

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 3 November

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship <i>Revd Pamela Searle</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	All Age Holy Communion for All Saints <i>Revd Frances Arnold</i>
6.30pm	St N	CUCS United Service

Sunday 10 November

Remembrance Sunday

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Pamela Searle</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Parade <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd David Butlin</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	United Choral Service Trinity Festival Choir Fauré's Requiem

Sunday 17 November

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

Sunday 24 November

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Pamela Searle</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Mr Keith Halstead</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd Frances Arnold</i>
6.30pm	St N	CUCS United Service

for help or information please contact:

Revd Pamela Searle (Sutton Baptist Church)
07368 305607
revpam@suttonbaptist.org

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



November 2019

Dear Readers,

The common thread running through our worship in November is that of remembering: the departed at All Souls' time; the implications of war and peace; and those who died in the wars. We come together with members of the local community, united in personal grief and civic remembrance.

How do we let the community know about significant dates and events in the churches that may be of interest to them? How do we reflect on them? Could we extend our written communication beyond the three LEP churches to the local community? Is there a role here for *Unite!* the joint churches magazine?

Olwen Edwards, who has done a wonderful job editing the magazine for the past six years, is stepping down (the next edition will be her last one), and she has encouraged us to take the opportunity to discuss the future of *Unite!*

One possibility is a communication from the three churches focussed on outreach into the local community, a publication for all living within the parish (central Sutton) rather than just for church attenders. In doing this, we would be progressing our Covenant commitment to 'service to the community...to present a clear and united witness to the people of Sutton.' If the publication served as a community resource as well as publicising events in the churches, this could contribute to the borough's emphasis on community cohesion.

The Ecumenical Church Council and the governing bodies of each church have begun to discuss whether this is something that might be taken further. A way forward might be for a community magazine to be published three or four times a year. The clergy would still contribute articles and there would be an opportunity to speak about the place of Christianity and religion in society. There are other questions to consider too, like finding ways for the clergy to write pastorally to their own congregations and how best to maintain communication between the three churches. Olwen put out a call in last month's *Unite!* for us to consider whether we have skills to offer as we think about the ways in which we communicate in future – with each other and those outside our churches. Please pass your ideas to the ECC if you can offer help or wish to know more.

Revd Frances Arnold
Revd Dr David Dickinson
Revd Pamela Searle



Faith or Fear an article by Pam Searle

As we move steadily through the third millennium, we as Christians are more aware than ever of threats to our safety and security. Terrorism, warfare, nuclear arms races, globalisation, cultural shifts, global warming and of course closer to home, to Brexit or not to Brexit. It is a time that could easily paralyse us into fear for our futures. Changes are happening at warp speed that challenge long-held assumptions and traditions and thrust us forward into the deep unknown. Almost daily we are confronted with conflicting impulses and our choice as Christians is to either retreat into our so-called safety of the known past, "how we have always done it!" or to move forward with prayer, hope and courage into what can be an unknown future.



Life reminds me of the story of Naomi and Ruth who also lived in tumultuous times. Their world as they knew it was dominated by political instability, international tensions, economic crisis, violence and so on. Economic recovery from an extended famine doesn't happen overnight. In their time for a family to die without a male heir was a fate highly feared. But because everyone was struggling it was a time when problems could easily go unnoticed by others too consumed with their own problems. Others, who may have, in better times lent a helping hand.

It is into these horrendous circumstances we enter, with a fresh awareness that all is not right in God's world and hasn't been since the fall of humanity. But it is here in the mess amongst the losses, knife crime, despair, darkness and frightening drink culture – that God is marvellously at work in the most unlikely ways through the strangest of us all. His Kingdom is subversive. It is here we can reaffirm his never-ending love for his daughters and sons,

knowing he will demonstrate in fresh new expressions, that he has never wavered from his original vision for us. God still intends for us, 'made in his image' to accomplish his good purposes in the world. An invitation for us to join afresh celebrating our differences with one goal - to build God's kingdom.

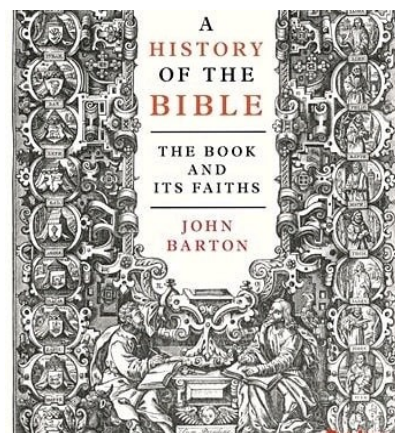
A History of the Bible: The Book and its Faiths: John Barton (Allen Lane: 2019) **A review by Dave Dickinson**

For believers and non-believers alike, the Bible is an unparalleled book. For both Jews and Christians it is the bedrock of our faith, while for others it is one of the great works of literature with an unequalled influence on our language and our culture.

John Barton, who retired as Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at Oxford in 2014, has capped his long publishing career with this impressive book telling the story of the Bible. It explains how it was formed and how it has been understood. In the process Barton shows that the Bible is less the fixed text we often think it to be, and more a living book with the capacity to speak across the years and across the globe to people from all places and ages.

