



The Parish of
**ST NICHOLAS,
SUTTON**

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Frances Arnold

The Rectory,
34 Robin Hood Lane,
**SUTTON
SM1 2RG**



Call to Prayer on Sutton Community Works website

7 June 2020

St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (12)

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Events in the United States and protests across the world following the brutal death of George Floyd on 25 May have highlighted the need for learning, prayer and action in response to racial injustice in our societies. The commitment to justice is embedded in our identity as followers of Jesus Christ in whom we are all one: as St Paul writes, There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3.28, NIV).

Leaders of churches from across the borough joined with Mark Tomlinson of Sutton Community Works this week to express our solidarity against racism and our belief that we are all created in the image of God.

Mark says:

'How can we respond? By looking and reflecting at our language, our attitudes, our prejudices, our lifestyles both individually, in our families, our churches, our schools, and our workplaces, and then affect change. And then I would encourage us to share this as widely as possible.'

You can watch the statement on YouTube at the Sutton Community Works website (Sutton Community Works YouTube channel [-suttonboroughleadersblacklivesmatterstatementjune](#))

"Recent news coverage of the inhumane brutality leading to the murder of Mr George Floyd in the United States of America have once again drawn public attention to the ongoing evil of the systemic racism that continues to cause incalculable harm across the world.

"We are appalled at the awful events in Minneapolis and the video footage of the death of George Floyd. Such discrimination and treatment of a human being is abhorrent and in complete contrast to the example set by the life and teachings of Christ.

"Let us be clear: racism is an affront to God. It is born out of ignorance and must be eradicated. We all bear the responsibility and must play our part to eliminate this scourge on humanity. The spotlight is not only shining on 'them over there' but also on us here in our own settings.

"We believe that God is not a neutral observer in matters of justice, and hence we stand with our brothers and sisters from the Black and other Minority Communities and recognise we haven't listened carefully enough and at times our words and actions whether conscious or unconsciously expressed have contributed to the racism that is still prevalent in our own society.

"As Christian Leaders in this Borough we want to acknowledge this and commit to ongoing Change. We need to take a stand with those who face this deep-rooted injustice. We need to do more to listen and learn from their perspective.

"We believe God has created us in his image and all people should be treated with respect, dignity and value irrespective of race or colour.

"We pray for justice, peace on our streets and in our communities and eventual reconciliation. We pray for every church leader serving a hurting world. We pray for unity and an outpouring of God's love, grace and wisdom over our Church family overseas and at home."

(statement agreed with input from local church leaders & excerpts from statements of Archbishops Sentamu & Welby and also the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson of the Methodist Conference)

Look with pity, O heavenly Father,
upon the people in this land
who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death
as their constant companions.
Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate cruelty to these our neighbours.
Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law
and equal opportunities for all.
And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (American Book of Common Prayer)

Church of England worship

Bishop Christopher is encouraging everyone to say the Lord's Prayer daily and suggests either 1 or 7 pm.

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) and the service on BBC1 later in the morning.

Bishop Christopher's service is available on his Twitter stream: @BishopSouthwark and on the Diocesan Facebook and YouTube channels at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthwarkCofE> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/SouthwarkDiocese>

Pastoral Network

A big thank you, as ever, 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.

"I have had chats with the lovely group who ask if I need anything" (comment from an admirer – of the group!)

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
Thank you for your calls. I love receiving telephone calls from you.

In particular can I make a plea to those who find themselves in pressing need (or who know of others of our number in difficulties)? Please don't feel that you have nowhere to turn. I really want you to contact me in the first instance. When you do, I will either be able to help you myself or point you in the right direction for access to food or emotional support for people who are struggling during the pandemic.

Love one another

Please continue to watch out for each other and contact me or the wardens, John Kerr or Geoff Rendall, 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.
Thank you too for your continued prayers and support.
With warmest good wishes to you all,

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**

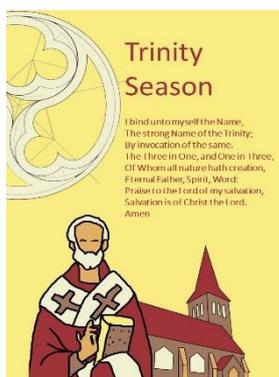
ST NICHOLAS CHURCH SUTTON

7 JUNE 2020 TRINITY SUNDAY

IN THE PAST WEEK...

BLESSINGS...

- NHS staff
- Sutton Community Support Hub
- Retail staff
- Sutton Police
- Bus drivers
- Street Pastors
- Sky, a deeper shade of blue
- Meeting in gardens again
- Less pollution
- Awareness of social justice issues during the pandemic



Thanks to Jeff Richards for producing this Trinity poster. You can see the posters outside church

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIS WEEK I...

