

## This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

### Sunday 1 April Easter Sunday

5.45am **St N** Easter Sunrise Service  
 10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship  
*Revd Graham Woolgar*  
**Trinity** Morning Worship Communion  
*Revd Dr David Dickinson*  
**St N** Holy Communion  
 6.30pm **No evening service**

### Sunday 8 April

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30am **St N** **CUCS United Service**  
*Revd Dr David Dickinson*  
 6.30pm **Trinity** **CUCS United Service**  
 Evening services during April will focus on the book of Jonah.

### Sunday 15 April

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship  
*Revd Graham Woolgar*  
**Trinity** Morning Worship  
*Revd Dr David Dickinson*  
**St N** Holy Communion  
*Revd David Butlin*  
 6.30pm **Trinity** **CUCS United Service**

### Sunday 22 April

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship Communion  
**Trinity** Morning Worship  
*Keith Halstead*  
**St N** Holy Communion  
*Revd Martin Hayward*  
 6.30pm **Trinity** **CUCS United Service**

### Sunday 29 April

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship  
*Vivienne Aitchison*  
**Trinity** Morning Worship Communion  
*Revd Dr David Dickinson*  
**St N** Holy Communion  
*Revd Sarah Sewell*  
*Revd Phil Brooks (preach)*  
*Followed by the ACPM*  
 6.30pm **Trinity** **CUCS United Service**

### for help or information please contact

**Carole Adams** (Sutton Baptist Church)-  
 07711 879645  
[carole.adams@btinternet.com](mailto:carole.adams@btinternet.com)

**Revd Dr David Dickinson** (Trinity)  
 Office: 020 8643 6884  
 Home: 020 8643 0963  
[todayddickinson@gmail.com](mailto:todayddickinson@gmail.com)

**Revd Phil Brooks** (Sutton Team Vicar - for St Nicholas)  
 020 8642 2757  
[vicar@suttonteamministry.org](mailto:vicar@suttonteamministry.org)



April 2018

Dear Reader,

One of the many puzzling features of the Gospels' resurrection narratives is the unrecognizability of Jesus. In the garden on Easter morning, on the lakeshore and on the road to Emmaus, those who met the risen Christ did not recognise him at first, and the disciples were rebuked for their failure to see him. All this is surprising given that most of those to whom the risen Christ revealed himself had spent several years accompanying him on his travels through Palestine.

At Easter the Church proclaims that Christ is alive, no longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but set free from time and place. Where, then, do we find him? In whose faces is Christ's face recognised?

Matthew's Gospel offers some intriguing answers to these questions. First, in chapter 18, he suggests that when we welcome children we welcome Christ: we see the face of Christ in the innocent face of the child keen to explore and eager to learn. Then, in the seemingly simplest of parables, Matthew suggests that whatever we do to the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned or the estranged, we do to Christ. Some of that is hard. Do we see Christ in the fly-blown face of the swollen-bellied child crying for food and water? Can we really see Christ in the hardened criminals, violent abusers and unrepentant murderers locked in the world's prison cells? Prisoners are not naturally attractive people and not all of us feel able to do what Sister Helen Prejean does in America's death rows. Matthew offers a third answer, also in chapter 18: we find Christ where two or three are in agreement with each other in his name.

I write this letter when sitting in a church in Lambeth looking up at a stained glass window dedicated to the Boys' and Girls' Brigades. The window was installed in the early 1960s. It depicts Christ the Good Shepherd. His dress is more Roman than Palestinian and, if you looked at his face alone, you would not identify his chiselled soldierly features as Christ's. We might see Christ in any face.

Revd Dr David Dickinson



# Devotions

These sonnets by **Malcolm Guite** focus on two people from the post-resurrection narratives in John's Gospel, **Mary Magdalene** and **Thomas**.

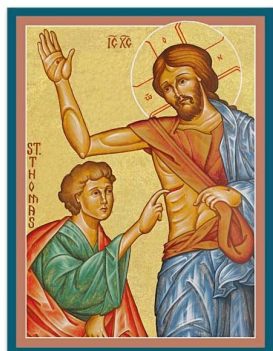
## Easter Dawn (John 20:10-18)

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves  
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept  
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's  
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept  
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs  
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.  
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,  
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.  
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,  
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light  
That brightens as she chokes out her reply  
'They took my love away, my day is night'  
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say  
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.



