

This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

Sunday 2 May

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - St N

10.30am Family Worship-SBC

Preacher Revd. Mike Dales

Holy Communion - Trinity

Preacher Revd. Martin Camroux

Holy Communion - St N

Preacher Revd. Sarah Mullally

6.30pm United Service at SBC

People who found hope and healing

Sunday 9 May

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - St N

10.30am United Christian Aid Service at SBC

Preacher Revd. Mike Dales

6.30pm United Service at SBC

People who found hope and healing

Sunday 16 May

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - St N

10.30am Morning Worship with communion- SBC

Preacher Revd. Mike Dales

Morning Worship - Trinity

Preacher Richard Smith

Holy Communion - St N

Preacher Revd. Michael Hartland

6.30pm United Service at SBC

People who found hope and healing

Sunday 23 May Pentecost

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - St N

10.30am Pentecost celebration with communion- SBC

Preacher Revd. Mike Dales

Morning Worship with Cradle Roll Trinity

Preacher Revd. Martin Camroux

Holy Communion - St N

Preacher Revd. Michael Hartland

6.30pm United Service at SBC

People who found hope and healing

Sunday 30 May Trinity Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - St N

10.30am Morning Worship - SBC

Celebration Service for Church
renovation Trinity

Preacher Revd. Martin Camroux

Morning Praise - St N

6.30pm United Service at SBC

... for help or information please contact

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ELECTION FEVER ...

or perhaps just a mild headache! May is going to be an interesting month with the activities of a General Election and Christian Aid distracting and disturbing us for a while. And so they should!

The election by God of the Israelites as his people in the Sinai sands was so that they could live in a way of mutual wellbeing that would not only be a blessing for themselves but as a witness of what walking in their God's ways could be for others. Where the 'alien and stranger' were welcomed, and the 'widow and orphan' cared for. Values keyed anew by Jesus through the including and open language of the reality of the kingdom of God on earth. Values made available for all through the cross and resurrection and in the gifts of Pentecost. Values the church takes seriously in its mission for justice and hope for all.

In the secularisation of society the role of government is not really any different to that of the early calling of God's people – the mutual and corporate well-being of the community that they govern and share in, and at heart their values should be no different to those ancient values that have shaped the actions of God's people down the ages.

It is easy to switch off from the blather, the twittercide, the negative posters, the point scoring posturing that attends the electoral process; but in so doing we may miss reading deeply into the values and promises made, and so informing our responsibility in the process come May 6th.

Similarly, the well-being of the wider world through Christian Aid is an extension and action of our proclamation of God's love for all people today – that through its international work, care, hope and possibility are made available for all. I hope that we are distracted and disturbed by both these May-time activities – enough that we can all personally and collectively take our responsibilities in Christ for the love of God for his world, local and international, through our costly and committed participation in both. For that, at least, we are the elect of God!

Mark Pullinger

David Lyric Two-Three Mark Pullinger reflects on politically correct language

The Lord and I are in a shepherd/sheep situation,

And I am in a position of negative need.

He prostrates me in a green belt grazing area;

He conducts me directionally parallel to non-torrential aqueous liquid.

He returns to my original satisfaction levels my psychological make-up;

He switches me on to a positive behavioural format for maximum prestige of his identity.

It should indeed be said that notwithstanding the fact that I make ambulatory progress through the umbrageous inter-hill mortality slot, terror-sensations will not be instantiated within me due to para-ethical phenomena.

Your pastoral walking aid and quadruped pickup unit introduce me into a pleasurable mood-state. You design and produce a nutrient-bearing furniture-type structure in the context of non-cooperative elements;

You act out a head related folk ritual employing vegetable extract;

And my beverage utensil experiences a volume crisis.

It is an ongoing deductible fact that your inter-relational empathetical and non-vengeance capabilities will retain me as their target focus for the duration of my non-death period:

And I will possess tenant rights in the housing unit of the Lord on a permanently open-ended time-basis.

Oh dear! - ! We have a faith rich in language and poetic imagery that can image and speak of hope, and love and possibility far beyond the bureaucratic tech-speak that stagnantly defines much in life today. I wonder what the many biblical titles and names of Jesus might look like having been processed by the PCness of today's job market! I hope that as we weather the storms of life, and understand the poesy of rocks and anchors and billows and waves, we will truly know that the hand that reaches out to draw us up does not belong to the local 'wet leisure assistant' (lifeguard!) but to the eternal Saviour, Risen Lord, and Champion of our Souls! We know who he is, we understand what he has done for us and for all – and out of the rich and joyous heritage of our faith we can, ourselves, find the life-giving language of actions and words to share this Good News with others!

A five minute interview with Colin Howard

What brought you to Sutton and how long ago?

Apart from my birth (in Wales) my university years, one year working in France and three in Norway, I have always lived in Sutton.

Your favourite book and piece of music?

An impossible choice, but I'll go for La Peste by Albert Camus and Beethoven's String Quartet in A minor, .

Your favourite book of the Bible?

I think I would have to say Ruth, which is a fine story too. I once bought a recording of it, beautifully spoken by actress Claire Bloom.

Why is Christian Aid important to you?

Among many reasons: the international dimension; its answer to the question, "Who is my neighbour?"; practical ecumenical co-operation and Christian witness. As a bonus you get to work with some wonderful, dedicated people.

Can you explain what your voluntary work with Christian Aid involves?

I actually have two roles, one as organiser at Trinity and the other to co-ordinate the work of all participating churches in Sutton and Cheam. The former is concerned mainly with recruiting, equipping and I hope encouraging our 50 collectors, then counting and banking the money that comes in. The latter involves liaising with church representatives and Christian Aid staff, ordering and distributing materials and paperwork, preparing accounts for audit and making sure Christian Aid gets the money (£20k+) as rapidly as possible.

How successful are the efforts of our three congregations in Christian Aid Week?

We have a pretty good record on house-to-house collections – £4300 last year - and the longstanding CUCS event at St Nicholas, together with the offertory at the United Service, added a further £1800 to that. But there's always more that could be done, throughout Sutton and Cheam, if we had the volunteers.

Do you have a quotation to share?

In the context of this interview this must surely be Christian Aid's wonderful slogan: "We Believe in Life Before Death."

From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who has commented on the magazine. I welcome feedback to deb.wroe@btinternet.com. Copy date for the April issue is 9 May.



News from the Churches

'Why did you want to kill Jesus?' 'How did you feel when you were being nasty to Jesus?' - questions put by children from a dozen or more classes from Sutton schools to actors who played out the last days of Jesus' life in 'Easter Experience 2010'. Sutton Baptist Church became first century Jerusalem, and groups of children followed the action from scene to scene around the church, waving palm leaves to greet Jesus and donning costumes to become part of the action.

The children got a taste of the fear and amazement in this powerful story; they were close up to and involved in what happened. The actors, from local churches had the fun of dressing up and acting, and the satisfaction of lively engagement and thoughtful questioning from the children's participation. Different actors presented the Experience later in Carshalton and Cheam. Next year – this could be you!

Those who remember **Revd Gordon Hastings**, a former minister at SBC, will be interested to learn that his grandson, Andy Hastings was part of this year's winning team on the BBC's University Challenge. Andy is reading medicine at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

On Sunday, 12 March, the members of the St Nicholas congregation gathered for the annual Vestry Meeting and Parochial Church Meeting. The two current Church Wardens, **Clive Orton and Richard West**, were re-elected, as were the representatives on the Deanery Synod. At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, those who are on the Electoral Roll of St Nicholas can vote. This meeting elects the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), and the members for 2010/11 are (in addition to the Church Wardens): **Maureen Elsey, Jenny Gillbe, John Kerr, Pamela Kerr, Peter Likeman, Jean Orton, Glynis Osborne, Lesley Pynor and Geoff Rendall**.

The meeting was told of progress regarding the projects highlighted by the response of the congregation to the 'More than a lick of paint' exhibition in October, and the continuing success of Open Thursdays, with many taking the opportunity to pop into the church – for a

chat, a look round, or a few moments of quiet contemplation.

St Nicholas has a new Christian Aid representative – in fact, two: **Gill Ayres and Kaushalya Jeyaraj**.

Carolyn Graham is offering a garden tidy up service to raise money for Water Aid in advance of a charity trek to the Great Wall of China which she and Alison Manick will be doing in October. Carolyn charges £30 for 2 hours. Please contact her on 020 8642 3584.

Chrissie Martin was Baptised at SBC on Easter Sunday and **Janet Otieno** was welcomed into membership.

Trinity has nearly completed a major £800,000 programme of renewal on the building including treating the stonework, cleaning the inside of the building, electrical work, lighting and various measures to

cut down on heating costs. All that remains is the solar panels which the Council were extraordinarily slow giving approval to!

On May 30th at 10.30am we shall be celebrating the wonderful renewal of our building in the presence of the Mayor and Civic leaders, inter-faith representatives, and we hope many former members of the church. Trinity moves on to the future!

Christian Aid

What will you do?

Mile of Coins in St Nicholas Churchyard 15 May 10-4 with plant stall, coffee and light lunches.

Can you give an hour to man the 'mile', sell plants or help with refreshments? Please contact **John Wroe on 020 8642 9064** or your church's Christian Aid representatives Gill Ayres and Kaushalya Jeyaraj at StN, Mike Dales at SBC, Colin Howard at Trinity.

House to House Collecting in Christian Aid Week 9-15 May - more collectors needed - for information contact Colin Howard 0208 642 0583.

BASICALLY BIBLE Summer Specials

Sunday 6 June at St Nicholas 12.30-2.30pm

REVELATION – an exploration of the language and imagery of the last book of the Bible in order to help reading and understanding its vibrant and hope-filled message.

Sunday 11 July at Christ Church 12.30-2.30pm

The FOUR SEASONS - a reflection of time and eternity, and the use of Biblical stories in the art of Nicholas Poussin.

All are welcome to attend these Specials. Please bring a packed lunch with you – hot drinks provided.

Devotions by Revd Jane Cresswell

This month we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, when we remember again God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. This prayer (abridged) expresses something of the wonder of that living gift which flows in us and through us, transforming our lives and God's world.

Holy, sprightly Spirit of God,
We delight at your dancing among us,
Filling the world with joyful possibility,
Revealing the music of the Creator.
We rejoice at your daring spontaneity
And find ourselves caught off guard by your
unexpected communications.

In a world that can seem predictable,
Your spark into being new possibilities:
You gently purge our sin in the warmth of
your breath,
Freeing us from our bondage to past wrong.

In a world that can seem drab,
You weave your ever-changing patterns into
the fabric of our beings.

In a world that can appear purposeless,
Your vitality shouts out a mighty "Yes" to
life
And declares the source of all living to be
the One from whom you proceed,
The Father and Mother, Creator and Lover
of all.
Amen.

Regular Events

Christian Meditation Group meets alternate Mondays at 3pm and 7.45pm. Contact Pamela Ford on 8642 5914. 10 May 7.45pm. 17 May . 3pm 24 May 7.45pm.

Saturday Prayer Meeting meets 10am - 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 2.30 pm until 4 pm 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. **12 May** Mr Eric Sugden "Every picture tells a story." **26 May** AGM.

Sutton Baptist Women's Friendship meets Monday afternoons at 2.15 p.m. in the John Clifford Hall at Sutton Baptist Church. **10 May** Sally Fox **17 May** Members' Afternoon".

The Growing Group meets twice a month at 10.30am in the John Clifford Hall, Sutton Baptist Church. Ladies' informal coffee mornings and activities. **10 May** Unusual Women **17 May** An Invitation to Beryl's home.

Sutton Men's Friendship Centre meets at SBC. Contact: Jim Clark 01306 884364 **21 May** Lunch at The Belmont-12.00 for 12.15.

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 6.30pm until 8pm for 11 to 18 year olds. 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: Ted Hughes (1930-1998).*

Badminton Club meets 7.45-10pm 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.