

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 2 June

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship <i>Andrew Loader</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd Frances Arnold</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	CUCS United Service

Sunday 9 June Pentecost

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Andrew Loader</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Mark Williams</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd Frances Arnold</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	CUCS United Service

Sunday 16 June

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship <i>Ian Knowles</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd Frances Arnold</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	CUCS United Service

Sunday 23 June

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Graham Woolgar</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd Frances Arnold</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	CUCS United Service

Sunday 30 June

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Pam Searle</i>
	Trinity	Parade Service <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion Baptism <i>Revd Frances Arnold</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	CUCS United Service

for help or information please contact:

Carole Adams (Sutton Baptist Church) 07711 879645
carole.adams@btinternet.com

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



June 2019

Dear Readers,

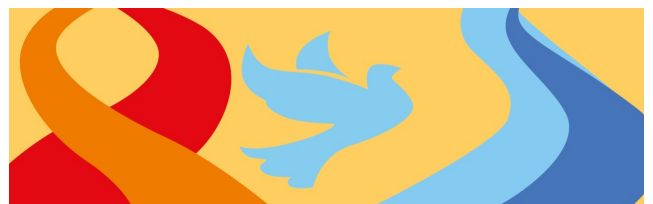
By the time you read this, Christian Aid Week in the middle of May will be but a distant memory. The activists who collected street to street will be resting their weary feet, grateful for the blessing of good weather as they knocked door-to-door. The volunteers who baked cakes for coffee mornings and made music for MusicAid will be looking back on enjoyable moments and the satisfaction of money raised. Donors will feel content both that their money will be put to good use and that the government will be made to hand back tax revenue as Gift Aid.

As usual, there was a particular focus for Christian Aid Week 2019 – being a Mum in Sierra Leone. I am told that Sierra Leone is the most dangerous place in the world to become a mother. In other words, it has the highest childbirth mortality rate. On average, ten Sierra Leonean women die each day in childbirth.

Jebbeh lives in one of Sierra Leone's remote villages. When she went into labour a few years ago, she had to walk three hours under the baking sun to the nearest hospital. With every step, she feared for her life and that of her baby. When she could walk no further, she gave birth to her son by the roadside. She was lucky. Both survived and are doing well. But, her sister, in the same circumstances, died by the same roadside.

Christian Aid Week has passed, but the need has not. Christian Aid, like many aid and relief organisations, values the surge of income that comes their way through special appeals. They have dreams of a more equitable world. They have murderous aims: to kill poverty! It's a big target. In fulfilment of their dreams and to achieve their aims, of even greater value to them than the upsurge of special appeals is regular income. All I am saying in this month's pastoral letter is that supporting Christian Aid can mean, for people in our three churches, much more than observing one hectic week.

Revd Dr David Dickinson



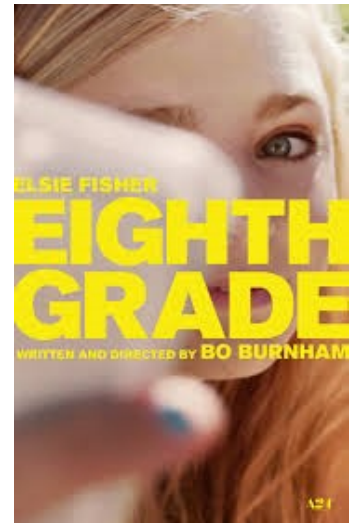
***Eighth Grade* (15) written and directed by Bo Burnham (2018)**
a review by Frances Arnold

My friend had been intending to accompany his 18-year-old daughter to this film but, when their plans fell through, he was sufficiently interested by what he'd heard to suggest that I might go with him instead. I had assumed that this was a film for teenagers, but I was encouraged to go when I learned that it was about how the internet shapes the lives of post millennials and heard that it was one of Barack Obama's favourite films. The attendant who checked my ticket at the Odeon told me that I would be crying all the way through (this turned out to be only partly true).

The film portrays the isolation of early adolescence as experienced by Kayla, a socially anxious 13-year-old approaching the end of middle school in New York State. She has a second life online where, ironically, she posts self-help videos on *Being Yourself* and *Putting Yourself Out There*. These are the very things with which she herself struggles in real life and she seems to be using her channel to talk to herself.

Kayla's engaging and caring nature is in stark contrast with the dark loneliness of the environment she has to navigate: being voted 'most quiet' in class, her struggles to connect with her fellow pupils and the terror of attending a party with her classmates. She participates in training for how to respond to a school shooting and there is a predatory scene with an older boy. There is real humour too, particularly in the school scenes, but we were reaching for the tissues because of the acute empathy which triggers something in all of us, irrespective of age, gender or nationality.

Unusually for a coming-of-age movie, there is a faith dimension here. Kayla openly acknowledges her belief in God. The night before an important event, Kayla prays for a good day. Until then, when Kayla is speaking alone in her bedroom, she is projecting herself as a confident and wise person on her YouTube page that nobody watches. At this point, she opens her heart and God is listening. It is a turning point in the film.



Sutton Cruse Bereavement Care
a progress report from Briony Thomas and Margaret Reith

Many of you will remember that on September 25th, 2018, Sutton Cruse Bereavement Care was launched - a new bereavement service for Sutton.

