

ST SWITHIN'S NEWS

*News and views for Lower & Upper
Quinton, Admington and Meon Vale*

Autumn 2021



Autumn crocuses outside the church

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October/November

'Avonvale' Churches

are the family of Anglican Churches serving

Quinton with Admington, Long Marston, Meon Vale, Welford and Weston

Whoever you are, you are very welcome to join with us in any of our churches:

1st Sunday of the month 3rd October and 7th November

Long Marston 9am Holy Communion

Welford 10.30am Family Communion

Quinton 10.30am 'Altogether' Breakfast Service

2nd Sunday of the month 10th October

Weston 9am Holy Communion (BCP)

Quinton 10.30am Holy Communion

Welford 10.30am 'Open Doors'

a contemporary service of worship and teaching

starting with refreshments at 10.15am

***NB on the 14th November there will be a change to normal service patterns
for Remembrance Sunday:***

Weston 9am Holy Communion (BCP)

Welford, Quinton and Long Marston 10.45am Remembrance Sunday Service

3rd Sunday of the month 17th October and 21st November

Welford 9am Holy Communion

Long Marston 10.30am Breakfast Service (Harvest Festival 17th Oct)

4th Sunday of the month 24th October and 28th November

Weston 9am Holy Communion (BCP) with hymns

Quinton 10.30am Family Communion

Welford 4pm '4th@4' Messy Church style service with tea

5th Sunday of the month 31st October

10.30am Avonvale Churches meet together in Quinton Church
for a special service for All Saints and All Souls with a time of remembering

In addition - for all the churches

4th Wednesday of every month at 10.30am (27th October and 24th November)

a short service of Holy Communion followed by refreshments and a time for chat in
Welford Church. Do come along – even if you've never been before!

“One day, son, all this will be yours.” ...?!

Reflection by the Revd Jim Edie



This is a cartoon that was circulated on social media last year and, along with scene of destruction, the bit that got me is that even the rats are doing a runner!

As I write, the Church of England is in the ‘Season of Creation’ (September & October) which is a festival adopted from the Eastern Orthodox Church. It is a time when we give space to reflect, give thanks for, and pray for God’s world and all that is in it. It is also a time when we think about how and why it should be protected. I note though that as you read this, November and a time of Remembrance will also be fast approaching. With this in mind, for me the phrase ‘One day, son, all this will be yours’ seems to hold its own poignancy. Once again, this year we will remember those parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and friends that fought and died for our freedom and to make sure that the world they left for us was safe. That responsibility has been passed to us and evidence about the state of our planet seems to suggest that we have done a pretty poor job. Sure, this threat may not be one of war, but those leading in our scientific communities believe a similar ‘emergency’ response is required if we are to lessen the effects of our changing climate. Climate Change may not have been something those who fought and died for us in the world wars knew about, but I am sure they’d be unimpressed with the outlook for the world that we have created.



As I write, the Church of England is in the ‘Season of Creation’ (September & October) which is a festival adopted from the Eastern Orthodox Church. It is a time when we give space to reflect, give thanks for, and pray for God’s world and all that is in it. It is also a time when we think about how and why it should be protected. I note though that as you read this, November and a time of Remembrance will also be fast approaching. With this in mind, for me the phrase ‘One day, son, all this will be yours’ seems to hold its own poignancy. Once again, this year we will remember those parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and friends that fought and died for our freedom and to make sure that the world they left for us was safe. That responsibility has been passed to us and evidence about the state of our planet seems to suggest that we have done a pretty poor job. Sure, this threat may not be one of war, but those leading in our scientific communities believe a similar ‘emergency’ response is required if we are to lessen the effects of our changing climate. Climate Change may not have been something those who fought and died for us in the world wars knew about, but I am sure they’d be unimpressed with the outlook for the world that we have created.

I wonder, do you sometimes speculate at what God thinks about all this? Well, if so the Bible is the place to start and in the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis, we read that the world God created was good and that he was pleased with it (that includes you and me by the way!). We also see God described as the gardener, the one who compassionately tends to and looks after creation. This responsibility is one that God then passes onto humanity. God has called us all to tend to the earth with compassion and wisdom. There is a lot that we have already improved; here in Upper and Lower Quinton we live in a rural farming community and many UK farming systems now used are known to be some of >

< the least impactful on the environment in the world. We also now see energy companies diversifying and investing in green energy sources, and many of us have made life changes that reduce our impact, but we should not get complacent, there is always need for improvement in these areas and we all still fall short - I was reminded by someone just the other day of the old diesel car that we drive!

One thing that we can all do is pray. For the first time ever, a joint statement has been created by the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Communion warning 'of the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on poverty, and the importance of global cooperation'. This joint statement also calls everyone to play their part in 'choosing life for the future of the planet' and 'to pray for world leaders ahead of COP26, for those with far-reaching responsibilities and for individuals as we make meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the planet'. If you want to read the statement you should find it by searching online for 'A joint statement for the protection of creation'.

So, I urge you to act and pray; I for one would like to be passing onto my children and grandchildren a different scene from that in the cartoon.
Every blessing

Jim *Assistant Curate of Quinton, Welford, Weston and Marston Sicca*

Meon Hill Interiors

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Framing for all your artwork,
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www.meonhillinteriors.co.uk

St Swithin's Churchwardens' Report

It has been lovely to see more people in person over the summer, hopefully normality is slowly returning.

