

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 7th February

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - SN
 10.30am Family Worship -SBC
Preacher Revd. Mike Dales
 Holy Communion - TC
Preacher Revd. Martin Camroux
 Morning Worship with Communion -SN
Preacher Revd. Sarah Sewell
 6.30pm **United Service (this month at SBC)**
Series — 'Snapshots from Hebrews'

Sunday 14th February

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP with singing) - SN
 10.30am Morning Worship with Communion - SBC
Preacher Revd. Mike Dales
 Morning Worship Commitment For Life -TC
Preacher Linda Meads: Director
 Morning Worship with Baptism -SN
Preacher Revd. Michael Hartland
 6.30pm **United Service (this month at SBC)**
Series — 'Snapshots from Hebrews'

Sunday 21st February

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - SN
 10.30am Morning Worship -SBC
Preacher Revd. Mike Dales
 Morning Worship TC
Preacher Revd. Martin Camroux
 Morning Worship with Communion -SN
Preacher Revd. Sarah Mullally
 6.30pm **United Service (this month at SBC)**
Series — 'Snapshots from Hebrews'

Sunday 28th February

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - SN
 10.30am Morning Worship with Communion -SBC
Preacher Revd. Mike Dales
 Morning Worship -TC
Preacher Revd. Martin Camroux
 Morning Worship with Communion -SN
Preacher Revd. Michael Hartland
 6.30pm **United Service (this month at SBC)**
Series — 'Snapshots from Hebrews'

CUCS is St Nicholas, Sutton Baptist and Trinity Methodist/URC who are churches uniting in central Sutton and meet regularly for prayer, worship and shared activities.

... for help or information please contact

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 sarah.mullally@btinternet.com
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New Year : New Beginnings

Many of us will have made New Year resolutions. The more cynical amongst us may have decided to give the whole idea away. The top 10 resolutions are: spend more time with the family, lose weight, improve your fitness, quit smoking, enjoy life more, quit drinking, get out of debt, learn something new, help someone and get organised.

Last year Mind, a mental health charity, argued that deciding to turn over a new leaf in the New Year could do more harm than good. Mind urged people not to feel they must start the New Year armed with resolutions for self-improvement, as resolutions which focus on issues such as the need to lose weight or job worries create a negative self-image. And if the plans fail to materialise, that could trigger feelings of failure and inadequacy and focussing on problems or insecurities could lead to feelings of hopelessness and low self-esteem. Instead of making a New Year's resolution, we are encouraged to think positively about the year to come and what we can achieve.

There is only one resolution that has ever been completely fulfilled. It is the great resolution which we have celebrated again this Christmas. John articulates the great resolution as the Word became flesh and lived amongst us (John 1:14). Matthew describes the great resolution as the birth of Emmanuel, which means God is with us (Matthew 1:23).

So as we start this year we should remind ourselves that God has already given us a new beginning and it is in his unconditional love for us that we can find our self esteem and hope. It is in his generous love for us that we can find our motivation to give others opportunities of new beginnings whether in small actions or in opportunities such as the Young People's Lodging Scheme which is covered in this issue of UNITE!

So, can I take this opportunity to wish you a year in which you know the new beginning God's love has offered you.

Sarah

The Revd Sarah Mullally

Room for one more?

If so, could you offer a room to someone aged 16-25 as part of the Young People's Lodging Scheme?

Kingston and Wimbledon YMCA are looking to match young people who need a safe environment to live in (but are not quite ready to live independently) with host families or individuals across Sutton and Merton.

There are many reasons why a young person may need this kind of help. Some may have been living with their families but can't stay due to challenging circumstances. Others may have been staying in hostel accommodation. Young people who are unable to live at home with the support of their family are usually very vulnerable. They become isolated, lonely and lack self-esteem.

So, what are we looking for in a host? We need someone who can give these young people a safe and supportive place to stay. Someone who can pass on practical skills such as cooking, cleaning and budgeting. Sound like you? You would receive thorough training, as well as support throughout the placement.

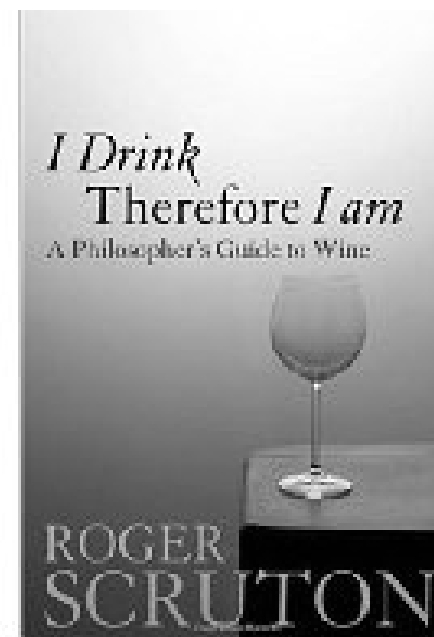
The YMCA have a wide range of young people who need a place to stay, so we are looking for a wide range of people to become hosts. Being a host will be personally rewarding and it can also provide a second income as you will be paid rent weekly.

