

ST SWITHIN'S NEWS

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

Lent 2021



February & March

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plus all that is happening in your community

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St Swithin's News

Lent



Lent, the time of reflection leading up to Easter when it is traditional to give up things which are considered to be detrimental to our lives, begins on 17th February. This year, without the celebrations and excesses of Christmas and the New Year, and with the restrictions of lockdown, it may seem as though there is little left to give up. As Revd Jim puts it in **'Another day of lockdown ...'** (page 4) life feels as though it is going round in circles.

When Lent comes it also means that spring is on the way and there are already signs of change in the countryside – the appearance of daffodil shoots and the first lambs. There are also the first hints that activities will get back to normal with the **call to all 'crafters'** and the announcement of **plans for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations** (both page 8.) We can start dreaming of having a full diary page of events once again.

In Meon Vale Quinton and Marston Sicca councils are working together to support **the Café project** (page 9) and it is good to see that peaceful protest can be successful, not only in **Saving the Woods** (page 12) but also in helping to build a stronger community. Meanwhile the Upper Quinton community seems to be extending in a northerly direction according to **Quinton boundary changes** (page 13)!

Sadly we remember the lives of one of our past rectors (page 6) and four well-known Admington residents (page 16) all of whom have died in the past three months.



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Copy deadline for the Easter issue is Saturday 6th March 2021

Contact the editor: nicholas.bond@farming.me.uk or phone 01789 721311

Another day of lockdown.....

Reflection by the Revd Jim Edie

Does all this feel a bit like the 1990s' film Ground Hog Day?

The basis of the film is that the main character (played by Bill Murray) wakes up each morning to relive the same day. (If you have not seen it, it might provide some light entertainment at the moment.) I wonder if your days are starting to feel a bit like that? Mine are!



Do you wake up saying “Here comes another day of lockdown”? I note that my colleague Reverend Yvette Grundy wrote the last Parish Magazine article as we had ‘just entered our second ‘lockdown’’ and as it turns out I write this on the first day of ‘Lockdown 3’.

Does life feel like it is going round in circles, with the return to home working, home schooling, home ... surviving!? For many of us the resounding answer to that question is likely to be a big YES! And then there are those who are keyworkers, particularly those in education, medicine, and care, who are wondering when the workload is going to finally get easier – a continued THANK YOU to all of you. For us in your local church, the constant change in guidelines has also presented many challenges, particularly with services (which now return to online only) and also as we work with others to support those on their own and some of the vulnerable in our communities, but please know that our continued prayers are with you at these challenging times.

Some of you may have managed to attend local or online services at Christmas or perhaps listened to those on the radio. This, I hope, would have been a reminder of what Christmas is all about, and the mystery and hope that is found in the birth of a baby 2000 years ago. This extract from John’s Gospel reminds us:

‘This, you see, is how much God loved the world: enough to give his only, special son, so that everyone who believes in him should not be lost but should share in the life of God’s new age.’ John 3:16 (Bible for Everyone)

If you are feeling lost, angry, and frustrated with the current situation in which we find ourselves, know that Jesus came to give us hope, hope for

new life and hope for a relationship with God. In the film ‘Ground Hog Day’ Bill Murray’s character realised his only way out of the ever-repetitive days, was to get his actions and relationships with others *right*. Once he did this, the next time he woke up it was *finally* the next day. Perhaps lockdown provides us with something similar. Maybe it provides a space for us to reassess what is important in life, maybe it gives space for us to reflect on what ‘the meaning of life’ is. In February we will be running another Alpha Course over zoom. It is a forum to ask questions and reflect on the Christian faith. If you are wondering where God is in all that is going on (or even if you are not) come and join us. A sense of what the Alpha course is like can be found at: - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fViYK_Xb3Wg. Further details will be circulated via email and Facebook so watch this space.

In the meantime, if you know of anyone in need or lonely do contact one of the members of clergy and we’ll do our best to provide help.

Otherwise, ‘stay safe’ and I hope that the next time I write, it won’t be the beginning of another lockdown!

Every blessing

Reverend Jim

Curate of Quinton, Welford, Weston and Marston Sicca

Online Zoom Church Services and Zoom Link

Sunday Morning Service - 10am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2804259644?pwd=cVFwYm01S2lIWW9SRDNERk9ySi9aUT09> Meeting ID: 280 425 9644 Password: 390290

Kids’ Church – 11:15am (1st & 3rd Sundays)

Contact Reverend Ros Greenhalgh for login details – 01789 751546, revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com

Morning Prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2804259644?pwd=cVFwYm01S2lIWW9SRDNERk9ySi9aUT09> Meeting ID: 280 425 9644 Password: 390290

