

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 7 October

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Harvest Festival Communion <i>Revd Graham Woolgar</i>
	Trinity	Harvest Festival Parade <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd David Butlin</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	CUCS United Service and Methodist Circuit Service

Sunday 14 October

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	CUCS UNITED SERVICE <i>Revd Graham Woolgar</i>
6.30pm	Trinity	CUCS United Service

Sunday 21 October

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

Sunday 28 October

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Lela Saunders and the Deacons</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd David Billin</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
todaydickinson@gmail.com

Ginny Haizelden (Administrator St Nicholas)
020 8643 8271
administrator@suttonteamministry.org



October 2018

Dear Readers,

On the evening of the first Sunday of October, Trinity Church will be hosting Sutton Methodist Circuit's service for Black History Month. The guest preacher will be the Revd Ermal Kirby, formerly Chair of the London North East District and now superintendent of the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit. You are warmly invited to come along, both to celebrate the contribution black people have made to our country and to express our commitment to promote greater unity in our population.

It is now thirty years since Black History Month was inaugurated, and this 30th anniversary coincides with much concern about injustices perpetrated against some members of the Windrush generation. How little have they been valued!

The experience of black Christians, when pushed to the margins by racism, has led to the emergence of a distinctive black theology. In America one of its key proponents was James Cone, who died last April. Born in 1938 when racial segregation was still legal in his home state, Arkansas, Cone's experiences forged an understanding of God that always placed God on the side of the oppressed. For Cone, the most important biblical stories were those of the delivery of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and the resurrection of Christ. Liberation was the key note of his theology.

Anthony Reddie is perhaps the best known black theologian in our own country. Of a later generation than James Cone, Rennie's theological thinking is nevertheless also the product of experience. He said in a book describing a black theology for the twenty-first century, entitled *Working against the Grain*, that his early experience of church was that church "seemed intent on reinforcing the status quo." It seemed to overlook social injustice. Now, because he has witnessed and experienced injustice, his understanding is that God works towards social transformation. That's what's distinctive about black theology.

These are people and insights worth celebrating in this year's Black History Month.

Revd Dr David Dickinson



Devotions

This prayer, from the Jesuit Refugee Service, highlights the charity's commitment to accompany, serve and advocate for others.

Lord Jesus

Give us courage to **accompany** others, for in walking at their side we find you there present with us.

Give us joy that we may **serve** others, for in tending wounds of those who suffer, we sense your healing grace at work with us.

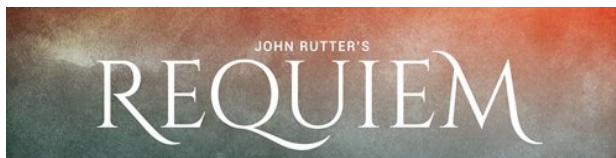
Give us wisdom as we **advocate** for others, for in defending the downtrodden we hear your voice speak up for us.

Grant that in all we do we may give you glory Lord; we return all we have in love to you, for you have given everything to us.

Amen



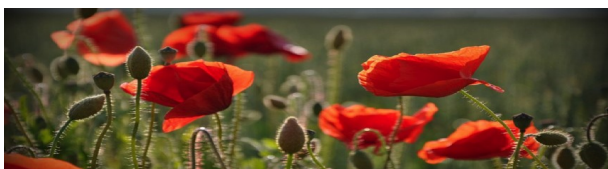
It's not too late to sing!



The members of **Trinity Festival Choir** are really enjoying learning John Rutter's Requiem to mark the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. Even if you have little choral experience you will be supported and many choir members learn their parts by practising with online recordings of each voice part.

Rehearsals take place in the Parlour at Trinity at 8.00pm on Thursday evenings.

The choir will be accompanied by a small chamber orchestra including harp, 'cello, oboe, flute, timpani and glockenspiel. Do put 11 November at 6.30pm in your diary and join us to give thanks for the end of the First World War.



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

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.

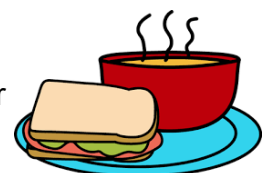
Badminton Club meets 7.45-10.00pm every Monday in Trinity Hall.

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 9.30 am to 2pm for refreshments, light lunches and a chance to chat.



News from the Churches

Farewell Sarah!

After 18 years in Sutton Revd Sarah Sewell leaves St Nicholas on Sunday 30 September and moves next week to Oxford. She is taking up a new post as the Lead Chaplain for Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which is made up the John Radcliffe Hospital, the Churchill Hospital (Cancer care) the Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital, Michael Sobell House (Hospice) and the Horton Hospital in Banbury.

Thank you Sarah for all you have contributed to CUCS, leading worship, supporting activities and befriending so many. We will be thinking of you and praying for you as you embark on this new challenge.

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Richard West has the details of a farewell tea for Sarah on Saturday 20 October

United Evening Service 7 October

The service marks Black History Month and will be held at 6.30pm at Trinity led by Dave Dickinson. The preacher will be Revd Ermal Kirby, a former Chair of the London Methodist District who has carried out a project on cultural diversity in the Methodist ministry.

Music will be led by the **Leoa Male Voice Academic Choir** (made up largely of Sierra Leonean men from churches across the south east).

This is a Sutton Methodist Circuit service as well as a Churches Uniting in Central Sutton service.