Now that the children are returning to school thoughts turn to events at the end of the year. By popular request the **Christmas Pudding Party returns on Friday 19th November**. Come along with friends to make your Christmas Pudding while enjoying mulled wine and mince pies - all ingredients are provided for £10.

Saturday 4th December is the date of our first Christmas Craft Fair. Buy your presents and decorations from local artisans including many who live in our Parish. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine or other beverage from the bar while looking around. Hot turkey rolls will be served at lunchtime, and tea and mince pies during the afternoon.

There will be lots for all the family with free children's craft making and Father Christmas will of course be attending.

Please do get in touch if you are able to help in anyway. We need help before and on the day. If you have any unwanted children's toys or as new toys we would be delighted to receive them.

Please do support us in our efforts to fundraise for our beautiful grade I listed church whilst also enjoying yourself.

***Jane & Judi (Churchwardens)** see page 27 for contact details*

St Swithin's Church – then and now

By the time our church reached its present size in the 15th century, it is likely that the windows would have been glazed, but nevertheless, we might think that the hardy farming folk of the “five good manors” that made up Quinton would have found their church a bit chilly and draughty. It might not have been as uncomfortable as we might think, because there would have been many ‘lights’.

In those days, there was not as much wood in the church! There were no pews - except a few benches by the walls and a screen across the chancel. We do not know if the nuns from Polesworth, who were the patrons, had members resident in the village, but the masks (faces) that head the round arches on the south side and the stories that are told that they had a house near by suggest that it was so. In any case there would have been people in and around the building most of the time. The church would have been the only sizeable building where people could gather. Worship would not be confined to Sunday, and there would be >

< ‘lights’ – oil lamps and candles alight in the building, either as votive offerings paid for by pious folk or memorials – day and night except from late on Maundy Thursday until the ‘new fire’ was lit ready for Easter. Candles and oil lamps give out heat as well as light, and in those days before chimneys, people would have been quite used to smoke indoors! Warm air expands, so that if the doors were closed, and there wasn’t a gale, there would have been a slight air pressure from inside. If families huddled together – it would not have been too bad!

Current poor state of repair

As was reported in the Harvest edition of *St. Swithin’s News*, the spire and the pinnacles are cracking and there is danger that pieces of stone may fall. We can’t ring the bells, because they are heavy metal, and as they swing, they set up vibrations in the stone work of the tower and spire, and any loose pieces of stone will fall. (In very large churches with eight or twelve bells, anyone on top of the tower will feel it swing!) As well as this, anyone who has come into the church will have noticed the plywood cover to the centre aisle. That is because there is an accumulation of water under the church that is disturbing and damaging the floor. Our church is in a poor state, and as we all know, it is chilly and damp.

We have to face major work to mend it and the three most urgent priorities are : the spire and tower, the floor and the heating. To facilitate the work the pews will have to be moved out, the floor taken up and the source of the wet traced and cured, then a new floor laid. So that the church can at least be kept in good condition, some source of heat will have to come from under the floor. Heat from radiators dotted around the building just creates a rising current that gets to the roof and then descends chilly to get down people’s necks!

We know the church is important to the people of Quinton and beyond for very many reasons and as Christians we do need an improved place to do God’s work as we pass on the good news of Jesus afresh to each generation. As Christians we work against all kinds of suffering and injustice; help to bring peace; and safeguard God’s creation. The church building is full of symbolism and beauty, built to the glory of God, and now it needs caring for itself, in order to be fit for the twenty-first century and beyond.

Everyone’s help is welcome

All of the necessary work will be costly - a very rough estimate would be circa £2m. Whilst every intention will be to raise funds via national funding, such as English Heritage, The Lottery Fund, etc., we do need to raise a considerable sum ourselves. So please do help with our fundraising but, more importantly, wrap up warm and come and join us. **The church is open every day during daylight**, so you can come along and sit quietly, pray, or browse the books. We meet together for worship on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday at 10.30am and there are other events advertised in the magazine or on social media. **Everyone is very welcome.**



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

Quinton Primary School

With the beginning of our new academic year, on behalf of all of us at Quinton Primary, I hope that as we move out of the straight jacket imposed on us by Covid-19, life will return to relative normality for everyone in and around the village, as much as possible.

In school, we are genuinely excited about the children's return and the chance to get stuck in again without a constant worry in the back of our minds.

School can be an amazing place and we teachers are privileged to experience all that goes on here. The sense of joy as children develop and achieve is something very special. We call them our WOW moments and they can be truly inspirational - from the first sounding out of letters and words to the complexities of a brilliant story written with exceptional vocabulary; from learning numbers up to five to full-blown mathematical reasoning and solving algebraic problems. All of these things and many more put a big, beaming smile on our faces every single day as the children surpass expectations. There really isn't a more satisfying job anywhere and we are lucky enough to be right in the middle of it.

Coming up over the next few months are a couple of large scale projects which will help to both enhance our provision and continue to improve the safety of our whole site.

Our children from 3 to 5 in our Early Years are having a whole new outdoor area which will be second to none and the Local Authority are replacing our old and often wobbly perimeter fencing with a more secure alternative.

There will be some disruption as these take place which will mainly be on the school grounds. As I get more information from the LA, I will share that will any residents who may be more directly affected. I know that as school begins again, there will be some impact on other residents, particularly those near the school, with extra traffic and people and we continue to regularly ask all our parents to be as considerate as possible when dropping off and picking up their children. Through this page, I would like to remind parents of that and ask local residents to let school know if there is a problem.

