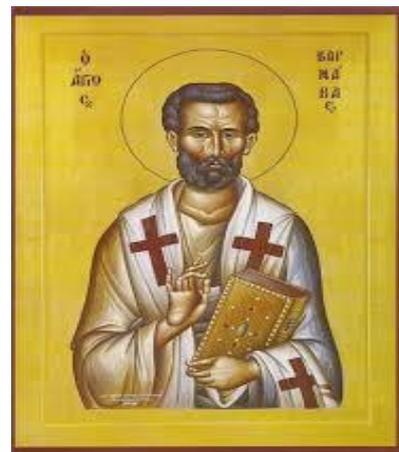




The Parish of  
**ST NICHOLAS,**  
**SUTTON**

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

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



14 June 2020

**St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (13)**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Everyone has their favourite saints. One of mine is Barnabas, whom we celebrate on 11 June. His name means 'Son of consolation' (or man of encouragement), which means that he made other people feel better; and he is described in the Bible simply as 'a good man.' He soon came to play a leading role in the early church, although he was not one of the first apostles. In fact, he was different to them in three ways. First, he was a Levite, a hereditary member of a ministerial family. Secondly, he was a rich landowner and, thirdly, he came not from Galilee but from Cyprus. Like Paul he grew up in the Gentile rather than the Jewish world, so he is less like a poor shepherd at the manger and more like one of the Magi, bringing wealth and learning and knowledge of the wider world as gifts in the service of Jesus Christ. He and Paul made a good team, spreading the good news among Jews and Gentiles alike.

His greatest gift, however, was friendship. He it was who successfully introduced Paul to the apostles in Jerusalem. As well as Paul he befriended Mark, whom Paul eventually found impossible to work with. Barnabas was prepared to give this unsatisfactory young man another chance, so they parted, dividing up the work between them. The New Testament is realistic and bang up-to-date in recognizing that even the best Christians sometimes find it difficult to get on with one another and that the best thing is to go different ways without, however, breaking the basic bonds, which unite them. This story has a happy ending. Paul was eventually reconciled with Mark, doubtless through the good offices of Barnabas, who retained the affection of both of them throughout.

It is worth asking what would have happened if Mark had been lost to the early church. He might never have gone on to invent that wholly new art form the Gospel, which was to become the most influential innovation in human thought. Mark's Gospel underlies the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, which quote it wholesale; and between them these Gospels lead to John's a generation later. Without them we would have no credible knowledge of the life and ministry, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is so much to be said for friendship and simple human goodness:

Bountiful God, giver of all gifts,  
who poured your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas  
and gave him grace to encourage others:  
help us, by his example,  
to be generous in our judgements  
and unselfish in our service;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### 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.

### 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

On Sunday 7 June 2020 at 2pm, we had our first JAM Zoom meeting. Neenah Cole reports:

'Revd Frances, Geoff, Emily, Alex and their parents, Edward and his siblings, and their mum (sorry Edward I cannot spell your siblings names) and finally my mum and I.

Since it was Trinity Sunday, Rev Frances did a little service for us, and then I read out a prayer on discrimination and racism.

Revd Frances prayed about Covid 19 and our family at St Nicholas.

We were then asked to give a brief account of what we have been up to during the lockdown.

Revd Frances and Geoff are looking to organize the 'All Age Service' on Zoom for us in July. We will surely be looking forward to that.

Have a great week all, stay safe and I hope to see you next week @ 2pm on Zoom.'

Neenah Cole JAM

# ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SUTTON

14 JUNE 2020 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

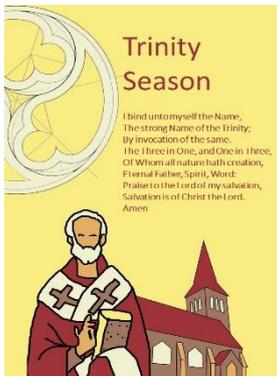
IN THE PAST WEEK...

## BLESSINGS...

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

## 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

## 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). It was lovely to see them
- Watched the 'mini-Trooping' at Windsor to celebrate the Queen's official birthday (13 June) and marvelled at socially distanced precision marching by the Welsh Guards (it brought back fond memories of the time I spent with the Household Division and the bands 2 years ago, just before coming here)

## 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 21 June is the 2<sup>nd</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 21 June** Trinity 2

MP Deuteronomy 11.1-15, Acts 27.1-12  
EP 1 Samuel 24.1-17, Luke 14.12-24

**Monday 22 June** *Alban, first martyr of Britain, c.250*

MP Judges 2, Luke 13.1-9  
EP Job 19, Romans 9.1-18

**Tuesday 23 June** *Etheldreda, abbess, c.678*

MP Judges 4.1-23, Luke 13.10-21  
EP Job 21, Romans 9.19-end

**Wednesday 24 June** Birth of John the Baptist, *Ember Day*

MP Ecclesiasticus 48.1-10, Luke 3.1-17  
EP Malachi 4, Matthew 11.2-19

**Thursday 25 June**

MP Judges 6.1-24, Luke 14.1-11  
EP Job 23, Romans 10.11-end

**Friday 26 June** *Ember Day*

MP Judges 6.25-end, Luke 14.12-24  
EP Job 24, Romans 11.1-12

**Saturday 27 June** *Ember Day*

MP Judges 7, Luke 14.25-end  
EP Job 25-26, Romans 11.13-24

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

**Departed** –David Clark (priest), Christine Griffiths, Pearl

It was a privilege to conduct Christine Griffiths' funeral at Sutton Cemetery on 17 June. 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.

Christine's daughter, Maryann, asked me to pass on her sincere thanks: your lovely letters and cards, with their kindness and loving memories of Christine, mean so much to her family.

## 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*

**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.

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

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

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

[PCCSecretary.StNicholas@suttonteamministry.org](mailto:PCCSecretary.StNicholas@suttonteamministry.org)