



The Parish of  
**ST NICHOLAS,  
SUTTON**

*Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Frances Arnold*

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

*stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk*  
*Reg Charity No: 1134049*

12 April 2020

### **St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (4)**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It was a pleasure to worship with you, at home, in the renewed hope and joy of Easter.

This year I was more conscious than ever, when reading St John's account of the resurrection, of the grief of the disciples on that first Easter Day when even Mary Magdalene did not at first recognise the risen Jesus. This fear, confusion and sense of isolation is there on the Emmaus road too and when the disciples are behind locked doors in the evening.

We have now been living with our emotions and fears about the pandemic for weeks, not days. There is not yet an end date in sight. It is not surprising that one reaction is to seek an answer to the question as to why we are suffering. It is a question that we might be asked by others trying to make sense of this strange new world. But it is not so much the task of Christians to explain, as to interpret.

I have been helped in my own questionings by the response of Bishop Tom Wright to this perennial question (29.03.20, *Time* magazine). There is a tradition we can tap into when we don't get an answer about why we are suffering. It is the biblical tradition of lamentation (he uses the word 'lament'). This is what happens when people ask why and don't get an answer. It is most clearly seen in the psalms. I encourage you to explore them (for example, Psalms 6, 10, 13 and 22).

But lamentation is not just an outlet for our frustration, sorrow, loneliness and inability to understand what is happening and why. The mystery of the biblical story is that God also laments frequently in the Hebrew Scriptures. Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend, Lazarus, and the Holy Spirit 'intercedes with sighs too deep for words' (Romans 8.26). Tom Wright encourages us in our Christian vocation to lament; if we do so, the presence and healing love of God can dwell within us. And out of that can emerge 'new possibilities, new acts of kindness, new scientific understanding and new hope...new wisdom for our leaders.'

Look at the signs of hope in our community of St Nicholas, now in our own homes and spread across Sutton: worship of the God who is merciful, prayer for those facing the pandemic in worse circumstances than our own (for example, our link dioceses in Zimbabwe) and help and support for our neighbours.

And when we become frustrated by the lack of a simple explanation for what's happening, let us take comfort in the fact that the disciples too found it hard to move beyond worrying about sin and failure. In the weeks to come, we can take inspiration from the courage of the disciples and early Christians attested in our Sundays readings from the Book of Acts.

#### **Worship at home**

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

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Archbishops and the Bishop of Southwark are asking us to pray the Lord's Prayer daily.  
When we pray the petitions  
'deliver us from evil' and 'thy will be done',  
be aware of how the words that Jesus himself taught us, speak into our current situation.

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).

### **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



*The Di-mobile, loaded with TK Maxx bags, 14.04.20*

### **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](mailto:rector.stnicholassutton@gmail.com)

020 8642 3499

I love receiving telephone calls from you.

### **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.

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

12 APRIL 2020 EASTER

## IN THE PAST WEEK...

### BLESSINGS...

- Clap for Carers
- NHS staff
- Sutton Community Support Hub
- Retail staff
- Sutton Police
- Black cabs
- Spring
- Less pollution
- The Queen speaks to the nation, 05.04.20
- Christ's baptism site, Qasr Al-Yahud, is landmine-free for Easter

### 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...

- Was able to assist local paramedics at a callout
- Ate the (numbered) Dairy Milk bar presented to me in Church by Geoff Rendall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent
- Enjoyed abundant pink & yellow blossom on the trees and shrubs in The Rectory garden
- Watched white sheets being hung on the neighbour's washing line, while reading about the discovery of the grave clothes in the Easter gospel!

## 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 19 April** is the **Second Sunday of Easter**.

I encourage you also 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 12 April

MP Exodus 14.10-18, 26-15.2, Revelation 15.2-4  
EP Song of Solomon 3.2-5; 8.6-7, Revelation 1.12-18

### Monday 13 April

MP Exodus 12.1-14, 1 Corinthians 15.1-11  
EP Song of Solomon 1.9-2.7, Mark 16.1-8

### Tuesday 14 April

MP Exodus 12.14-36, 1 Corinthians 15.12-19  
EP Song of Solomon 2.8-end, Luke 24.1-12

### Wednesday 15 April

MP Exodus 12.37-end, 1 Corinthians 15.20-28  
EP Song of Solomon 3, Matthew 28.16-end

### Thursday 16 April

MP Exodus 13.1-16, 1 Corinthians 15.29-34  
EP Song of Solomon 5.2-6.3, Luke 7.11-17

### Friday 17 April

MP Exodus 13.17-14.14, 1 Corinthians 15.35-50  
EP Song of Solomon 7.10-8.4, Luke 8.41-end

### Saturday 18 April

MP Exodus 14.14-end, 1 Corinthians 15.51-end  
EP Song of Solomon 8.5-7, John 11.17-44

### Sunday 19 April

MP Exodus 12.1-17, 1 Corinthians 5.6b-8  
EP Daniel 6.6-23, Mark 15.46-16.8

### Monday 20 April

MP Exodus 15.1-21, Colossians 1.1-14  
EP Deuteronomy 1.3-18, John 20.1-10

### Tuesday 21 April *Anselm, 1109*

MP Exodus 15.22-16.10, Colossians 1.15-end  
EP Deuteronomy 1.19-40, John 20.11-18

### Wednesday 22 April

MP Exodus 16.11-end, Colossians 2.1-15  
EP Deuteronomy 3.18-end, John 20.19-end

### Thursday 23 April *George, martyr, patron of England, c.304*

MP Joshua 1.1-9, Ephesians 6.10-20  
EP Isaiah 43.1-7, John 15.1-8

### Friday 24 April *Mellitus, 624, Melanesian Brotherhood, 2003*

MP Exodus 18.1-12, Colossians 3.12-4.1  
EP Deuteronomy 4.15-31, John 21.15-19

### Saturday 25 April *Mark the Evangelist*

MP Isaiah 62.6-10, Acts 12.25-13.13  
EP Ezekiel 1.4-14, 2 Timothy 4.1-11

**Prayer List** – Barbara, Vere, Stan

**Departed** –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 I 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 WILL 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 is posting a series of Churchyard rambles.

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

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

### EASTER ST NICHOLAS VIDEO – see FACEBOOK @ StNicholasSutton

The congregation of St Nicholas have not been able to gather together to worship, as the building has been closed during the Covid-19 outbreak. But members of the contact group, who have been keeping in touch with the congregation and maintaining fellowship, have recorded this wonderful video.

Thanks to them for taking us to St Nic's for Easter and for their greeting.

We want to say a big thank you to them - both for this, and for all they are doing to help us. 🙌

Revd Frances and John & Geoff, Churchwardens

### 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.

[www.stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk](http://www.stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk)

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