Cruse offers free services which are open to anyone living in the London Borough of Sutton and clients hear about Sutton Cruse in many ways. We have a paid coordinator for 16 hours a week, working in our free office space generously donated by GCC a facilities company.

In January we started to see clients. People usually telephone and are offered a place at an Information Session when people learn more about Sutton Cruse and some of the aspects of grief. They have access to our leaflets, and they can sign up for individual bereavement support.

We link our volunteers to clients whom they will usually see weekly for about six sessions. Since January over 50 clients have received individual support with more than 70 receiving information and advice. By the end of June, we will have 19 trained volunteers who will be able to offer support to the clients on our waiting list and help us promote the service. However we are very short of trained supervisors, a situation we are trying hard to rectify. With the numbers of clients we anticipate, we are now recruiting volunteers for our next training starting in September.

We have funding for about a year so great effort will now be channelled into fundraising for the future.

We need your help Fundraising for Cruse!

On 21 July this year Rick Thomas (Briony & David's son) will run the London ASICS 10k for Sutton Cruse. His *Just Giving* page is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cruse-sutton>. We are asking you all to promote this event and to give generously to help us provide ongoing bereavement support to people in Sutton.

From the Editor I would be delighted to receive comments and suggestions on the future of *Unite!* Contact me by email: olwenmedwards@gmail.com or by phone: **020 8643 2525**. Copy date for the July issue is **19 June**. Links to the electronic version of *Unite!* can be found on each church's website.

News from the Churches

MusicAid raised £1,260 for Christian Aid (and the door-to-door collection is still to be confirmed!)

Thank you to everyone who planned, supported and performed at MusicAid on Saturday 18 May! This was a new fundraising event for CUCS and we enjoyed scrumptious cream teas and a varied, international programme with performers of all ages.

The familiar faces included Sarah Botting, Stephen Haylett, men's and women's "barbershop" groups (demonstrating that they can move out of their classical comfort zone!) and younger members of our church families: singers Ohemaa, Rinnah and Milcah, trumpeter Jem and the Bunker helpers Rose, Selah and Daniel



And then our special guests; Elaine Jones, still at school, played two bagatelles for the clarinet by Gerald Finzi with passion and virtuosity. The Upahaar Indian Dancers rehearse regularly at SBC and dazzled us with their wonderful costumes and intricate hand and foot movement



We were privileged to have Sudanese singer Sharooq Abu el Naas with us. Well known on television in the Middle East she sought asylum in the UK and campaigns for human rights causes world wide. Her agent Peter, who has worked throughout Africa said that Christian Aid was the charity which commanded his greatest respect.

St Nicholas Supper Talk

The Supper Talk season is underway in the Community Hall at St Nicholas Church!

Friday 14 June at 7.00pm-

So You Think You Know Me

by Graham Cole OBE

who starred in 'The Bill' for over 20 years.

Tickets, at £10 each, are available from Richard West, St Nicholas:

richjwest@btinternet.com; 020 8644 7834

Interfaith Relations

Thank you to our Muslim Friends!

On two recent occasions members of different Muslim communities presented flowers at St Nicholas Church in response to attacks on Christians in Sri Lanka. At *Sutton Soup* on 25 April Sutton's Turkish Muslim community offered them as a token of peace and love and were thanked by the Mayor on behalf of the people of Sutton, and by Jeff Richards on behalf of the congregation. At Evening Prayer on Sunday 5 May the Ahmadiyyah Muslim community of South Cheam offered condolences and solidarity and were thanked by the Revd Frances Arnold. Trinity also received a gift of flowers following a morning service.



As *Unite!* went to press Trinity was preparing to host an Iftar meal in conjunction with the **Turkish Muslim Dialogue Society** which aims to advance social cohesion and community building. During Ramadan the fast is broken at sunset and is often an occasion for special shared meals. The Iftar on 23 May was attended by the Mayor of Sutton, Councillor Muhammed Sadiq and Paul Scully MP and the theme of the evening was *Loneliness and Social Isolation*. Speakers included Dr Malcolm Payne, Professor in the field of Social Sciences, Briony Thomas on behalf of Sutton Cruse Bereavement Care and Georgina Mullins from Sutton Befrienders, a local charity for whom donations were invited.

Sunday Afternoon Outings

No outing is planned during June but look out for news in the next edition of *Unite!* of one, possibly even two outings in July!-

Devotions

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.'

(Acts 2:1-4)



When was the last time
that we heard the wind of your Spirit
roar through this place?
When was the last time
your fire lit up this room?
When was the last time
we took you at your word
and met together in expectation
of your Spirit filling this place,
and these lives with your Glory and Power?
Lord, you challenge us with Pentecost.

Do we believe that this
was a once in eternity experience,
never to be repeated?
That the Holy Spirit was poured out
on your followers for a single purpose,
and ended His work at that instant?
If so, then maybe that is why the Church
seems so powerless in this age,
helpless when faced with the needs
both spiritual and physical,
that we see in the world.

Lord, as we meet together ,
and celebrate once again
the memory of that first Pentecost,
may it be for us as it was then
a moment of empowerment,
an awareness of your Glory in this dark world,
a life changing experience.

John Birch (www.faithandworship.com)

Regular Events

CUCS consists of 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.

