

Dear Readers,

Fifty years ago a song by Cavaliere and Brigati spent a few weeks near the top of the American hit parade. Five years later David Cassidy took the song to number 1 in both America and Britain. The lyrics of the song's chorus are:-

*How can I be sure?
In a world that's constantly changing,
How can I be sure?
... I'll be sure with you.*

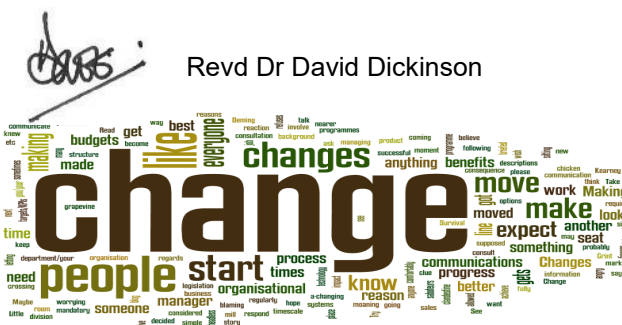
The phrase, “constantly changing”, has played on my mind lately. Change is the one guaranteed constant in life. I had cause to reflect at a recent golden wedding anniversary celebration that even what we think is immune to change, such as the institution of marriage, is the subject of persistent change. Everything changes.

Sometimes this results in people seeking refuge in the church as a place that never changes. But they are mistaken: the Church does change! Often subtly and imperceptibly, but, occasionally, suddenly and irrevocably. Those of us who belong to a Reformed tradition might describe this as being reformed and always reforming. Early next month, when we next gather for united morning worship we will celebrate the great reform that took place in the sixteenth century, giving birth to our Protestant traditions, when we mark the quincentenary of Martin Luther's initial protest against the Catholic Church.

Working in the church I cannot help but remember T S Eliot's poem entitled 'The Hippopotamus' comparing that creature with the Church. Both are weighty things, Eliot says, one actually heavy, the other full of theological substance. Although the hippo looks lazy, wallowing in mud all day, at the end of the poem it is the hippo, not the Church, that ascends to heaven. The poem, full of comic images, is a sophisticated allegation that the Church is ripe for reform. And, yes, it always will be. It is slow and lumbering. Turning it, changing it, is as arduous as turning an ocean liner.

Yet, I am conscious that change is afoot in our own churches, so the assurance I want to offer in this month's pastoral letter is that, though the world is constantly changing (and that may trouble us), we can be sure with God.

Revd Dr David Dickinson



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

News from the Churches

Carolyn Graham recommends.....



In Memoriam

Revd John Joseph

John Joseph died on 27 June aged 67 and over thirty current and past members of Trinity attended his Thanksgiving Service at Redhill URC on 18 July. John was URC Minister at Trinity from 1981-1992 and was committed to the ecumenical vision that was then known as *The Four Churches*. He preached a social gospel and was always involved in the wider community, serving in many hospital chaplaincies and as Mayor's Chaplain. John had a wonderful rapport with people of all ages, and stood alongside them with kindness, understanding and warm humour.

Pamela Ford

Pam Forde was a long standing member of the 9.00am congregation at St Nicholas and a member of the World Community of Christian Meditation. She led many silent meditation and spirituality groups and forged strong ecumenical and interfaith friendships.



St Nicholas Church

is a Grade II listed parish church. It was built between 1862 and 1864 in the Gothic style with

dressed flint and stone dressings. It was designed by the architect, Edwin Nash. The present structure incorporates a medieval piscina and monuments from the previous church on the site.

The Churchyard also contains the Gibson Mausoleum which is itself a listed monument. The church will host an exhibition that explains some of the history, traditions and legends that surround the tomb.

It will be open as part of **Heritage Open Days** on:

Thursday 7 September 9.00 -15.00
Saturday 9 September 9.00 -13.00
Sunday 10 September 9.00 -13.00

Ride and Stride Saturday 9 September

The annual Ride and Stride for Surrey Churches Preservation Trust will be taking place on Saturday 9 September. The object is to raise funds to be used for the maintenance of our valued places of Christian worship. This event also ties in with the Heritage Open Weekend so many buildings will be open to the public that are not usually so. Ride and Stride is a great way to visit some of these sites; raise funds for a worthwhile cause (both St Nicholas and Trinity have benefitted from grants in the past) whilst improving your own physical, spiritual and mental wellbeing.

There will be an all day ride available from Nonsuch Park along with shorter rides. Please contact Carolyn Graham (SBC) on 0208 642 3584 if you are interested in joining one of the rides or view the website: www.rideandstrideuk.org

Chatley Semaphore Tower near Wisley in Surrey has an interesting history dating back to the Napoleonic Wars and is just one of the places we have visited as part of the monthly outings organised by Deborah and John Wroe

The outings are open to all and cover a range of interests eg bluebells at Gatton Park; the history of Morden Park house and mills, the museum of London etc. Each is well planned and entrance is usually free or at a minimal cost so the only outlay is travel unless you have a freedom pass!. If you have considered joining us but there hasn't been anything that has interested you let Deborah and John know and they will investigate.

Forthcoming visits are advertised in *Unite!* and via your local Church notice sheets so why not give it a try. The outings are a great way to get to know members of other fellowships and learn a little more about your local area.

The next outing is on: **Sunday 3 September** to the **Museum of the Order of St John** and although this is short notice (but it has been publicised in our churches) you could join the group after morning service at the back of Trinity.

For more information contact John and Deborah Wroe (john.p.wroe@btinternet.com or 020 8642 9064).

John Dawson's Commissioning Service

All are invited to a Sutton Methodist Circuit Service on Sunday 10 September at 5.45pm at Epsom Methodist Church. John Dawson, a Methodist Local Preacher and member at Trinity will be commissioned as Lay Pastor at Cheam Methodist Church. We pray for John as he begins his new ministry.

Coffee and Craft



Have you tried Coffee and Craft? The next meeting will take place at 10.00am in the Terrace Room at Trinity on Friday 15 September and will be an introduction to felt work and new members of the group will receive a warm

welcome. Come and hone old skills and learn new ones! Contact Deborah Wroe for more information: 020 8642 9064 deb.wroe@btinternet.com

Profiles

This month we are profiling two young women who have started new careers. The editor of *Unite!* Olwen Edwards (olwenmedwards@gmail.com 020 8643 2525) would love to hear about other young people within the CUCS community who have a story to tell, who have been involved in an interesting project or are making a difference in their church, school, local area. Please get in touch!

Devotions

Psalm 23 an adaptation

The Lord is my Friend, ever by my side.
He is my Protector, Teacher and Guide.
He gives, not all I want, but all I need
To faithfully follow him in word and deed.

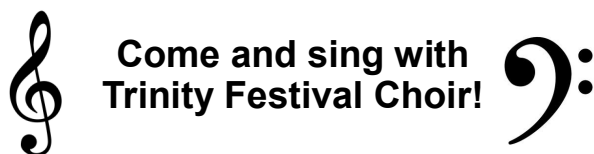
He offers rest, refreshment and renewal-
Physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.
He skilfully guides through confusion and strife,
He gives meaning, purpose and direction to my life

In tough times, he protects and takes away my fears,
In rough times he comforts and wipes away my tears.
He's quick to discipline when I go astray,
But he's always with me, he will never go away.

When others condemn or mean things are said,
He's the Defender who comes to my aid.
I know he has called me and set me apart
To follow the purposes of his own heart.

Together for ever- that's how we'll be
My Lord and me.

by Tanya Ferdinandusz
Submitted by a reader of *Unite!*



Over the last few years Trinity Festival Choir has attracted increasingly large audiences particularly for its performances on Palm Sunday and Remembrance Sunday. It gives me great pleasure to invite you to participate in a performance of **Philip Ledger's Requiem Thanksgiving for Life** at Trinity Church, Sutton on Remembrance Sunday, **12th November at 6.30pm**. The first rehearsal will be on Thursday 14 September 8.00-9.00pm in the Parlour at Trinity.

Philip Ledger is known by many for his arrangements of Christmas Carols and also as David Willcocks' successor as Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge. His Requiem was written in response to a commission from a choir in Delaware in 2007, and received its first UK performance in King's College on Remembrance Sunday in the same year. It's full of distinctive and lyrical choral writing and is very accessible for singers and audience alike.

I'm hoping to organise a small chamber-sized ensemble for the occasion, including flute and harp, as well as the organ and the programme will include short anthems such as *Panis Angelicus* and Rutter's *The Lord is my Shepherd*.

We welcome new choir members and offer support if you are not an experienced choral singer.

Come and join us!

Stephen Haylett

Regular Events

All members of CUCS are warmly welcomed at these activities

Christian Meditation Groups are not meeting at the moment.

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 Little Bit of Light Music

Concert for Sutton Cruse Bereavement Support

Come to an evening of light music and help to raise money for our new venture, Sutton Cruse Bereavement Support.

Saturday 7 October at 7pm in Trinity Church

Signature award winning female "a cappella" group

Sutton High School Senior Choir

young singing duo **Milcah and Rinnah**

Tickets: £10 (family ticket £25) available in CUCS churches and online at www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk

Call for emergency help and meet..... Olivia Chappell and Donna Lang

This has been a summer when the emergency services have never been far from the headlines and so *Unite!* is profiling two young women from our CUCS community who have recently begun new careers. Olivia Chappell has just started training to be a Paramedic and Donna Lang has joined the Metropolitan Police Force. Both have grown up at Trinity and Livvy is a leader at Bunker, our Sunday evening youth group and also runs a Rangers group. Donna has previously worked at Ryelands, a Methodist Home for the Aged, sings every week with Trinity Choir and has also been a member of Trinity Festival Choir singing some of the main choral repertoire.



Livvy says.....*Following a mentoring phase which ended in mid August when I was part of a three person crew, learning what it is like to actually be on the road. I am now going out as a normal member of crew but still considered to be learning until this time next year. I will be having to sign off a portfolio of evidence that I have done certain procedures in that time.*

The main reasons I want to do it is to be able to help but also to be part of a growing and changing profession that is still in its infancy - paramedic" has only been a protected title since 2001. There is so much science left to learn which is part of what attracted me - something that will keep challenging me scientifically and personally.

One of my worries is that I will do something that could impact negatively on someone and I also have concerns about safety but we have lots of personal protective equipment to help us, from toe cap boots to stab vests to helmets. We also have a good relationship with the Police so if we need help they are only a radio call away.

I think one of the main themes that Trinity has is one of looking outwards and helping anyone and everyone possible. From a young age I knew I wanted to help others, be it in a charity or a role like this. Trinity has helped foster that outward looking mind-set - that, and Mum working for the NHS helping others for 40 odd years.

Donna says.....*After a very long year of assessments I have finally reached the position of trainee Police Constable. It is certainly not for the faint hearted and requires a lot of hard work and determination. On 31 October 2017, I start my coached patrol in one of the London boroughs where I will then be permanently based. I have already had the honour of meeting the Commissioner herself, so I shall take that as a good omen!*

The main reason I want to do this job is that I wish to make a difference and help make the community a safer place for all people. There are a lot of nasty things going on in this world and if I can make a small portion of it a safer place, then that's a life I feel I could live with. Also, I want to be someone for my nieces and nephew to look up to; you don't have to be extremely smart and pretty to get somewhere in life, just the best person you can be. The attraction of the job is the unpredictability, you do not know what will happen from one day to the next and that, to me, is very exciting. The only concern I have about being an officer is just "will I be good enough?" I will be meeting people on some of the worst days of their lives and if I can help them feel safe and supported and do the best for them, that will be the only thing I could ask for.

Faith has helped a lot throughout my life, however, there have been times when I have found it hard to keep faith. I always try to remind myself that God knows best and this is what he made us for. Sometimes one door shuts and another one opens, you don't realise at the time, but then it becomes clearer where you are meant to be. I just hope that I can make those I have lost and those who are still around, proud of me.



Thank you Olivia and Donna for speaking to us and we wish you fulfilment and happiness in your careers.

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 October issue is .13 September