

The Parish of
**ST NICHOLAS,
SUTTON**
Priest-in-Charge:
Revd Frances Arnold

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

29 November 2020

St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus (23)

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

I hope you are keeping safe and well. The last few weeks have not been easy, but it is welcome news that our churches can reopen for worship when lockdown ends at midnight on Wednesday 2 December. This means that we can approach Advent and Christmas with more certainty as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. We are still awaiting more detailed guidance, however, so please continue to check the notices and website for the most up-to-date information about our services and opening times.

Whether at church or at home, please pray that people will find strength and hope in these difficult times: pray for those who are vulnerable or afraid, for themselves or the people they love. Give thanks for those who work in our medical and support services and pray that those who are researching prevention and cure will soon succeed.

Please let me know if there is anything we can do to support you during lockdown and continue to pray for and keep in touch with each other.

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 warmest good wishes to you all,

Frances

ADVENT SERVICE from The Rectory, Broadcast by Zoom
10.30am, Sunday 29 November 2020

You are welcome to join this Service of the Word on your computer or other device.

You might like to refer to the Order of Service and have the Readings to hand.

They have been emailed to you with this letter and are available on the website

<http://stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk/>

When you are signed in to Zoom you can 'Join a Meeting'.

PLEASE EMAIL REVD FRANCES (email address below) FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF HOW TO JOIN.

You will be muted automatically when you join the 'meeting' (service). Please remain muted throughout the service.

The service will start at 10.30am, but I will open the Zoom facility at 10.20am to allow everyone to log in and to overcome any glitches which may crop up. (The service will take about 30 minutes).

We will be joining our prayers with those who are unable to be with us on Zoom as we look forward to that time when we will be reunited in church.

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.

Sunday Services from the Bishop of Southwark's Chapel and Southwark Cathedral

From Sunday 8 November Bishop Christopher will be streaming a Eucharist from his Chapel at Bishop's House at 9.30am.

It can be found on the Diocesan Facebook and YouTube feeds and on Bishop Christopher's Twitter feed. @BishopSouthwark and on the Diocesan Facebook and YouTube channels at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthwarkCofE> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/SouthwarkDiocese>

Southwark Cathedral will continue to stream Morning Prayer from the Cathedral each day at 9am.

Night Prayer will continue to be streamed at 8pm Monday to Saturday and at 6pm on Sunday.

The Sunday Eucharist will be streamed at 11am.

These can all be found on the Cathedral website and the Cathedral Facebook and YouTube channels.

Archbishops' Call to Prayer

The Archbishops have called for 28 days of prayer starting from Thursday 5 November and continuing until the end of the period of lockdown. We are invited to prayer throughout this period but particularly to prayer together, wherever we are, at 6pm each day.

The Archbishops have asked that we focus on prayer and service.

We are asked to particularly focus our prayers on those who are isolated and alone, seeking God's wisdom as to how we can best serve them during this second lockdown.

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

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 or the churchwardens in the first instance. When you do, we will either be able to help you ourselves 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

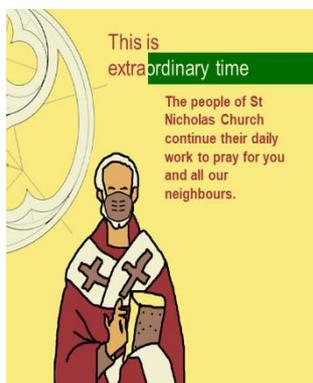
Please continue to watch out for each other and contact me or the wardens, John Kerr or Geoff Rendall, if you are concerned for someone.

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

29 NOVEMBER 2020

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

Worship

Sunday 29 November, 1st Sunday of Advent.

10.30am Service of the Word from The Rectory, Broadcast by Zoom

You are welcome to join our worship with Zoom on your computer or by following the Order of Service in your own home.

6pm Cathedral ADVENT PROCESSION

Southwark Cathedral will be premiering its Advent Procession on **Advent Sunday, 29 November at 6pm.**

All are welcome to join this special service online to mark the beginning of the season of Advent.

The Cathedral Lay Clerks will lead everyone from darkness to light, in the candlelit Cathedral as we celebrate the biblical figures heralding the birth of the Messiah.

The service will be available online at this link: <https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/worship-and-music/worship/live-service-stream/> should you wish to use it for your own online Advent devotions.

Sunday 6 December, Patronal Festival, St Nicholas

10.30am, Holy Communion in Church

Thursday 3 December:

10.00am Holy Communion in Church (followed by Private Prayer, 10.30am-12.30pm)

We will provide further details about Advent and Christmas Services as soon as possible.

(Bible readings for Morning and Evening Prayer are on the worship sheet).

Prayer List – Stan, Roger, the David family, Mary, Mark, John
Departed – Graham Hall, Betty, Gareth, Ray

Charity of the Month for December is The Children's Society.

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 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.

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

PRIVATE PRAYER on Thursdays, 10.30am-12.30pm

You will find details about what to expect in the letter 'Reopening for private prayer & reflection' on the website www.stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk and in the Welcome video <https://youtu.be/O-3a5lpXDAo>

WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS AND THURSDAYS

You will find details about what to expect in the letter 'Open for worship' on the website www.stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk

SERMONS FROM THE BISHOPS The bishops will be providing sermons for Sundays during Advent, which will be emailed to you each week. Thank you to the bishops.

IT WOULDN'T BE ST NICHOLAS WITHOUT A RAFFLE! For the first time in living memory, we are not able to hold our Patronal Lunch this year, but we can still have a raffle!

This year it is a virtual raffle with a real prize! We are asking you to pledge the money for your virtual tickets. Tickets are £1 each, and all profits raised will go to St Nicholas Church.

This is what you have to do:

Let us know by text (07702 543765), phone (020 8770 1075) or email (nicki@abstraining.com) how many tickets you would like and how much you are pledging. For example, "I would like to buy 5 tickets and hereby pledge £5". Please note, you will not receive the paper tickets.

The raffle will be pulled on St Nicholas Day, 6 December, and the grand total of pledges announced at the same time!

www.stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk

Contact details:

Parish Office, email: administrator@suttonteamministry.org Tel: 020 8643 8271

Rev Frances Arnold (Priest in charge – Rector designate), email: rector.stnicholassutton@gmail.com Tel: 020 8642 3499

All entries for the notice sheet should be emailed by **10pm on Wednesday** each week to: PCCSecretary.StNicholas@suttonteamministry.org and administrator@suttonteamministry.org