



The Parish of  
**ST NICHOLAS,  
SUTTON**

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

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

26 April 2020

**St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (6)**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

One little challenge for me during this period of lockdown has been finding a photo for the worship booklet and for Facebook each week. This reporter is not getting out much! With hindsight, an interesting thing has happened. In the first week of lockdown I was still able to photograph inside the church. After that, for several weeks, I photographed the outside of the church from the garden and the inside of the upstairs room where I lead Sunday worship. Now that those possibilities have been exhausted, I have started to take different views of Sutton from the broad window of this Rectory worship room (see below).

As I look out over the rooftops and pray 'give us this day our daily bread', I know that some of the people living out there will be struggling financially and will be finding it difficult to access food. And when lockdown is over, I feel sure that this view of Sutton from my upper room will always remind me of the increased hardship the pandemic has brought in its wake. This crisis has both raised awareness of those who need help and focussed my gaze onto the town while I worship.

Notices on our closed churches say that the Church 'continues to be alive and active'; and there has been great excitement about the possibilities of joining others online for prayer and worship. But caring for each other is the other main way in which the church can continue to be alive. And in order to do that, we need to be looking out of our windows rather than into our screens.

Out there too are the people in our local charities and community and volunteer groups. There has been an unprecedented response to the crisis here. As well as the help available through the local authority, Age UK Sutton, Community Action Sutton and Volunteer Centre Sutton have come together to lead and coordinate the response across the voluntary and community sector (offering help through Sutton Hub). Our own initiative, the MU/Lunch Club Team (or Contact group), has emerged in the midst of these community networks to seek out those among us in most need of help. This is a good news story.

Remember how during Lent our services began with the Summary of the Law?

These words are more pertinent than ever this Lent and Easter:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...

Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these (Mark 12.29-31).

The second commandment is not just added to the first, it is the way in which we obey it.



I lead worship from 'The Bishop's dressing room' (as it's known!) upstairs in The Rectory.

This view, includes Balaam House which is just visible between the rooftops on the left hand side.

## 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.

I've received messages of thanks to pass on, including the following:

'And another big thank you to all those of you who phone me to make sure I have no problems'

'Please thank all the kind members of the church for their contact and support'

## 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 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.

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

26 APRIL 2020 EASTER 4

## IN THE PAST WEEK...

### BLESSINGS...

- Clap for Carers
- NHS staff
- Sutton Community Support Hub
- Retail staff
- Sutton Police
- Black cabs
- Bus drivers
- Sky, a deeper shade of blue
- Less pollution
- Baptist Minister Allan Finnegan's stand-up set on *Britain's Got Talent*
- Doorstep/pavement drinks

### 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

### 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

### Southwark Diocesan Prayer Calendar (monthly)

can be found at

<https://southwark.anglican.org/information/resources/prayer-calendar/>

(this includes the Anglican Cycle of Prayer)

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

- Took part in a weekly Zoom meeting with the Churchwardens
- Remembered 1<sup>st</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Sutton Scouts as they joined in the District-wide promise renewal online on St George's Day
- Noted that Ramadan had begun

## 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 3 May** is the **Fourth Sunday of Easter**.

THANK YOU TO BEVERLY for this morning's prayers.

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 3 May

MP Nehemiah 9.6-15, 1 Corinthians 10.1-13

EP Ezra 3.1-13, Ephesians 2.11-end

### Monday 4 May

MP Exodus 32.1-14, Luke 2.41-end

EP Deuteronomy 9.1-21, Ephesians 4.1-16

### Tuesday 5 May

MP Exodus 32.15-34, Luke 3.1-14

EP Deuteronomy 9.23-10.5, Ephesians 4.17-end

### Wednesday 6 May

MP Exodus 33, Luke 3.15-22

EP Deuteronomy 10.12-end, Ephesians 5.1-14

### Thursday 7 May

MP Exodus 34.1-10, 27-end, Luke 4.1-13

EP Deuteronomy 11.8-end, Ephesians 5.15-end

**Friday 8 May**

MP Exodus 35.20-36.7, Luke 4.14-30

EP Deuteronomy 12.1-14, Ephesians 6.1-9

**Saturday 9 May**

MP Exodus 40.17-end, Luke 4.31-37

EP Deuteronomy 15.1-18, Ephesians 6.10-end

**Prayer List** – Barbara, Vere, Stan, Alastair

**Departed** – Timothy Goodier, Rosemary Armstrong, The Revd Peter Holmes (Norbiton)

## 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 1 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.

**BISHOP JONATHAN'S REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, 'THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE?...'** can be found on his blog <https://clarkinholyorders.blog/2020/04/25/this-joyful-eastertide/>. I commend it to you.

**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.

<p>There is to be an online service at 1pm on Sunday 10 May for anyone interested in joining friends in the Christian Aid community</p>
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**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)

Contact details:

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