Want to know more? Email charliwebb@kwymca.org.uk or call 020 8544 6681.

Martin Camroux recommends a book for Lent

Roger Scruton *I Drink Therefore I am – a Philosophers Guide to Wine* Continuum £16.99

In Lent there are usually a number of little paperbacks issued, usually quickly forgotten. My alternative suggestion (though it may not be for everybody) is to try this rather different and distinctly odd book by the philosopher and wine-critic Roger Scruton.



In part it's a discussion of his favourite wines. He's no snob about wine always on the hunt for a bargain and canny in seeking out those vineyards and plots that lie next to the big names yet charge half the price. But he's also interested in the relation of wine to religion and philosophy. For him it's no coincidence that wine-cultivation and civilization started around the same time, at around the same pace. Wine was quickly used in religion, as a solemn libation to the Olympians and then in the Christian Eucharist.

Whether or not good for the body, Scruton argues, wine, drunk in the right frame of mind, is definitely good for the soul. Along with the wine tips (and a list of which wine to drink with which philosopher) Scruton discusses proofs for the existence of God, attitudes towards scripture, what it is to be a human being, what temperance really means, and whether there are things we can know but never prove. For him wine, like poetry and music, can reveal truths that logical argument cannot. He gives a very moving account of how he became a Christian. There is no doubt that part of this book is arrant nonsense, but some is absolutely brilliant, and it's hard to be sure which is which.

But if anyone thinks this is a flippant book they would be quite wrong...

From the Editor

This is my first issue as the new editor of Unite and I thought I should introduce myself. I have been a supporter of the Sutton ecumenical project since I moved to the area in the late 1970s. I am married to John, who has worshipped at Trinity since childhood, and have two grown up children. I work part time as a tutor at SCOLA and run one of Trinity's Rainbow Guide units. Over the past year I know that many people have missed Unite and I hope to work as part of a team to bring you a useful, interesting magazine. I would welcome feedback to deb.wroe@btinternet.com.

Deborah Wroe

News from the Churches

A big thank you to all who participated in the **carol singing** around the streets and in Morrisons before Christmas. The grand total of £573.48 was raised for Action for Children.

SBC rejoice that **Mike Dales** has recovered from his recent heart attack and surgery and is once more at the helm. They would like to give their heartfelt thanks to CUCS partners who helped out over the hectic weeks that Mike was out of action.

Jeff Richards (SN) has recently been accepted for the diocesan Readers Course, which trains people to help lead and preach, and assist with other aspects of church life.

Trinity has welcomed new members **Eunice Sithole** and **Nana'Ama Agyeman Dua**.

John Hazelgrove (SBC) decided to go skating outside Christchurch Church after a united service and ended up with a broken arm...we wish him a full and speedy recovery.

John and Mair Dinnage (SBC) had a traumatic time before Christmas. Mair had a hip replacement which, very painfully, dislocated twice! Meanwhile John, who needs care and support, had to take up temporary residence in different residential homes. Thankfully, both are now back home.

The Shin family (TC) have been refused permission to stay in this country. With the help of Paul Burstow M.P. we are arranging a meeting with the Immigration minister to plead for their right to stay on humanitarian grounds. Please keep them in your prayers.

Sad news from a previous Minister of SBC, **Michael Ball**; his foster son, Brian, died recently. Our prayers and thoughts are with him.

A challenge for Lent

CUCS invite you to mark the beginning of Lent by giving up your usual evening meal on Ash Wednesday and giving the money saved to help feed the hungry.

There will be a frugal supper in Trinity Oasis at 7pm on Ash Wednesday 17 February. Tickets priced £2 will be available from representatives at each church. The proceeds will go to Christian Aid.

The supper at Trinity will include devotional readings and music and will finish in time for the service at St Nicholas at 8pm.

Trinity has recorded five deaths of members: **Harry Ofei-Kwatia**, was a former solicitor, who with his wife Charlotte was well respected in the Ghanaian community.

Cecily Sugden died after a long illness and many years of devoted care by her husband Eric.

Alan and Joan Preston died within a few days of each other and shared the first joint funeral that Martin has ever taken.

Mavis Hands came to live at Ryelands Methodist home to be near her daughter Sue Laflin who is a Trinity choir member. Her family were comforted that Mavis was able to enjoy the Women's Fellowship Christmas meeting just hours before her death.

Colin Howard's 'History of Trinity' tells the story of 100 years of a Church and its people in a fascinating book. Price £10 if collected from Trinity or £11.50 if posted.

