

The Essington **Connection**

www.stjohnsessington.co.uk



June 2020

50p

Dear Readers,

“Turn your face toward the sun
And the shadows will fall behind you”

This is apparently a Maori proverb and it was sent to me in an email from a cruise company, one of many such companies at the moment who are encouraging me to think about holidays, early in 2021 even if not later this year.

I'm afraid that I really can't turn my thoughts to planning any major trip yet. While I feel desperately sorry for all those people involved in the leisure industries who found their incomes cut off literally overnight, it will be some time before I shall feel comfortable venturing abroad. Airports aren't my favourite places at the best of times!

No, my first trip, as soon as I am allowed, will be to the Cotswolds. We had a visit planned for the end of March.....! I think lots of us will be discovering or rediscovering parts of the British Isles later this year.

In the meantime - and this is the real reason I included the quotation at the beginning of this page - we can all turn our faces to the sun, even if it's only on our own doorsteps, and even if it's only for a few minutes each day. We can take in a little bit of vitamin D and feel the warmth. And perhaps, just perhaps, for a short while the shadows will fall behind us.

Thank you for reading this online issue of "Connection" - I hope you find something of interest in it.

Kate Rissbrook.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH DIARY - JUNE 2020

At the moment, all regular Church services have been suspended. Please be aware that the Church is not open, even for private prayer.

Please check the Notice Boards outside Church or go online to check our web site on <http://stjohnsessington.co.uk> or Facebook (see below) for information on un-locking the lock down.

Remember, St. John's Church can be found on:

Twitter: @StEssington, @StTots

Facebook: St Johns Church Essington

Website: stjohsessington.co.uk

Essington Wood Wives Club

To all our Members, although we can't meet up at the moment, I hope everyone is taking care and keeping safe.

Hopefully, we will be able to meet up soon and resume our meetings.

***Margaret Derry
Chair.***

Parish Letter

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are in our 10th week of lockdown. 70 days and continuing, with no real end in sight. We have lost family, friends and colleagues. We cannot and must not approach those we love the most in case we pass the virus to them and we cannot come together as a Christian community to worship, mourn or celebrate in our traditional way.

Our family should now have been camping in a field in East Sussex with over 25,000 other Christians at the Big Church Day Out, two days of worship and fellowship with incredible music, sharing stories, journeys and having some fun. This is my tribe, and I miss them very much.

The BCDO became an annual pilgrimage for us, it restored us, being with our tribe was incredibly joyful, at times euphoric and certainly put the love of Jesus back at the centre of our lives. There is a sense of real sadness not being able to connect and share our faith because the company of our fellow Christians gives us strength, a sense of solidarity and comfort. But, this week we see two major events in Christ's own journey, after 40 days with the disciples Jesus leaves them and ascends into heaven. Ascension Day sees a bitter sweet parting, Jesus is taken up to be with His father in heaven, the disciples think they are on their own but Jesus has one further gift for them and He instructs them not to leave Jerusalem, but to stay together until the spirit visited them, Pentecost.

Those new Christians were also alone, afraid and vulnerable. Their leader was gone and the threats of arrest, persecution, derision and death were very real. They

continued.....

needed the strength and encouragement of each other more than ever before and perhaps something more, something a little bit 'out of this world' and they didn't have to wait long. On the day of Pentecost they were altogether when 'a sound like a rush of violent wind' filled the house. 'Divided tongues, as of fire appeared among them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke other languages as the spirit gave them the ability', Acts 2. 1-13.

Peter addressed the crowds, the naysayers were moved to hear him speak, '3,000 a day came to be baptised, and as they ate and drank with generous hearts and came together in the temples, the numbers grew and day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved'. Those early Christians needed each other, they were vulnerable to an enemy they could not see, but they were not alone, as they began to draw upon the strengths of each other they grew in courage and in numbers. They were not alone, Jesus promised them, 'I am with you always even till the end of time'.

We have all received gifts these past 10 weeks, we have discovered within ourselves and others talents we never knew before, kindness, patience, courage, comfort and the ability to find joy in the little things. We are not able to come together but nor are we apart, we are using our gifts and talents to help others, many of us will have seen the kindness of neighbours, even strangers. As a community we are supporting each other, showing our love through our actions and this is exactly what we have all been called to do. I hope when we come back together our 'tribe' has grown, new friendships forged, seeds of faith sown. We will certainly have learned something about ourselves, our resourcefulness and our resilience. When we emerge there will be sadness, life will be different, there will be people missing from our lives, but our Lord has them in His care and He has us.

continued.....

