



The Parish of  
**ST NICHOLAS,**  
**SUTTON**  
*Priest-in-Charge:*  
*The Revd Frances*  
*Arnold*

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

12 July 2020

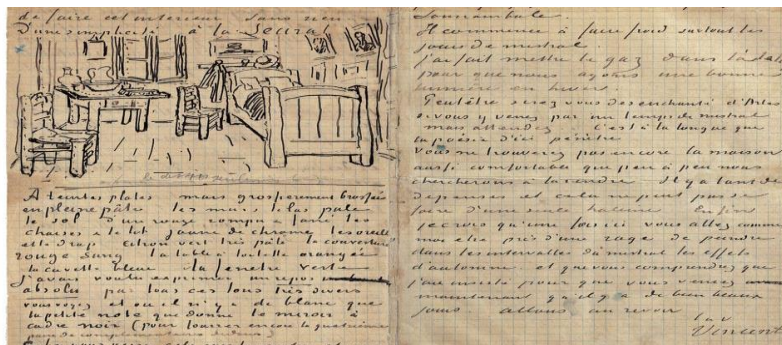
**St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (17)**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Van Gogh has been in the news recently, because of the sale at auction of a letter he wrote with fellow artist Paul Gauguin. His many letters give vivid insights into his life and art. They are the subject of an exhibition opening in Amsterdam in October.

I'm reminded of the Van Gogh and Britain exhibition at Tate Britain last year. Now (when we're still being encouraged to do things outside) might be a good time to explore areas of London familiar to Van Gogh when he lived and worked in the city as a young man. He moved from The Hague in 1873, aged 20, to work as a clerk for an art dealer in Covent Garden. His walk to and from work each day from his lodgings in North Brixton took in Westminster Bridge and the newly constructed Thames Embankment. Van Gogh hadn't started painting yet. That didn't happen until long after he left London, but he was sketching on his way home alongside the Thames at dusk and he cherished the art works he could afford to buy. Particular favourites were engravings by the artist Gustav Doré, which made dramatic use of light and shade to convey the crowded life and atmosphere of mid-Victorian London. London played a key role in forging Van Gogh's worldview: of sympathy for the downtrodden and dispossessed.

I have always loved Van Gogh's paintings; as I learned more about his time in London I warmed to his story. In 1876, he was fired from his job and left his lodgings in heartache over his love of the landlady's daughter. He suffered bouts of depression and had the occasional night sleeping rough. He decided to become a preacher, influenced in part by his experience of the poverty of London's East End. He was also inspired by the writings of social reformers like Carlyle and Dickens and his approach was full of comfort and consolation. Van Gogh preached his first sermon that same year in Richmond Methodist Church. Preaching and evangelism did not work out for him, but his paintings convey his social concerns in a way that can speak to us today.



Van Gogh's letter to his brother, Theo, 16 October 1888

### Church of England 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) 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.

### 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  
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**

### JAM/SPECTRUM NEWSLETTER

This week during our weekly Spectrum/Jam we first discussed everything that has been going on during our week. Then after we had heard about everyone's weeks, we went on to learn about a story called The Parable of the Sower. This is a story where Jesus teaches people that when you do everything with care then good comes out of it, but if you do it carelessly then only bad will come out of it. Therefore, the moral of the story is to think with care and choose to look up to God. Anyway, this sums up the end of our weekly session that we have completed. Hope to see everyone soon.

Zara Singer JAM

# ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SUTTON

12 JULY 2020 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

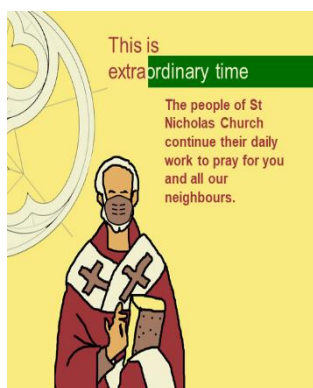
## IN THE PAST WEEK...

### BLESSINGS...

- NHS staff
- Sutton Community Support Hub
- Shops open in High Street
- Waterstones
- Sutton Police
- Bus drivers
- Street Pastors
- Picnics
- Bubbles
- Less pollution

### 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



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

### Southwark Diocesan Prayer Calendar (monthly)

can be found at <https://southwark.anglican.org/information/resources/prayer-calendar/> (this includes the Anglican Cycle of Prayer)

### AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIS WEEK I...

- Took part in a weekly meeting with the Churchwardens
- Listened & then took part in a Zoom conversation about ministering in a white church and society
- Took part in a Zoom Deanery Chapter meeting

### 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 19 July is the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 19 July Trinity 6

MP Deuteronomy 30.1-10, 1 Peter 3.8-18  
EP 1 Kings 2.10-12; 3.16-28, Acts 4.1-22

#### Monday 20 July

MP 1 Samuel 5, Luke 20.41-21.4  
EP Ezekiel 10.1-19, 2 Corinthians 6.1-7.1

### **Tuesday 21 July**

MP 1 Samuel 6.1-16, Luke 21.5-19  
EP Ezekiel 11.14-end, 2 Corinthians 7.2-end

### **Wednesday 22 July** Mary Magdalene

MP 1 Samuel.16.14-end, Luke 8.1-3  
EP Zephaniah 3.14-end, Mark 15.40-16.7

### **Thursday 23 July**

MP 1 Samuel 8, Luke 21.29-end  
EP Ezekiel 12.17-end, 2 Corinthians 8.16-9.5

### **Friday 24 July**

MP 1 Samuel 9.1-14, Luke 22.1-13  
EP Ezekiel 13.1-16, 2 Corinthians 9.6-end

### **Saturday 25 July** James the Apostle

MP 2 Kings 1.9-15, Luke 9.46-56  
EP Jeremiah 26.1-15, Mark 1.14-20

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

**Departed** –Pearl

## **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.

**OUR CHURCH SERVICES AND THE CURRENT SITUATION WITH COVID-19** We are currently working on a risk assessment and other procedures as we look to re-open St Nicholas Church for private prayer. Thank you for your patience as we work to get the right hygiene measures and staffing in place to ensure everyone's safety.

It will take us longer to re-open for public worship, although planning is underway. We will let you know as soon as possible when this is likely.

In the meantime, you will find a Sunday service booklet and readings sheet available on the website each Sunday for you to worship at home.

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

Here is a handy short link:

<https://bit.ly/ChurchyardRambles>

### **Dates for your diary**

8pm on 23 July

PCC meeting by Zoom