



The Parish of  
**ST NICHOLAS,  
SUTTON**

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

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



*St Martin cutting his cloak in two*

21 June 2020

**St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (14)**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

This is the second time in a month that I'm telling you about something on the radio that made me stop what I was doing and just listen. This time it was an extract from Pope Francis' interview on poverty (given to his biographer Austen Ivereigh). He says that the coronavirus pandemic has shown how much the poor are disconnected from society. Poverty is often hidden away, but trying to help others can help us rediscover ourselves. In his words:

'This coronavirus crisis is affecting us all, rich and poor alike, and putting a spotlight on hypocrisy. I am worried by the hypocrisy of certain political personalities who speak of facing up to the crisis, of the problem of hunger in the world, but who in the meantime manufacture weapons. This is a time to be converted from this kind of functional hypocrisy. It's a time for integrity. Either we are coherent with our beliefs or we lose everything.

Every crisis contains both danger and opportunity. Today I believe we have to slow down our rate of production and consumption and to learn to understand and contemplate the natural world. We need to reconnect with our real surroundings. This is the opportunity for conversion.

I see early signs of an economy that is more human. But let us not lose our memory once all this is past, let us not file it away and go back to where we were. This is the time to take the decisive step, to move from using and misusing nature to contemplating it. We have lost the contemplative dimension; we have to get it back.

And speaking of contemplation, I'd like to dwell on one point. This is the moment to see the poor. Jesus says we will have the poor with us always, and it's true. They are a reality we cannot deny. But the poor are hidden, because poverty is bashful. In Rome recently, in the midst of the quarantine, a policeman said to a man: "You can't be on the street, go home." The response was: "I have no home. I live in the street."

There is such a large number of people who are on the margins. And we don't see them, because poverty is bashful. They have become part of the landscape; they are things. Mother Teresa saw them and had the courage to embark on a journey of conversion. To "see" the poor means to restore their humanity. They are not things, not garbage; they are people. We can't settle for a welfare policy such as we have for rescued animals, which is how the poor are often treated.

I'm going to dare to offer some advice. This is the time to go to the underground. I'm thinking of Dostoyevsky's short novel, *Notes from Underground*. The employees of that prison hospital had become so inured they treated their poor prisoners like things. And seeing the way they treated one who had just died, the one on the bed alongside tells them: "Enough! He too had a mother!" We need to tell ourselves this often: that poor person had a mother who raised him lovingly. Later in life we don't know what happened. But it helps to think of that love he once received through his mother's hope.

We disempower the poor. We don't give them the right to dream of their mothers. They don't know what affection is; many live on drugs. And to see them can help us to discover the piety, which points towards God and towards our neighbour. Go down into the underground, and pass from the hyper-virtual, fleshless world to the suffering flesh of the poor. This is the conversion we have to undergo. And if we don't start there, then there will be no conversion.'

I want to share this with you as food for thought and to inform our prayers.

### 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 we had another Zoom Spectrum meeting. Emily reports:

'We learnt about the Good Samaritan. It is a story Jesus told about a man who was beaten up by thieves and was very injured. The man was lying on the floor and then a priest came walking down the same road and didn't bother to help him because he thought the man looked dead anyway. Another priest came later on and saw the man lying on the floor. He thought that he would die soon anyway and also didn't stop. Eventually a Samaritan man came down the same road and thought he would help even though he didn't believe in the same thing as the injured man. The Samaritan took the man to an Inn anyway and looked after him carefully. He looked after his neighbour. Jesus said we should go and do as the Samaritan man did. We also spoke about how Black Lives Matter protester Patrick Hutchinson was a hero and good samaritan when he carried injured Bryn Male to safety at the protests in London at the weekend, even though Bryn was a counter-protester. I really enjoy our Zoom Spectrum meetings.'

*Emily Gordon*

# ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SUTTON

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

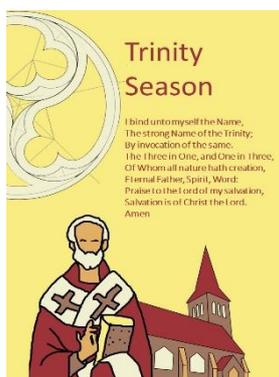
## IN THE PAST WEEK...

### BLESSINGS...

- NHS staff
- Sutton Community Support Hub
- Shops open in High Street (15 June)
- Sutton Police
- Bus drivers
- Street Pastors
- Rainbow (16 June)
- 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
- Took part in a Local Ecumenical Partnership meeting by Zoom
- Attended Independent Advisory Group (Zoom) meeting about impact of recent events on community in Sutton
- Learned more about Vera Lynn from the tributes following her death at the age of 103

### 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 28 June is the 3<sup>rd</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 28 June** Trinity 3

MP Deuteronomy 15.1-11, Acts 27.33-end  
EP 1 Samuel 28.3-19, Luke 17.20-end

**Monday 29 June** Peter & Paul, Apostles

MP Isaiah 49.1-6, John 21.15-22  
EP Ezekiel 34.11-16, Psalm 125

**Tuesday 30 June**

MP Judges 9.1-21, Luke 15.11-end  
EP Job 28, Romans 12.1-8

**Wednesday 1 July**

MP Judges 9.22-end, Luke 16.1-18  
EP Job 29, Romans 12.9-end

**Thursday 2 July**

MP Judges 11.1-11, Luke 16.19-end  
EP Job 30, Romans 13.1-7

**Friday 3 July** Thomas the Apostle

MP Ecclesiasticus 2, John 11.1-6  
EP Job 42.1-6, 1 Peter 1.3-12

**Saturday 4 July**

MP Judges 12.1-7, Luke 17.11-19  
EP Job 32, Romans 14.1-12

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

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

**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. Here is a handy short link:

<https://bit.ly/ChurchyardRambles>

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

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