## Thomas (John 20:24-29)

"We do not know... how can we know the way?"  
Courageous master of the awkward question,  
You spoke the words the others dared not say  
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.  
Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,  
You put your finger on the nub of things  
We cannot love some disembodied wraith,  
But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.  
Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,  
Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.  
Because He loved your awkward counter-point  
The Word has heard and granted you your wish.  
Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine  
The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.



# Regular Events

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. All members of CUCS are warmly welcomed at these activities

**Saturday Prayer Meeting (1st and 3rd Saturdays)**  
10.00am - 11.00am at Sutton Baptist Church.

**Sunday Prayer Meeting** after the morning service in the Terrace Room at Trinity.

**St Nicholas' Mothers' Union** All are welcome  
Contact: Emma Cann 020 8641 6530

**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](http://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.

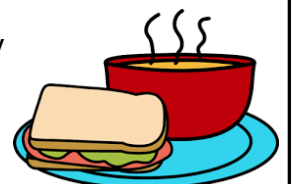
**Badminton Club** meets 7.45-10.00pm every Monday in Trinity Hall.

**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](http://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,

**Art and Fellowship Group** meets most weeks on Tuesday at 2.30pm in the Minor Hall at Trinity. Painting, drawing and other media with fellowship and mutual support.  
Contact: David Ovenden (07874 643 659)

**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

## Holy Week and Easter in CUCS

### Maundy Thursday 29 March 8.00pm

The CUCS United Service for Maundy Thursday will take place at Trinity at 8.00pm.

### Good Friday 30 March

**9.30am: Walk of Witness** organised by Churches Together in Sutton and Cheam. Meet outside ASDA at 9.30am ending with a short act of worship in Trinity Square.

**10.30am: Worship by the Cross** at Trinity

**11.30am onwards:** St Nicholas will be open for quiet contemplation and reflection.



## Easter Sunday 1 April

**5.45am Sunrise Service** at St Nicholas

**8.30 - 10.00am Easter Breakfast** at Trinity

Kaleidoscope are offering an Easter Breakfast at Trinity. Tickets: £5 or £15 for a family with proceeds going to Sutton Night Watch. Contact Daphne Almazien:

Tel: 020 8643 9036 Mobile: 077 9263 0093 :

**10.30am Easter Morning Worship** at Sutton Baptist Church, St Nicholas, Trinity

## Tuesday 3 April 10.00am Trinity

### Easter Garden Service

Children 0 to 7, their parents, grandparents and carers are invited to an Easter Garden Service in Trinity Church. Hear the Easter Story, enjoy a craft activity, and sing a song.

## From the Bishop of Southwark

Following interviews, the Bishop of Southwark was pleased to announce on 25 February 2018, that the Reverend Justine Middlemiss, presently Team Rector of the Sutton Team Ministry in the Diocese of Southwark, has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of Purley, St Barnabas and Kenley, All Saints.

This is subject to the completion of the necessary procedures. Justine will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge at a date which will be determined in the next few weeks and will be made known as soon as possible. Justine will take up her new post following her licensing

## In memoriam Eric Sugden

Eric Peter Sugden, who died on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018, aged 92, served in the RAF in the later years of World War II and, as a lifelong railway enthusiast, found fulfilment working for London Transport. He was secretary, Vice-President and, until his death, President of the 8<sup>th</sup> Sutton Scouts. He was a much-loved member of Trinity Church and enjoyed the company of family and friends.

## Sutton Methodist Circuit Development Plan

The Circuit Leadership Team's Away Day last October has resulted in a development plan for its local churches. There is a number of priorities:

1. each church will have at its heart rich, life-enhancing worship;
2. each church will discern and respond to God's purpose for mission in the knowledge that being rooted in God makes a difference;
3. each church will be welcoming, offering fullness of life for all;
4. each church will be integrated in the local community, in solidarity with all those who seek the common good.

In each of these priorities there are specific key actions and suggested criteria by which success might be measured. Trinity Church is a member church of the Sutton Circuit and will be asking how it responds to the plan's challenge.

