

# *The Essington* **Connection**

[www.stjohnsessington.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsessington.co.uk)



# EPIPHANY

**January 2021**

**50p**

Dear Readers,

Before I started writing this, I looked back to the January 2020 issue of the Magazine. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry when I saw that one of my so-called jokes at the bottom of one of the pages was:

"Somebody asked me where I see myself in the New Year. How do I know? I don't have 2020 vision!"

Well, how prophetic that joke was! I cannot imagine that anyone reading that Magazine could have foreseen just where we would be, twelve months later.

The horrid Virus has affected us all, to a greater or lesser extent, and has made 2020 a very difficult year. All I can do is send very best wishes to everyone and hope that 2021 is, eventually, a much happier time.

OK, this time I'm hedging my bets and am going to include two totally contrasting quotations about January. You choose which one you want to go with:

*"If I had my way, I would remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead." —Roald Dahl.*

*"I love beginnings. If I were in charge of calendars, every day would be 1<sup>st</sup> January." —Jerry Spinelli.*

Happy New Year!

Kate Rissbrook.

<http://stjohnsessington.co.uk>

## **ST. JOHN'S REGISTERS**

### **Burial of Ashes in St. John's Churchyard**

18.9.20      Joan Perry (93)  
14.12.20      Thomas Collier  
22.12.20      Janet Nicklin (93)

### **Funeral Service & Cremation at Bushbury Crematorium**

17.11.20      Paul Eccleston (72)

### **Funeral in Church & Burial in Strawberry Lane Cemetery**

6.11.20      Andrew Phillips (40)

### **Funeral in Church & Cremation at Streetly**

23.11.20      Susan Chester (67)

### **Funeral in Church & Burial in St. John's Churchyard**

11.12.20      Kelly Proffitt (28)

## **ST. JOHN'S MINISTRY TEAM**

Warden: John Peterken  
Tel. 01902 723157

Reader: Mrs Delphine Hipkiss  
Tel. 01902 828064

### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Secretary: Mrs Hilary Southern  
Tel. 01922 445265

Verger: Mrs Joy Burrows  
Tel. 01922 407698

## **Parish Letter**

Hello everyone,

This is the first time I have been asked to write the Letter for the Magazine, and I am very honoured to do so.

Well, 2020 was certainly a difficult year, and many people have said “good riddance”. It is hard to disagree!

There have been many disruptions, largely due to Covid. People have lost loved ones, to both Covid and other illness as well. People have been cut off and are very lonely. Weddings and holidays have been curtailed, and other events have had to be much reduced. And of course Christmas could not be the same as we hoped.

I myself have suffered personal sadness in 2020, losing my much-loved husband Geoff. I have many blessings to be thankful for, however, and I see them every day. I know that I am not alone in being bereaved.

In spite of all this, there have been some amazing things going on. It really does seem to have brought the best out in people, and evoked the “Blitz spirit” that we hear about from older people who had to come through wars.

Essington is a very close-knit community and there have been – still are – wonderful instances of people pulling together and helping. We are very lucky to be part of our wonderful village. Here at St. John’s, we have had to close twice for worship and are still having to do things very differently. But.....we have found new ways of worshipping and this has been so very good. New people have stepped up to the plate and found ways to lead worship in other ways. We have discovered wonderful music and uplifting messages. It has been so rewarding. It has also highlighted just how much talent we have that we didn’t always know about!

When we look into history, both recent and far, there have always been “dark” periods where people thought it would never end. But it always did! There IS light at the end of every tunnel. Even at the very darkest times, we know that Jesus is always there among us, and we can always see His light shining through.

Even in his own life, He and His followers found themselves in lonely and dark places, but they survived, helped each other and found comfort in God. We can too.

As I write this, it is 21<sup>st</sup> December – the shortest day. The nights are very long, and the days are short. But, tomorrow, the days start to get lighter again. The light will come back to our world in many ways.

There is Hope and it is ALWAYS there. We just have to look for it and let God into our lives. He is just waiting to be asked. I wish you all a peaceful and good 2021.

***Hilary Southern.***

In addition to the names in the St John’s 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

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

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**Facebook: St Johns Church Essington**

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# **NEWS FROM ESSINGTON WOOD**

## **January 2021**

As I write this, we are coming to the end of 2020, which has been a very strange and difficult year. Coping with Covid-19 and all the restrictions has been a real trial for everyone.

Hopefully, in 2021 things will improve and we can return to something more like normal. Very Best Wishes for 2021 from all at Essington Wood.

Essington Wood is the name given to the area between Bursnips Road and Broad Lane. There was a worshipping community in this area long before the first Chapel was founded. It is thought possible that John Wesley himself may have visited or inspired the first groups of early Wesleyans, as it is known that he frequently visited Hilton.

Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, house meetings were held at The Croft in Bursnips Road, and then in 1854 the first Essington Wood Chapel was founded - most likely on or very close to the present site, since the plot is labelled "Chapel Piece" on the Tithe Map of 1839.

