

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 7 May

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

Sunday 14 May

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP singing)
10.30am	Trinity	United Morning Worship for Christian Aid Week <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
6.30pm	SBC	CUCS United Service

Sunday 21 May

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion
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
6.30pm	SBC	CUCS United Service

Sunday 28 May

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Holy Communion
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Morning Worship Holy Communion
6.30pm	SBC	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
todaviddickinson@gmail.com

Revd Justine Middlemiss (St Nicholas)
020 8642 3499
rector@suttonteamministry.org



May 2017

Dear Readers,

News, heard the day I write this, of the Prime Minister calling a General Election will have been met with mixed responses. Some will be glad of the opportunity once again to debate matters of national and global importance; other 'Brendas of Bristol' will be tired of what they see as "Yet more politics!" The latter will be dreading the weeks of discussion and argument that will fill the airwaves throughout May. However, unexpected results in recent elections here and elsewhere in the world teach us that we should take seriously the opportunity before us now. We can expect a range of political views to be represented in our congregations, and it will be no surprise to learn that none of our three churches will be endorsing any particular political party to represent our constituency in parliament. Yet, as one of your ministers, I want to suggest that there is a peculiarly Christian way of voting.

The last person on a Christian's mind when she or he votes is 'me'. Christians do not vote on the basis of which policies best serve *their* interests. Christians vote on the basis of what is best for those on the edge, those who are voiceless, those who struggle to get by, those who need better opportunities to learn, those who drift through life, those who are nationless and rootless. Christians vote on the basis of what is best for the world's peace, what is best for humanity's harmony and what serves the common good. So, as one of your ministers, I want you to know that what concerns me most this time is the reception and hosting of refugees, the transition of young people from foster care into independency, the level of housing benefit for people aged 18 to 30, the staffing of hospitals, social care for the elderly, education for low achievers, the level of our overseas aid, and a greater sense of human togetherness. Others, I know, will have a different list of concerns.

Although the 2017 General Election comes both as a surprise and when election fatigue may be an issue, I can't help but feel that each vote will be crucial this time.

Revd Dr David Dickinson

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

News from the Churches

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Creating a world where everyone has a decent place to live.



A few years ago, a group, made up of members of the Churches Uniting in Central Sutton, took on the challenge to build houses! Based in a township in Capetown, we joined with other churches to work with local people, helping them build not just a new house, but a new future. If you ask anyone involved they will tell you what a rich and rewarding experience it was.

Well now a few of us would like to do it again in 2018! Habitat is a Christian organisation working around the globe to bring a better and more hopeful future to many who are disadvantaged for a variety of reasons.

We would like to recruit a group of 10 or more volunteers, if possible, as this will enable us to discuss with Habitat which location we can volunteer in as an independent group.

We hope to involve all the churches by fundraising and raising awareness of the work of this very worthwhile charity.

And if you think you may be too old for this, then think again! All volunteers of a Build are found a job within their capabilities whether its painting a fence or making the tea.

If you feel this would be a challenge you can respond to please contact Carole Adams or Sarah Botting. Our contact details are as follows:

Carole Adams:

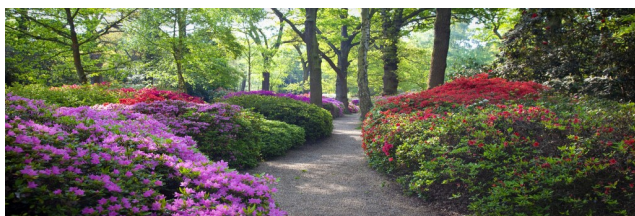
carole.adams1@btinternet.com ; 07711879645

Sarah Botting:

sjbotting@yahoo.co.uk

07969919835

Sunday Afternoon Outing 7 May



Join a group visiting the **Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park** to see the azaleas.

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

We will be travelling by car. To ensure 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. Contact John and Deborah Wroe (john.p.wroe@btinternet.com or 020 8642 9064)

In Memoriam Ennerah Tsopotsa

Ennerah Evangeline Tsopotsa, of Trinity Church, who died on 30th March 2017, had a distinguished and pioneering career in nursing, serving both as Matron in Zimbabwe and as night matron at Charing Cross Hospital. Widowed at the age of 42, she worked tirelessly to provide a home and a private education for her children, retiring finally at the age of 77. Ennerah thanked God daily for her blessings.

St Nicholas Supper Talk 19 May 7pm



Come and hear all about **Sutton Community Farm** from Charlotte Steel, General Manager, at the Supper Talk to be held at 7pm at St Nicholas Community Hall on Friday, 19 May. Tickets, at £8

each, are available from Richard West (020 8644 7834; richjwest@btinternet.com) but please book by Sunday, 14 May. Sutton Community Farm is one of London's largest community food growing spaces right here in our borough.