- Took part in a weekly Zoom meeting with the Churchwardens
- Met with Geoff Rendall, JAM and Spectrum (via Zoom) for worship and a chat. It was lovely to see them all again
- Helped Jeff Richards to make a video for Community Action Sutton Small Charity Week, telling our lockdown story
- Was reminded of Charles Dickens' writing on America and on slavery. The 150th anniversary of his death fell on 8 June.

WE MISS...

- Worshipping together
- The organ and the piano and Pam, Isabella and Paul's playing
- Sharing the Peace (hands or elbows)
- Celebrating birthdays together
- Coffee on Sundays and soup on Thursdays
- Light coming through the church windows
- Clap for Carers (ended on 28 May for this year)
- Marmite (in short supply because of a shortage of brewer's yeast due to lockdown pub closure)

Southwark Diocesan Prayer Calendar (monthly)

can be found at

<https://southwark.anglican.org/information/resources/prayer-calendar/>

(this includes the Anglican Cycle of Prayer)

PRAYERS for...

- those suffering the economic, psychological & social effects of the crisis
- the disadvantaged & the vulnerable
- those in authority, including our local leaders in the Council, the Police, the NHS & our MP's
- essential workers including NHS/Care Workers, Emergency Services, Refuse Collectors/Retail Staff
- faith leaders
- those who mourn
- the family and communities mourning George Floyd & those who stand against racism and social inequality, striving for social harmony

Worship

There will be an Order of Service for 10.30am Sunday morning worship each week. I will be leading worship from The Rectory. Please join me by following the Order of Service (which is sent to you and can be found on the website) and singing confidently in your own homes. I think of you all and pray for you each day.

Sunday 14 June is the 1st Sunday after Trinity

I encourage you to make a habit of daily prayer, whether *A Way of Daily Prayer* (attached, or on website under Useful Information-Service Sheets);

Common Worship *Daily Prayer* <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/> or *Book of Common Prayer*.

Bible readings for Morning and Evening Prayer:

Sunday 14 June Trinity 1

MP Deuteronomy 10.12-11.1, Acts 23.12-end

EP 1 Samuel 21.1-15, Luke 11.14-28

Monday 15 June

MP Joshua 14, Luke 12.1-12

EP Job 13, Romans 7.1-6

Tuesday 16 June *Richard, bishop, 1253*

MP Joshua 21.43-22.8, Luke 12.13-21

EP Job 14, Romans 7.7-end

Wednesday 17 June

MP Joshua 22.9-end, Luke 12.22-31

EP Job 15, Romans 8.1-11

Thursday 18 June

MP Joshua 23, Luke 12.32-40

EP Job 16.1-17.2, Romans 8.12-17

Friday 19 June

MP Joshua 24.1-28, Luke 12.41-48

EP Job 17.3-end, Romans 8.18-30

Saturday 20 June

MP Joshua 24.29-end, Luke 12.49-end

EP Job 18, Romans 8.31-end

Prayer List – Barbara, Vere, Stan, Roger, Phyllis & Hollis

Departed –Rosemary Armstrong, Alastair, Gwen, John, David Clark (priest), Christine Griffiths

Christine's funeral will take place at 2pm on 17 June at Sutton Cemetery. Close family only will be attending. We hope there will be a memorial service in church when that is possible. Please remember our dear friend Christine and all that she meant to us and keep her family and friends in prayer.

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 have received 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 I Corinthians 16.2. It is almost as if he had foreseen our needs nearly 2,000 ago.

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY Geoff Rendall is in the process of updating the current directory. Following the introduction of General Data Protection Regulations he has to obtain your permission to include your details. Could you please let him know if you are **not** willing for him to include your name, address, phone number and email address in the directory. If you do **NOT** contact him by 30 June he will assume that you have no objection and your details will be included. *Geoff Rendall*

ST NICHOLAS IN LOCKDOWN VIDEO Thanks to Jeff Richards for producing this video for Community Action Sutton in Small Charity Week, which tells our lockdown story. The footage takes us back to our lovely church and to other familiar places and faces. It is a reminder of our commitment to love of God and of neighbour and the ways in which we have continued to worship, to care for one another and to stay connected, not least through the work of the Contact Team and the JAM/Spectrum leaders, as well as others who are supporting them.

You can find the video on the church website.

RE-OPENING OF CHURCHES FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER Some of you have asked about our plans in the light of the latest government announcement. We are continuing to plan for re-opening, in consultation with other churches, and will let you know when we are able to do so safely. We are as keen to get back as you are!

RAMBLES IN THE CHURCHYARD – permitted! Jeff Richards is posting a series of Churchyard rambles.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYTT2iWuCCrQVLU-c81xTmmDcyhmz5hCk>