

## Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

### Sunday 4 December

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

### Sunday 11 December

9.00am	<b>St N</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	<b>SBC</b>	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	<b>Trinity</b>	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
6.30pm	<b>St N</b>	Morning Worship <b>Carolling at St Barnabas</b>

### 18-25 December See Christmas Worship

### Sunday 1 January

9.00am	<b>St N</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	<b>SBC</b>	<b>CUCS United Morning Worship</b> <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
6.30pm		<b>No evening service</b>

### Sunday 8 January

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

### Sunday 15 January

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

### Sunday 22 January

9.00am	<b>St N</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	<b>St N</b>	<b>CUCS United Morning Worship</b> <b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b>
6.30pm		<b>Cheam Methodist Church Church Hill Rd</b> <b>Churches Together in Sutton and Cheam</b>

### Sunday 29 January

9.00am	<b>St N</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	<b>SBC</b>	Morning Worship <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	<b>Trinity</b>	Morning Worship <i>Revd Chris Morley</i>
6.30pm	<b>St N</b> <b>Trinity</b>	Morning Worship Communion <b>United Service</b>

... for help or information please contact

<b>Revd Mike Dales</b> (Sutton Baptist)	07952 231723 mg.dales@blueyonder.co.uk
<b>Revd Dr David Dickinson</b> (Trinity)	Office: 020 8643 6884 Home: 020 8643 0963 todaviddickinson@gmail.com
<b>Revd Justine Middlemiss</b> (St Nicholas)	020 8642 3499 rector@suttonteamministry.org



December 2016 January 2017

Dear friends,

In November I attended a course in Israel for London and Zimbabwean clergy. It was a wonderful experience to visit the places where Jesus walked; to step through his life; to pray where he prayed. It was a journey filled with images and conversations which challenged and changed me.

We were, as students at St George's College, able to enter the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock the third holiest site for Sunni Moslems. This was a rare privilege as access to non-Muslims has been withdrawn since violence between faiths erupted there in 2000. That same afternoon, we touched the Western Wall, the most holy site to Jews today. And we returned home via the Church of the Resurrection or Holy Sepulchre, probably the most holy physical space in Christianity, but fought over by various denominations. We could not be unaware of the power of God, and humanity's ability to corrupt.

As we walked we were surrounded by signs of division. Young Israeli police with their machine guns; ID checks and bag scans. We became aware of the sense of fear that surrounds the 'other' – fear between Israeli and Palestinian; Jew and Muslim; different standards of living for different communities, visible as we crossed an invisible line in the street. As we drove across the land we saw the physical wall that separates one group from another: Palestinian from Israeli, neighbour from neighbour. We saw the illegal Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories. We remembered too the violence between races in our own lands and the fear that divides one from another in Zimbabwe and the UK.

2016 seems to have been a year of building walls both tangible and metaphorical, with the threat of more. There seems to have been an increase in fear between people and communities in this country and around the world, an increase in the acceptability of hate language and action. We have seen it on our streets and in our political process.

It is my profound prayer that in 2017 we might dedicate ourselves to breaking down the barriers that can arise so easily between us, and I am proud to recommit myself to CUCS and its efforts to do precisely that.

*Justine*

Revd Justine Middlemiss



## Do carols distort the true Christmas? by Dave Dickinson

Three years ago I was invited to contribute a chapter to The Edinburgh Companion to the Bible and the Arts. The reward for doing so was that I received a copy of the book on publication. Just as well, or I would never have owned a copy: it was marketed at £120. The benefit of owning a copy is that I can dip into my fellow-contributors' chapters. One of these looks at the way hymn writers use the Bible, including a short section on how Christ's nativity narratives are used in Christmas carols.



The author, Professor Robin Gill, gives two examples of well-known carols – Angels from the realms of glory and O come all ye faithful – that weave Matthew's and Luke's quite different accounts into one. These are two examples from among many. So extensive has this conflation been over the years that many churchgoers are no longer aware that, in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is born in a house and that only Luke speaks of a manger. Similarly, Matthew does not specify that there were three wise men; nor does Luke mention cattle or oxen. On this last point, Gill suggests that these animals populate many carols because their presence is implied by the manger, but I feel he missed an interesting possibility here. Could it be that the cattle and oxen in so many carols come from Isaiah 1:3 where it is said the ox

knows its owner? The ox and ass recognised their Christ.

Does the 'inaccuracy' of carols matter? I heard recently of a Scout leader (not in Sutton!) who failed to see the mismatch when he suggested Santa Claus is coming to town as a 'hymn' for a Christmas parade service. That matters. On the other hand, none of us can complain that the secular world distorts the 'true' meaning of Christmas when so many of our carols veer so far from the biblical narratives. Perhaps it's a matter of the conflation and confusion of carols wrestling with an inexpressible concept – God-with-us in a baby.

## An exhibition, reviewed by Mike Dales

Living in or near London has some real advantages, not least the huge variety of exhibitions of art available to us. Although some require an expensive ticket, many more are free or cost just a few pounds. Those of us over a certain age don't even have to pay the cost of transport!

The Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize is an annual event which is held at the National Portrait Gallery (just off Trafalgar Square). It is sponsored by a legal firm and has become the premier photographic portrait prize in the world.

The prize promotes the very best in contemporary portrait photography and showcases the work of both gifted amateurs and established professionals. Young photographers are especially encouraged. This year's prize images were selected from 4,303 submissions entered by 1,842 photographers from 61 countries!

