

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 4 June Pentecost

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

Sunday 11 June

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion
	Trinity	Morning Worship Church Parade <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Morning Worship Holy Communion <i>Revd Charles Cotton</i>
6.00pm	St Barnabas	Patronal Festival Evensong

Sunday 18 June

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

Sunday 25 June

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Mike Dales</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Morning Worship Holy Communion <i>Revd Sarah Sewell</i>
6.30pm	St N	CUCS 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
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Revd Justine Middlemiss (St Nicholas)
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June 2017

Dear friends

Once upon a time, in the dim and distant past, a small Jewish child asked, "Mum, Dad, why do people from different countries talk funny?"

And the response came from an even dimmer and more distant past, "Well my child, it happened that people had become so filled with pride that they would build a tower reaching all the way to heaven. God would not allow such presumption so the speech of the workers was confused, they fell to bickering among themselves, and never did complete the tower. And that is why Germans do not understand French, Italians do not understand Chinese, and nobody understands teenagers!" To this day we have problems communicating with one another.

But, according to the story there was once a day when the divisions of Babel were mended. It was the Feast of Weeks, Pentecost, and thousands of the faithful had gathered in Jerusalem from all over the known world.

That small band of Christians was there as well - they had been praying together and now were creating such a commotion that their noise began to draw a crowd. Some thought it was just a drunken party.

But others listened more carefully to what was going on. And miraculously, each one understood. It made no difference what their native tongue might have been. As they listened, they knew that the ancient divisions at the Tower of Babel had been healed. The result? Scripture says that 3,000 people were added to the church that day!

According to the story, God came down to Babel to confuse the languages of the world, but at Pentecost the communication gap was bridged, in order to make true human community a possibility again.

What we have with the birth of the church is the birth of a vision - a vision of a truly inclusive community. This is the vision of Pentecost, born in wind and fire.

How much easier it would be if we had only to work with people just like us! The problem is that it would not be the church of Jesus Christ - born in the fiery wind of Pentecost, always chaotic, always full of surprises, but a multi-racial, multi-faceted, multi-tongued community that always testifies to a reality much greater than itself, and always doing so with joy.

Your friend

Mike

Revd Mike Dales



News from the Churches

Christian Aid The Final Saturday



On Saturday 20 May fifty six people from our three churches helped to put up bunting, extract money from the public for the Coin Trail along Trinity wall, sell cakes and books and serve refreshments.

It was mild but windy with some torrential rain but tea on the lawn was possible and the Oasis was a dry refuge where new friends were made. It was a really sociable CUCS day!



Thank you to all who provided the cakes and books and all who got drenched helping! We raised just under £800 for Christian Aid which supplements the door-to-door collections

Clive Orton publishes his memoirs: "Degrees of Freedom"

Clive Orton of St Nicholas' Church is Emeritus Professor of Quantitative Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. He has published his memoirs under the title *Degrees of Freedom: and other episodes in an archaeological life*.

It traces Clive's professional journey from his voluntary work at a dig in Winchester (which sparked his interest in archaeology) his student days reading Mathematics at Cambridge, and a series of job opportunities in archaeology which he describes as being "the right person in the right place at the right time". There are many photographs, particularly from Clive's time in Novgorod as part of collaborative studies between EU countries and the former Soviet Union.

The book is available in our churches or directly from Clive for £5.00

In Memoriam Leonora McCroft

For over 60 years Leonora worshipped at Westminster Central Hall where she sang in the choir and taught in Sunday School. With an impish sense of humour, she attracted deep loyalty and friendship. In Trinity Church she served our Mission Committee as secretary.

Sunday afternoon Outing 11 June



Join us for an outing to **Morden Hall Park**. Have a picnic, see the new wetlands boardwalk and have the option to join a one hour guided history walk.

Meet at the back of Trinity Church after the morning service at around 12.15pm. Bring a packed lunch. There are no admission charges.

We will be travelling by car. To help us make sure we have enough seats in cars for everyone, please let us know if you intend to come, and whether you can offer, or would need, a lift.

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

Church Flower Arranging

**Wednesdays 14 June and 21 June
St Nicholas Church 7.00-9.00pm**

Come along to two taster sessions organised in conjunction with Sutton College, which will focus on Pedestal and Parallel Designs. Cost: £10 plus £10-£15 for your own flowers/ foliage for floral projects each week. Containers and floral foam may be purchased in class at wholesale price.



For more information and to enrol contact: www.suttoncollege.ac.uk and search "flower"

Devotions

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit
that my thoughts may all be holy;
Act in me O Holy Spirit
that my works, too, may be holy;
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit
that I love but what is holy;
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit
to defend what is holy;
Guard me then O Holy Spirit
that I always may be holy.

St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)



I will pour out my Spirit on all people

A message from St Raphael's Hospice

This year marks 30 years of St Raphael's Hospice providing peace, care and support to people with terminal illness in Sutton and Merton. Illness puts a huge strain on individuals and families and at St Raphael's we are focused on supporting the patients under our care as well as friends and loved ones.