Parts 1 and 2 of the book, discussing the origins and interpretation of the Old and New Testaments respectively, form an admirable introduction to the books of the Bible. Part 3 explores how the various books came together under one cover and traces why some books were excluded while some surprising ones got in.

But Part 4 fascinated me more. Here Barton discusses how Christians have used the Bible over the years. He explains that there has always been a gap between scripture and faith. Neither directly maps the other. Indeed, he shows that problems arise whenever people insist that the Bible and the faith are simply coterminous, so he suggests the helpful metaphor of two intersecting circles. In one circle he places matters in the Bible that have no bearing on the Christian faith (curses in the Psalms and Joshua's battles with the Canaanites, for example). In the other he places matters developed in the Christian faith that hardly feature in the Bible (including the doctrine of the Trinity and the meaning of Christ's death). There remains a large area of overlap where the circles intersect, and thinking about this is where the fun starts! That's our task if we are thinking Christians.



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 December/January issue is **13 November**. Links to the electronic version of *Unite!* can be found on each church's website.

News from the Churches

Remembrance Service

Sunday 10 November 2019

Trinity Church 6.30pm

Fauré's Requiem

**Trinity Festival Choir
Instrumental Ensemble with harp**

As well as performing this well-loved masterpiece, which will be familiar to many of you through the sublime soprano solo *Pie Jesu* and the meltingly beautiful *In Paradisum* we will also be singing movements from Howard Goodall's *Eternal Light*, a Requiem written in 2008, and music by Bob Chilcott, interspersed with reflective readings, poetry and music by the instrumental ensemble

Soprano	Susan Waton
Baritone	Richard Semmens
Organ	Martin Ford
Director	Stephen Haylett



In memoriam Revd Michael Ball



It is with sadness that friends at SBC report the death of the Revd Michael Ball, Minister from 1982 - 1993. He was liberal minded, an excellent teacher, a good pastor and a very keen gardener. Also musically talented, he played the violin and frequently joined the small SBC band.

He touched many lives and deepened the spiritual journeys we all find ourselves on. During his battle with cancer over the last year, he was at peace with the limits to his mortality. Prayers are requested for Sally, his wife, who is also dealing with difficult health issues.

The Funeral and Thanksgiving Service will be held on Monday 4 November at 1.15pm at St David's Uniting Church, Gelliwastad Road, Pontypridd CF37 2BW. Rosa Hunt, Co-Principal of South Wales Baptist College, will be taking the service.

Sunday Afternoon Outing 8 December London's Science Museum

Join us to see two special exhibitions:-

The Art of Innovation explores the relationship of science and art and how it has helped us to interpret, study and explore the world around us over the past 250 years.

Top secret - from ciphers to cyber security explores the world of codebreaking, ciphers and secret communications over the past century.

There are no entrance charges but you might want some change for some tea in the café! We will meet at the back of Trinity Church after the morning service and travel by train and tube. Bring a packed lunch which we will eat on the train.

Please contact John and Deborah Wroe 020 8642 9064 or email john.p.wroe@gmail.com for more information and please let us know if you intend to come.

St Nicholas Supper Talk Friday 8 November 7.00pm **Art Nouveau** Ian Gledhill.

Tickets for this Supper Talk will be FREE for anyone who has been to at least one Supper Talk this year. They will be available from Richard West (richjwest@btinternet.com; 020 8644 7834) on a 'first come, first served' basis. If you have not been to a Supper Talk this year, the cost is £10.

Trinity Advent Lecture Tuesday 3 December 7.30pm

Gospel Music

A talk by Professor Robert Beckford



Robert Beckford was Britain's first tutor in Black Theology in the 1990s and has since broadcast on BBC and Channel 4. In his talk on "the problem with gospel music and how to put it right" he will discuss music, coloniality and the Church. This will be an entertaining, provocative and informative evening.

Tickets at £5 will be available in our three churches and online at: trinitychurchsutton.org.uk

The Oasis café will be open from 6.00pm serving light suppers.

(Epiphany Lecture Tuesday 28 January 2020)

Devotions

"It's difficult to see the point of wearing a poppy"

(A prayer for Remembrance Sunday to use with young people)

God, it's difficult to see the point of wearing a poppy,
or what difference two minutes' silence will make
when we could be shouting protests.

But we can recognise a broken life being valued,
a gift being given,
and taking two minutes to reflect on how much we have.

We look to the future, not to the past.
We cannot change what has been
but do not need to repeat its mistakes.

So as old and young come together before you,
take the very best of our lives
and bind us into one people of faith.

Help us to share our common values
and love of Jesus,
to care for each other,
to build dreams,
and, with your Holy Spirit,
turn them into reality.

Amen

(From "Roots: Worship and Resources for the Whole Church")



Ryelands MHA Christmas Fair

15 Beddington Gardens, Wallington

Saturday 16 November 2.00-4.00pm

Admission programmes (which include a drink and a biscuit) cost £1

Trinity will be running the Toiletries Stall and donations for the stall can be brought to the back of Trinity on 3 and 10 November.

Ryelands is a Methodist Home in Wallington and all are invited to the Christmas Fair.

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.