We will also be involved in the village celebrations for the Queen's jubilee in June next year and talks are currently underway through one of our governors – We are looking forward to working with the whole village community and are hoping to continue to develop our partnership.

My final comment is that I do believe that a combination of common courtesy, good manners and a smile helps people to remain positive and flatten out any gentle molehills before they become insurmountable mountains.

Best wishes and take care

David Skelcher
Head teacher
Quinton Primary School

Quinton House

NURSING HOME



Step inside Quinton House Nursing Home and Quinton Gardens Specialist Dementia Unit and you will know you've arrived somewhere special. Over the years, we have given each resident a home from home family life.

Quinton House is a family-owned home and has been for over 20 years. This continuity coupled to our team's dedication enables us to deliver even more impressive levels of compassionate care; the best Warwickshire has to offer, recently been awarded the GOLD STANDARD FRAMEWORK for compassion and care for end of life.

At Quinton House, we are passionate about what we do and how we care for the older people we work with. We understand the value of maintaining our residents independence and that privacy and choice. Our dedicated and highly trained staff knows that no 2 people are not the same. We are committed to providing all of our residents, with exactly the level of care and support, where and when is required.

New Sensory Room

Our new sensory room is specially designed environment that provides a sensory experience to our residents, with a wide variety of different abilities.

We have sand, sea, seagulls and seaside background music. Chips in a cone or ice cream. We aim to engage and re-lift the senses of all our residents



Top 20 Small Care Home Groups 2020

We are pleased to announce that we have won this award for the second consecutive year and we couldn't be any happier. Our staff have worked hard over the year to not only make a difference to our residents but, to also assure families that they loved ones are in safe hands

The carehome.co.uk Group Award 2020 highlights the most recommended Care Home Groups in the UK. The Awards are based on over 120,000 reviews from care home residents as well as their friends and family



Quinton House Nursing Home,
Main Road, Lower Quinton, Stratford-upon-Avon,



01789 720247

info@quintonhouse.net

quintonhouse.net

Follow us on Facebook

Speeding – It has been disappointing to see so many drivers speeding through Lower Quinton – as measured by our certified Speedwatch laser device.. Particularly so when our last two sessions have been during school arrival time. Letters will be forthcoming from Warwickshire Police.

Road works - Lots are planned around us. If you go to <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap> centre on Quinton Parish and zoom in until you see various symbols. When you click on them, further information will be shown though I don't always find that just what is going to happen is crystal clear.

The Community Coffee Shop at Meon Vale has been awarded monies from both the County Councillor grant scheme and Stratford District Council Community Infrastructure Levy which will help us to make the place a better and more viable location over the coming months. We are looking at the costs of connecting the building for broadband WiFi which will require a trench to be dug as it has no connection at the moment and also the boiler system needs changes so that we can have reliable hot water and heating come the winter. The nesting season is over for this summer so please look at your **vegetation** and make sure it is cut back to within your property. The Parish Council will be doing the same. Thank you.

Robert Spooner Chair Quinton Parish Council

District Councillor's Report

Stratford District Council has announced it will be allocating £5,000 of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to the Meon Vale Pavilion Community Project. The project includes elements such as a community coffee shop, dementia afternoons, safe space consultation room, training and volunteering opportunities, a food share operation and links in with the local allotments through 'learn to plant' advice and the loan of tools. Thank you to those who have helped to make the Pavilion project happen. There has been a lot of hard work put in by local residents and I am delighted that the project will receive £5,000 from CIL. This funding is in addition to the two CCTV cameras that will be in Meon Vale.

South Warwickshire District Council Consultation

Stratford and Warwick District Councils have recently been working together and sharing resources. They are now consulting on the creation of a combined South Warwickshire District Council. To read further about this and to have your say on the plans, please visit www.southwarwickshire.org and complete the consultation by the 24th October.

District Councillor Edward Fitter

Meon Vale – Residents' Association Update

The good news is that the Residents' Association (MVRA) successfully applied for funding for sporting activities in Meon Vale and we have partnered with Meon Leisure Centre for table tennis sessions (bat & chat for over 50s) and free sports activities for children over the summer holidays. We are planning to support other sports and activities for residents, so please keep an eye on our social media feeds for updates of subsidised activities. It is important to keep active!

We also received a grant from Warwickshire Council Council's Green Shoots fund. This is a fund to support community action for climate change and we have lots of ideas of how we can make meaningful change in our community. We will share more news on that soon. But if you want to be part of this initiative, please join the Association or drop us an email and let us know how you would like to get involved.

Meon Funfest was a great success on 14th August, with lots of different activities for families. The weather was kind to us and we had the biggest festival yet. Huge thanks to Christine J and her team for organising such a successful event. And thanks to the various people and organisations who supported it, particularly the team at the Pavilion. Thanks for Samantha Lee for sharing photographs of the event.

The festival also saw the launch of the MVRA residents' survey – where you can tell us what is important to you. Understanding the different priorities of residents allows the Executive Committee of the Association to focus our efforts, as well as allowing us to demonstrate the needs of our community to potential funders and other relevant organisations. The survey closes on 25th September and then we will share the feedback we have obtained.

