

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 3 February

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

Sunday 10 February

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

Sunday 17 February

- 9.00am **St N** Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30am **SBC** Morning Worship
led by the Deacons
Trinity Morning Worship
Hannah Chun
St N Holy Communion
Revd Naomi Whittle
 6.30pm **St N** **CUCS United Service**

Sunday 24 February

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

for help or information please contact

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 carole.adams@btinternet.com

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 todaviddickinson@gmail.com

Ginny Haizelden (Administrator St Nicholas)
 020 8643 8271



February 2019

Dear Readers,

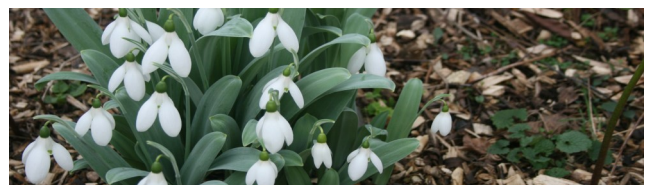
A paradigm shift occurs when new knowledge or fresh circumstances lead to an adjustment of worldview. For instance, when Nicolaus Copernicus formulated a model of the solar system in which the planets orbited the sun, this new knowledge altered all philosophies and theologies that assumed the earth was the centre of the universe. The Church had to think again.

At Christmas I read A. N. Wilson's *Aftershocks*, a novel set in New Zealand after a warning earthquake and during a major one. Inspired by the earthquake that hit Christchurch in 2011 killing almost two hundred people, *Aftershocks* is Nellie and Ingrid's love story in the fictitious city of Aberdeen. Nellie is the Dean of Aberdeen Cathedral, who for the first part of the novel is presented as a personality split between being an academic, referred to as Digby, and a cleric called Eleanor. Only when a destructive earthquake strikes Aberdeen does she discover the sense of integrity that combines these two aspects of her being.

For me, the climax of the novel is a sermon preached a day or two after the earthquake. The Dean stands before a shocked population. She knows old platitudes will not do. She argues for a paradigm shift. In these circumstances, the people must think again about what they believe about God. God, she says, is not to be found in the forces of nature or in some male Creator figure. Jesus shows that God shines out of a human face, and this way of thinking liberates us to be more human.

I believe our fresh circumstances in 21st century Britain – increasing secularity, awareness of other faiths, alternative lifestyles, and challenging ethical issues – require fresh thinking from the church. Churches may continue to trot out old clichés, but soon they will be found wanting. We must allow ourselves to be honest as we adjust the way we think in the light of new knowledge and fresh experiences. It's exciting that, within the providence of God, we might be on the threshold of another paradigm shift.

Revd Dr David Dickinson



Devotions

What If...

"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." **Mathew 12:36-37**

What if every word we say
Never ends or fades away,
Gathers volume gathers weigh,
Drums and dins us with dismay
Surges on some dreadful day
When we cannot get away
Whelms us till we drown?

What if not a word is lost,
What if every word we cast
Cruel, cunning, cold, accurst,
Every word we cut and paste
Echoes to us from the past
Fares and finds us first and last
Haunts and hunts us down?

What if every murmuration,
Every otiose oration
Every oath and imprecation,
Insidious insinuation,
Every blogger's aberration,
Every facebook fabrication
Every twittered titivation,
Unexamined asservation
Idiotic iteration,
Every facile explanation,
Drags us to the ground?

What if each polite evasion
Every word of defamation,
Insults made by implication,
Querulous prevarication,
Compromise in convocation,
Propaganda for the nation
False or flattering persuasion,
Blackmail and manipulation
Simulated desperation
Grows to such reverberation
That it shakes our own foundation,
Shakes and brings us down?

Better that some words be lost,
Better that they should not last,
Tongues of fire and violence.
O Word through whom the world is blessed,
Word in whom all words are graced,
Do not bring us to the test,
Give our clamant voices rest,
And the rest is silence.

by Malcolm Guite (published in *The Singing Bowl* 2013)

The writer comments that now at the beginning of 2019 "it seems more urgent than ever" to reflect on "the way our words can travel and unravel beyond us, to care for the tenor of what we say."

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.

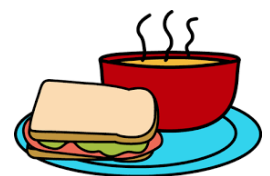
Badminton Club meets 7.45-10.00pm every Monday in Trinity Hall.