Evening Prayer every day at 6.30pm

Contact John Ryder for login details - doctorjohnryder@hotmail.co.uk

Zoom Coffee Morning - Wednesday at 10.20am

Join us for a coffee and chat after Morning Prayer on (please bring your own refreshments!)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2804259644?pwd=cVFwYm01S2lIWW9SRDNERk9ySi9aUT09> Meeting ID: 280 425 9644 Password: 390290

Rector's ruminations

Revd Alice Moira (Tirsh) Grigor

9th May 1949 ~ 27th December 2020

We were sad to hear that Revd Tirsh Grigor passed away on 27th December at her home in Scotland. Tirsh was a much loved Priest and Rector of Welford, Weston, Quinton and Long Marston from 2006 until her retirement in 2015. Her funeral took place on Friday 8th January in St Regulus Episcopal Church, Cromarty, Scotland.



In a tribute by friends and relatives (extracts of which follow), Tirsh was described as being a force for nature in every role – as priest; relative; neighbour; friend.

Old acquaintances and former colleagues have emphasised her powerful energy and stamina, her courage, her generosity, her skill as a cook, her love of fine art and music, and her sense of style.

Tirsh, who saw herself first and foremost as a farmer's daughter from Killen, loved returning to her family and roots in Cromarty. She trained and worked originally as a primary teacher before being drawn to explore her Christian faith and spent time as a postulant with the community of the Church of the Holy Name near Malvern. However, being a nun was not her vocation and she was called to train for the priesthood and she became an amazingly hardworking, creative, available and enabling parish priest.

When she retired Tirsh returned to the Highlands settling in Cromarty where she became involved at St Regulus on a regular basis and took up coastal rowing.

Shortly after her 70th birthday she was diagnosed with advanced cancer but continued to live life to the full, despite undergoing chemotherapy until 'lockdown' when life changed significantly.

We will each have our memories of Tirsh, our Priest and our friend, for whom we give thanks to God for all she meant to each one of us.

Rest in Peace Tirsh x

Love at Christmas!

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in so many different ways to our 'Love at Christmas' Project – giving of your time, money and food. It was an amazing response!



Thank you Waitrosefilling hampers.....loaded for delivery

A special thank you must go to Sandra and the Waitrose Staff (Stratford-upon-Avon) who provided numerous Christmas gifts as a result of their 'Giving Tree' initiative.

As a result of all the support, on Monday 21st December, 80 Christmas meals (supplied by 'The Long Table') were packed up and delivered to local people of all ages. Alongside the meals, we also distributed Christmas puddings, custard, brandy sauce, mince pies, biscuits and Christmas presents.

Thank you so much

Ros Revd Ros Greenhalgh

(Benefice of Long Marston, Quinton, Welford-on-Avon and Weston-on-Avon)

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Some eccentricities of English

Bolt: to secure, or to flee

Cleave: to adhere, or to separate

Dust: to add fine particles, or to
remove them

Fast: quick, or stuck, or made stable

Left: remained, or departed

Sanction: to approve, or to boycott

Peer: a person of nobility, or an equal

Weather: to withstand, or to wear away

St Swithin's Churchwardens' Notes

With Christmas over our thoughts need to turn to fundraising for the major repairs needed for our Church. We hope the whole community will come together to support us in these endeavours.

A small fundraising group will start planning events and grant applications shortly. Do you have the skills and experience to be a part of this important project?

We would love to hear from you, please call Jane on 07365 517962.

Calling all 'crafters' - as soon as we can meet a craft group will be open to everyone. The aim is to make craft items to sell at a Christmas market over a cuppa and cake with friends old and new. The one thing we have all missed this year is spending time with others. Hopefully it won't be long before this is possible but in the meantime we could meet on Zoom and have projects to work on at home. Please contact Jane for more details on 07365 517962.

Wishing you and your family a Very Happy, Healthy 2021.

Jane & Judi (Churchwardens) see page 2 for contact details

**Book the date now ...
Saturday 4th June 2022
... and watch this space!**

**Quinton will be celebrating
the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

The dust sheets are being taken off the Quinton Jubilee Committee;
fairground entertainment has been booked;
ideas and volunteers are being sought.

If you would like to be involved, have any suggestions for events and activities, or can help in any way please let Rob Moore know on 720773.

A Happier, Safe and Healthy New Year to all



The Playground by Quinton and Admington Village Hall is changed but not yet complete. One piece of equipment has yet to be refurbished and the zip wire lacks some zip. The installer will be coming back before the end of January to re-tension the zip wire.

Quinton and Marston Sicca Parish Councils continue to work together in various areas, one of which is the building which has been known as The Sports Pavilion in Meon Vale. Much work has been carried out inside by us and with the very generous help of various companies, who will be named when we actually manage to open; we have all the ingredients of a really good café. Not huge, but it certainly will be warm and friendly and has a great covered outdoor space as well. In fact we are looking to do much more for the community and are exploring many other avenues whilst we wait for Covid restrictions to allow us to finally open the café door.