We plan to launch a website so that we can keep everyone up-to-date with our news and events. Check out www.meonvalera.org for news and updates.

If you would like to take an active role in the development of our new community, you can join the residents' association and volunteer to support our activities. We also have positions on the Executive Committee, which is a fairly large and friendly group. No experience is necessary – we just need Meon Vale residents who want to support our community and have some spare time. If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee, or other volunteering opportunities in the community, please drop a line to meonvaleresidents@gmail.com to arrange an informal chat.

Please register to join our mailing list via <http://eepurl.com/hrl34T> to keep up-to-date with news and relevant information or if you are a resident, please do join the Association to show support for what we do.



STRATFORD SELF STORE .CO.UK

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- Indoor Storage Rooms
- Outside Containers
- Packing Materials

STORAGE
CONTAINER
EASY TO
OPEN DOOR

33.2 CU.M.
1,172 CU.FT.

30,480
20,000
17,850
15,820
13,295
62,380
KGS
LBS
KGS
LBS
KGS
LBS



Meon Medical Centre Update

The commonest complaint heard in the media about GPs at the moment is that they are not seeing patients, so I'd like to explain what is happening here at Meon Medical Centre.

Throughout the pandemic we have been told to try to minimise the number of patients that we are seeing face-to-face and to limit any unnecessary contact. We were told to bring in telephone triage – which we did as soon as the first lockdown began – something that both patients and us, as clinicians, had to learn to manage. This advice still stands as although the restrictions have lifted, as we all know, cases are still rising and by necessity we often do need to bring down vulnerable patients to the surgery.

Throughout though we have continued to see patients face to face. Our nurses in particular have seen patients face to face to continue to offer services of blood taking and dressings and injections – all things that can't be done over the phone. The GPs have triaged every request for an appointment and continued to bring patients down to the surgery if there is a clinical need to examine them.

As the restrictions have eased we trialled having appointments, available for people to book directly for face to face appointments but have found it difficult to manage as sometimes the appointments booked do not need an examination and could have been done over the phone. We have also found that people have “stacked up” their problems and expect us to deal with several problems within a 10-minute consultation. The result is that the waiting room can get full with people waiting who perhaps didn't need to come to the surgery, which has been unnecessary.

Econsultations

So – what have we done? We are constantly reviewing our appointment system to try to make it as efficient as possible. If you look at our website there is the opportunity to send in a request for an online or econsultation. The best problems to be dealt with using this method are simple queries that can be resolved with an electronic reply, for example medication queries, requests for advice, or administrative queries about fit notes or reports. We do offer directly bookable face to face consultations for problems that will obviously need an examination - for

example a new lump - however we have decided to continue to triage all other appointment requests before offering a face to face consultation.

The other common media story is about the pressure that GPs are under. We too are finding the demand significantly higher than I have ever known it before. I know that everyone is frustrated, some are even angry about the impact of the pandemic. A lot of routine hospital appointments were cancelled, operations were postponed, people were lost to follow up and often they need their GP to re-refer them. This adds to our workload at a time when we are trying to deal with our own backlog of routine reviews that were all cancelled through the pandemic. In addition a lot of people did not consult us during the pandemic and now want several different problems dealt with when they get an appointment with us. Often this is not possible to fit into a 10 minute consultation, which then increases frustration, makes us run late and adds pressure to both waiting patients and also to the GP themselves.

Deferring in routine blood tests

To add to the challenges we are facing, you may have heard that there is a worldwide shortage of blood bottles. As a result, at the moment, we are having to defer all routine blood tests until 20th September. We are unsure what happens at that point but some people may be asked to defer their blood test appointments as we prioritise those blood tests that are clinically urgent.

Finally – we wanted to update you regarding the flu clinic and covid boosters. As I am sure you are aware from the media (who actually often find out the information earlier than we do!) the recommendations from the JCVI are still outstanding. Initially we were told that the recommendation was likely to be that the flu boosters and covid boosters were given together and that all over 50s would need a booster and we were asked to start planning for this. Once again we joined forces with our neighbouring practices and we were planning to start offering the booster programme from 27th September.

Annual flu vaccinations

There are now as you may be aware several obstacles: firstly, nationally, we have been told that our flu vaccine deliveries are likely to be delayed by up to two weeks, and secondly we still don't know who will be eligible for a covid booster or if they can be administered at the same time as the flu jab or if there has to be a gap – or indeed how long the gap needs to be!

What we do know though is that regardless of the covid booster we will be offering flu clinics as soon as we can guarantee we have the vaccines ourselves likely to be end of September, early October together with the other two practices in our Primary Care Network – Shipston and Wellesbourne – at Ettington Village Hall. If we get the go-ahead to start the covid boosters at the same time then the plans change again. We will keep everyone informed via our website – www.meonmedicalcentre.nhs.uk - as soon as we know the details.

For latest information on covid and flu boosted vaccinations - see page 29

St Swithin's (almost) silent bells

In the Harvest issue we reported that the St Swithin's church bells could not be rung while the tower was in need of repair. But, as some will have heard during the Bishop's recent visit and on other Sundays, they have not been completely silenced.

Although the six bells cannot be rung in the traditional full circle method, with over two tons of metal swinging around and putting considerable strain on the tower, we are fortunate to have an Ellacombe chiming system. This enables the bells to be chimed, by a single person, in the same way that the clock bell is struck, without swinging the bell through 360 degrees.

Unruly bell ringers

The system, invented 200 hundred years ago by a Gloucester vicar the Revd Henry Thomas Ellacombe, was first installed in the parish church in Bitton, between Bristol and Bath, in 1822. It is said that the Revd Ellacombe devised the mechanism so that the bells could be "rung by one trusted person without involving a band of unruly and perhaps drunken ringers"!

There is no record of when the system was introduced in St Swithin's but it is recorded that by 1880 it had been installed in some 200 churches. We also do not know the reason for its installation, whether it was just the latest 'must have gadget', whether there was a shortage of bell ringers or because the Quinton team had become unruly! Possibly it was on one of the previous occasions when the bells had been silenced due to the precarious state of the tower.

History of the Quinton Bells

While the earliest record of the ringing of church bells in England was in AD900 the first reference to bells in Quinton is in the "Quinton Will", held in Worcester Probate Office, which states that "*Thomas Reus left money for ye bells 1499*".

An early reference to the St Swithin's bells can be found in the first volume of the Quinton Church register (held in Warwick Records Office) in which Henry Hornby, vicar from 1592 to 1635, writes: "*The bells were cast and the frame newly made in the year of our Lord 1621, John Riland and William Riland being then Churchwardens.*" The next mention, in Volume II, records: "*The antient Ring of Bells of Quinton being five were cast into six Anno 1687*".

In 1774 the register records "*In the Tower, 6 good bells, the Tenor and the Treble was cast in the year 1743*", and gives the previous and new weights of

the two recast bells, stating that “*the bell founder have for casting 3d a pound*”, which would have earned him £27.8s (roughly equivalent to £4,200 today).

Celebrating a Jubilee

Minutes of Vestry Meetings also provide an insight into the history of the bells. In 1898 a minute reads: “*A meeting of the inhabitants of Quinton and Admington will be held in the Parish Room on Thursday 17th Feb. at 10am to consider the desirability of restoring the church bells and holding a public meeting to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee*”. Then on the 4th March: “*It was agreed that Mrs J.C. Hiatt write to all the landowners in the parish soliciting such subscription towards defraying the expense of rehangng the church bells at an estimated cost of £150*”.

A historical record added to the Vestry Minutes, referring to the church spire being reported to be in a dangerous condition in 1952 (see *St Swithin’s News - Harvest 2021*), records that: “*At the same time the Church bells which had not been rung for some years owing to the condition of the wooden frames and wheel structures are found unsafe. It was decided to go ahead with a complete reconstruction scheme, a Rehangng of the bells in Steel frames, and pulling down the crumbling spire and rebuilding the same*”.

The bells were removed and rehung on a new steel frame by Taylors of the Bell Foundry, Loughborough, who still carry out the annual inspection and maintenance. At the same time the tenor bell was recast.

It is possible that we will not hear a full peal of the bells of St Swithin’s for a year or two but, in the meantime, they will not remain completely silent thanks to the Revd Ellacombe and his unruly band of ringers!

Full Circle ringing - a particularly English activity

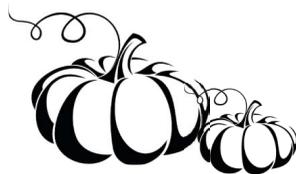
Full circle ringing is the method of ringing a tower bell so that it swings in a complete circle from mouth upwards to mouth upwards and then back again repetitively. This form of church bell ringing is a tradition which has continued, virtually unchanged, since the 17th century.

It is a particularly English activity. Of the 6,041 towers similar to St Swithin’s Church worldwide, 5,685 of them are in England with only 244 in Scotland, Ireland and Wales, leaving just 112 in the rest of the world!

St Swithin’s Church 200 Club

Winning ticket numbers in the monthly draws for August and September were:

August	1st (£30)	111;	2nd (£20)	173;	3rd (£10)	55
September	1st (£30)	85;	2nd (£20)	6;	3rd (£10)	57



P.Y.O PUMPKINS

Open 10am to 3pm

Saturday 9th October, Saturday 16th October, Saturday 23rd October
and Tuesday 26th to Saturday 30th October

£1.00 per person admission (children under 1 year old go free).

No booking required.

Pumpkins from 50p to £10.00 depending on size

The pumpkin patch is a food production area and as such dogs are
not allowed



Wellies are advisable.



Thinking ahead to Christmas



Here at Lower Clopton Farm we rear 2,800 traditional Christmas turkeys. All the farm's turkeys are free-range and able to forage around in the fields behind the farm house. The birds are labelled Golden Turkeys, and as a member of the Traditional Farmfresh Turkey Association, Richard guarantees that the birds are grown slowly to full maturity with plenty of space, good welfare, access to the great outdoors and fed on a natural diet. They are also dry plucked and dry-aged for at least seven days to bring out the full flavour.

Website: www.lowerclopton.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram



Queen's Jubilee poster competition

*Open to all children
in the parish*

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year there will be a day of family fun and celebration in Quinton on Saturday 4th June 2022. In order to help promote the event the organising committee is inviting local children to design a poster that can be reproduced and used to advertise the celebrations.

The competition, which is open to all children resident in the parish, will be split into three age groups (at the time of entry): - up to 7 years; up to 12 years; and up to 17 years.

All entrants will be entitled a free ride of their choice at the funfair on the day with the winners of each age group receiving an additional prize.

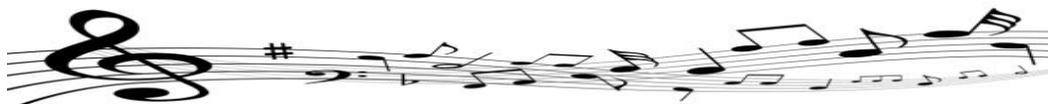
The design, which can be in any medium, should be suitable to fit, reduce to, or enlarge to A4 size, with some space available for relevant text to be added.

Closing date for entries is 1st November – to be delivered to the Old Vicarage, Lower Quinton with the name and age of the entrant, plus a parent or guardian's name and contact phone number - this information will not be passed on or used other than to communicate about the competition.

What is planned for 4th June so far

Throughout the day: - funfair rides and games catering for all ages from toddlers to pensioners; children's soft play areas, bouncy castles and bumper cars, mega slides; adult table football, bucking bronco, laser shoot and team competitions. Family picnic area, BBQ and bar; with a dance in the evening.

.... with many more activities and entertainment in the pipeline



Village Voices - back in Quinton Village Hall!

Yes, Village Voices are back singing together in the large hall on Thursday mornings!

For those of you new to the village, we are a friendly group of people who enjoy relaxed community singing for health and pleasure. We sing a variety of old and new songs 'by ear', without using written music.

Interested? Come along on a Thursday morning 10.30 -11.30. For dates see the Village Diary on page 28.

Please bring your own drinks and wear a mask as you enter and leave the hall. The hall will be ventilated, so if the weather is cold, warm clothing is advised!

Fiona Thurburn-Huelin

Village Hall AGM

The Quinton & Admington Village Hall AGM, postponed due to covid-19 restrictions in 2020, will be held in the Hall on Thursday 7th October at 7pm. Activities in the Hall, which was operating under the government restrictions during lockdown, are returning to pre-pandemic levels. To book the hall, for one-off or regular use, call Rosie Charman on 01789 721029

Happy Birthday Greetings

Will your child have a birthday in December or January?

If you and they would like to see it acknowledged in the Christmas issue of St Swithin's News, let us know their name and the date of their birthday.

Please e-mail the information to editor.swithinsnews@gmail.com by 5th November. Please put a phone number in case there is a need to contact you.

Sudoku challenge (solution-page—28)

	6				9
3			4		8 2
5				2	6
	4		5 6	8	
	1		7		
					1
	4 7				
		4		9	
			1	6	3

Shoebbox Appeal 2021

Deadline 5th November



Would you like to make someone's Christmas special?

Then please join our “Link to Hope, Shoebbox Appeal!”.

It's hard to imagine the continuing poverty, inadequate housing and lack of medical or social care still prevalent in Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. Your gift can make a world of difference to those struggling to survive against these odds.

Simply fill a shoebox suitable for either a family or an elderly person. Why not make up a box with a friend? Items can be secondhand if in good condition.

Leaflets and instructions for the Appeal can be found in St. Swithin's Church or from Judy Moore (01789) 720773 or Lydia Stowe 720443.

Please would you deliver your box by Friday 5th November to Judy or to Lydia.

The Pied Piper is coming to Quinton



QUADS eagerly anticipated annual pantomime is returning this year, with an adaptation of the Pied Piper by Lorraine Mason

Performances (*covid permitting*) in Quinton & Admington Village Hall on
Friday 26th November at 7.30pm
Saturday 27th November at 2.30pm
Sunday 28th November at 2.30pm

Tickets (£7 adults, £4 children) will be on sale from 1st November from JR Stores, Lower Quinton or online. See posters for details of online ticket sales.

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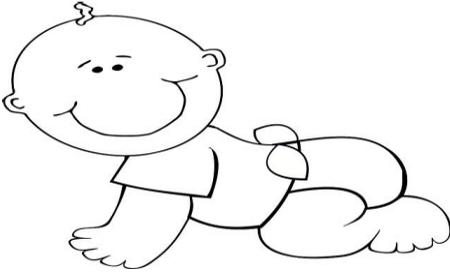
Baby and toddler groups

St Swithin's Church Quinton

Baby & Toddler Group

Mondays 9:00 to 10:00am

Quinton Village Hall



*Come and have a coffee and relax with
others -
there is no charge*

**Meon Vale Baby and
Toddler Group**

The Meon Vale Baby and Toddler Group runs every

Thursday morning 10 to 11 am
(during term time)

in Meon Vale Village Hall.

The group is free and there is no longer any need to book in advance.

It is a great place to meet new people and lots of fun for little ones – why not pop in and join us?

For more details visit the Meon Vale Baby and Toddler Group Facebook page.

Quinton Tots & Tiddlers

Having started the Tuesday toddler group when their children were babies and carried on until they were welcoming the children of toddlers they had cared for, Sue Smith, Sue Upstone and Rosie Charman have decided to call it a day.

An opportunity for others

The prolonged break caused by lockdown has helped the three of us, who run Quinton Tots & Tiddlers, to decide that after 25 years we are going to retire.

We have put the toys into the care of the Village Hall, so if anyone else would like to start a group in Lower Quinton, there will be toys for them to use. Some of the grants we were awarded for bigger pieces of equipment were for the children in the village, so this seems to be the fairest way to secure them.

We are more than happy to pass on what we have picked up over the years, especially if it means that it gives others the confidence to start a similar group.

We have made lots of friends and we will miss everyone, but we're planning some quieter coffee morning in the future. **Rosie, Sue & Sue.**

Home Cooking

Autumn's seasonal recipe selected by "Quinton's Foodlover" is

EVA'S APFELKUCHEN

*Samuel Butler's wonderful quote is the inspiration for my choice of recipe :
"Autumn is the mellower season and what we lose in flowers we more than gain
in fruits."*

INGREDIENTS

- 4 oz (115g) butter
- 4 oz (115g) caster sugar
- 8 oz (225g) self raising flour
- 1 medium sized egg
- 1lb (450g) cooking apples
- 1tbsp brown sugar
- 1oz (25g) sultanas
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- a little icing sugar



METHOD

1. Grease and line a loose-bottomed 8 in (20 cm) cake tin.
2. Melt the butter in a saucepan over a low heat and add the caster sugar. Leave to cool.
3. Meanwhile sift the flour into a bowl and combine with the beaten egg. Then stir in the cooled butter and sugar to make the cake mixture.
4. Peel, core and slice the apples. Put in a separate bowl and mix with the brown sugar, sultanas and cinnamon.
5. Spread half of the cake mixture in the bottom of the tin and arrange the spiced sugar and apple on top.
6. Cover with the remaining cake mixture (it doesn't matter if there are gaps).
7. Place the cake tin into a pre-heated oven at 350F/180C/Gas 4 and bake for an hour or until golden.
8. Cool in the tin and serve either dusted with icing sugar or drizzled with a thin icing glaze.
9. Enjoy!

Quinton gardening enthusiasts

Hello gardening enthusiasts! Our Summer garden blooms are fading, but I am still enjoying looking out at the remaining pretty echinacea, roses and geraniums that have been so lovely over the summer months in our little garden. I hope you have enjoyed your summer garden as much as I have enjoyed mine.

The year is flying by and my focus is now autumn and winter planting, and planning changes to our garden for 2022.

In my last article I wrote about taking time to have a really good look at how your garden has grown, and thinking about changes to your planting you could make for next year, and that is just what I have been doing. My aim for next year is to try to ensure we have colour in the garden through every season. I have ordered some new spring bulbs and summer flowering perennials that I am looking forward to planting. I am now searching for autumn and winter colour for a north facing wall in partial shade. If anyone has had great success with such plants, please email me and let me know! (smith.wa@yahoo.com)

As ever, there are always tasks to do in even the smallest of gardens, all year round, so here are a few reminders for your autumn gardening:

- * **Collect seeds from seed heads** in your garden, dry them and store them in paper bags or envelopes to sow next year.
- * **It is time for planting spring bulbs**, such as daffodil, crocus, tulip and snowdrop.
- * **Take care of your lavender plants.** Cuttings can be taken from this year's growth of non-flowering stems and put into gritty compost, then cut back this year's growth on the whole plant, but do not cut back the older growth.
- * **Take cuttings from healthy stems of fuchsias**, trim off excess leaves and put them into pots of gritty compost.
- * **In the vegetable garden** it is time to sow peas and broad beans and harvest pumpkins and squash. If your plot is empty, spread some manure over it to improve your soil.

Finally, I am interested in swapping any seeds I have harvested from plants this year. If you are interested in seed swapping, do let me know.

As the nights draw in, each year I feel saddened by the ending of summer, my favourite season of warmth and vibrant colours. This year I do hope to take a more positive outlook, and to enjoy getting outdoors in the garden during this season of mist and mellow fruitfulness, and I hope you can too.

Wendy Smith

Autumn

There are years when we enjoy long, warm days in autumn but occasionally summer just seems to go straight to winter, with cold, wet or foggy days. Of course, memory lends enchantment, but as a child, I enjoyed the colours and sounds of autumn with strong winds and the leaves whirling through the air.

Some years, if we're lucky, we enjoy 'St Luke's little Summer', a week of warm, sunshine around mid October.

We village children roamed the local fields in search of the biggest horse chestnuts - 'conkers' - to hang on knotted pieces of string, or sometimes our shoe laces! In those days, no one stopped us from playing our conker tournaments in the school playground.

There was a large ash tree in our garden which like all English ash trees, shed its still green leaves at the first cold spell. I was a tomboy and loved climbing trees but, sadly, the first branch was too high for me to reach. The fallen leaves made a deep layer on the lawn. They were quite dry and it was very satisfying to kick and throw them about.

At that time, the predominant autumn leaf colour was yellow, with mainly willow trees, sycamores and a few birches. The best and brightest leaves covered the many tall, beautiful elm trees. The oak and chestnut leaves just became a rather dull bronze. The most colourful leaves were on pear trees - several shades of red. Nowadays, things are a lot different from sixty years ago, Acers are common, brightening our gardens in every brilliant shade of red and orange.

By November, most trees have lost their leaves and stand stark and beautiful against (if we are lucky,) clear skies. At this time of the year, the sunrises and sunsets are stunning.

Like our predecessors, we are tidying the garden and preparing for winter. Greenhouses are emptied and cleaned and the vegetable gardens dug and tidied.

There's a collective sigh of relief at the annual disappearance of the pests which seemed, as usual, determined to decimate the brassicas.

