



The Parish of
ST NICHOLAS,
SUTTON

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Frances Arnold

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

28 June 2020

St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (15)

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Here is a poem which the author wrote on the train home after the announcement of total lockdown was made in Aotearoa, New Zealand. She felt like she could hear Mother Earth exhaling in relief as everyone began their journeys home. She says that in truth, one month of lockdown is not enough. Even six months would not be enough! We need a total and sustained change of habit, globally and within our own communities: 'I hope so much we take our time to reflect on the fact that if we can do it to save ourselves for a month, we ought to be able to make similar habit changes for Mother Earth for the long term.'

A poem for Papatūānuku Mother Earth by Nadine Anne Hura, recently shared by Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Glynis (thank you Glynis!)

Rest now, e Papatūānuku
Breathe easy and settle
Right here where you are
We'll not move upon you
For awhile

We'll stop, we'll cease
We'll slow down and stay home

Draw each other close and be kind
Kinder than we've ever been.
I wish we could say we were doing it for you
as much as ourselves

But hei aha

We're doing it anyway

It's right. It's time.
Time to return
Time to remember
Time to listen and forgive
Time to withhold judgment
Time to cry
Time to think

About others
Remove our shoes
Press hands to soil
Sift grains between fingers

Gentle palms

Time to plant
Time to wait
Time to notice
To whom we belong

For now it's just you
And the wind
And the forests and the oceans and the sky full of rain

Finally, it's raining!

Ka turuturu te wai kamo o Rangi ki runga i a koe

Embrace it

This sacrifice of solitude we have carved out for you

He iti noaiho – a small offering

People always said it wasn't possible

To ground flights and stay home and stop our habits of consumption

But it was

It always was.

We were just afraid of how much it was going to hurt

– and it IS hurting and it will hurt and continue to hurt

But not as much as you have been hurt.

So be still now

Wrap your hills around our absence

Loosen the concrete belt cinched tight at your waist

Rest.

Breathe.

Recover.

Heal –

And we will do the same.

Nadine Anne Hura, 23 March 2020

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*

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SUTTON

28 JUNE 2020 3rd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

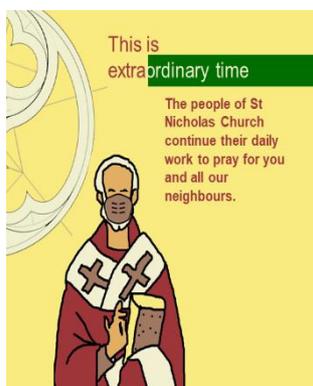
IN THE PAST WEEK...

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)

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIS WEEK I...

- Took part in a weekly Zoom meeting with the Churchwardens
- Took part in a Churches Together in Sutton & Cheam meeting by Zoom
- Continued diocesan training by Zoom
- Watched 'The School That Tried to End Racism' (Glenthorne) on Channel 4
- Observed 2 minutes' silence on Windrush Day (22 June 2020)

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 5 July is the 4th Sunday after Trinity – All Age talk & prayers

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 5 July Trinity 4

MP Deuteronomy 24.10-end, Acts 28.1-16
EP 2 Samuel 2.1-11; 3.1, Luke 18.31-19.10

Monday 6 July

MP Judges 13.1-24, Luke 17.20-end
EP Job 33, Romans 14.13-end

Tuesday 7 July

MP Judges 14, Luke 18.1-14
EP Job 38, Romans 15.1-13

Wednesday 8 July

MP Judges 15.1-16.3, Luke 18.15-30
EP Job 39, Romans 15.14-21

Thursday 9 July

MP Judges 16.4-end, Luke 18.31-end
EP Job 40, Romans 15.22-end

Friday 10 July

MP Judges 17, Luke 19.1-10
EP Job 41, Romans 16.1-16

Saturday 11 July *Benedict, abbot, c.550*

MP Judges 18.1-20, 27-end, Luke 19.11-27
EP Job 42, Romans 16.17-end

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

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

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**

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.

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>