

News from the Diocese

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ - we hope you are keeping well and enjoying a little more freedom now we are beginning to emerge from the worst effects of the pandemic.

COVID-19 guidelines for public worship remain in place – please wear a mask unless exempt, hand sanitise, register your presence either through your NHS APP or by adding your name and contact number to the Register, maintain your distance and remember **NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING**. Please **LEAVE** the church **DIRECTLY** after the Mass.

Thank a Hero campaign - This campaign is just one of the many ways we are celebrating heroes in our communities. The Daily Mirror has asked for nominations for the Thank a Hero campaign it will be running in June to thank the grass-roots volunteers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the past year. If you have a nominee in mind, please e-mail

communications@southwark.anglican.org with the subject line of "Mirror hero" and a short account of the work the nominee has been undertaking, as well as their name, age and where they are from.

The Communications Team will then pass this on to the newspaper.

India - Please remember our brothers and sisters in India in your prayers and give if you are able. More than 200,000 lives have been lost to the pandemic in India. Across the country, hospitals are overrun and oxygen supplies are falling short of demand. Find out more here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals-emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal/coronavirus-response-india>

Due to the continued restrictions, Bishop Christopher's 2020 Instrument that gave permission for Incumbents or Area Deans to swear in Churchwardens will also apply in 2021. This means that **the Archdeacon's Visitation Service, where Churchwardens are sworn in their role for the coming year, will not be held again this year.** Here in this Benefice, we will do this at the first PCC following the APCM, using the recommended prayers/commissioning words together with the Churchwarden's Declaration which they must make before taking office.

CHURCHWARDENS' TRAINING DATE

Saturday 4 September from 10:00 to 12:00 at Christ Church, Purley.

This training event is aimed at those who are new to the role or those who would like a refresher.

The law on the registration of marriages is changing on 4th May. This is to enable the details of the couple's mothers to be recorded as well as their fathers. At the same time, the General Register Office is moving to digital registration of weddings.

We wish you all a restful and pleasant Bank Holiday tomorrow, assuring you of our continued prayers and good wishes.

The Rt. Revd. Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark Sophia Jones, Diocesan Communications Director.

Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents & St. Mark, South Norwood

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



2nd May 2021

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley
Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.00am Parish Mass

President and Preacher – Mother Susan

Acts 8.26-40 * Psalm 22.25-31 * 1 John 4.7-21 * John 15.1-8

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

This week's diary

Thursday 6 th May	Feria	10.00am Mass at Holy Innocents
Sunday 9 th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	8am BCP Mass 10am Parish Mass Followed by Saint Mark's APCM

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is available on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com
Mother Roxanne is not available on Mondays.
Mother Susan (07890 780572) not available on Fridays.

We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; Bishops Christopher, Jonathan, Richard and Karowei in this Diocese; the Bishops in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

For St James, Merton - Vacant (V); Mark Budden (AsstP); Graham Derriman (PTO)

For the Bishops, priests & people of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

For the sick – Enid, Alec, Richard, Helen, Jennifer and Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Vera, Barry & Valerie, Sheila, Andrew (Scorgie), Rose, Allison, Caroline, Gillian, Donald & Sigi, Anecka, Monica, Shirley, Lynn, Dennis, Rosemary, CP, Joanne, Melanie, Ronald, Faye, Tommy and Ena.

For the bereaved; the recently departed; Years Mind.

Pray for India

I will say of the Lord, 'You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'

God of power and might we lift our brothers and sisters in India to you.

We pray for your protection,

We pray for your provision,

We pray for the nations of earth to have compassion,

When people are in need, you are our refuge.

When people are scared, you are our refuge.

When people are mourning, you are our refuge.

Compassionate God, draw close to those who seek your refuge today.

Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to
us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going
before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
(8.26-40)*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip,
'Get up and go towards the south to the
road that goes down from Jerusalem to
Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he
got up and went. Now there was an
Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the
Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in
charge of her entire treasury. He had
come to Jerusalem to worship and was
returning home; seated in his chariot,
he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then
the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this
chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it
and heard him reading the prophet
Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand
what you are reading?' He replied,
'How can I, unless someone guides me?'
And he invited Philip to get in and sit
beside him. Now the passage of the
scripture that he was reading was this:
'Like a sheep he was led to the
slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before
its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied
him.

Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the
earth.'
The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom,
may I ask you, does the prophet say
this, about himself or about someone
else?' Then Philip began to speak, and
starting with this scripture, he
proclaimed to him the good news about
Jesus.

As they were going along the road, they
came to some water; and the eunuch
said, 'Look, here is water! What is to
prevent me from being baptized?' He
commanded the chariot to stop, and
both of them, Philip and the eunuch,
went down into the water, and Philip
baptized him. When they came up out
of the water, the Spirit of the Lord
snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw
him no more, and went on his way
rejoicing. But Philip found himself at
Azotus, and as he was passing through
the region, he proclaimed the good
news to all the towns until he came to
Caesarea.

*This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God*

PSALM 22.25-31

Be not far from me, O Lord.

From you comes my praise in the great
congregation; I will perform my vows in
the presence of those that fear you.
The poor shall eat and be
satisfied; those who seek the Lord shall
praise him; their hearts shall live for
ever. *Refrain*

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall
bow before him.
For the kingdom is the Lord's and he
rules over the nations.
How can those who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship, or those who
go down to the dust kneel before
him. *Refrain*

He has saved my life for himself;
my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for
generations to come.
They shall come and make known his
salvation, to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done
it. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of John
(4.7-21)*

Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is from God; everyone
who loves is born of God and knows
God. Whoever does not love does not
know God, for God is love. God's love
was revealed among us in this way: God

sent his only Son into the world so that
we might live through him.

In this is love, not that we loved God
but that he loved us and sent his Son to
be the atoning sacrifice for our
sins. Beloved, since God loved us so
much, we also ought to love one
another. No one has ever seen God; if
we love one another, God lives in us,
and his love is perfected in us.
By this we know that we abide in him
and he in us, because he has given us of
his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that
the Father has sent his Son as the
Saviour of the world. God abides in
those who confess that Jesus is the Son
of God, and they abide in God. So we
have known and believe the love that
God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in
love abide in God, and God abides in
them. Love has been perfected among
us in this: that we may have boldness on
the day of judgement, because as he is,
so are we in this world. There is no
fear in love, but perfect love casts out
fear; for fear has to do with
punishment, and whoever fears has not
reached perfection in love.

We love because he first loved
us. Those who say, 'I love God', and
hate their brothers or sisters, are liars;
for those who do not love a brother or
sister whom they have seen, cannot
love God whom they have not seen.
The commandment we have from him
is this: those who love God must love
their brothers and sisters also.

*This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God*

GOSPEL

John 15.1-8

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,
the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.
Amen.