I hope the gifts you have been given continue to grow, may you all flourish in your very different ways, may we be a joy and a comfort to each other until we can meet again.

God's blessings to us all,

Janette Thomas
CYFAM

SOME OF THE ST. JOHN'S TEAM

Wardens:	John Peterken Tel. 01902 723157	Children, Mrs Janette Thomas
	Phil Thomas Tel. 01902 739745	Youth & Tel. 07828 213595
		Families: E-mail: janettethomas129@live.co.uk

Readers: Mrs Delphine Hipkiss
Tel. 01902 828064

Mrs Mary White
Tel. 01922 478853

CHURCH OFFICERS

Secretary: Mrs Hilary Southern
Tel. 01922 445265

Verger: Mrs Joy Burrows
Tel. 01922 407698

Here are some more names who are part of the St John's Team They can be a useful first point of contact;

Rev Rosemary Biddle	01922 419032
Sue Davenport	01922 495516
Sue Hinks-Caldwell	01922 516450

See also the website [Contact Us](#) page

Stjohnsessington.co.uk

(I'm leaving these details in the Magazine for future reference, although of course there will be no Office Hours until further notice. Ed.)

Arrangements for weddings and baptisms at St. John's Church can be made during Office Hours at the Church on the first and third Saturdays of the month between 10.00 am and 11.30 am, to book dates or ask questions.

For enquiries regarding placing an entry in the Memorial Book in Church, please contact
Mrs Mavis Glennon, Tel. 01543 467675.

Essington Guild of Friends

There are no meetings of the Guild of Friends until further notice, but we wish to assure everyone that our meetings have only been postponed, and not cancelled!

Roy Davis
Secretary.

District & Parish Councillors

Warren Fisher & Christopher Steel

w.fisher@sstaffs.gov.uk Telephone No. 07908 853484

c.steel@sstaffs.gov.uk Telephone No. 07984 641361

Staffordshire County Councillors

Kath Perry Telephone No. 01922 412369

Bernard Williams Telephone No. 01922 410259,
e-mail bernard.williams@staffordshire.gov.uk

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01922 711608

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Friends of Essington



Social Events - FoE Pub Quiz

The FoE Virtual Quiz is still taking place on Facebook every Thursday evening to entertain and educate (just after the applause for NHS and other key workers).

Date: Every Thursday (until further notice)
Venue: The Internet
Start time: 8.10 pm
Cost: £ Free!

Invitation only, via the private group “Essington FoE Quiz”.

When the lockdown is over, and we return to a “normal” life, we intend to resume our normal Pub Quiz back in Essington Working Men’s Club. Some of our new virtual quizzers may wish to keep supporting us, so see you soon!

Environmental Activities

- **Fly Tipping** will continue to be a problem within the village and surrounding roads during these difficult times; so please keep up the good work of reporting issues as they occur.

Please use websites such as

Love Clean Streets www.lovecleanstreets.com

Fix My Street www.fixmystreet.com

South Staffs Council

www.staffs.gov.uk/environment/fly-tipping.cfm

GOV.UK www.gov.uk/report-flytipping

There is also a MyStaffs mobile app that can be used to report issues.

4th June is the Saint's Day for Petroc...

... the founder of Padstow

If you would really like to be in Cornwall this summer in search of peace and quiet, Petroc is the saint for you. Especially if you used to find Padstow a bit too crowded for your liking! He would have sympathised.

This 6th century abbot is Cornwall's most famous saint. Petroc set sail from South Wales, landed at Haylemouth, and founded a monastery at Lanwethinoc – now called Padstow, after him (Petroc's Stow).

Padstow must have been popular even in those days, because about 30 years later Petroc, in search of some peace and quiet, moved on to build another monastery at Little Petherick (Nanceventon). Here he engaged with his local community by building a mill and a chapel.

