

St John the Evangelist, Essington

Part of the United Benefice of Essington, Featherstone and Sharesill

Sunday 22nd March
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT

Twitter: @StEssington, @StTots
Facebook: St Johns Church Essington
Website: stjohnessington.co.uk



If you have a hearing aid with a T position then use it to tune into the loop system.
A VERY WARM WELCOME

if you are picking up this pewsheet today.

This is a difficult pewsheet to write, Due to the current crisis all of our services are cancelled. It doesn't mean that we are closed down however. The building will remain open during the day as usual for quiet, individual reflective prayer. If you find that you are not alone in church, please give space to whoever is here with you. If you have a baptism or wedding booked, you will be contacted in due course advising the next steps.

PRAYER GROUP

Due to the ongoing crisis all prayer group meetings are cancelled until further notice.

FOOD BANK

In this difficult time, it is more important than ever to continue to put your donations in the black bin by the font at the back of church.

PRAYER LIST

Please could you add any new names to the sheet at the back of church. This list will be renewed at the end of May.

WEB OPENING UPDATE

The official opening of the WEB building on 30th May has been cancelled.

Dear Fellow Pandemic Endurers,

Charles Dickens' famous novel, A Tale of Two Cities" begins like this, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, in short, the period was so far like the present period".

So, nothing new now then!

It is heart-warming to see that in the midst of our worst emergency for generations there is a spirit that will not be crushed. Many people nationally and locally are already organising to support those who the coronavirus is affecting. The government and local authorities will have their role but at the level of individual help it's down to us. We have heard of local people organising to help the vulnerable and this is wonderful.

That's how this can become the "best of times".

Public worship at all C of E churches has been suspended; but the church is the people not just the building. We want to offer a service to all those who, for whatever reason, are feeling isolated, vulnerable or lonely. There is in the April edition of the "Essington Connection" a list of names and telephone numbers.

There is also the normal list of church contacts. All of these people have agreed to be a point of contact for whoever and whatever the need. The person you phone may not be the one to fetch your prescription or bring in some shopping but they will get on to someone who will and for your security let you know the name of the person who will call. Any of these people will gladly have a chat on the phone if you need to hear a friendly voice. There are even some of us who could offer to take you to your doctors or hospital appointment if your usual lift isn't available.

Here is an excerpt from a long letter sent out on 17th March by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York,

"We, the Church of Jesus Christ, with our sisters and brothers from other Christian churches, must be in the forefront of providing practical care and support for the most poor and the most vulnerable and we offer our services to all those who are beginning to think through how best to provide for those in need."

They finish their letter, "This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly a church for all, or just the church for ourselves? We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world.

Please, therefore, join us in this great challenge; and pray for our government and nation, for each other, and especially those who work in our health and emergency services."

We at St Johns echo this. Anyone who would like to join in please do phone one of the numbers in the "Essington Connection" and get your name on the list of helpers.

This is one of life's great challenges. Let's rise to it!

Thank you,

The community of St Johns in Essington

In addition to the names in the St Johns Ministry Team here are a couple of other numbers you can ring as a first point of contact;

Rev Rosemary Biddle

01922 419032

Sue Davenport 01922 495516

Sue Hinks/Caldwell 01922 516450