In the flower garden, the hellebores, green for so many months, are already showing buds; soon it will be time to cut down most of their old leaves to show off the lovely blooms. It's also time to cut back all of the perennials, now that the birds have had a chance to feed on the dried seed heads. This year I left the dead sunflower heads, which were packed with seeds, for the finches. We feed the garden birds all the year round, mostly with sunflower hearts, but also a few peanuts. I try to keep the bird baths full of water, but if they freeze over, there's always the little waterfall which we kept going when the pond was filled in. I loved the pond, but after a snake moved in and ate all of the wildlife in it, we decided it was time for it to go.

Gardens do evolve and life would be very boring if everything stayed the same!



Marguerite

Contacts

St Swithin's Church

Rector: Revd Ros Greenhalgh 01789 751546
e-mail: revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com
Revd Jim Edie (Curate) 01789 722416
e-mail: revdjimedie@gmail.com
Revd Andrew Goy (Communities Minister) 07554 932271
e-mail: cotswoldpioneer@gmail.com
Revd Yvette Grundy (Assistant Curate) 01789 750006
e-mail: ygrundy@icloud.com
Churchwardens : Judi Lucas 01789 720239
Jane Spooner 07365 517962
e-mail: JaneChurchWarden64@outlook.com

Quinton Parish Council

Chairman: Robert Spooner 07588 524758
e-mail: pcquinrns6493m@outlook.com
Clerk: Maria Norman 01789 450242
e-mail: quintonpcclerk@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Chairman: Paul Milliken 01789 721229
website: www.quinton-plan.org

Quinton Parish Website

www.quintonweb.net/notice-board

Admington Parish Council

Chairperson: Sue Cook 07767205400
e-mail: s.cook8@sky.com
Clerk: Maria Norman 01789 450242
e-mail: warkspclerk@gmail.com

District Councillor

Edward Fitter 07976 693080
e-mail: Edward.Fitter@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Meon Medical Centre

01789 720820

Quinton & Admington Village Hall bookings

Rosie Charman 01789 721029

Nosh & Natter; Trips 4U;

Barbara Craig 07771 708151

Ladies' Circle

Karen Morris 01789 721089

Police Shipston on Stour Safer Neighbourhood Team

01789 444670
e-mail: shipston.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

VILLAGE DIARY

October

- 1st Harvest Supper, Quinton Village Hall, 7.30pm (tickets from Jane – 07365 517962)
- 7th Village Voices, Quinton Village Hall, 10.30am (see page 18)
- 7th Village Hall AGM, Quinton village Hall, 7pm (see page 18)
- 14th Village Voices, Quinton Village Hall, 10.30am (see page 18)
- 19th Quinton Parish Council Meeting, Quinton Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 21st Village Voices, Quinton Village Hall, 10.30am (see page 18)
- 28th Village Voices, Quinton Village Hall, 10.30am (see page 18)

November

- 11th Village Voices, Quinton Village Hall, 10.30am (see page 18)
- 18th Village Voices, Quinton Village Hall, 10.30am (see page 18)
- 19th Christmas Pudding Party (see page 5)
- 25th Village Voices, Quinton Village Hall, 10.30am (see page 18)
- 26th The Pied Piper, QUADS pantomime, Quinton village Hall, 7.30pm (see page 19)
- 26th/27th The Pied Piper, QUADS pantomime, Quinton village Hall, 2.30pm (see page 19)
- 30th Quinton Parish Council Meeting, Quinton Village Hall, 7.30pm

December

- 2th Village Voices, Quinton Village Hall, 10.30am (see page 18)
- 4th Christmas Craft Fair (see page 5)
- 9th Village Voices, Quinton Village Hall, 10.30am (see page 18)
- 11th/12th Christmas Tree Festival
- 16th Village Voices, Quinton Village Hall, 10.30am (see page 18)

To include a date send to e-mail: editor.swithinews@gmail.com or phone 721311

Change of e-mail contact for St Swithin's News

Please note that all correspondence, copy or advertising for St Swithin's News should now be sent to

editor.swithinsnews@gmail.com
telephone (unchanged) 01789 721311

Copy date for the Christmas & New Year issue is Monday 8th November

Sudoku solution – see page 18

4	2	6	8	3	7	1	5	9
3	9	1	6	4	5	7	8	2
5	7	8	9	1	2	4	3	6
2	3	4	1	5	6	8	9	7
8	1	5	7	9	3	2	6	4
7	6	9	2	8	4	3	1	5
1	4	7	3	6	9	5	2	8
6	5	3	4	2	8	9	7	1
9	8	2	5	7	1	6	4	3

News from Meon Medical Centre concerning Covid booster and flu vaccinations, organised through the Dene & Stour Valley PCN

**Covid Vaccine Boosters and Flu vaccinations will begin on Sunday 3rd October at
Ettington Community Centre
Rogers Lane
Ettington
CV37 7SX**

The vaccination site will run on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the duration of the Booster rollout.

The D&S Covid Vaccine Hotline number is 01926 962 718

Covid boosters and flu jab bookings have started for our practice - you will be called six months after your second Covid injection.

We have plenty. You may have also received a text from the NHS national booking service to book your Covid-19 booster vaccination, but please be assured your local vaccination team will also be providing this service and will be in touch with you very soon, so there is no need to contact your GP practice. **Please be patient, you will be invited shortly.**

If you wish to have your flu vaccine before you are invited for your Covid Booster, please book via the Dean and Stour Valley Covid Vaccine Hotline number - 01926 962 718.