In time, Petroc began feeling crowded again. So he tramped off to the remote wilds of Bodmin Moor, where he lived as a hermit – until some 12 monks turned up to join him. Firmly, Petroc kept them all housed in a monastery on a hilltop, while he enjoyed his private space in a cell by the river. But even here Petroc was not alone. One day a terrified stag came rushing through the woods, pursued by the hunt. Petroc flung open the door of his cell, and the panting animal took refuge. When the huntsmen arrived on the scene, they did not dare to argue with the famous holy man, and went their way. The stag's gratitude made him tame, and Petroc would come to be portrayed with a stag as his special emblem.

Petroc was buried in the monastery in Padstow but in c.1000AD his shrine and relics, including his staff and bell, were transferred to Bodmin. Here they have stayed ever since, except for a short, unplanned trip to Brittany in 1177, when they were stolen and carted off by a naughty Canon of the Church. Henry II intervened, and everything but one rib of Petroc was eventually returned!

Around the Village - The Church

Letter from the Wardens

Last month the work on the church drive had begun. Now there is a ramped entrance to the new building, the WEB. The drive is looking good and, by the time you read this, the front aspect of the church should be really ready for business, whenever that may be!

The weather has been really good for the grass. The results of that are swathes of long grass in the churchyard around the graves. This is now being attended to. It may take a session or two, so it could be that there is a bit more to do when this magazine is first published.

The scheme organised by Sue Davenport and others to provide support for the vulnerable is still going strong. Many have been grateful for the shopping and errands and also for the regular contact, albeit by phone or at long range. Hasn't this emergency brought home clearly how much we enjoy meeting each other face to face?

Phil has provided hand sanitizing facilities for when we do reopen. It will still be important to keep our distance however and, for a while, we will be sitting further apart than usual.

Don't forget to check the website for updated information. The address is stjohnsessington.co.uk. On Facebook, look for St Johns Essington.

Keep safe, and hopefully see you all in July.

John & Phil.

80 years ago, June 1940 was a dramatic month in World War II....

...and one which saw two of the most memorable speeches in English.



As the evacuation of Allied Forces from Dunkirk was completed, recently appointed Prime Minister Winston Churchill told the House of Commons on 4th June: “We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.”

Surprisingly, he did not broadcast it to the nation: it was not recorded until 1949, “for posterity”. When he spoke, the French had not surrendered, and the idea that “in God’s good time” the USA might conceivably have to ride to the aid of a ‘subjugated’ England actually depressed as many people as it invigorated.

Two weeks later, on 18th June, with the battle in France lost, Churchill did address the country directly with a rallying call in what must indeed have seemed a very dark hour. “The Battle of Britain,” he said, “is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation.” He concluded by saying that if Britain were to last a thousand years, people would still say, “This was their finest hour.”

Pictures from the Parish

This period of emergency has seen the exchange of so many pictures electronically that it seems hard to keep up. Many of them have been personal, many humorous, some even are health warnings, but all help us to share our experiences.

We are lucky to live in a very varied area with beautiful countryside on our doorsteps as well as historic buildings within walking distance. Even Wolverhampton, not noted for its aesthetic appeal, is a historic town with much to explore.

Here are two pictures of pools, one in Essington and familiar to most of us, the other in the old Tarmac quarry at the junction of Bognop Road and Cannock Road in Westcroft. This was taken by John Eccleston.



....and this is the former Tarmac Quarry pool on a recent walk with the dog.



There is now a link to local pictures on the front page of the church

website, if you wish to see them in greater detail.

<http://stjohnsessington.co.uk/>

It would be good to have some of your local pictures printed out and on show when we open the new church building later this year.

Lipstick Lockdown!

Every morning, a little girl would go into the bathroom to watch her mother as she was putting on her makeup to go to work. But as soon as the Coronavirus Lockdown started, her mother stopped bothering with makeup, much to her daughter's confusion. "Mummy," she cried, "Come back! You forgot to kiss the toilet paper goodbye!"

(Apologies to any gentlemen reading this who don't understand!! Ed.)

VILLAGE INFORMATION

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DEADLINE DATE FOR THE JULY 2020 MAGAZINE THURSDAY 18th JUNE 2020

Material received after this date may be held over to the next month. Also, some material may have to be held over if there is not enough space available to print it. All letters, notices of thanks, articles, poems etc. must be accompanied by the full name and address of the sender. *Material received by the Editor without this information will not be published.*

Material for publication in the next issue, please forward to :

Mrs Kate Rissbrook, Blackhalve Farm, Blackhalve Lane, Essington,
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