



The Parish of
**ST NICHOLAS,
SUTTON**

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Frances Arnold

The Rectory,
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Reg Charity No: 1134049

4 April 2020

St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Holy Week is an important time for Christians and this year we shall be following Jesus on his journey, through passion and death to resurrection, as we read the bible story in our homes. Holy Week will be taking a different form for all of us, but it remains as important as ever to travel the road from Palm Sunday to Easter. We are encouraged to engage with it in whatever ways we can. It is our homes which now offer us a place in which our faith can be discovered afresh, through reading the scriptures, through prayer and through participation in worship (especially our Sunday morning worship together). May we find renewed hope in remembering the story of our salvation and so experience the joy of Easter.

Observing Holy Week together

- **St Nicholas Worship**

The following will be available electronically:

Maudy Thursday a reflection on John 13.1-15, Jesus washes the disciples' feet

Good Friday The Way of the Cross – a devotion on bible readings and the stations of the cross

Easter Sunday Order of Service for 10.30am Sunday morning

I will be leading worship from The Rectory. Please join me by following the Order of Service and singing confidently in your own homes.

- **Diocesan worship, Southwark Cathedral**

There are services every day from the Deanery and a full programme can be found at:

<https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/visiting/holy-week-and-easter-from-southwark-cathedral>.

Bishop Christopher will be celebrating services from the Chapel at Bishop's House.

Maudy Thursday at 11 am, Chrism Eucharist

The Bishop leads the clergy in the renewal of their ordination vows and blesses the oils for ministry.

Good Friday

Morning Prayer at 9 am and **Night Prayer at 8 pm** from the Deanery

will be streamed on the Cathedral's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/southwarkcathedral>

At noon, Stations of the Cross will be led by the Dean. The service will be broadcast.

At 3pm, reading of the Passion and Prayers before the Cross will be led by Bishop Christopher.

Easter Day, Sunday 12 April, at 11.00am. The Easter Liturgy

The service will be broadcast and parishes are encouraged to join with the Bishop.

He will be blessing the Paschal Candle for use in the Cathedral.

- **Worship from Canterbury Cathedral**

The Liturgy of Maudy Thursday at 7 pm

<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/holy-week-and-easter-2020/>

- **Suggested activities at home**

Continue to say the Lord's Prayer daily (as encouraged by Bishop Christopher), perhaps at 1 or 7 pm

On Easter Day light a candle at dawn and pray:

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen.

Join in with the '[Sing Resurrection](#)' initiative from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, which encourages everyone to sing the hymns *Jesus Christ is risen today* and *Thine be the glory* at 10 am (words and tunes included at the link).

Pastoral Network

A big thank you on behalf of all of us to the Mothers' Union/Lunch Team joint initiative who are continuing with their marvellous work in co-ordinating telephone/WhatsApp support and supply of provisions to those self-isolating. A particular thank you to Nicki Richards, Jeff Richards, Emma & Keith Cann, Liz & Chris Cann, Lily Bande, Helen Yately, Paul Butler and Diane Young.

Palm Crosses

Thank you to Ginny Haizelden (for the prompt) and Diane Young (for helping me with the mailing) of the Palm Crosses and *A Way of Daily Prayer*.

John Canty's Funeral

Only immediate family were able to attend John's funeral at North East Surrey Crematorium on Wednesday, but I was able to convey to them the many warm messages I'd been asked to pass on from you. It was a great comfort to them. Please continue to remember John and all that he meant to St Nicholas and keep his family and friends in prayer.

Staying in touch

Stay in touch about ways that we can care for you and pray for you. I'd be glad to hear from you. My contact details are: rector.stnicholassutton@gmail.com 020 8642 3499

Love one another

Please continue to watch out for each other and contact me or the wardens if you are concerned for someone.

And do be assured of my prayers for you. May almighty God keep us safe in body, mind and spirit as we ask him in Jesus' name.

With renewed thanks to John and Geoff as wardens, Ginny and Stephen and Mary as SPA for their support. Also clergy colleagues, especially Revd Beverly, Revd Phil and Revd Dave (Sutton Team), Revd Dave and Revd Pam (LEP) and Revd Nick (Cheam). Thank you too for your continued prayers and support.