Sunday Afternoon Outing 7 October



We will walk through some lovely parts of Chelsea, see the Royal Chelsea Hospital, then cross Albert Bridge and walk through Battersea Park to see the London Peace Pagoda and fountains recalling the Crystal Palace.

This is a longer walk of about 4 miles, but on the level with rest stops including a couple of cafés.

Meet at the back of Trinity after morning service. For more information contact John Wroe 020 8642 9064 or email john.p.wroe@gmail.com

Yes, on Tuesday 25 September at the Holiday Inn, **Cruse Bereavement Care Sutton** was launched with a reception attended by over 100 people. The event was generously sponsored by Alfred Smith, Funeral Directors and the guests represented so many areas of life in the London Borough of Sutton: the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, donors, doctors, solicitors, church members, councillors, volunteers in training and many more. It was good to see so many CUCS friends there!

This was the vision of Revd Dr David Dickinson who, with the steering committee of Briony Thomas, Diana Birkett, Angela Mann, Margaret Reith, Janthia Taylor and Michael Blackburn, has worked so hard over the last two years to raise funds and liaise with the national charity to work in partnership with them.



Dave spoke of the anonymous London cabbie he met who had given him £20 in memory of his girlfriend who had died, "to buy someone a cup of tea" as part of his pastoral work. That became the start of the fund raising drive and Dave thanked the many individuals, churches and organisations who have already donated. Steven Wibberley, CEO of Cruse set our organisation in a national context; CBCSutton is the first new branch in London for four years. And it was a privilege to have Dr Colin Murray Parkes OBE, Life President of Cruse and prolific writer on grief, as the main speaker. He traced the history of Cruse from the early days in 1959 as a support group for widows in Richmond to the national charity it is today, offering bereavement support to all, but also working in disaster situations here and abroad and lobbying Parliament for changes in legislation.

Cruse Bereavement Support Sutton is now open for business offering one-to-one help to all bereaved adults in the borough, free of charge—the local branch of Jigsaw supports children and young people. The fundraising continues and more volunteers start their training soon; if you would like to join them please speak to Dave or Briony Thomas.

CUCS United Service to mark Anti-slavery Day: by Dave Dickinson

Sunday 14 October 2018

When I was at school I was naïve enough to think that, when learning about William Wilberforce and the abolition of the slave trade, I was learning about the end of slavery. It was a while before I realised that the emancipation of slaves came much later, and it was later still before I realised that neither eradicated slavery. Slavery continues to blight the human condition.



Antislavery International, the oldest human rights organisation in the world, founded in 1839, is a charity dedicated to combat all forms of modern-day slavery, both here and abroad.

It believes there are over 40 million modern-day slaves across the world. These may be women forced into prostitution, men compelled to work in agriculture or construction, children oppressed in sweatshops or girls forced to marry older men. Modern slavery takes many forms – bonded labour, forced labour, domestic labour, child marriage, forced marriage and human trafficking. You can find out more about the various forms of modern slavery by visiting www.antislavery.org. Wherever people's lives are controlled by their exploiters, wherever they no longer have a free choice and wherever they have to do as they're told, they are slaves. Many of them are in Britain – Chinese cockle pickers putting their lives at risk on Morecambe Bay, agricultural labourers from Eastern Europe exploited by ganglords and young Vietnamese forced to work on cannabis farms. The Church of England focussed recently on the tyranny of hand car washes and issued guidance for spotting signs to show whether the men and women who wash your car are being exploited. Sadly, this paragraph only touches the surface of this massive problem.

You might want to associate yourself with the antislavery movement by attending the united morning service at Sutton Baptist Church on 14 October, only four days before Antislavery Day, when, because we often take a social justice theme in the October united service, we will focus on the contemporary problem of human slavery. All October evening service offerings at Trinity will be in aid of *Antislavery International*.

London Churches Refugee Fund



Charity
number
1121108

**“The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native born.
Love him as yourself”**

Last month I attended a meeting of the **London Churches Refugee Fund**, a group who put these Biblical words into practice. The charity employs no staff but channels donations from Churches and individuals to make small grants to destitute refugees and asylum seekers. CUCS have supported this Fund and *Refugee and Migrant Network Sutton* have passed on grants to destitute clients.

The speaker at this meeting was **Sarah Teather**, the former MP and Children's Minister, who is now Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service. Sarah spoke on *'Hospitality in a time of hostility'*, referring to an asylum system which she considered had been broken for a long time, using hostility as a tool of policy and 'bad at spotting who is a genuine refugee.' She told us about the Day Centre for refugees and asylum seekers run by JRS in the East End of London. The Centre organises a choir and a drama group and runs a programme with the Wallace Collection where refugees are trained as volunteer guides for the art gallery. Sarah told us that what those that came to the Day Centre most appreciated was that each day everyone, including staff and volunteers, sat down for a hot meal together.

As a Christian, It should not have surprised me that the communion of a shared meal was at the heart of everything we do.

One of the most moving experiences Sarah shared was coming into the Day Centre and spotting a stranger. Gradually she realised that this was a man she knew well, who had been coming to the Centre for a long time. He had been sleeping on the streets and had been referred to a short term home hosting scheme which had provided him with a bed and a shower for the first time for months. This meant he had regained confidence in himself and his whole demeanour had changed so much that she had not recognised him.

Further information on the London Churches Refugee Fund can be found at www.help4refugees.co.uk



Sarah Teather,
Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service

by Deborah Wroe

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 November issue is 17 October. Links to the electronic version of *Unite!* can be found on each church's website.