



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

The Rectory,
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stnicholas.suttonteam.org.uk
Reg Charity No: 1134049

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St Nicholas Church and Coronavirus

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I have just completed Sunday worship for our website – something I would not have foreseen last Sunday. I look back fondly on our two morning Eucharists, confirmation class and United Evening Worship at St Nicholas.

I know that now many in our community will be concerned about falling ill, about loneliness and about boredom. There are financial worries and strains on family and communal living. In this changing situation there will be new information to pass on. We'll be using the St Nicholas website, but are also looking at other ways to reach everyone.

Sunday Worship and Open Thursdays

I am sure you will know that the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued guidance to all churches to say that there is to be no public worship for the foreseeable future: for us this includes Sunday services, Thursday services and Festivals. This is disappointing for all of us. We must keep up our spirits and strive to maintain our unity in worship. Let's begin on this Mothering Sunday by joining in the 10.30 am service together. I will be leading the service alone in Church. Please follow the Order of Service and sing confidently in your own home. I will be thinking of you all and praying for you and longing for our future reunion.

Other gatherings

All small groups (including the Lent groups and Confirmation class) should stop meeting or be postponed in line with government advice to reduce social contact. These groups form an important part of our community life together, so please make use of telephone, email, text and WhatsApp to stay in touch.

Pastoral Network

We are considering the best way of making sure that we can all keep in contact. There is more to follow on this, but please continue to use your current networks.

Staying in touch

Stay in touch about ways that we can care for you and pray for you.

My contact details are: rector.stnicholassutton@gmail.com 020 8642 3499

I'd be glad to hear from you.

Thank you for your patience as we make these difficult changes.

This past week has been particularly difficult as we have had to support funerals under changed circumstances and help those whose wedding banns cannot now be read in church. There will be more changes to adapt to in the days and weeks ahead. I would like to thank John and Geoff as wardens, Ginny and Stephen in the office and Mary as SPA for their support. Thank you too for your continued prayers and support.

Love one another

We recognise the call of Christ to love one another and the wider community with acts of service. Do watch out for each other and contact me or the wardens if you are concerned for someone. Please 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 love and blessings,

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.**