

## This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

### Sunday 5 May

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

### Sunday 12 May

9.00am	<b>St N</b>	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	<b>Trinity</b>	<b>CUCS United Service</b> <b>Christian Aid Week</b> <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i> <i>Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle</i>
6.30pm	<b>St N</b>	<b>CUCS United Service</b>

### Sunday 19 May

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

### Sunday 26 May

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

**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



**May 2019**

Dear Readers,

Although this is the first time I am writing for *Unite!* ecumenism has been a part, both of my training and of my curacy. I trained in the Theological Federation at Cambridge, sharing classes with different denominations, and was a founder member of Biggleswade Churches Together. It has been good to accompany you through Holy Week, walking the way of the cross with Christians from the Sutton Team and Trinity and Sutton Baptist Church. Joint witness in Holy Week, remembering the last days of Jesus' life on earth together, brought opportunities to form and deepen relationships.

After the first Easter Day, the disciples were in a new relationship with Jesus, *in* Christ rather than *with* Christ. This new relationship was settled forty days after the first appearance of the risen Christ, when he ascended into heaven. But he did not leave them or us bereft. He is now permanently with us through his Spirit. It was while he was promising this that, as St Luke says in Acts, 'he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.'

The point of the story, however, is not so much movement in space as the assumption of authority, 'sitting at the right hand of God.' In this way the Ascension, which we will celebrate on 30 May, gives us a heavenly perspective in which to set the ordering of our life on earth. In his letter to the Ephesians, St Paul relates that at the Ascension Jesus 'gave gifts to his people.' He makes little of the Ascension itself, but majors on the giving of gifts. The gifts are not what we might expect - the gifts of the Spirit which are poured out on individuals. These gifts are ministries and offices, personal it is true, but also corporate, so that the church might be built up in faith and hope and love.

Jesus has equipped the church with what it needs to engage in its tasks. Let us respond in our day, like the first disciples in theirs, with obedience and joy.

Blessings in the Risen Christ,

*Frances*

Revd Frances Arnold



# News from the Churches



On 3 April Revd Frances Arnold was licensed by the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark. Present at the service were the Deputy Mayor of Sutton and his wife, the Area Dean, the Archdeacon of Croydon and the Chaplain of Hertford College Oxford, Patron of St Nicholas. Local clergy were joined by Frances' family, friends and former parishioners to celebrate the occasion.

## Celebrating 150 years of worship and witness at Sutton Baptist Church!

This year sees the 150th anniversary since the foundation of Sutton Baptist Church by a few faithful people. During this time the Church has worshipped in various venues in Sutton, culminating in our lovely building on Cheam Road.



To celebrate this momentous year we are working with Sutton Heritage Action Zone to promote various events including :

### Lunch time, mid-week organ recitals.

The first one will be held on:

### Wednesday 22 May, 12.30pm at SBC

All are welcome to these free organ recitals and there will be a small charge for coffee and biscuits with an invitation to donate to our Thanksgiving Fund. Further concerts are planned for **25 July and 18 September**.

## St Nicholas Supper Talk Friday 10 May

This year's programme of Supper Talks, organised by St Nicholas Church, will begin on Friday, 10 May at 7.00pm in St Nicholas Community Hall.

### *All God's Children* Meeting people on the margins by Revd Naomi Whittle

Naomi will share experiences of her encounters with three groups of people marginalised because of their culture, lifestyle choices or appearance. Be prepared for the unexpected!

Tickets at £10 each are available from Richard West at St Nicholas  
richjwest@btinternet.com; 020 8644 7834

Future talks will be as follows:

**14 June - So You Think You Know Me**  
Graham Cole OBE who starred in 'The Bill' for over 20 years

**26 July - Returning to my roots**  
The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Sarah Mullally Bishop of London

**27 September - Our local prison:**  
Revd Beverly Fraser and Robin Eldridge

**8 November - Art Nouveau:**  
Ian Gledhill.

## Sunday 26 May Afternoon Outing

Join us for a walk near Rickmansworth, around the Great Union Canal, with a visit to a small canal museum. Meet after your morning service at the back of Trinity, bringing a packed lunch. We will be travelling by train and tube.

Please contact John and Deborah Wroe for more information:

john.p.wroe@gmail.com      020 8642 9064

## Easter Morning at Trinity

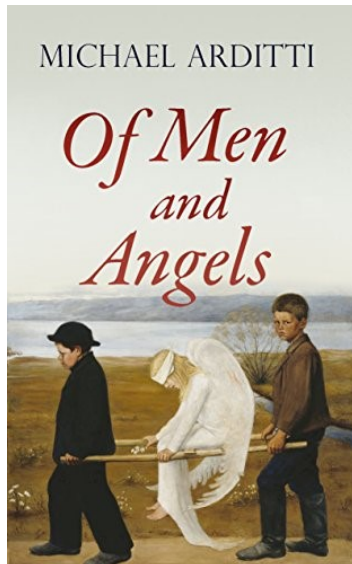
Easter morning began with a wonderful cooked breakfast provided by Kaleidoscope, with the profits donated to the Sutton Night Watch.



