

CUCS Worship in December

Sunday 1 December Advent Sunday

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship
Revd Pamela Searle
Trinity Morning Worship Communion
Revd Dr David Dickinson
St N Holy Communion
Revd Frances Arnold
6.30pm Trinity **United Advent Service**
with united CUCS Choir

Sunday 8 December

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship Communion
Revd Pamela Searle
Trinity Morning Worship
Revd Dr David Dickinson
St N Patronal Festival
Revd Frances Arnold
6.30pm SBC **CUCS United Service**

Sunday 15 December

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship
Revd Pamela Searle
Trinity Morning Worship
St N Holy Communion
Revd Frances Arnold
6.30pm St N **CUCS United Carolling Service**

Sunday 22 December

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship
Revd Pamela Searle
Trinity Morning Worship
Junior Church Nativity
Revd Dr David Dickinson
St N Holy Communion
Revd Frances Arnold

6.30pm CUCS United Carol Service
at Trinity

Services on Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day in
"News from the Churches"

Sunday 29 December

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30am **SBC** **United Morning Worship**
Revd Pamela Searle

No evening service

for help or information please contact

Revd Pamela Searle (Sutton Baptist Church)
 07368 305607
 revpam@suttonbaptist.org

Revd Dr David Dickinson (Trinity)
 Office: 020 8643 6884
 Home: 020 8643 0963
 todaviddickinson@gmail.com

Revd Frances Arnold (St Nicholas) 020 8642 3499
 rector.stnicholassutton@gmail.com
 Office: administrator@suttonteamministry.org



December 2019/January 2020

Dear readers

On Christmas Day 1622 Lancelot Andrewes, who was then Bishop of Winchester, preached a sermon in Whitehall in the presence of King James I. Judging by the transcript, the sermon would have lasted well over an hour. Sermons in CUCS this Christmas will be shorter! Andrewes's sermon was based on a text from Matthew's account of the adoration of the Magi. In it Andrewes considered the time of year they travelled and remarked,

It was no summer progress. A cold coming they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey. The ways deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off, the very dead of winter.

I guess you might recognise some of this as the opening lines of a 20th-century poem, *The Journey of the Magi* by T.S. Eliot.

Eliot claims to have written his poem one Sunday morning between church and lunch assisted by a half bottle of gin (inspiration takes many forms!), a remarkably short time. The poem describes a long hard journey to Bethlehem after which the Magi choose to return by a different route *no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation*. Tellingly, Eliot wrote this poem in the year of his own conversion to Christianity. His point is that we, too, will be changed by an encounter with the child who shows us God.

Andrewes used his sermon to draw attention to what the wise men asked when they came to Jerusalem: they asked where they could find the child born to be king of the Jews. They had seen a star, so now they have come to pay him homage. This leads him to ask what have we seen, how far are we prepared to go, and where and when will we find Christ? We are, he says, too ready to put off our search.

In their different ways, Eliot and Andrewes are inviting us to *search diligently* so that we find the Christ in the modern Christmas. Among the tinsel and the glitter lies One who came among us in the filth of an animal shed. Let us pay him homage.

Revd Dr David Dickinson



Devotions

Prayer for the New Year

Lord,
At the beginning of this new year,
I offer you my life.

Come take my voice,
may the words I speak be filled with
encouragement and goodness.

Come take my hands,
may the work they create be generous and
giving.

Come take my feet,
may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit
within.

Come take my life Lord,
for I love your goodness, your kindness and
your leading. Amen

2020 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020

CUCS Services in January 2020

Sunday 5 January Epiphany

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship
Revd Pamela Searle
Trinity Covenant Sunday
Revd Dr David Dickinson
St N Holy Communion
Revd Frances Arnold
6.30pm **Trinity** **United Evening Service**
Jazz Carols with Dan Forshaw and his band.

Sunday 12 January

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship Communion
Revd Pamela Searle
Trinity Morning Worship
Revd Dr David Dickinson
St N Holy Communion
Revd Frances Arnold
6.30pm **SBC** **United Evening Service**

Sunday 19 January

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am **Trinity** **CUCS United Service**
for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Revd Dr David Dickinson
6.30pm **United Service**
Salvation Army, Benhill Avenue SM1 4DD
Churches Together in Sutton and Cheam

Sunday 26 January

9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship
Revd Pamela Searle
Trinity Morning Worship
Revd Dr Mark Wakelin
St N Holy Communion
Revd Frances Arnold
6.30pm **SBC** **United Evening Service**

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.

Meditation Group meets on the last Saturday of the month 11.00am-12 midday at the home of Sylvia Robinson. For more details contact:
Segun Akindele segun.akindele@yahoo.co.uk
020 8395 3243
Rosa Sawyer 020 8643 1374
Sylvia Robinson srobinson968@yahoo.com
020 8642 1391

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

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.

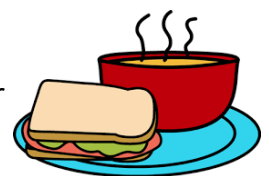
Badminton Club meets 7.45-10.00pm every Monday in Trinity Hall.

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

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.

Oasis

at Trinity Church is open Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 2pm for refreshments, light lunches and a chance to chat.



News from the Churches

CUCS Christmas Services



Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve

Trinity 3.30 pm	Crib Service
St Nicholas 4.00pm	Christingle Service
Trinity 11.15pm	Candlelight Service
St Nicholas 11.30pm	Midnight Service united with SBC

25 December Christmas Day

Trinity 10.30am	All Age Worship united with Sutton Baptist Church
St Nicholas 10.30am	Family Communion

A Reminder for the end of November!

Election hustings Saturday 30 November 2.30pm - 4.00pm at Sutton Baptist Church

Join us to hear how the candidates for the Sutton and Cheam constituency answer your questions. All are welcome and there is no charge.

This hustings has been organised by Churches Uniting in Central Sutton. Candidates from the four parties standing will be present:-

Hina Bokhari (Liberal Democrat),
Bonnie Craven (Labour),
Claire Jackson-Prior (Green),
Paul Scully (Conservative)

Carol Singers wanted!



When? Friday 20 December 6.00-7.00pm

Where? in Sainsbury's - in the warm!
at the top of the escalators

Why? to support **Action for Children**

Who? both adults and children from
all our churches to sing or collect!

A harvest of sewing machines!

SBC are delighted to report that 76 sewing machines were donated at their harvest Festival. The next seasonal project is to collect stamps over the Christmas period on behalf of The Leprosy Mission. Stamps should be 5mm trimmed.

Trinity Advent Lecture

Tuesday 3 December 7.30 pm



Gospel Music

A talk by Professor Robert Beckford Britain's first tutor in black Theology

Tickets: £5 www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk
and available on the door.

Light suppers for sale at the Oasis café from 6.00pm

Trinity at Christmas

Trinity Church is again hosting a **Christmas Lunch** between 11.30 and 3.30pm on 25 December. There are just a few places still available which must be booked in advance by contacting David Jones (020 8643 5438) or David Ovenden (07874 643659)

We are also planning to open the **Christmas Lounge** again on weekdays from 26 December until 1 January, 11.30-2.30. This will provide space for relaxation including board games and other activities and offer light refreshments. No need to book—just drop in!



Two Sunday Afternoon Outings!

Sunday 8 December 2019

London's Science Museum
The Art of Innovation and Top Secret

Sunday 12 January 2020

The British Museum
The World of Money and Ancient Rome

For both outings meet at the back of Trinity church after the morning service. We will travel by train and tube and eat our packed lunch on the journey.

Please contact John and Deborah Wroe 020 8642 9064 or email for more information and please let us know if you intend to come.

Planning ahead!

There will be CUCS Lent Study Groups in 2020 starting in the week beginning 2 March. There will be groups meeting in the morning, the afternoon and the evening on different days. Look out for more details in your own church.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.... by Frances Arnold

This is an unusual carol. It is a meditation in which the congregation address Bethlehem itself. We can imagine the impact of the town on Phillips Brooks, Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Philadelphia and author of the carol, when he visited for the first time in 1865. I visited Bethlehem with a group of pilgrims just over two years ago.

We too visited the Church of the Nativity, built over the cave where, according to tradition, Jesus was born. The existing building dates from the sixth century and is claimed to be the oldest complete Church in the world. According to legend, when the Persians destroyed all the Christian buildings in the Holy Land at the beginning of the seventh century, they recognised on the west façade a representation of the Magi (the three Wise Men) in the costumes of their own country. In respect and reverence for their ancestors they spared the Church from destruction. Today the building is owned by the Greek Orthodox and Armenian Churches. Steps at the east end of the Church lead down to the main cave. At the bottom of the steps is a representation of the manger. A little further along, there is a small apse, which has an altar built into it. Underneath, set in the floor, is a silver star marking the traditional place of birth. We were fortunate to enter the cave just after a service had taken place. The anticipation had built up as we pilgrims of many nationalities sat squashed on the steps peering through the half open door for a glimpse of the place we had waited a lifetime to visit.



In some ways our experience of Bethlehem was quite different to that of Phillips Brooks. His visit took place shortly after Abraham Lincoln's death and the horrors and bloodshed of the Civil War and the peace he found there moved him deeply. We had had to take our passports with us from Jerusalem, for by entering Bethlehem we would be crossing into Palestinian territory. Bethlehem is cut off from her sister city by a wall. The panels on the Palestinian side of the wall are covered in graffiti – the words and pictures tell a long and sad story of exclusion, suffering and loss. Banksy has been spraying his witty and acerbic art on it and inspired others, whether or not they are artists. Someone called Majd has written, *in my future, Bethlehem is a place of freedom, a place known for its hospitality for everyone, especially tourists. A place where people bond, talk and be free.*

The wall of separation has become a means of protest and expression, carrying dreams of freedom, prosperity, security and hope. In his carol, Phillips Brooks reminds us of the song of the angels on the night of Jesus' birth: a song of peace on earth. Let us too hold on to the vision that Phillips Brooks expressed in the opening line of his carol: *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.* And let us pray for Bethlehem this Christmas and for peace on earth.

Mosaic, recently restored, of an angel in the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem



*Glad Tidings!
Impromptu Choir*

**Saturday 7 December 7.30pm
Sutton Baptist Church**

Songs to usher in the festive season!

**In aid of SeeAbility and
SBC Thanksgiving Fund**

**Tickets £12 (including refreshments)
concessions £10 children £5**



Trinity Epiphany Lecture

Tuesday 28 January
7.30pm

**The Media
and
Multi-faith Britain**
by radio producer
Michael Wakelin

**Tickets: £5 available on the door and from
www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk**

Light suppers can be bought in the Oasis Café from 6pm

This is the final edition of *Unite!* which has served the three churches of CUCS for several years as an organ to share news. It has helped to encourage participation in shared activities and has, thus, been of tremendous value. On behalf of the staff, church leaders and members of the churches, I express gratitude to Olwen, its last editor, and to her predecessors for the huge amount of work it takes to produce *Unite!* Next year we hope to launch a triannual community magazine from CUCS. Each church will be making its own arrangements for internal communication with its members, and we will need to be assiduous in sending publicity to our sister churches.

Dave Dickinson