

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 6 October

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

Sunday 13 October

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

Sunday 20 October

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

Sunday 27 October

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Pamela Searle</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd Charles Cotton</i>
6.30pm	SBC	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



October 2019

Dear Readers,

Sutton Baptist Church recently celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding, while an exhibition at St Nicholas Church (built in 1864) told the stories of the people who made the building beautiful for succeeding generations. The stained glass windows were especially significant.

As it happened, the exhibition coincided with a poignant anniversary for St Nicholas: on 24 September 1940 a bomb fell close to the church leaving a sixty-six foot crater in the churchyard and damaging the building and surrounding houses. The bomb destroyed the windows on the north side as well as knocking out the electrics and wrecking the organ.

The Rector, Edward Woolcombe, said he and his family were asleep downstairs when the explosion occurred: *The house seemed to lift up and then go down again...then we heard tombstones rattling in all directions, sounding just as if more bombs were falling. But we were carrying on. We held our usual service at 7am. There were eight people present. We would have had more but for the action of the police in preventing people from coming in.*

The contemporary accounts don't just tell us about the stoicism and matter-of-factness of those caught up in the bombing, but also about relationships. Edward Woolcombe wrote in a newspaper report: *It is clear that the church stands for something spiritually precious in the minds of many thousands. Free Churchmen were forward in calling on me soon after the disaster. The new Methodist minister, for instance, offered me his own church or anything I would like to help me carry on. I am deeply sensible of his kindness and of others...'*

The Declaration of Intent for the Covenant of the Churches Uniting in Central Sutton calls for a *spirit of oneness in Christ* to be visibly demonstrated in shared life and through service and witness to the wider community. That spirit of working and praying together was already apparent in the crisis of the 1940s.

Themes at the service at St Nicholas Church on 22 September were not only remembrance and reconciliation, but also thanksgiving: that the damage was not greater and that there was no loss of life. The service took place by candlelight, like the services in September 1940, which continued with candles and torches. We were joined by the Mayor of Sutton and by other townsfolk as well as members of the congregation from Trinity Church and Sutton Baptist Church. Revd Dr David Dickinson and Revd Pam Searle from the respective churches read the lessons by torchlight.

Frances

Revd Frances Arnold

Revd Pamela Searle, inducted as Minister of Sutton Baptist Church on 21 September, introduces herself.



As a 5 year old I recall asking my Mum to take me to the big building opposite my home, so I could play with the other little girls who came and went with beautifully coloured drawings. I later learnt that the big building was a Church and the pictures were from Sunday school. Thankfully, my Mother agreed and I started to attend an Anglican Church as it was nearest and my Mum could cross me over the busy road, and hand me over to the Curate. By the age of 7 years I gave my life to Christ, but it was felt that I was too young to fully understand so was asked to hold on until I was a little older. Having attended Sunday school and various Christian youth groups, at the age of 15 I was confirmed. I was part of the Choir and regularly volunteered to help run youth groups. Before going off to University I felt a calling to go to Bible College, but, at that time my parents directed me away from Bible College to study Law.

I was fortunate enough to meet my husband Peter after University and we have been blessed with three beautiful children, Matthew 27, Daniel 25 and Naomi 22. We are very blessed to have three children who have grown up in Church, and who know Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

I have been fortunate to study Theology at both St Mellitus College in Holy Trinity Brompton and at Spurgeon's College in South Norwood, giving me a good understanding of theology and a little more recently Christian Counselling at Waverley and Pastoral Supervision which helps me to support other Ministers.

I have many interests, which blend into one another. I particularly enjoy relaxed family time with Peter, and my adult children. We are all keen on sport, particularly gym work, and light short distance running, weather permitting, but also enjoy board games. We enjoy day trips and travel abroad as a family. I have a keen interest in people and recognise my pastoral heart. Other interests include mentoring, working with the Baptist Association Gender Justice Team, Street and School Pastors and helping the homeless. I also enjoy walking my dog and baking cakes.



