

# *The Essington* **Connection**

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



**May 2020**

**50p**

But free to read on the St Johns website!

Dear Readers (yes, I hope there are a few of you out there!),

“What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare?”\*

Here it is, the second issue of the Connection Magazine that we have published online. Although it will be good when “normal service is resumed”, I did think the Magazine came out very well on the Church’s website last month.

I am extremely grateful to all those who are spreading the word that the Magazine is still being produced.

I have put the quote above because I hope that everyone is getting at least the occasional chance to “stand and stare” during this strange time. While I was standing and staring I saw the tulips which I have photographed for the cover. They are my absolute favourite, called “Belle Époque”, and I plant them every year, but I do realise that not everyone will like them. They are almost too subtle (alright, a dingy colour?!!!) for their own good.

On a practical note, we would normally be reminding our subscribers in this issue that it will once again be time to collect subscriptions in June. This year, of course, it seems very doubtful that this will be possible (or indeed desirable, if it might put Distributors at risk), but please don’t worry, we shall be after your money later in the year!

Once again, I send my very best wishes to everyone, and my hope that you keep safe.

*Kate Rissbrook.*

\* I have to admit, I've always thought this quote was from someone really famous, but it is actually from a poem called "Leisure", written in 1911 by W. H. Davies, a Welsh poet, 1871-1940. Having looked him up, Mr Davies was, I suppose, famous as "the tramp poet", having lived as a 'drifter' in both the United Kingdom and the United States. As my friend would say, "Every day's a school day." I have learnt something new.....

## **ST JOHN'S CHURCH DIARY - MAY 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 Board in Church or go online to check our web site on <http://stjohnsessington.co.uk> for updated information regarding events.

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

**Twitter: @StEssington, @StTots**

**Facebook: St Johns Church Essington**

**Website: stjohnsessington.co.uk**

## Parish Letter

The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed.

A few days ago I celebrated the strangest Easter Day I can ever remember. No special Easter services, no beautiful flower arrangements in church, and no family get-togethers. Our churches were empty, but then so was the tomb in which Jesus had been laid. Early in the morning, the women who had believed in Jesus made their way through the deserted streets to the tomb, expecting to embalm his body. Guards and angels were there, but the tomb was empty. The body of Jesus was gone, and the most amazing event in all history began to be recognised first by Mary Magdalene, then by some other women, and finally by the disciples themselves. Jesus Christ, who was crucified and had died, was now risen from the dead. For Christians throughout the world, this amazing fact has changed lives, given hope to millions, and allowed us through the sacrifice of Christ to know forgiveness and a new relationship to God.

This is certainly a time when we need good news. This Coronavirus (Covid-19 to give it its proper name) has affected us all, and it's easy to be afraid of what the future may bring. On that first Resurrection day, and the days which followed, the despair and fear of the disciples changed to hope and joy, as they began to believe and trust that their Lord had truly risen. The hope and joy of those disciples was not based on the belief that all would be well regardless of circumstance, but that in the risen Christ they saw a new and greater hope.

It is in belief and trust, prayer and praise, that we are able to draw close to Christ, to feel his love, to know his will, and also to recognise his strength and support. My prayer is that you will really feel that love and support helping you day by day, as you move through this time of crisis.

Please continue to pray. In Christ all things are possible, and so many need our prayers.

continued.....

We live in an amazing country, and every day see more and more incredible and courageous people coming forward to give of their best.

In the words of Captain Tom Moore, (A 100 year-old army veteran, who has raised millions of pounds for the NHS, and who has inspired so many), "Today has been good, but tomorrow will be better".

With love and every blessing,  
May you keep safe and well.  
Revd Rosemary. X

### **SOME OF THE ST. JOHN'S TEAM**

Wardens: John Peterken  
Tel. 01902 723157  
Phil Thomas  
Tel. 01902 739745

Children, Mrs Janette Thomas  
Youth & Tel. 07828 213595  
Families: E-mail:  
[janettethomas129@live.co.uk](mailto: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

In addition here are a couple of other numbers you can ring as a first point of contact - whatever your need.

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

## NOTICE OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who supported me following Geoff's recent death. Thank you for the cards, flowers and visits.

Also a big thank you to those who came to his funeral, which was led so beautifully by Rev. Wendy. Also thanks must go to the Minerva for the wonderful Wake they organised for us.

Thank you to everyone who donated. There was just over £500, which has been divided equally between St. John's Church and Cancer Research.

***Hilary and the Southern family.***

*(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.

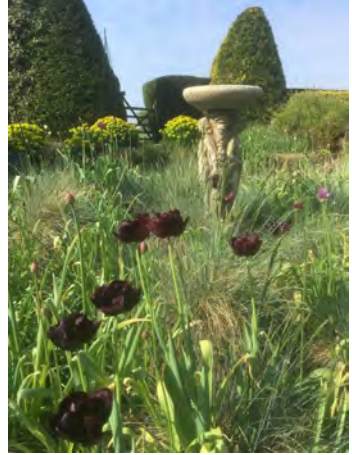
For enquiries regarding placing an entry in the Memorial Book in Church, please contact  
Mrs Mavis Glennon, Tel. 01543 467675.

Please send us your photos!

We would love to have your images, taken during this time of lockdown, to illustrate how the people of Essington are spending their time.

We'll print some next month - there might even be a prize!

Get clicking and send to:  
johnpeterken@virginmedia.com



## **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](mailto:bernard.williams@staffordshire.gov.uk)

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01922 711608

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the Clerk is in)*

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

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