**

From the Editor

I would be delighted to receive comments and suggestions on the future of *Unite!*. Contact me by my new email: olwenmedwards@gmail.com or by phone: **8643 2525**. Copy date for the May issue is 19 April. *Unite!* is also available online at www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk