

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 2 September

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship <i>Peter Brearley</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd Sarah Sewell</i>
6.30pm	SBC	CUCS United Service

Sunday 9 September

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <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	SBC	CUCS United Service

Sunday 16 September

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

Sunday 23 September

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

Sunday 30 September

9.00am	St N	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	SBC	Morning Worship Communion <i>Heather Clements</i> <i>The Bible Society</i>
	Trinity	Morning Worship Communion <i>Revd Dr David Dickinson</i>
	St N	Holy Communion <i>Revd Sarah Sewell</i>
6.30pm	SBC	CUCS United Service

for help or information please contact

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07711 879645
carole.adams@btinternet.com

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todayiddickinson@gmail.com

Ginny Haizelden (Administrator St Nicholas)
020 8643 8271
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September 2018

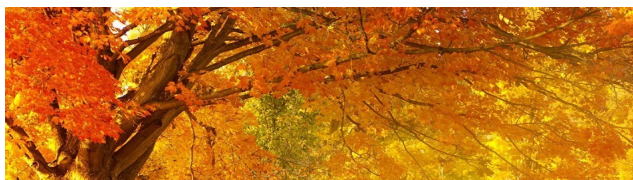
Dear Readers,

In July, I preached a series of sermons on little-known books of the Bible. Those I chose were *Ecclesiastes*, *Song of Songs*, *Lamentations*, *Ezra* and *Esther*. I was asking 'What's the point of books hardly anyone reads?' and I found that each had something for the current age. *Ecclesiastes* encourages us to be realistic in our expression of belief; *Song of Songs* challenges the modern church to nurture human love wherever it is found as a reflection of divine love (and, in so doing, corrects our misreadings of the Adam and Eve story); the story of *Ezra*, which establishes observance of the law as the defining characteristic of Judaism, raises interesting questions about how conformist churches should be; *Esther* warns us of the danger of implicit antisemitism in Christianity; and *Lamentations* gives us permission to protest and complain when we pray to God. I hope there was more to the sermons than that, but there you have five weeks of sermons in a single (if long) sentence!

It seems, however, that I need not have gone to these obscure books to find little-known books of the Bible, for research continues to show that the Bible is an increasingly closed book. Bible ownership is in decline, while actual readership of the Bible is lower than it ever has been in the literate age: 77% of the British population never read the Bible or read it less than once a year. As a result, biblical knowledge has fallen.

The crisis in biblical knowledge is our fault. The Church has not helped people to read the bible intelligently. Instead, we have condoned literalist readings, even when literalist readings of *Esther*, for instance, would permit revenge killings and genocide. When we read the Bible, we must make allowances for its age and for its origins within a culture which is fundamentally different from ours. If we want people to take the Bible seriously once more, we must stop being so simplistic about it and take it seriously ourselves.

Revd Dr David Dickinson



Devotions

A prayer for teachers in schools, colleges and churches at the start of the academic year



As we step into a new academic year
Restore our spirits.

Renew our passion for sharing your wisdom
And nurture our compassion
for those you put in our charge.

Transform us as we seek to transform,
Guide us as we seek to guide.

Open our minds and hearts
As we seek to open minds and hearts to the
Good News of justice and peace.

Help us to listen more deeply to the world
and to your Word so we can walk with our students
Attentive to the Wisdom that
Calls us all to the Kingdom of God.



Refugee and Migrant Network Sutton

Part time PA /Admin Assistant

6 hours a week (days and times to be agreed)
hourly rate £10.20 (London living wage)

To give admin / database support to two
part-time Advice Workers.

*RMNS is a small local charity supporting refugees,
asylum seekers and migrants in Sutton.
Work is carried out in an office in Oakhill Road and
a church building in central Sutton.
For more information on RMNS see:
www.rmns.org.uk / www.facebook.com/rmnsutton*

Admin experience and computer skills (MS Office including Excel) are essential for this post. Use of a bespoke database is a key part of the job, for which training will be given.

Job Description and Application Form from:

Olwen M Edwards (Secretary RMNS)
email: olwenmedwards@gmail.com

Closing date for applications:
Tuesday 18 September

Interviews for shortlisted candidates:
the afternoon of Tuesday 25 September

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.

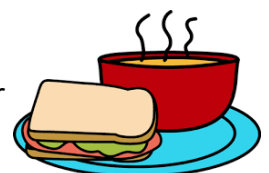
Badminton Club meets 7.45-10.00pm every Monday in Trinity Hall.

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

Welcome to Trinity!

On Sunday 16 September we welcome to Trinity Sang Wook Han, a student minister who has successfully completed his first year of training at the Queen's Foundation where Methodist ministers are trained. He is following the Circuit based Learning Pathway and will be placed in the Sutton Methodist Circuit, mainly based at Trinity, for two academic years, supervised by Trinity's minister, Dave Dickinson. Sang Wook Han lives in Kingston and we look forward to getting to know him over the next months.

Launching Cruse Bereavement Care Sutton



If you have been following the progress of *Cruse Bereavement Care Sutton* you might like to attend the launch event on Tuesday 25 September at 7.30pm at The Holiday Inn, Sutton.

There will be special guests, a few speeches and a raffle, at what we hope will be a happy and successful event. If you would like to attend tickets priced £10 are available from Briony Thomas at Trinity. (020 8642 2457)

Nigel Booth, who is one of the Bunker Youth Group leaders would like to thank everyone at SBC, Trinity and St Nicholas who sponsored him to run in the London 10K. He raised £1,529.75 for *Cruse Bereavement Care Sutton*. We would like to thank Nigel for his wonderful effort!

The Armistice Centenary 11 November 2018



To mark the centenary of the signing of the Armistice at the end of the First World War, you are warmly invited to sing with **Trinity Festival Choir** in a performance of **John Rutter's Requiem** which will take place at Trinity on Sunday, 11 November at 6.30pm.

Rutter's *Requiem*, completed in 1985, combines texts from the Requiem Mass and the Book of Common Prayer. It includes a meltingly beautiful *Pie Jesu* for soprano solo and choir, as well as the well-known setting of *The Lord is my Shepherd* with obligato oboe solo, often sung as a separate anthem.

Rehearsals will take place upstairs in the Parlour at Trinity (entrance round the back via the church keeper's driveway in Hill Rd) on Thursday evenings at 8pm, starting on 13 September. Copies of the music will be provided. If you haven't sung with us before do consider joining us for this special occasion.

Stephen Haylett

Sunday Afternoon Outing Empire of the Sikhs 9 September



We will visit SOAS (the School of Oriental and African Studies) which is holding an exhibition entitled *Empire of the Sikhs* which we can browse and, hopefully, join a guided tour. They also have a small exhibition of post cards *From Madras to Bangalore: Picture Postcards as Urban History of Colonial India*.

Meet at the back of Trinity after morning service, (about 12.15pm) and bring a packed lunch. We will travel by train and tube to London. Entry is free, but donations are invited.

Afterwards we will have a short walk in London including a stop for tea before returning to Sutton.

For information contact John and Deborah Wroe
020 8642 9064 or email john.p.wroe@gmail.com

Christianity and Islam in the Western World Fr Friday 21 September 8.00pm Christ Church



Daniel Johnson, lecturer on Christianity and Islam will explore the key differences and similarities between the two faiths and suggest ways that Christians can positively engage with Muslims in our communities.

Entry free

St Nicholas Supper Talk 5 October 7.00pm Meet Sue Hodge!



Sue Hodge, who played Mimi Labonq in *'Allo 'Allo!* from 1982 to 1992, and her husband Keith, will entertain us at the Supper Talk to be held at 7pm on Friday, 5 October in St Nicholas Community Hall. Tickets, at £8 each, are available from Richard West (richjwest@btinternet.com; 020 8644 7834).

Come along as she re-lives the part of Mimi!

Extraordinary Women @ St Nicholas

In conjunction with
National Trust Heritage Open Days
Open House London



This year, to mark the centenary of when women first gained the right to vote, St Nicholas will be hosting an exhibition and series of events celebrating the lives of some of the Extraordinary Women who are connected with St Nicholas.

There has been a church on the site of St Nicholas since before the Norman Conquest. The current building dates from 1864 but the monuments from the old church were moved into the new building. They allow us to tell the story of how the lives of women have changed from the 17th century to the 21st century.

The story will start before the English Civil War and take us right up to today. You will meet the daughters of London merchants, famous court beauties, heroines of war and peace, the first women priest and a bishop. It is a story that takes in religious persecution, the arrival of the first printing press in the Americas, slavery and charitable donations and scandals of a very intimate nature.

There will be self-guided tours, talks, storytelling and activity trails for children that will take in the monuments of the church and the many Grade II listed tombs of the churchyard.

Free lunchtime talks

Community Groups in Sutton have been invited to speak about Extraordinary Women within their field of interest and the talks will take place in **St Nicholas from 1.00-1.30pm** Entry is free.

Thursday September 6	Cllr Ruth Dombey	100 years on
Friday September 7	Clare Parish	Girl Guiding Rocks
Saturday September 8	Alice Brown	Sutton Community Farm
Thursday September 13	Janice Clarke	Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union
Friday September 14	Veronica Williams	Claudia Jones, journalist and activist
Saturday September 15	Abby Matthews	Women in the Frame
Saturday September 22	Olwen Edwards and Jackie McLoughlin MBE	Helen Bamber champion of victims of torture and human trafficking

Celebrating Muriel Spark's centenary

Tuesday 18 September 7.30pm Trinity Church

There's more to Spark than Miss Jean Brodie.

A talk by **Revd Dr David Dickinson** introducing this important 20th century writer.

This talk will show how she is more than a Catholic writer, but a witty and perceptive **religious** writer, asking pertinent questions of her contemporary readers.

(No prior knowledge of Spark's work will be assumed)

.Dave Dickinson, minister at Trinity Church, is the author of *The Novel as Church: Preaching to Readers in Contemporary Fiction* and *Yet Alive? Methodists in British Fiction since 1890*. He is currently preparing a book exploring religious and theological themes in 21st century fiction, intended to serve book clubs and church reading groups.

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 19 September. Links to the electronic version of *Unite!* can be found on each church's website.