

# *The Essington* **Connection**

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



**May 2021**

**50p**



"The month of May was come, when every lusty heart  
beginneth to blossom, and to bring forth fruit."

**Thomas Malory.**

Dear Readers,

There are absolutely no prizes for guessing what my theme is in this issue - yes, it's blossom! I don't think I have ever enjoyed the blossom more than I have this year - perhaps, after a Winter of lockdown, nothing could signify Spring more.....

We are hoping that, from next month's Magazine onwards, we shall once again be printing paper copies and distributing them as before - do you remember "before"??!!

Beatrice Hammond hopes to be able to contact all Distributors over the course of the next few weeks, to ensure that everyone is happy to resume, and she will be making appropriate arrangements for the bundles of Magazines to be collected.

Of course, all this will only happen if restrictions continue to be lifted. Let's hope that everyone is sensible and the rules are obeyed.....

I shall finish with a quote from Marcel Proust! "Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

**Kate Rissbrook.**

## Services at St. John's for May 2021

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Morning Praise at St. John's
	10.00 am	Holy Communion at Shareshill
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 am	Morning Praise at St. John's
	10.00 am	Holy Communion at Shareshill
	11.15 am	Annual General Meeting
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Holy Communion

Keep an eye on the websites and the noticeboards of both St. John's and St. Mary & St. Luke's churches for updated information regarding services.

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

## St. John's Registers

### Service & Cremation at Bushbury

12.4.21 Steven Holland (47 years)  
23.4.21 Gordon Stagg (100 years)

### Funeral Service in Church & Burial in Churchyard

16.4.21 Eric Ridgeway (84 years)  
30.4.21 Patricia Foster (84 years)

### Funeral Service in Church & Cremation at Bushbury

27.4.21 Ronald (Ron) Edge (93 years)

## **Parish Letter**

Dear Friends

When I was invited to write an editorial for the Magazine, I was determined that “Covid” would not be mentioned, because over the last eighteen months it has taken over our lives, taken over the world. The world has lived and breathed it. It seems that nothing else whatsoever was happening in the whole universe.

I am writing about it though, excusing myself with the fact that Covid is losing its grip on society.

I would think that we are delighted at seeing the light at the end of the tunnel as Covid restrictions are gradually lifted. We have glimpses of our lives returning to normal, things back to what they were before the unprecedented onslaught of Covid, and all the changes that came along with it.

Of course, for many people, because of the death of loved ones, or the lasting effects of Long Covid, life cannot return to the “normal” which they knew before.

My “normal” consisted of taking care of my family, meeting freely with friends as and when, shopping for whatever, whenever, worshipping freely with friends in Church, visiting restaurants and theatres (but only very rarely).

An ordinary life, but free, I’m sure you will all agree.

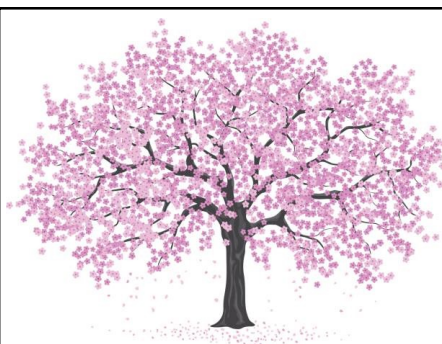
Now, with the deprivations of lockdown, I think that my life, that I considered ordinariness, was in fact a life of many blessings that I realise I took for granted.

We should learn from Covid and, let's be honest, there is always something to learn from our experiences, whether they are good or bad.

We can begin by counting our blessings, and being thankful for our freedom - freedom to travel, when we are able, freedom to hug and embrace, freedom to worship together, remembering that a Church with an open door holds a warm welcome, not only for regular worshippers, but for those who visit alone, to sit in the quietness, to be still from the business of life - to think and to pray.

Take time to be still and to wait on God, and consider all his blessings upon each one of us. He blesses us with freedom, and Love, joy through our relationships and comfort in sorrow.

***Delphine.***



"When the Present has latched  
its postern behind my  
tremulous stay,

And the May month flaps its  
glad green leaves like wings,

Delicate-filmed as new-spun  
silk, will the neighbours say,

'He was a man who used to notice such things'?"

*Thomas Hardy*  
"Afterwards" (1917).

(I love the "glad green leaves" of May! I am looking at  
some as I write this. Ed.)

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>

## ***One Hundred Years of the British Legion.....***

One hundred years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1921, the British Legion was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war. Of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who had given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1,000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year. The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary.

At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.

*"Men are April when they woo, December when  
they wed: maids are May when they are  
maids, but the sky changes when they are  
wives."*



*William Shakespeare  
"As You Like It."*

Discuss!!

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Email: [clerk@essingtonpc.org](mailto:clerk@essingtonpc.org)

[www.essingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.essingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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# **NEWS FROM ESSINGTON WOOD**

## **May 2021**

How lovely it was to have our Chapel doors open again for a service on Easter Sunday morning, although subject to the usual restrictions of “social distancing, masks and no singing”. It was for me especially good to play the organ again, if only for music before and after the service.

Good news just received - our services will start again on 18<sup>th</sup> April and the Preachers for May are set out below.

Continuing the history of the Chapel:

Inspired by the Rev. J. Trevithick, who led the working party, two excellent tennis courts were laid at the rear of Essington Wood Chapel and these proved very popular for over a decade and, with the Wesleyan Guild also flourishing, life in the newly formed Circuit was grand.

Came the clouds of war and, for a time, services were held mornings and afternoons because of blackout regulations. Peace was restored in 1945 and gradually the Bloxwich Wesley Circuit moved towards the Pinfold (Primitive) Circuit, amalgamation formally taking place in 1954, although for many years preachers from the Pinfold Circuit such as Jim and Harold Fletcher, Joe Nicholls and Sid Turner had regularly graced our pulpit.

***J.C.***

### **Essington Wood Preachers for May 2021**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Worship Leaders
9 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Stuart Reed
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Liz Moore
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rev. Stuart Reed
30 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. Peter Box





# Friends of Essington

## 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](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

### Friends of Essington Spring Clean 2021

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April FoE organised a Spring Clean with invited Essington residents put into 10 groups of 6 (lockdown rules applied, no mass gathering) to collect fly-tipped waste and litter in and around the village.

It was a successful morning with, as usual, a huge pile of waste collected. See article on page 20 for full details.

Many thanks to Adrian Nicklin for organising the event.

## 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](mailto:foessington@gmail.com), on Twitter [@FoEssington](https://twitter.com/FoEssington) or via our website: <http://friendsofessington.com>

## News Bulletin from St. John's Church

With Sunday services back on a regular basis at 10 am, it's good to have a reason for visiting the church other than to attend funerals. There have been many during the emergency period and it has been heartbreaking to see families and close friends having to restrict their celebration of a loved one's life or struggle without being able to do the usual things that help us live with grief and come to terms with loss.

When all the restrictions are lifted, we will have services specifically to remember those who have passed during the pandemic. A chance for many to remember fondly and give thanks for lives well lived that deserve to be celebrated. So start making plans!

Like many who have spoken to me, you may have noticed how well the churchyard is being looked after. The front, with its remodeled and resurfaced drive, is down to Alan Degg, whose generosity is well known. Less well known are the efforts of the Team who cut the grass, trim the hedges, pick up leaves and generally keep the place looking good.



Led by John Stanley they are men (no, there haven't been any women) who have been given Community Service sentences as an alternative to custody. The project was

continued.....

privatized years ago and is due soon to return to the care of the Probation Service. It is amazing how much care and attention is given to the work. Over the years they have done various extra bits of work and, if ever there was an advert for investing in people to develop better citizens, then projects like these are it.



### *A New Vicar for the Benefice.*

The final stages of the appointment process approach. After a few standard meetings between the two churches and the diocese, the advertisement will be published later in May.

It is hoped (provided there are applicants) to hold interviews in July. Won't it be great when I can type "The New Vicar is ..."??

Watch this space!

"Nothing great is created suddenly, any more than a bunch of grapes or a fig. If you tell me that you desire a fig, I answer you that there must be time. Let it first blossom, then bear fruit, then ripen."

*Epictetus.*





## **Friends of Essington Spring Clean 2021**

On Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> April the Friends of Essington organised a Spring Clean with invited Essington residents put into 10 groups of 6 (lockdown rules applied, with no mass gathering) to collect fly-tipped waste and litter in and around the village.

It was a successful morning with, as usual, a huge pile of waste collected. This was consolidated at the Scouts & Guides HQ for collection by the District Council on the Monday. We thank Essington S&G for allowing us to do this.



The litter-picked areas covered were:

- Essington Central
- Brownshore Pools
- Hobnock Road
- Part of Bognop Road
- Bursnips Road (huge thanks to Jamie Harper)
- Broad Lane Junction
- Wolverhampton Road
- High Hill & Upper Sneyd Road

continued.....

- Essington Rugby Club (Nicket) (thank you to ERC)
- Westcroft

Thanks must go to Alan Degg for the use of the truck and to driver Liam who was a great help.

We cannot see an end to fly tipping in our village. All we can ask is that, if you do see fly-tipped waste, please report it to one of the following:

[www.lovecleanstreets.com/reports](http://www.lovecleanstreets.com/reports)

[www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)

Fly Tipping South Staffordshire Council ([sstaffs.gov.uk](http://sstaffs.gov.uk))

Can we also add thanks to residents out walking in Brownshore Lane, Pools and other areas. We have seen a reduction in litter, “ad-hoc” picking has been a great help.

Fingers crossed that lockdown rules will have finished and that we are able to hold a September Clean, when we can create an open invitation to residents, including children, to take part.

Thanks to all who participated and to Adrian Nicklin for organising the event.



## VILLAGE INFORMATION

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### Playgroup

For details, ring: 01922 403255

### Police contact number

Tel: 03001234455

### Essington Medical Centre - Patient Participation Group

We are looking for new members.  
If you are a patient and would like  
to be involved, please contact the  
surgery.

### **DEADLINE DATE FOR THE JUNE 2021 MAGAZINE THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 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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