A hospice like ours is different from a hospital practically, emotionally and environmentally. It is a place where you are more likely to see smiles than tears as our staff and volunteers strive to make wishes come true. Our medical, nursing and support staff do everything possible to relieve pain and sustain quality of life, following the ethos of Dame Cicely Saunders that *you matter to the last moment of your life, and we will do all we can, to not only help you die peacefully, but to live until you die.* In each case the hospice care provided, either on our ward or by our Hospice@Home and Community teams, is tailored to the needs and wishes of each individual.

When St Raphael's opened in 1987, it was the parents and grand-parents of today's patients who helped create and support a hospice for their local area. Just as it was then, all our services are provided free of charge and 80% of our running costs relies on charity fundraising, donations and legacies. Support from the children and grand-children of today's patients is vital to ensure we can continue providing specialist palliative care for generations to come. Please visit www.straphaels.org.uk for more details about how you can show your support

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 June	3.00pm
Monday	19 June	6.30pm
Monday	10 July	3.00pm
Monday	17 July	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.



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

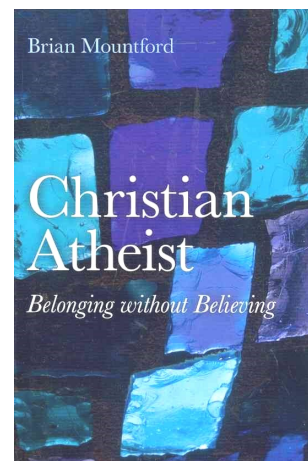
Belonging without believing by Dave Dickinson

In the mid-1990s Grace Davie coined the phrase 'believing without belonging' to account for the discrepancy between the number of people who professed belief in God and the much smaller number of people who attended church in Britain. These people were often identified as fertile ground for evangelists. I have often been more interested in the varying degrees of belief confessed by people who belong to churches, from those who breeze through the creeds without a qualm to those who struggle with almost every creedal clause.

Have you ever found yourself backing away from something said or done in church? Do you find yourself dissenting from affirmations uttered, often with disturbing conviction, in the name of our faith? Are there parts of the 'package of Christian belief' to which you cannot sign your name? How often does the thought "It depends what you mean by..." come into your head when you are in church? You may therefore hold the opinion that what we do matters more than what we say. You may think that how we behave matters more than how we believe. If so, churches, who have traditionally assumed shared beliefs within their congregations, will be challenged by the presence of those who think differently. Indeed, Trinity Church is currently collaborating with Roehampton University to explore the implications of this. Meanwhile, the boundaries around church are so permeable and indistinct that the nature, extent or depth of an individual's belief matters less than we thought. Perhaps the belonging matters more than the believing.

Brian Mountford wrote about the challenge this brings to the contemporary church in a 2011 book provocatively entitled *Christian Atheist*. The book discusses how churches can accommodate different ways of believing. I think this can be liberating for churches and it is of pressing importance, so Trinity's Education Committee invites you to buy a copy (see below) and come to the Terrace Room at Trinity to discuss the book's ideas on **Tuesday 20th June at 8 pm**.

(Kindle edition available for £3.79 from Amazon.co.uk. Paperback available at a range of prices online— eg "Books etc" at £4.14. A few copies on sale at the Trinity Welcome Table or contact Olwen Edwards (contact details below)



"Love for all and hatred for none" An Inter-Faith Visit

by Fiona Jones and Rachel Grimshaw

We visited the Baitul Ehsaan Mosque on a trading estate in Mitcham at the invitation of their community relations officer. The event was a women-only coffee morning to discuss why Muslim women wear a head scarf. We were warmly welcomed by the eight or so members of the mosque, with tea, coffee, samosas and cake. There were about a dozen non-Muslim women visitors.

The more formal part of the morning began with a reading of verses from the Koran which were then read in English, about the covering of the head. There was also a reading from a contemporary American book about why covering a woman's head was a good idea. Then we were invited to ask questions about wearing headscarves and anything else which interested us.

There was a lively discussion which ranged from what if a girl doesn't want to wear a headscarf to why Muslim women prefer women only events and how appearances can affect people's attitudes without knowing the person. Social life in Muslim society is usually gender specific hence the invitation to women only. Women meeting in this way do not have to be so careful about how they dress, for example they can remove their headscarves, and the ladies told us that they find it more relaxing.

This mosque is run by the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, a branch of Islam which has its roots in Northern India and Pakistan. They believe that another prophet has come, their founder, though only to elucidate the prophecies of Mohamed and as a result, they are shunned and persecuted by other Muslims. They believe in love for all and hatred for none, and through this belief want to have a dialogue with others to explain Islam.

It was an interesting and thought provoking visit.



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: 020 8643 2525.

Copy date for the July/August issue is 14 June.