



The Parish of
**ST NICHOLAS,
SUTTON**

*Priest-in-Charge:
Revd Frances Arnold*

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



19 July 2020

St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (18)

On 18 July we remember Elizabeth Ferard, deaconess, d.1883

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

When the first Street Pastors went onto the streets of Brixton in 2003, helping and caring for the community, there were 3 men and 15 women. Women have traditionally borne the greater part of diaconal work in the churches too, but although there were women deacons in the New Testament (Phoebe) and the Early Church, and women found scope for Christian service as nuns in the Roman Catholic Church, this was rarely recognised or properly integrated into the ordained ministries of the Protestant churches. That changed, at least in the Church of England, on 18 July 1862, when Bishop (later Archbishop) Tait consecrated Elizabeth Ferard as a deaconess in London. The anniversary of her consecration is a good opportunity to reflect on the development of the diaconal role of women in towns and cities.

Elizabeth Ferard's vocation was doubly ecumenical. Born into a distinguished Huguenot (French Protestant) family, she sought training with the German Lutheran deaconesses in Kaiserswerth, as did Florence Nightingale before her. It was not easy. She did not enjoy the food and could not understand the dialect, but she persevered.

Back in London she created a sisterhood to work among the poor in the King's Cross area and Notting Hill, mostly by ministering to the sick and teaching. She integrated work in the traditional church structures of parish and diocese with the support of life in community. The new deaconesses were not nuns and they did not take life vows. They just got on with the job: as Ferard herself wrote, 'Deaconesses have the office of serving the Christian congregation...to them is committed the care of the sick, the poor, the education of children and generally the help of the needy.'

Her community eventually became the Order of St Andrew and deaconesses were a feature of church life, not only in England, but in many parts of the world-wide Anglican communion, especially in the USA. Their status was anomalous due to uncertainty as to whether they were in Holy Orders or not; and no more deaconesses could be ordained after 2004 for the good reason that women could now be ordained as deacons on the same terms as men. Although this had not been a part of Ferard's original vision, they had contributed to the eventual ordination of women as priests (1994) and bishops (2015) in the Church of England.

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 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

19 JULY 2020 6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

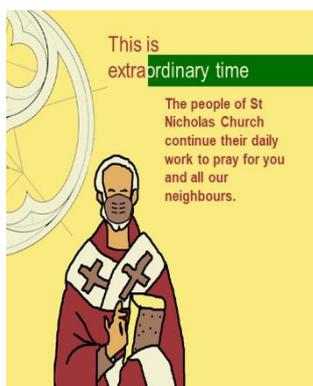
IN THE PAST WEEK...

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

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 26 July is the **7th 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 26 July Trinity 7

MP 1 Maccabees 2.[1-14] 15-22, 1 Peter 4.7-14

EP 1 Kings 6.11-14, 23-end, Acts 12.1-17

Monday 27 July

MP 1 Samuel 10.1-16, Luke 22.24-30

EP Ezekiel 14.12-end, 2 Corinthians 11.1-15

Tuesday 28 July

MP 1 Samuel 10.17-end, Luke 22.31-38

EP Ezekiel 18.1-20, 2 Corinthians 11.16-end

Wednesday 29 July *Mary, Martha and Lazarus*

MP 1 Samuel 11, Luke 22.39-46

EP Ezekiel 18.21-32, 2 Corinthians 12

Thursday 30 July *William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson*

MP 1 Samuel 12, Luke 22.47-62

EP Ezekiel 20.1-20, 2 Corinthians 13

Friday 31 July

MP 1 Samuel 13.5-18, Luke 22.63-end

EP Ezekiel 20.21-38, James 1.1-11

Saturday 1 August

MP 1 Samuel 13.19-14.15, Luke 23.1-12

EP Ezekiel 24.15-end, James 1.12-end

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.

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 1 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.

The Finance Team has asked that anyone who usually uses giving envelopes or gives cash and has been saving up during lockdown could now let the church have cheques for any monies they wish to give.

The Finance Team obviously wishes to avoid having to handle/count/bank any cash so please do not give notes or coins.

Cheques should be made payable to "St Nicholas PCC" and can be taken to church when it opens or sent to

Mr Alistair Cruickshank, 3 Park Ave, Carshalton SM5 3ES.

Or, if you can, please make a bank transfer to:

St Nicholas PCC

Metro Bank

Sort Code: 23-05-80

Account Number: 18151887

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.

FROM SUTTON COMMUNITY WORKS

Sutton Foodbank - we need more volunteers drawn from the churches to meet and greet clients when they come for food and to provide as warm a welcome as possible in this Covid environment. (Please see attached advert)

We are also recruiting new **Street Pastors** -we have been back on the streets since Friday 5th June and people do want to talk and as you can imagine there are lots of issues in peoples' lives.

Our next training is in September - Please email Caroline at: admin.sutton@streetpastors.org.uk

School Pastors - Similarly we are going back into 4 secondary schools in September plus a new grammar school. We have training for School Pastors in September.

Please email: sutton@streetpastors.org.uk for more info

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

Here is a handy short link <https://bit.ly/ChurchyardRambles>

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 12 August The **Annual Inspection of the Gibson Tomb** will be carried out by the Rector and Churchwardens in accordance with the will of Mary Gibson, but this will not be a public event this year.
Thank you for your understanding.