The land was owned by a Mr. Bradley, and it seems likely that the land remained in his possession during the early life of the Chapel and was transferred to the Trustees at a later date.

***J.C.***

### **Essington Wood Preachers for January 2021**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mr. Peter Box
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Liz Moore
17 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Stuart Reed (Covenant Service)
24 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Leaders
31 <sup>st</sup>	Cronogue

Dear Friends,



It is with a very heavy heart that I post my final update from Messy Tots. I have resigned from the role as CYFAM and am moving forward with my own projects.

I know I will miss Messy Tots, it was such great fun to be a part of, and a real privilege to have met so many of you in the process. I will miss the children from St. John's School and the great stories we shared in assemblies and services together.

My mission was always to bring Jesus to life in our story telling and through him, to bring children to know His father God. I hope some of those stories will stay with you and those little mustard seeds of faith we sang about every week will continue to grow.

Jesus' love is indeed very wonderful and I pray you feel His presence now and always.

Every blessing, Janette x

### **Essington Guild of Friends**

Essington Guild of Friends sends very best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year - hopefully 2021 will be better for everyone.

Let's hope that, before too long, meetings can be resumed.



# Friends of Essington



## Social Events - FoE Pub Quiz

Due to the latest Covid-19 lockdown, all further quizzes will take place “virtually” on a fortnightly basis. Follow us on Twitter for the latest dates.

## 2021 Friends of Essington Calendar

A limited number of our 2021 Calendar are still available from the usual outlets, including the Post Office, Hawthorne Pharmacy, or any committee member.

Price: A minimum donation of £2.00, all proceeds to go towards projects in the village.

## 2022 Friends of Essington Calendar

The committee would like once again to extend an invitation to the community to submit photos of Essington. Seasonal variations would be welcomed for the 2022 Calendar.

Please submit pictures to the following email address:  
[foessington@gmail.com](mailto:foessington@gmail.com)

Any pictures submitted will be assumed to be copyright free. We aim to place photos into a selection process by the end of August 2021.

## Environmental

Some of our committee members have been keeping themselves busy by planting bulbs around the village.

Should be a nice welcome for Spring 2021. 😊

continued.....

We welcome the opportunity to thank the anonymous members of the village who assist in keeping the area clean and tidy.

## **Become a Member?**

We are always looking for new members and would welcome anyone who would like to spend a few hours a month helping to maintain and improve our village environment. If you are interested, please contact us by email [foessington@gmail.com](mailto:foessington@gmail.com), on Twitter [@FoEssington](https://twitter.com/FoEssington) or via our website: <http://friendsofessington.com>

**We wish all our members, supporters and sponsors a  
Happy New Year!**

1<sup>st</sup> January 1950.

"Some generous friend may have given you a plant token for Christmas, and you may be wondering, as I am now wondering, how best to expend it. A plant token is a real gift from heaven; it represents an extravagance one might hesitate to commit for oneself; a luxury, an extra, a treat. One has no alternative for, unlike a cheque, one cannot virtuously put it to the reduction of one's overdraft. There is nothing to be done with it except to buy a plant."

***Vita Sackville-West.***

I hope you find the "Letter" on the following pages interesting. It was sent to me by Mary White, and I thank her for it. If you find the time dragging over the New Year, it would be fascinating to look up all those references.....

***Ed.***

## FATHER'S LOVE LETTER

An intimate message from God to you.

*My child,*

*You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2 I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31 For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27 In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28 For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5 I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12 You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16 I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalm 139:17-18 And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvellous things. Jeremiah 33:3*

*If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me.*

Deuteronomy 4:29 *Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart.* Psalm 37:4 *For it is I who gave you those desires.*

Philippians 2:13 *I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine.* Ephesians 3:20 *For I am your greatest encourager.* 2

Thessalonians 2:16-17 *I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles.* 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 *When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you.* Psalm 34:18 *As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart.* Isaiah 40:11 *One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes.* Revelation 21:3-4 *And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth.* Revelation 21:3-4 *I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus.* John 17:23 *For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed.* John 17:26 *He is the exact representation of my being.* Hebrews 1:3 *He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you.* Romans 8:31 *And to tell you that I am not counting your sins.* 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 *Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled.* 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 *His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you.* 1 John 4:10 *I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love.* Romans 8:31-32 *If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me.* 1 John 2:23 *And nothing will ever separate you from my love again.* Romans 8:38-39 *Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen.* Luke 15:7

*I have always been Father, and will always be Father.* Ephesians 3:14  
-15

*My question is... Will you be my child?* John 1:12-13

*I am waiting for you.* Luke 15:11-32

*With Love,  
Your Dad,  
Almighty God.*

## VILLAGE INFORMATION

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### **DEADLINE DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2021 MAGAZINE THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2021**

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 :***

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Printed and published by St. John's Church, Essington.