Nicholas Cullinan, the director of the gallery, said: *In an exhibition remarkable for its range of subjects and styles, the quality of this year's shortlisted works reflects the outstanding level at which photographers across the world are working today.*

This year's exhibition is open now and will be on display until Feb 26th. It consists of 57 of the very best images including the winner of the £15,000 prize. I cannot remember when I last missed this annual event and I certainly won't miss this one. Very highly recommended, especially when you can then go on to browse the rest of the collection at the National Portrait Gallery.

## 16 TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE



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

# News from the Churches



## CUCS Christmas Worship

### Sutton Baptist Church

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18 December</b>
10.30am	Christmas Family Service <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Service of Lessons and Carols</b> united at Trinity
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>24 December Christmas Eve</b>
11.30pm	<b>Midnight Communion</b> united at St Nicholas
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25 December Christmas Day</b>
10.30am	Family Christmas Worship united at Trinity

### St Nicholas Parish Church

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18 December</b>
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Morning Worship
6.30pm	<b>Sutton Team Carol Service</b> united at Christ Church
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>24 December Christmas Eve</b>
3.30pm	Christingle Service
11.30pm	<b>Midnight Communion</b> united with SBC at St Nicholas
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25 December Christmas Day</b>
10.30am	Family Communion

### Trinity URC/Methodist Church

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18 December</b>
10.30am	Junior Church Nativity Service
6.30pm	<b>Service of Lessons and Carols</b> united with SBC at Trinity
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>24 December Christmas Eve</b>
3.30pm	Crib Service for young children
11.15pm	<b>Candlelight Service</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25 December Christmas Day</b>
10.30am	Family Christmas Worship united with SBC at Trinity



**Tuesday 6 December 1.00pm**

## Civic Singers Christmas Concert

Europa Gallery Sutton Library

Stephen Haylett conducts the Civic Singers and members of CUCS are part of the choir so do drop in at the library to support them.

## Carol Singers wanted!

<b>When?</b>	Friday 23 December 7.00-8.00pm
<b>Where?</b>	Outside Sutton Station
<b>Why?</b>	To support <b>Action for Children</b>
<b>Who?</b>	Both adults and children Sing or collect!



## Thank you from SBC!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to SBC's Harvest Appeal. The final sum (with Gift Aid) was £1330.16. This will provide 22 toilets helping to eradicate disease.

## New Study Groups for the New Year

### An Introduction to Christianity- questions about Jesus

Dave Dickinson will lead three study and discussion groups focussing on questions such as *Who was Jesus?* and *Why did Jesus die?*

Tuesday 24 January	8.00-9.00pm
Tuesday 7 February	8.00-9.00pm
Tuesday 14 February	8.00-9.00pm

We will meet in the Terrace Room at Trinity.

## Sunday 8 January Wellcome Collection

Join us for a visit to the Wellcome Collection in London to see two special exhibitions:

### Bedlam - the asylum and beyond

- tracing the rise and fall of the mental asylum and how it has shaped the complex landscape of mental health today.

### Making Nature : how we see animals

- the origins of our ideas about animals and the consequences for ourselves and our planet.

There are also a couple of permanent exhibitions looking at science and medicine. Entrance is free.

We will meet at the back of Trinity Church following morning service, leaving soon after 12.00. Bring a packed lunch to eat on the train and an Oyster Travelcard or equivalent for train and underground travel via Victoria to Euston. We will return to Sutton by 6pm.

Contact John and Deborah Wroe:  
020 8642 9064 john.p.wroe@btinternet.com

## Devotions

### A Christmas Prayer from Christian Aid

Let the love that shaped earth and heaven  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that created humanity  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that overcomes suffering and  
hatred  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that causes us to rejoice with  
loved ones  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that forgives and renews  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that brings reconciliation after  
separation  
dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that brings the blessing of peace  
dwell within us this Christmas .

May we share that peace with all people near  
and far.

Amen



### Looking ahead!

Last year's united **Lent Study Groups** were very successful, with over seventy people taking part so we are going to organise more this year.

Details will follow in the new year but think about whether you would like to join a daytime or evening group and what day of the week would suit you best.

Groups will meet four times in the weeks beginning:

6 March  
13 March  
20 March  
27 March

On 6 April all the groups will meet together.

## 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 December: 3.00pm and 6.30pm  
Monday 9 January 3.00pm  
Monday 16 January 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](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

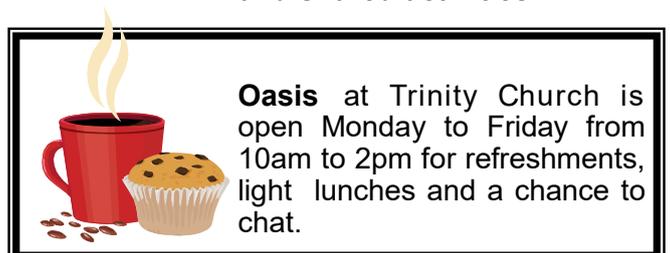
**Bunker**, the youth club for CUCS, meets in Trinity Hall on Sunday evenings in term time from 6.30-8.00pm for young people at senior school. A chance to get to know other young people in CUCS and have fun together. Contact Jane Oliver: 01883 346261.

**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,

**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.