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 10.00 to 2.00pm for refreshments, light lunches and a chance to chat.



News from the Churches

News from St Nicholas Church



We look forward to welcoming Revd Frances Arnold to *Churches Together in Central Sutton* when she is licensed as Priest-in-Charge (Rector Designate) of St Nicholas Church on Wednesday 3 April. She is currently Vicar of Great St Mary, Sawbridgeworth in the Diocese of St Albans.

Looking back at Advent and Christmas

There were so many wonderful opportunities for us to meet together for worship and fellowship during December, such as the Advent Choral Service at Trinity and the Carol Service in a packed St Nicholas Church.

Over Christmas Trinity Church hosted *Christmas Lunch and Lounge*, a community initiative for those who would otherwise have been on their own. Numbers were very encouraging and confirmed a local need.

All who attended expressed heartfelt enjoyment and appreciation. On each day the atmosphere was friendly, cosy and welcoming, with a real sense of community. There was plenty of delicious food for all to enjoy, with a sumptuous traditional meal with all the trimmings on Christmas Day.

Our thanks to all those dedicated volunteers who worked hard giving their time to make this possible. It is now intended to repeat the Christmas Lunch and Lounge initiative in 2019.

Final Reminder!

The Advent Lecture in December attracted a large audience from CUCS and from the local interfaith communities. The interfaith theme continues when we welcome **Rabbi Andrew Goldstein** to deliver the **Epiphany Lecture**, "Laughter and Tears" on Tuesday 29 January at 7.30pm at Trinity. He will explore the well known Biblical story of Sarah, Ishmael and Isaac.

In memoriam Douglas Letchford

Douglas, who died in December at the age of 99, attended Trinity Church for twenty five years after his wife died. A quiet and peaceable man, family was more important to him than either war service or work. His family, their friends and his friends gathered in Trinity last month to share many happy memories.

Another invitation from Stephen Haylett!

Palm Sunday this year falls on 14 April and you are all warmly invited to sing in a performance of **John Stainer's *Crucifixion*** at Trinity Church at 6.30pm by Trinity Festival Choir.

This popular work, is described as a *Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer*, and was first performed in Marylebone in 1887. It follows the structure of the great Bach Passions in that, like Bach's great chorales, the narrative is interspersed with hymns to be sung by the congregation. Its style is, of course, high Victorian, and with its expressive choral writing and strong emotional appeal, it has become a perennial favourite amongst singers and congregations up and down the land.

I do hope that as many of you as possible will want to take part and do spread the word amongst your choral singing friends. Don't hold back if you have not sung with us before; you will be supported by me and all the other choristers. The music is accessible and you may recognise some popular movements such as *God so loved the world*.

Weekly rehearsals will start on **Thursday, 28 February**, and will take place in the Parlour at Trinity Church at 8pm. Access to the Parlour is via the church keeper's driveway in Hill Road alongside the church, through a red door and up a flight of stairs. Scores of the music will be provided.



Save the Dates!

CUCSCAC Saturday 18 May

Put the date in your diary! A new venture:

CUCS Christian Aid Concert.

More details next month but be prepared to support this money raising event!