Reflecting on the Lent Groups

(from **Sylvia Robinson**, whose group met in Oasis)

More than sixty five people took part in this year's Lent course based on the book *Seasons of my Soul* and found it a very worthwhile experience.

Some of the topics discussed were quite challenging at a personal level, but participation within the group was lively and affirming, and several members said how much they appreciated the opportunity to discuss certain issues at some depth from a Christian perspective, finding much encouragement and spiritual insight from other people's views and various biblical references.

The final session, led by Revd Cécile Schnyder, took a different form as she re-told the parable of the mustard seed, illustrating it with visual aids representing the large tree and the birds that made their nests in its branches. Everyone was given a small wooden bird and invited to colour it and write a word that had a special meaning for them, such as 'hope', 'peace', 'trust' etc. on the back. These were then collected and re-distributed for us to keep and pray for the other members who had made this worthwhile Lenten journey with us.

Some other comments.....

people seemed to appreciate reading aloud together and reflecting on the beautiful and well-chosen language of the material in the book

I really enjoyed this group - I think not least because I was amongst people I didn't know at all well....

(In Cécile's group)....I appreciated the opportunity to do things that do not involve words all the time...

I wonder whether in CUCS we sometimes place too much emphasis on establishing common ground in our joint worship rather than celebrating what is different. All our congregations are made up of people who have a wide range of views, tastes and experience.

Devotions

A prayer for the 60th anniversary of Christian Aid Week

As a diamond catches the light
and refracts it into a kaleidoscope of colours,
we give thanks, O God:

for the myriad acts of kindness, generosity and
love over six decades of Christian Aid Week.

for the willingness of collectors
for the generosity of neighbours
for the donation of cakes, plants, books and
works of art

for the concerts, recitals and dramatic
performances
for the walks, cycles and sponsored swims
for the bowls of soup, pots of coffee and cups
of tea
for the posters, bunting and banners displayed



for the heads and hearts that have been
changed
for the prayers spoken and campaign
postcards signed
for the acts of worship and stories shared

for the calls for justice challenging the causes
of poverty
for the millions of envelopes, weighted with
coins or light with notes,
for the cheques and the texts to donate,

We give you thanks.

Most of all we give thanks for the millions of
lives transformed so that together we may all
flourish.



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	8 May	3.00pm
Monday	15 May	6.30pm
Monday	12 June	3.00pm
Monday	19 June	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.

A New Voice for Women in Ethiopia

The following article from Christian Aid has been submitted by Mike Dales. Money given to Christian Aid funds programmes like this all around the world.

In England and Wales, the average woman is having her first baby at nearly 30.

In Ethiopia, at 30, Adi Duba is already a widow and a mother of five.



Living independently as a widow is incredibly tough. And within the Borena community in southern Ethiopia, re-marriage is only possible for Adi through 'inheritance' by male relatives of her deceased husband. Adi was destitute. But with our partner, HUNDEE's support, life has started to get a bit brighter.

A cup of butter can provide an education

Adi's community recognised how vulnerable she was as a single mother. She received one cow and two goats through the UK aid *Programme Partnership Arrangement* scheme. Life has changed for Adi. Not only is she able to provide milk for her children, she is also producing a cup of butter a week, worth about £2, which is enough to send her eldest daughter to school.

Most importantly, now that she owns livestock, she is viewed as 'Guma Gutu' (an owner of cattle and goats), meaning she now has a voice. Adi is able to participate with men in community meetings, challenging social norms which discriminate against women.

Challenging social norms

Working together with HUNDEE, women are now challenging early marriage, marriage abductions, the inheritance of women by relatives, polygamy, and prioritising boys over girls for schooling. Working with 1,135 women, we see this as an incredible achievement. Not only has ownership of livestock given women like Adi financial independence, it has significantly increased their status in a traditional and male-dominated society.

The 60th Anniversary of Christian Aid Week

Can you help with the envelope collection?

Speak to your church representative:

Sutton Baptist Church: **Mike Dales** St Nicholas: **Clive Orton** Trinity: **Colin Howard**



The Final Saturday May 20th outside Trinity
11.00pm—4.00pm

You could help with the Mile of Money along Trinity wall—encourage people to donate their old £1 coins!

You could make cakes or help to serve tea, coffee and cake



You could donate books or help on the secondhand book stall



You could just come along to support us!
All ages welcome!

Speak to your church representatives about the Final Saturday:

Sutton Baptist Church: **Carolyn Graham**

Trinity: **Olwen Edwards**

St Nicholas: **Glynis Osborne** and **Jenny Gillbe**



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: **8643 2525**. Copy date for the June issue is 17 May. *Unite!* is also available online at www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk