

## This Month's Worship in Churches Uniting in Central Sutton

### Sunday 5 February

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - St N

10.30am Family Service-SBC

*Preacher Revd. Mike Dales*

Holy Communion - Trinity

*Preacher John Amankwatia*

Holy Communion - St N

### 6.30pm United Service at Trinity

**MEETING JESUS IN MARK** :Introducing Mark's Gospel

### Sunday 12 February

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - St N

10.30am Morning Worship with communion- SBC

*Preacher Revd. Mike Dales*

Commitment for Life Service-Trinity

*Preacher Audrey Skervin, Methodist*

Relief Development Fund

Sunday Worship -St N

### 6.30pm United Service at Trinity

**MEETING JESUS IN MARK** : Jesus In Galilee: Mark 1- 8.21

### Sunday 19 February

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - St N

10.30am Morning Worship - SBC

*Preacher Revd. Mike Dales*

Morning Worship -Trinity

*Preacher Revd. Martin Camroux*

Holy Communion - St N

### 6.30pm United Service at Trinity

**MEETING JESUS IN MARK** : From Galilee to Jerusalem Mark 8:22- 10..52

### Sunday 26 February

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) - St N

10.30am Morning Worship with communion- SBC

*Preacher Revd. Mike Dales*

Morning Worship Trinity

*Preacher Revd. Martin Camroux*

Holy Communion - St N

### 6.30pm United Service at Trinity

**MEETING JESUS IN MARK** : Jerusalem, Execution and Resurrection Mark 11-16

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

**Revd. Mike Dales** (Sutton Baptist) 07952 231723

mg.dales@blueyonder.co.uk

**Revd. Sarah Mullally** (St Nicholas) 020 8642 3499

sarah.mullally@btinternet.com

**Revd. Mark Pullinger** (St Nicholas) 020 8642 2757

mplarksong@aol.co.uk

**Revd. Martin Camroux** (Trinity) 020 8643 0963

m.camroux@talk21.com



February 2012

My dear Friends,

With economic gloom everywhere our current mood is deeply pessimistic. Any time now I expect George Osborne to start singing the well-known Noel Coward song:

There are bad times just around the corner,  
There are dark clouds hurtling through the sky.

I would not want to make light of the current crisis. But pessimism can be overcome. This is not the 1930s depression back again. And personally I've been cheered these last weeks by reading Steven Pinker's "The Better Angels of our Nature". In this he argues that contrary to popular belief humankind has become progressively less violent over the millennia and in all sorts of ways life has changed for the better. Europe for example has just had the most peaceful 60 years it has ever known, the number of wars around the world has dropped, we have made huge advances in equality for women, and we are less tolerant of racism. Life expectancy and literacy rates have jumped. Across the world hundreds of millions of people have come out of poverty. Medical care has got better. More and more countries have abolished capital punishment. As Pinker says, we have found ways to "allow a greater and greater proportion of humanity to live in peace and die of natural causes".

Maybe Pinker overstates the case a bit. The threat to the environment has got worse, inequality is deepening and the greed of the world economic system is not fit for purpose. As Martin Luther King saw "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals". But we should cheer ourselves with the thought that that so much progress has been made and there is no reason to suppose great things will not be done in the future. Not at least if you believe there is a God who works for righteousness, that therefore there is a bias towards justice and a creative purpose to life.

Best Wishes

Martin

## CHRISTIANS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - Mike Dales reflects

All of us belong to many different groups: we have our family, our church, our clubs and societies, and our town. None of us an island: we live in a web of relationships, with people we know, and people we don't know. In short, we share the lives of others as they share our lives. Jesus knew this very well: he had neighbours and behaved as a neighbour to them. He had disciples and felt responsible for them. He sent them out to preach the Gospel and heal the sick because he wanted them (and us!) to see beyond their families and villages and to share God's love with others.

When we think about 'Social Responsibility' perhaps most of us think firstly about social responsibility on a national or international scale. Perhaps it is the case that, for most of us, social problems on these scales are too big and too complicated to make much difference, apart from our support for Christian Aid and other organisations. It is easy, then, to conclude that we are too powerless to affect anything of significance.

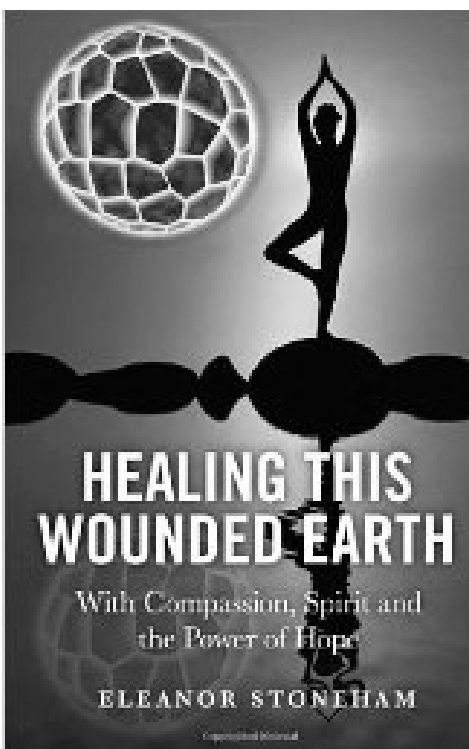
But be encouraged! Many of you demonstrate a sense of caring 'social responsibility' even if you would not use those words to describe it: you care for older family members and your neighbours, often without any hope of reward. Others of you have chosen a profession where caring for others is part of your role, such as doctors and nurses, teachers, and so on. Still others offer support and care through your prayers and your giving. In other words, many of us, even most of us, already exhibit a high degree of social responsibility for the lives of other people. You are already helping a few people to improve their lives.

If you are one of these, then you are already obeying Jesus' injunction to 'love your neighbour'!

## Sarah Mullally reviews

**Healing this Wounded Earth: With Compassion, Spirit and the Power of Hope**  
Eleanor Stoneham

I watched with interest recently the announcements by David Cameron that he wanted all patients to see a nurse every hour - and how was he to achieve this? Regulation. Too often the government looks to change the way things are done through regulation - regulation of healthcare, the financial markets and even of society and community through initiatives such as the 'Big society'. Stoneham, in her book, rightly points out that rather than seeking to change the way we behave through regulation we should understand why we behave as we do (pg7). It is only then that we can better understand how we can change, as Mahatma Gandhi is often quoted as saying "*you must be the change you wish to see in the world*".



How we can steer the world to a better future? Stoneham suggests that it is through rediscovering compassion and spirit in everything we do. She sees the world as being seriously wounded and threatened by violence egocentricity and mass consumerism. Government intervention alone will never solve society's problems. Stoneham suggests that we need personal responsibility and healing on a global scale.

The book weaves science and spirituality with philosophy and ancient wisdom using the imagery of the 'Wounded Healer' embodied in the life of Jesus Christ the story of the healing Centaur Chiron and the work of the indigenous Shaman. Through suffering their own wounds the 'Wounded Healer' acquires empathy for recognising the wounds in others and healing them.

Through the healing needs of relationships, our community, our economy and our environment and finally the curing professions of pastoral and medical care the book shows how we may all become catalysts for social change for a happier and more peaceful world. If it feels too great a challenge remember the African proverb "*if you think you are too small to make a difference try spending one night in a room with a mosquito!*".

**Published by O-Books 2011 ISBN: 978 1 84694 445 £14.99**

## From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who has commented on the magazine. I welcome feedback to [deb.wroe@btinternet.com](mailto:deb.wroe@btinternet.com). Copy date for the March issue is 14 February.

# News from the Churches

We are pleased to announce a first for SBC: the dedication of triplets on January 15th! Babies Josiah, Xavier and Ruby with their proud parents Kelton and Clara Paul.

On a sadder note, we record the deaths of two SBC members: Yvonne Dunn and Eric Doling. Both had been living for some time in residential homes.

## MEN'S LUNCH CLUB

The Men's Friendship Centre, which arranged talks and activities for many years has now been relaunched as the 'Men's Lunch Club'. Membership has always been ecumenical with members mainly drawn from SBC and Trinity. From now on we will meet monthly, on the first Friday of each month, at The Belmont at 12.00pm. Men from any of our churches are welcome at this friendly event. For further details contact Mike Dales on 07952 231723.



Malcolm Booth thanks all the volunteer **carol singers** who helped to raise £525.90 for Action for Children.

## OASIS

We are shortly to lose two volunteers who help on a Monday, mostly in the kitchen where they prepare simple meals. This is something of a crisis because without replacements it will not be possible to open on a Monday which would put the future of the Oasis in question. The Oasis provides a meeting place for people, is partly staffed by MENCAP volunteers, and makes contributions to charity from its profits. We very much hope to keep it open. If anyone is able to consider helping could they contact either the manager, **Marion Edwards** or **Sheila Greenslade (Trinity)**.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

The Ash Wednesday Frugal Supper will be held this year at SBC. This event will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets will cost £2 from church representatives, with all proceeds going to Christian Aid. The supper will be followed by a Service of Ashing at St Nicholas at 8.00pm.

## LENT TALKS

The theme for this year's Lent Talks is 'Pilgrim People'. Each talk will take place at St Nicholas at 8.00pm. The talks will be repeated on the following day at 2.30pm, also at St Nicholas.

### 29 February

From mortgage holder to pilgrim and stranger - Abraham's Story

Revd Sarah Mullally

### 7 March

Into the Wilderness once again - The Desert Fathers' Story

Revd Mike Dales

### 14 March

We came on the ship they called the Mayflower - The Pilgrims' Story

Revd Martin Camroux

### 21 March

They called her Moses – Harriet Tubman's Story

Revd Leah Philbrick

### 28 March

The Path of Passion – Jesus and Jerusalem

Revd Mark Pullinger

We are proud to present

# FAUSTUS

## A drama for Lent

Faustus will be performed at SBC by The Saltmine Theatre Company, one of the top two professional Christian drama companies in the country.

The performance will be at 7.30pm on Saturday, 24 February.

Tickets will be £6 (£3 for dependent children) and can be purchased from church representatives.

## Supper Talk at St Nicholas

This year's programme of Supper Talks at St Nicholas will begin on Friday, 2 March when Anne Asquith, former County Commissioner for Greater London West of the Girl Guides Association, will speak on 'The First 100 Years of Girl Guides'. Anne's talk will be illustrated with pictures, postcards, stamps, books and other ephemera from around the world.

The evening, at St Nicholas Community Hall, will start with supper at 7pm. Tickets are £7 each: please contact Richard West (020 8644 7834 or richjwest@btinternet.com).

## Devotions

### By John Dawson (Trinity)

I am reading the biography of Steve Jobs (co-founder of Apple Computers) at the moment. He once gave a speech entitled, "The Future isn't what it used to be". This made me think of this liturgy from the Northumbrian Community. The future is uncertain but the God we face it with is sure.

#### Expressions of faith

Lord, You have always given  
bread for the coming day;  
and though I am poor,  
today I believe.

Lord, You have always given  
strength for the coming day;  
and though I am weak,  
today I believe.

Lord, You have always given  
peace for the coming day;  
and though of anxious heart,  
today I believe.

Lord, You have always kept  
me safe in trials;  
and now, tried as I am,  
today I believe.

Lord, You have always marked  
the road for the coming day;  
and though it may be hidden,  
today I believe.

Lord, You have always lightened  
this darkness of mine;  
and though the night is here,  
today I believe.

Lord, You have always spoken  
when time was ripe;  
and though you be silent now,  
today I believe.

It is not the size of our faith that is important, it is the size of our God.

# Regular Events

**Christian Meditation Group** meets alternate Mondays at 3pm and 7.45pm. Contact Pamela Ford on 8642 5914. **6 Feb**—afternoon. **13 Feb** - evening. **20 Feb**-afternoon. **27 Feb**-evening.

**Saturday Prayer Meeting** meets 10am - 11am at Sutton Baptist Church.

**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 Margaret Jeffery 8874 7108 or Sylvia Robinson 8642 1391.

**8 Feb** Revd Martin Camroux 'India' **22 Feb** Beetle Drive

**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. Ladies' informal coffee mornings and activities. **Mondays 6 and 20 Feb**

**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.

**5<sup>th</sup> Feb** *Random Night – Bring a Random activity or idea to share and eat Randoms!*

**12<sup>th</sup> Feb** *First Weekend of Half Term – No Bunker*

**19<sup>th</sup> Feb** *Pancakes*

**26<sup>th</sup> Feb** *Laser Quest*

**Badminton Club** meets 7.45-10pm on Mondays and Thursdays 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](http://www.clubtennis.co.uk).

**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.