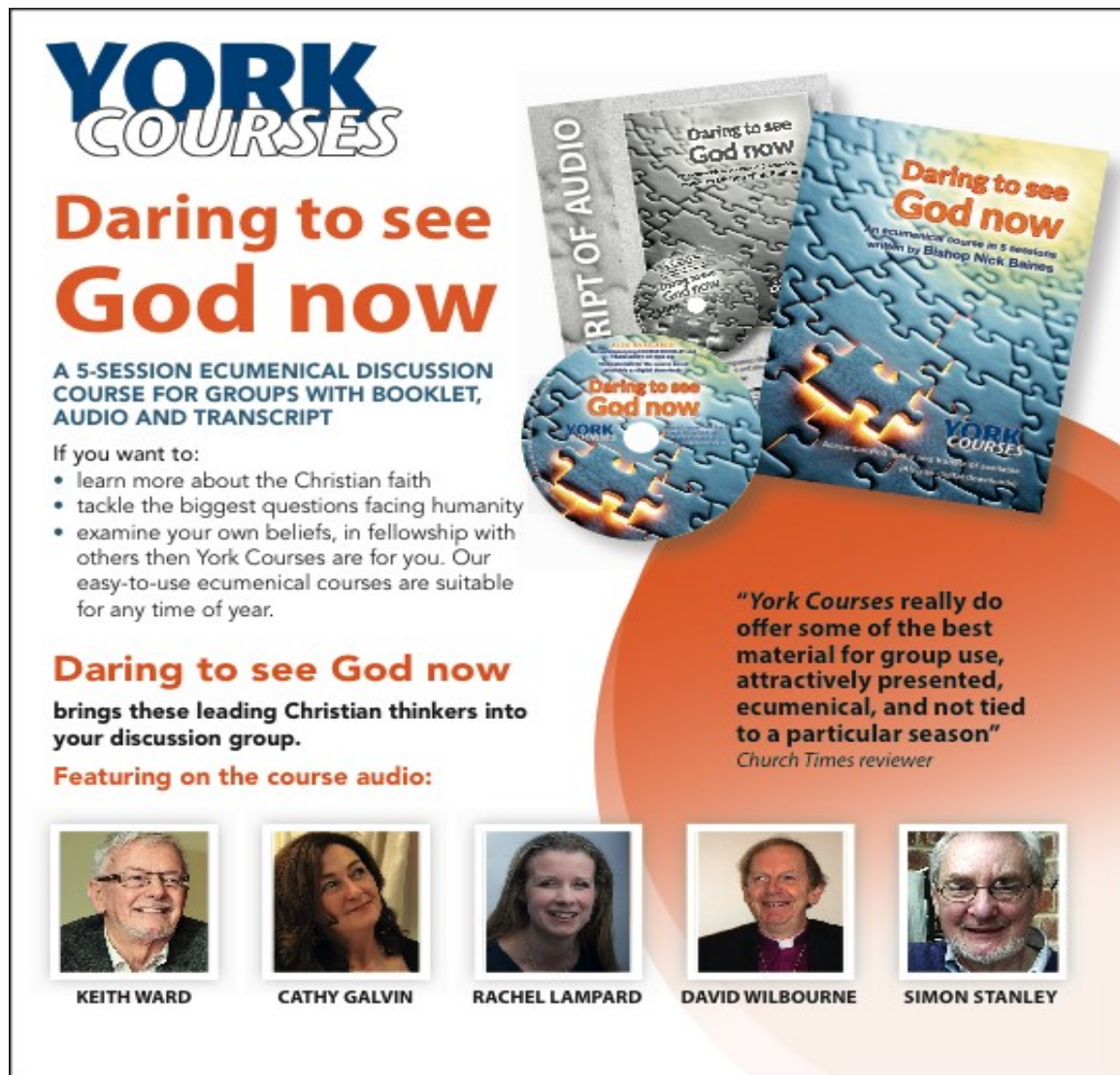
Saturday 29 June 7.30pm: SBC is hosting a concert by the Rock Choir who practise on their premises. Entry will be free with donations for Sutton Food Bank. Save the date!

CUCS Lent Study Groups

In 2016 and 2017 between sixty and seventy members of our three churches joined a Lent Study Group each year. If you haven't been part of a group before why don't you join one this year?

- Groups will meet four times in the weeks beginning 11 March, 18 March, 25 March, 1 April and then altogether for the final meeting on Tuesday 9 April at Sutton Baptist Church.
- There will be evening groups and probably a couple of daytime groups, in host homes and on church premises on different days of the week - there's sure to be one that suits you.
- Everyone will be supported and respected; some enjoy joining in discussion others prefer to listen.
- We will be using the 2019 York Course "**Daring to see God now**" which includes audio input from challenging contemporary Christian leaders and thinkers.

Look out for a registration form in your church from Sunday 3 February or on Trinity Church website: www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk



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 KEITH WARD	 CATHY GALVIN	 RACHEL LAMPARD	 DAVID WILBOURNE	 SIMON STANLEY
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From the Editor I would be delighted to receive comments and suggestions on the future of *Unite!* Contact me email: olwenmedwards@gmail.com or by phone: 020 8643 2525. Copy date for the March issue is 13 February. Links to the electronic version of *Unite!* can be found on each church's website.