## Come and see the bluebells! Sunday Outing 22 April



Meet at the back of Trinity after morning service, and bring a packed lunch. We will be travelling by car.

We will visit Frank's Wood which has superb bluebells and also Leith Hill (using the easy path). We will be walking about 2 miles on country paths— wear good walking shoes.

We will have the option of a cup of tea at the top of Leith Hill, or might visit a tea room in Shere.

Please let us know if you are coming and can offer a lift, or if you need a lift, so that we can ensure we have enough transport. Contact John or Deborah Wroe 020 8642 9064 or email: [john.p.wroe@btinternet.com](mailto:john.p.wroe@btinternet.com)



## The Revd Sarah Sewell - Healthcare Chaplaincy –

(Sarah is the Lead Chaplain with Epsom and St Helier University Hospital Trust but also takes an active role in services across the Sutton Team Ministry)



I was ordained as a deacon in the Church of England in Coventry Cathedral in 1991 and later a priest in 1994 (as soon as women were permitted to do so!). During this time I was an Assistant Curate in a parish in Coventry with a very good training vicar. Also whilst at theological college and in my curacy I had a series of major back operations which made me think seriously about the direction of the ministry to which God had called me. It was also time to look at what was next after my 3 year curacy. It became more and more apparent that I should seriously explore healthcare chaplaincy which I did. It seemed to me that with my ongoing health problems the church very often looked at me and said “what can Sarah do in spite of her health issues” and I wanted to look at something where my health issues and experiences in hospitals would be seen as a positive thing rather than a negative one. Healthcare chaplaincy seemed to offer that possibility so I began to explore this and apply for Assistant Chaplaincy roles.

In May 1994 I took up the role of Assistant Chaplain at Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust and have had several chaplaincy post since then but have been Lead Chaplain & Head of Bereavement Services at Epsom & St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust since 2005.

So what is healthcare chaplaincy all about? Healthcare chaplaincy in hospitals is funded by the NHS and not by the churches and has a multi-faith approach as the staff and patients come from all the different faith communities and none. It is not there to try and convert people to any particular religion and in fact trying to do that is not any part of a chaplain's role. Chaplains are there to meet the pastoral, religious and spiritual needs of all staff, patients and relatives when asked to do so. In the 23 years since I started healthcare chaplaincy whilst many of the individual encounters with people have remained the same in essence, the scope of knowledge needed and challenge to my own faith and perceptions have changed hugely and I am richer for it. The chaplaincy team at Epsom and St. Helier is made up of ordained

chaplains and chaplaincy volunteers. We run a volunteer training course about every 18 months which includes 4 whole days of training and a placement on a ward observing and being observed. There is then a probationary period after which volunteer and chaplaincy decide whether this is right for them. Hospital chaplaincy is both very rewarding and very challenging but mostly it is a privilege to be alongside people of all faiths or none when they are going through a difficult time either due to their own illness, that of someone close to them or the death of a baby or adult.



## Cruse Bereavement Care Sutton an update from Dave Dickinson and the Management Group

The Management Group hopes that, very soon after Easter, there will be visible signs of development towards setting up CBCS. We are already fully recognised as part of the Cruse network, and after Easter we will be advertising for a part-time coordinator, signing an agreement for office accommodation and recruiting volunteers. Please watch out for opportunities to get involved.

## Christian Aid an update from the CUCS Council

Please look out for information about Christian Aid activities in May. The CUCS united service to mark the start of Christian Aid Week will take place at Trinity on Sunday 13 May at 10.30. For very many years we have organised a town centre event with a “Mile of Money”, refreshments and cake and book sales, last year outside Trinity and in the past in St Nicholas churchyard. It was felt that the time had come for a change as all the effort involved did not seem to have as much impact on the general public as we hoped. Door to door collectors are still needed (see your church organiser about this) but we will be marking the end of the week in some other way. Collecting in the High Street perhaps? Or bag packing in the supermarkets? Arrangements are not yet finalised so look out for news!



**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](mailto:olwenmedwards@gmail.com) or by phone: **020 8643 2525**. Copy date for the May issue is 18 April. Links to the electronic version of *Unite!* can be found on each church's website.