During the morning service nine young people were confirmed by Revd Dr David Dickinson and presented with a commemorative Bible:

Joselito da Silva, Cadelauro de Sousa,  
Naa-Densua Dodoo, Rebecca Fofoe,  
Siera Kuba, Joseph Mapwashike-Wright,  
Prince Thomas, Sela Zere, Sinit Zere





## ***Of Men and Angels* Michael Arditti** (Arcadia Books: 2018)

A review by Dave Dickinson

If you would like to spend time contemplating the Sodom and Gomorrah narrative in the Bible, Michael Arditti's latest novel, *Of Men and Angels*, is the perfect partner. Arditti is possibly the most theologically literate of all contemporary novelists, so his journey across centuries of interpretations of the narrative is an assured one.

The novel is in five sections, each introduced by Archangel Gabriel who travels through the ages. Each of the five eras visited was a time when the science of hermeneutics (that is, biblical interpretation) reached a new stage in its evolution.

The first section is set during the Babylonian exile when the Hebrew scriptures were formed, and Jared, a pious boy educated in the court of King Nebuchadnezzar, is among the scribes working on the texts. When he challenges the orthodox interpretation of the Sodom story, he is taken off the project. The middle ages provide the context for the novel's second section, which tells of the guilds preparing mystery plays for performance on the streets of York. The Guild of Salters is responsible for the scene which tells the story of Lot and his wife. Dramatic interpretation of the texts causes concern and debate about what taking religious stories out of churches onto the streets does to the texts. The third section is in Renaissance Florence and portrays the struggles the artist, Sandro Botticelli, had when trying to depict Sodom in a manner which would be found acceptable in Savonarola's reactionary city. The middle years of the nineteenth century are the setting for the fourth section. Here Arditti tells of a 'biblical archaeologist' who sets out to establish the historicity of biblical narratives. He searches for the ruins of Sodom. The final section is based in 1980s Hollywood, where a closeted gay actor, now dying of AIDS, makes one last film and stars in a controversial reimagining of Sodom.

Overall, *Of Men and Angels* encourages us to read our Bibles more closely and more carefully. And with more compassion! Then we hear the word of God.

### **Have you bought your tickets yet?**

Available from:  
Carolyn Graham (Sutton Baptist Church)  
Pam Affleck (St Nicholas)  
Deborah Wroe, Liz Wood, Olwen Edwards (Trinity)  
[www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk](http://www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk)

### **Some familiar faces!**

Sarah Botting: soprano  
Stephen Haylett: organ  
CUCS Close Harmony Singers  
Chou and Anica: Instrumental duo  
Ohemaa, Rinnah and Milcah: young singers



### **Some special guests!**

Shurooq Abu el Nas, Sudanese Folk Singer  
Upahaar Indian Dancers  
Elaine Jones: young clarinettist

**Enjoy a varied programme, suitable for all ages, with performers representing countries all over the world: Sudan, Eritrea, South Korea, India, Ghana, USA, Trinidad & Tobago, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales**

## **MusicAid**

Saturday 18 May 6pm

A fun concert of varied music



Proceeds to  
Christian Aid

Tickets £5 online at  
[www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk](http://www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk)

Cream teas with  
homemade scones  
and cakes available  
from 4.00pm in  
Oasis £5

**From the Editor** I would be delighted to receive comments and suggestions on the future of *Unite!* Contact me email: [olwenmedwards@gmail.com](mailto:olwenmedwards@gmail.com) or by phone: **020 8643 2525**. Copy date for the June issue is **15 May**. Links to the electronic version of *Unite!* can be found on each church's website.

# Devotions

## A Prayer from Christian Aid

God of reconciliation and grace,  
you promise us a world where all is new,  
where love is born when hope is gone,  
where broken relationships are restored to  
wholeness.

May we live as people who know your story of  
love,

May we have the vision to imagine what could  
be possible  
if we dared to live this story.

God of abundant life,  
may we be witnesses of love, hope and  
peace,  
and co-creators of your life in the world.  
Amen

This Christian Aid Week we are asked to remember particularly in our prayers the young mothers and babies of Sierra Leone. Pray that through Christian Aid Week's fundraising efforts, our partner in Sierra Leone, the Rehabilitation and Development Agency, will be able to build better health centre facilities.



## Volunteer needed!

Ryelands is a Methodist residential home for older people in Wallington.

A volunteer is urgently needed to drive a small 8 seater minibus on occasional local outings for residents. No special licence is required, although your licence should include "D1".

Please contact Sue Laflin (Trinity):  
email: ryelands.sue@gmail.com  
mobile: 07912 423973

# 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](http://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](http://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.