Moving forward in CUCS

Our Ecumenical Church Council (Dave Dickinson, Frances Arnold, Pam Searle and two delegates from each church) has started thinking about the ways in which we communicate with each other. *Unite!* in its present form began over nine years ago and in that time SBC, St Nicholas and Trinity have each developed different ways of communicating with their congregations: redesigned websites, group emails, weekly electronic newsletters, notices in services sheets etc. Here are some things to consider and discuss within each church:

- ♦ Should we continue with a monthly CUCS magazine like *Unite!*? If so, is there someone who would enjoy taking over as editor in the new year?
- ♦ Could we keep each other informed about events, and strengthen our Christian life together in some other way?
- ♦ Are we too inward looking? Is there a place for a magazine which is distributed to all the homes in our central Sutton area - an outreach into the community so that local people become aware that there are three living churches in central Sutton who work co-operatively?
- ♦ Do you have any experience to offer which would help us to communicate with each other and with those outside our churches: journalism, IT skills, advertising, printing for example? Or would you have spare time to offer if we wanted to develop our outreach outside the walls of our churches?

Please discuss all this amongst yourselves. Think creatively and pass your ideas to the ECC!

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 November issue is **16 October**. Links to the electronic version of *Unite!* can be found on each church's website.

News from the Churches

Two celebrations at SBC!

Sutton Baptist Church was packed on 21 September for Revd Pam Searle's Induction Service and again on Sunday 29 September to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of SBC – a united CUCS service attended by many old friends, including former Minister Revd Mike Dales. Guest musicians led the music, Beryl Botting recalled the history of the church, young people witnessed to their Christian faith and Sarah Botting sang *Before the throne of God above*. Revd Phil Barnard, the London Baptist Association's Regional Team Leader, spoke of the Church's mission to the wider world, challenging us all to work together in the spirit of love, tolerance and co-operation as described by Paul in Romans 14.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

To hold a coffee morning in Oasis to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support was the brainchild of Joan Hill (on the right in the photograph) and she inspired her team of helpers to bake scones and cakes and wait at tables.



Saturday 21 September was a warm and sunny morning and the bunting and tables with checked cloths and posies of flowers looked so pretty outside on the grass and in the Terrace Room. Thank you to all who helped Joan to organise the event and all who supported the occasion, which raised £1000!

Sunday Afternoon Outing 6 October A visit to Shirley Windmill



Meet at the back of Trinity Church at 12.15pm after the morning service, and bring a packed lunch. We will travel by car, enjoy a walk of about 2 miles over the Shirley Hills and then visit Shirley Windmill (free entry) for a guided tour.

Please contact John and Deborah Wroe for more information, and to let us know if you wish to come but will need a lift, or if you can bring a car and offer a lift.

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

A new Chorister at St Paul's Cathedral!

Dolapo and Banke Odujinrin moved from Sutton to Epsom a few years ago with their son Dara and daughter Erin but they have kept in touch with their friends at Trinity and have returned to join us for worship on a number of occasions. So we were thrilled to hear that Dara had won a scholarship to St Paul's Cathedral School and Evensong on 15 September was his Recognition Service as a chorister. Segun Akindele, one of Trinity's Deacons and a close friend of the family attended the service and other Trinity members plan to go to Evensong in the future. Look out for Dara if you are at a service at St Paul's!



Devotions

It is God who holds the nations
in the hollow of his hand;
It is God whose light is shining
in the darkness of the land;
It is God who builds the City
on the rock and not on sand:
May the living God be praised!

It is God whose purpose summons us
to use the present hour;
Who recalls us to our senses
when a nation's life turns sour;
In the discipline of freedom
we shall know God's saving power:
May the living God be praised!

God reminds us every sunrise
that the world is ours on lease:
For the sake of life tomorrow
may our love for it increase;
May all races live together,
share its riches, be at peace:
May the living God be praised!

*Revd Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)
former Minister of Trinity Church, Sutton*

Refugee and Migrant Network Sutton



RMNS is a small local charity and works in partnership with Trinity Church for one project, an ESOL Toddler Group. The Drop-in on Wednesday mornings offers friendship, advice and six English language classes.

Volunteer Opportunity

RMNS is looking for a volunteer to look after the finances of this small local charity (turnover £45k pa) employing four people - one full-time, one part-time and two once-weekly crèche workers.

The ideal person will share our commitment to the needs of newly arrived migrants and refugees in the Sutton area and be able to produce annual accounts and cash flow, plus projections for funding applications. The role may interest a retired qualified accountant.

For more information about RMNS see our website www.rmns.org.uk and speak to:

Olwen Edwards (020 8643 2525 Trinity)
Anne Towner (Chair 020 8669 2322)
Lorri Dawson (Vice-Chair 020 8642 7890)

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.

