



The Parish of  
**ST NICHOLAS,  
SUTTON**

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

The Rectory,  
34 Robin Hood Lane,  
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*stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk*  
*Reg Charity No: 1134049*

19 April 2020

### **St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (5)**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we move through this time of pandemic and lockdown, accompanied by the familiar readings for Eastertide, we may be asking new questions and discovering new insights. The recognition that it was the risen Jesus who was sharing bread with the two disciples at Emmaus made me think again about what it is that makes bread and wine special in a communion service.

The church has argued for centuries about this. Different beliefs about the presence of Christ in the sacrament, the nature of consecration and the roles of priest and people are now being debated on social media and in our homes, as never before. The lock-down has brought new arguments about whether any of this can 'work' over the internet.

At the heart of communion is its intimacy: the sheer physicality of touch, taste and sight. More than anything it is something which a community celebrates together. Article 28 (one of the 39 articles in the *Book of Common Prayer* setting out the principal doctrines of the C of E) reminds us that the communion service is all about love: not only God's love for us, but also our love for one another. That is why it has been my instinct, since we had to close the church, for us to wait (reading the scriptures and saying our prayers in our own homes) until we can all celebrate the eucharist, gathered at the table, *together* in church. We should look to the example of Jesus' disciples, who lived their relationship with the Lord as a community.

My hunch and my hope is that this extended interval between eucharists will turn us outwards. Will it help us to empathise with all who are living with the limitations of the lockdown, with the isolation or claustrophobia that many are experiencing, and with Christian brothers and sisters who (because of persecution, shortage of priests or inability to get to church) are habitually, even permanently, unable to receive the sacrament? We are sent out from the eucharist to love and serve: let us use our time wisely, as we wait for our reunion, in whatever ways we can. For many that will be by continuing to discover new and direct ways of being in touch with and of being a blessing to others.

I am glad that some churches and cathedrals are live-streaming services for those who find it helpful, and I will list some of the main links for you. But for those of you who may wonder why we are not doing that here, I hope this begins to explain my thinking (in the words of Elvis Presley), 'It wouldn't be the same without you.'

With warmest good wishes to you all,

*Frances*

The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another; but rather is a Sacrament of our Redemption by Christ's death: insomuch that to such as rightly, worthily and with faith, receive the same, the Bread which we break is a partaking of the Body of Christ; and likewise the Cup of Blessing is a partaking of the Blood of Christ  
**(Article 28: Of the Lord's Supper)**

## **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).

## **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.

## **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), Revd Nick (Cheam) and Revd Kaz Reeves (Chaplain, Epsom & St Helier hospitals).

Thank you too for your continued prayers and support.

With my prayers and love in Christ for you

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

19 APRIL 2020 EASTER 2

## IN THE PAST WEEK...

### BLESSINGS...

- Clap for Carers
- NHS staff
- Sutton Community Support Hub
- Retail staff
- Sutton Police
- Black cabs
- Bus drivers
- Blossom
- Less pollution
- The Queen's Easter message
- Captain Tom Moore's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday walk for the NHS
- Notre-Dame's great bell tolls once more
- Doorstep/pavement conversations
- Casual clothes & pyjamas
- Theological reflection

### 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
- Strolling through the churchyard

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

- took part in a Local Ecumenical Partnership meeting by Zoom
- contributed to Sutton Borough Council's Inter Faith Response to Covid-19: focussing on community hubs & volunteering and deaths & funeral arrangements
- was humbled to receive a letter from a charity that began 'Dear St Nicholas...'
- remembered to put the musicians back on the service rota (sorry!)
- forgot to take my hymn book upstairs for Sunday worship and had to rush down to my study in the middle of the service...

## 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 26 April** is the **Third 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 26 April

MP Isaiah 40.1-11, 1 Peter 5.1-11

EP Haggai 1.13-2.9, 1 Corinthians 3.10-17

### Monday 27 April

MP Exodus 19, Luke 1.1-25

EP Deuteronomy 5.1-22, Ephesians 1.1-14

### Tuesday 28 April

MP Exodus 20.1-21, Luke 1.26-38

EP Deuteronomy 5.22-end, Ephesians 1.15-end

### Wednesday 29 April *Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 1380*

MP Exodus 24, Luke 1.39-56

EP Deuteronomy 6, Ephesians 2.1-10

### Thursday 30 April

MP Exodus 25.1-22, Luke 1.57-end

EP Deuteronomy 7.1-11, Ephesians 2.22-end

### Friday 1 May Philip and James, Apostles

MP Proverbs 4.10-18, James 1.1-12

EP Job 23.1-12, John 1.43-end

### Saturday 2 May *Athanasius, bishop, teacher of the faith, 373*

MP Exodus 29.1-9, Luke 2.21-40

EP Deuteronomy 8, Ephesians 3.14-end

**Prayer List** – Barbara, Vere, Stan

**Departed** –John Canty, Yves, Timothy Goodier

We were very sorry to hear that Rosemary Armstrong has died. Rosemary was a former church warden at St Barnabas but was also for a short time a member of St Nicholas during Sara Goatcher's time. Rosemary had been living at Gracewell for some time. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

## 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 two thousand years ago.

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

### 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!

I attach a link to YouTube, where you can find Friends of St Nicholas Churchyard Rambles exploring the history of St Nicholas Church and Sutton

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYTT2iWuCCrqVLU-c81xTmmDcyhmz5hCk>

**LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP** (St Nicholas, Sutton Baptist, Trinity Methodist/URC – Churches Uniting in Central Sutton)

**Notice about Christian Aid United Service** planned for Sunday 10 May 10.30am, at Sutton Baptist Church  
Sadly this service will not take place, as it is unlikely that we will be free to meet on that date due to current restrictions.

It has been agreed that each of the three churches will provide for their own worship on that date.

If it does become possible to meet for worship on 10 May, we will meet in our own churches.

We look forward to worshipping together again when that becomes possible.

### Christian Aid recipes

For the quiz and recipe book fund-raising activities across CUCS, please see these two web pages

Christian Aid Lockdown Quiz <https://www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk/quiz>

Christian Aid Recipe Book <https://www.trinitychurchsutton.org.uk/recipes>

### 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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