A 'Lick of Paint' is a project within St Nicholas exploring how the building can help in fulfilling the church's vision of being more relevant and accessible to the community. In the Autumn various displays were erected in parts of the church building with suggested ideas (e.g. transparent glass doors at main entrances, re-organising the chapel or refreshment serving areas, etc.). Many people completed questionnaires, helping to give a steer on planning ahead. Look out for next steps!

Trinity Church building project is also progressing with internal repairs to the stonework and plaster, new lighting in the worship area, upgrading of the central heating system and installation of solar panels, lagging and insulation to reduce our carbon footprint.

Trinity recently had a focus on the Bible with sermons, study sessions led by **Olwen Stewart** and a quiz won by **Richard Cornwell**. For those who would like to learn more, Martin recommends a book by Marcus Borg: *'Reading the Bible again for the first time: taking the Bible seriously but not literally'*.

Trinity Church Meeting will be after the morning service on February 21st to consider a draft of a new constitution made necessary by changes in the charity laws.

Dates for your diaries

Lent Quiet Day Friday 19 March
10am - 2pm, at St Nicholas.

United morning service on Passion
Sunday 21 March at 10.30 am at
St Nicholas.

Lent Course 2010

HARD QUESTIONS in the SHADOW of the CROSS

Our 2010 Lent Programme will be at St Nicholas Church from 7.45pm on Wednesdays 24 February, 3, 10 17 and 24 March.

We will be attempting to explore those 'difficult questions' in the light of scripture and salvation through the cross and resurrection.

Our congregations have already been asked to submit questions, and we will address the most popular ones. These evenings will be in the style of a presentation, with time to ask questions and discuss.

We also plan to run an afternoon course, please check your weekly notice sheets for details.

A Prayer for Lent from Revd. Jane Cresswell

This month we celebrate Ash Wednesday and enter the season of Lent.

Our common lectionary invites us all to remember at this time how Jesus entered the desert. In the early centuries of the Church the desert fathers and mothers made their own journeys into the desert,

- to be alone and vulnerable before God
- to live honestly and simply
- to remember that it is God who created us
- to discover that it is God who sustains us
- to allow God to restore the divine image in us.

Lent is a time to embrace the desert, to lay our lives bare before God and be changed through his loving gaze.

A prayer by Mary Earle

God of all mercies, draw me ever deeper into the mercy in which I live and move and have my being. Grant me the courage to have mercy on myself and on my neighbour. Deliver me from judging harshly. Gentle my heart, for your love's sake. Amen

Regular Events

Christian Meditation Group meets alternate Mondays at 3pm and 7.45pm. Contact Pamela Ford on 8642 5914. *1 Feb - 7.45pm. 8 Feb 3pm. 15 Feb - 7.45pm. 22 Feb - 3pm.*

St Nicholas Church is open every Thursday between 9.30am and 2pm for light refreshments and as a space for prayer.

Saturday Prayer Meeting meets 10am to 11am at Sutton Baptist Church. If you have a prayer request, please contact: Jenny Brearley 8643 1952, or Janet Likeman 8643 6474.

Trinity Women's Fellowship Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 2.30pm to 4pm in the Minor Hall of Trinity Church - entrance via the side door in Hill Road. For further information ring Ann Williams 8647 0370 or Sylvia Robinson 8642 3434. *10 Feb - New Year Party. 24 Feb - Mr Dorrell 'Experiences of an Evacuee.'*

Sutton Baptist Women's Friendship meets Monday afternoons at 2.15p.m. in the John Clifford Hall at Sutton Baptist Church.

The Growing Group meets twice a month at 10.30am in the John Clifford Hall, Sutton Baptist Church for informal ladies' coffee mornings and activities. *8 Feb - 'Music of Winter'. 22 Feb - 'Looking at Pictures.'*

Sutton Men's Friendship Centre meets at Sutton Baptist Church. Contact: Jim Clark 01306 884364 or Colin Steward 8647 7382 *5 Feb - 2.30 for 3pm, John Clifford Hall at SBC. 19 Feb - 12.00 for 12.15, lunch at The Belmont.*

Mothers' Union meets at St Nicholas. Contact Janet Little 8715 6843.

Bunker, the youth club for CUCS, meets in Trinity Hall on Sunday evenings. It is open at 6pm to 7.45pm for 10 to 13 year olds and for 14 to 18 year olds from 7.15pm to 9pm. A chance to get to know other young people in CUCS and have fun together.

Poetry Circle meets once a month on a Tuesday evening with a diverse and stimulating programme. Contact Lionel Griffiths 020 8715 1218. *This month: American Verse.*

Badminton Club meets 7.45pm to 10pm on Mondays and Thursdays in Trinity Hall.

All members of the Churches Uniting in Central Sutton are warmly welcomed at these activities.

Oasis at Trinity Church is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm for refreshments, light lunches and a chance to chat.