

The Essington **Connection**

www.stjohnsessington.co.uk



April 2021

50p

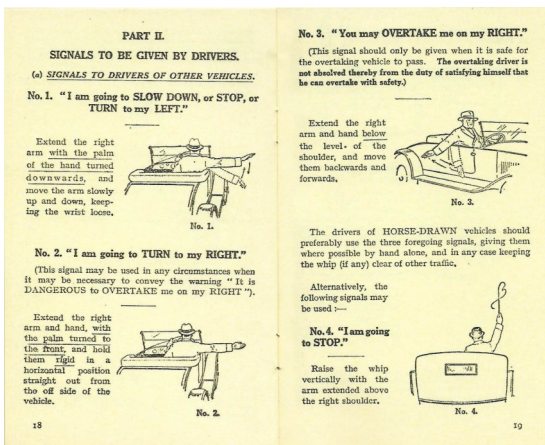
Dear Readers,

By the time you read this, we should all be dipping our toes into the uncharted waters of freedom after lockdown!

I was going to say, the "warm" waters of freedom, but the wind is still so cold at the moment, that I couldn't actually remember what it was like to jump into a warm swimming pool or, better still, wade into a warm sea. Maybe I shall experience that once again in the not too distant future.....

I include with pleasure, in this Magazine, details of the services which are resuming at the churches in Essington and Shareshill. Little by little, we shall be able to expand the Diary, as events start up again in the village.

I see that it is 90 years this month since the publication of the first Highway Code. The first edition was 21 pages long - it is now 189 pages long!! Can't see that happening to this Magazine, you will be pleased to hear.....



Kate Rissbrook.

Services at Essington and Shareshill

There is lots of information about current and future services at both St. John's and St. Mary & St. Luke's in the News Bulletin further on in the Magazine, so do look there.

In brief, it is intended that there will be a service at St. John's at 10.00 am every Sunday, with a Communion Service on the first and third Sundays of the month. On the second and fourth Sundays the service will be led by the church's team - accessible, joyful and engaging worship!!

Shareshill will be holding Communion Services on the second and fourth Sundays, and on the first and third Wednesdays, beginning on Wednesday, 7th April, if these times suit you better.

Do keep an eye on the websites and the noticeboards of both churches for updated information (including what will happen when there's a fifth Sunday in the month!)

*<https://stjohnsessington.co.uk>
<https://shareshill.church>*

St. John's Registers

Funerals at Bushbury Crematorium

30.3.21 Gordon Slade (95 years)

30.3.21 Sylvia Jean Hudson (87 years)

Parish Letter

Dear Friends,

Unbelievably (or so it seems to me), it is almost Easter-time again. I think we are fortunate in this country, that Easter falls at this time of the year, which is full of colour and new birth. The Spring flowers are fresh and simply beautiful, and all around, the countryside is beginning to blossom - a reflection of what Easter is about, the glorious celebration of new life, offered to us through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the last few weeks in the church's calendar we have been in the season of Lent, culminating in Holy Week, giving us the opportunity to remember the last few days of Jesus's life, leading up to his crucifixion on Good Friday, and then on Easter Sunday itself, to rejoice in His resurrection.

"The Lord is risen, he is risen indeed."

These are words which we repeat often during the Easter season, and it is on this premise that Christian belief and faith is based.

As St. Paul said, if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then our faith is without substance and meaning. In other words, if we see Jesus only as an inspirational teacher, then that is very different from a belief in a living, loving God, who is interested in each one of us as an individual person, and who offers us so much more.

Some of the loveliest accounts that we have in the New Testament are of Jesus and the disciples at this time of Easter. You see the love, compassion, forgiveness and

patience of Jesus as he tried to give confidence to those he loved.

When the disciples first began to believe that the Lord had truly risen, there was doubt and fear as well as joy, perhaps similar to our own feelings on occasion. The disciples were stricken by the death of their beloved leader and had no expectation of what was to happen.

At first, the journey ahead seemed dark and without direction, and it was to be a gradual recognition of the truth, as they slowly dared to hope and trust that Jesus was indeed alive and still with them, even if not in the same way they had previously known.

For us too, everyday life and also church life has vastly changed, and maybe will remain different even when things eventually return to some sort of normal. Jesus is with us as much as he was with those first disciples, treating us with that same love, compassion, forgiveness and patience, as we too seek to find our way forward.

Like those first disciples, we need to draw strength from each other, and to stay close to Christ, even if his presence is not always visible.

Can I finish by wishing you a very enjoyable and blessed Easter. Keep safe.

Revd Rosemary.



In addition to the names in the St John's Team list, here are a couple of other numbers you can ring as a first point of contact:

Rev Rosemary Biddle	01922 419032
Sue Hinks-Caldwell	01922 516450

The St. John's Team

For enquiries regarding:

Weddings	Mrs Mary White	01922 478853
Christenings	Mrs Delphine Hipkiss	01902 828064
Funerals	Mrs Joy Burrows	01922 407698
Use of WEB Annex	Mrs Kath Grantham	01902 732041
Safeguarding	Mrs Sue Davenport	01922 495516
Patronage & Stewardship (collecting money)	Mrs Sue Davenport	01922 495516
Reader	Mrs Delphine Hipkiss	01902 828064
Secretary	Mrs Hilary Southern	01922 445265
Verger	Mrs Joy Burrows	01922 407698
Church Warden	Mr John Peterken	01902 723157

<http://stjohnsessington.co.uk>



HOPE

What is hope? Hope is light after dark, new birth, green shoots from decay, new opportunities. We have all come through the darkest of times. The worst of the winter is now over, and the days are getting longer.

The gardens are starting to sprout again. New flowers such as crocuses, snowdrops and daffodils are bright. Trees will soon turn green again. The grass will soon need mowing again. New lambs and calves are gambolling in our fields.

Covid is slowly starting to get less. Fewer people are ill, the vaccine is being rolled out quickly and that is starting to help us all to look forward to “normal” life again.

Our church is looking forward to opening up again on Palm Sunday. Easter is the season now, where the wondrous Resurrection of Christ took place. This gives hope to us all. Jesus was put to death in the worst possible way, but overcame death and lives again for us all.

Out of the darkest months – winter and the terrible toll of Covid – we are emerging into the bright sunlight again. So, even in those dark times, the Lord never left us. He has brought us through the worst, and will stay with us as we travel forward, as He always does.

And that, folks, is HOPE.

Hilary Southern.



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NEWS FROM ESSINGTON WOOD

March 2021

‘Wishing You All a Happy and Peaceful Easter’

During the transition period between the two Chapels, services were held at the farm buildings now known as “Chapel Farm”, which was then, as now, the domain of the Bloxham family.

The “turnip house” as it was known, adjoining the cowshed, was used, with benches being brought in from the old Chapel for use as pews. The building was a barn type structure, being steel-framed corrugated iron sheeting painted black. Although the section used for services was blown down by a severe gale just before the Second World War, the remaining part of the same building is still standing and is now used as a coke store.

In 1932 the new Bloxwich Wesley Circuit, consisting of Bloxwich Wesley, Great Wyrley and Essington Wood was formed with Mr. W. E. Hawthorne of Essington Wood as Senior Circuit Steward, just as he had been for many years in the Walsall Centenary Circuit.

J.C.

Reading the FoE page opposite, thanking the residents who pick up the litter in in the village, I am impelled to make a potentially controversial comment!

Speaking as someone who, on a daily basis, tries to keep at least one little bit of Blackhalve Lane litter-free, I firmly believe that we don't stand a chance of saving our planet as long as there are people living on it who are prepared to throw horrible stuff out of their cars.

Ed.



Friends of Essington

Wishing Everybody a Happy Easter and Keep Safe

Social Events - FoE Virtual Pub Quiz

Due to the continued Covid-19 lockdown, all quizzes are taking place “virtually” on a weekly basis.

Date: Every Wednesday
Venue: Essington FoE Quiz Page
Time: 7.30 pm

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 continue to submit pictures to the following email address: 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

Continued thanks go out to the kind residents who have maintained and litter-picked the area during lockdown. It has

been noticed..... 😊

Become a Member?

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

News Bulletin from St. John's Church

The news is getting better!

We are restarting services in the church building as of Palm Sunday, 28th March.



From now on (so long as the pandemic situation allows), there will be a service every Sunday at 10.00 am. The plan is to have a communion service on the first and third Sundays of the month. For those who would like to go to a communion on the second and fourth Sundays, then you can go to Shareshill when St. Mary and St. Luke's are having theirs.

When it's completed, the list of services and the ministers will be put on the noticeboard.

We hope you enjoyed the Mothering Sunday service online. The great thing about these online services is that you can watch at any time and as often as you like.

Links to them will stay on the website. We hope to make more available. With a bit of luck, we will video the Easter Service and put that on as well. If that goes well, then it may become a pattern.

St. John's church and St. John's Primary Academy

would like to have a closer connection. It is likely that the children from the school will be involved in some of the services by video. Maybe Easter? Keep watching!

The Team who keep the churchyard looking good started back on 21st March. There are only a few of them at present, but they work hard and things are shaping up well for spring.

A fault in the roof of the new annex showed up during the torrential rains early in the year. The leak was fixed and now that things have dried out, the damage caused will be made good by the builder.

The diocese now has our Parish Profile to advertise for the new vicar. Let's hope we are as attractive a proposition as we like to think we are!

Spring is here and we are celebrating Jesus rising after his death on the cross.

Anything is possible.
Let's go for it!



Notices of Thanks

DAVE MASON **WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, ESSINGTON**

Phyl, Sharon and Michael would like to thank all family and friends for the many cards, kind messages and donations received in memory of Dave who sadly passed away on 27th November 2020.

A total of £500 was sent to the Meningitis Research Foundation, a charity close to our hearts since the loss of our son, Paul, in 1973.

We would also like to thank the many people who came to pay their respects to Dave as the funeral passed through the village on Christmas Eve, this meant a lot to us all.

God bless, keep safe.

Gwen Chilton would like to thank everyone for the beautiful cards and kind wishes she received for her 90th birthday.

It was lovely to hear from so many people.

God Bless you all.

Gwen.

23rd April : St. George's Day

- our Patron Saint who isn't English

The English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all.

But that didn't stop St. George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course, it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that St. George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from.

By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable.

Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: "The George and Dragon".



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DEADLINE DATE FOR THE MAY 2021 MAGAZINE THURSDAY 22nd APRIL 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 :

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