Take good care of yourselves, stay at home wherever possible and share any concerns or needs.

These are testing times but let us be of good courage. With my prayers and love in Christ for you. *Frances*

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH SUTTON

**5 APRIL 2020 PALM SUNDAY
FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

IN THE PAST WEEK...

BLESSINGS...

- Clap for Carers
- NHS staff
- Retail staff
- Sutton Police
- Palm Crosses – easier to post than Easter eggs!
- John Canty's poetry & woodwork
- Birdsong
- Black cabs
- Less pollution
- final United Lent Session - sharing quiet time
- St Nicholas Quiz Night on Zoom, Friday 3 April

WE MISS...

- Worshipping together
- Sharing the Peace (hands or elbows!)
- Hearing from JAM & Spectrum
- Coffee on Sundays and soup on Thursdays
- Light coming through the church windows

AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THIS WEEK I...

- Have been involved in Sutton Borough Council's Inter Faith Response to Covid-19: focussing on community hubs & volunteering and deaths & funeral arrangements
- Took part in Sutton Team Ministry & Local Ecumenical Partnership meetings by Zoom
- Did my regular check on the Church (all ok)
- Fondly remembered my licensing on 3 April 2019 (a full church & a great party!)
- Mailed Palm Sunday crosses

Worship

You can find national online resources including weekly streamed services and daily audio at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>, as well as additional worship provision on the BBC, for example Radio 4 Sunday morning worship at 8.10am (or later using BBC Sounds).

I encourage you also to make a habit of daily prayer, whether *A Way of Daily Prayer* (attached), Common Worship *Daily Prayer* <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> or *Book of Common Prayer*. Here are the Bible readings for Morning and Evening Prayer:

Monday 6 April

MP Lamentations 1.1-12a & Luke 22.1-23

EP Lamentations 2.8-19 & Colossians 1.18-23

Tuesday 7 April

MP Lamentations 3.1-18 & Luke 22.39-53

EP Lamentations 3.40-51 & Galatians 6.11-end

Wednesday 8 April

MP Jeremiah 11.18-20 & Luke 22.54-end

EP Isaiah 63.1-9 & Revelation 14.18-15.4

Maundy Thursday 9 April

MP Leviticus 16.2-24 & Luke 23.1-25

EP Exodus 11 & Ephesians 2.11-18

Good Friday 10 April

MP Genesis 22.1-18 & Hebrews 10.1-10

EP Lamentations 5.15-end & John 19.38-end

Prayer List – Barbara, Vere, Stan

Departed – Phyllis Taylor (MU member), Revd Martin Goodlad, John Canty, Yves

NOTICES

GIVING DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

THANK YOU to those of you who are able to continue supporting the church by your regular giving during these unprecedented times. This is greatly appreciated.

The church is still functioning at local, national and international level; and it continues to need the financial, as well as the spiritual, support of its members, not least to maintain its support of local parishes and communities.

Some of you have kindly asked for guidance about the most helpful ways in which to make payments at this time and you will shortly be receiving a message about this from the Treasurer.

St Paul's letters are full of useful advice about Christian giving, especially 2 Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9; he even gives specific directions in 1 Corinthians 16.2. It is almost as if he had foreseen our needs nearly two thousand years ago.

With renewed thanks for all your support in word, deed and prayer.

BISHOP JONATHAN'S REFLECTION FOR PASSION SUNDAY 'I FEAR NO EVIL FOR YOU ARE WITH ME...' can be found on his blog (<https://wp.me/p1gIzi-fC>). I commend it to you.

RAMBLES IN THE CHURCHYARD – permitted!

Jeff Richards has posted the first in a series of Churchyard rambles.

Take a look. It seems we can take a ramble, even in current times!

<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchyardFriends>

Diary dates

The APCM will not take place on 3 May. More information to follow.

Monday 22 June 2020 at 7.30pm Confirmation Service at Christ Church with Bishop Jonathan

Finally, I would like to assure you of my prayers, send my warmest good wishes for Holy Week and, when it comes, wish you every blessing at Eastertide. *Frances*

www.stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk

Contact details:

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