I wrote to Bromfords in November about all their sales signage which we still have around the Parish and have just reminded them it is still there and also to seek their timetable to finish off the path interfaces, where the estate paths join the established village paths. Their November reply was that they needed a road restriction (e.g. traffic lights) and had been given a date by Warwickshire County Council Highways of July 21st 2021. Yes, July. WCC have said it is due to other work already being timetabled, namely the Taylor's Lane and Campden Road roundabout construction where, as I have remarked to WCC, as of two days ago no work had started and the path work could have all been tidied up by now. I know they plan work so that one does not add to another nearby but

I enquired in November about the timetable for building the mobile phone mast opposite the entrance to the garden village. I was told that it was likely to be February or March and I will shortly follow this up for an update. I am led to believe it will be operated as a joint Vodafone and O2 base station. When I get that update it will go on Quinton Parish Council Web site, Facebook (and Peeps).

Have you walked down by the duck pond in Lower Quinton lately? They have been breeding like rabbits. Nice to see the pond has lots of water which is pretty clean. Please do take care if you're driving past.

Robert Spooner Chair Quinton Parish Council



District Councillor's report

Community Fibre Broadband Programme Moves to Build Stage



Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet recently approved support for the Community Fibre Broadband Programme in partnership with BT Openreach.

This will help to improve the internet connectivity for homes across Stratford-on-Avon and will make a big difference in rural areas such as Quinton.

Openreach have confirmed the 650 properties and vouchers in Quinton needed to progress the programme has been achieved. Quinton will now move onwards to the build stage.

Openreach will share the timeframe for the build scheme with residents. Once the build stage is complete, any residents who missed out with pledging their vouchers can still do this.

I would like to thank Quinton Parish Council who helped to promote the scheme and the residents who were able to pledge their vouchers. More Quinton residents in will soon have access to very high speed broadband which is excellent news.

District Cllr Edward Fitter

County Councillors' report

Addressing digital exclusion among school learners

I have been concerned about support for schools and learners during the lockdown where they lack the right equipment and/or connectivity to support remote learning. Warwickshire County Council is working hard to support learners and schools with laptop and internet access, and to help schools handle Covid risks, while we await expansion of the national device scheme and are in close contact with schools about demand for laptops and connectivity.

In the meantime, to support our ambitions around education, digital exclusion and outbreak management I am pleased to say that we will be placing an order for a substantial number (1,000) of additional devices for an initial distribution to schools and young carers and a smaller number of mifi dongles with unlimited data that will last until the end of the school year in July. When we have completed the demand assessment exercise with our schools, and understand more about the timescales for the national scheme, we will place any further orders we require to fill gaps, whether for devices or dongles.

County Cllr Izzi Seccombe

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Meon Vale - We Saved The Woods!

It has been a really tough year, but some wonderful things happened in 2020. A huge and very wonderful thing was how the communities across Quinton and Marston Sicca Parishes and people from all around the surrounding district came together to support the campaign to Save Meon Woods. And we did it!

After a widespread community effort to raise awareness of plans to fell the woods for the development of 300 new houses and a concerted campaign aimed at Stratford District Council and St Modwen (landowners and developers), St Modwen withdrew their plans.

The ideas, actions, time and commitment from the whole community were incredible. We displayed posters, lobbied councillors, made artwork, wrote songs and poetry, made Halloween and Christmas trails, undertook surveys, made videos, recorded the wildlife, baked cookies, handed out Black Forest Gateau, shared our love of the woodland and wildlife, pored over policy, planning documents, government guidance and site reports and we badgered key decision makers. We even made it onto BBC Midlands Today, twice. All the time being mindful of COVID restrictions and social distancing.

A huge thank-you s due to the Woodland Subcommittee, a group of Meon Vale residents who brilliantly co-ordinated the campaign. The Subcommittee made the following statement:

“After three busy months of campaigning to save Meon Woods from destruction - for the purpose of building 300 houses - we were delighted to hear that the hard work has paid off! We wholeheartedly believe this to be a victory born from the hard work and determination of local residents, so thank you to everyone who got involved. 'Actions speak louder than words', and we would therefore extend a special thank you to individuals such as Cllr Manuela Perteghella and Parish Cllr William Tempest. Both remained present throughout, demonstrating unwavering dedication to our cause, and fought for something they clearly believed in! A special mention also to the representatives of St Modwen, who took the time to engage with us as a community, and despite the scepticism, stuck to their word and listened to our feedback. We hope to continue a productive working relationship moving forward, as we look to protect and enhance the woodland area.”

So thank you to everyone who played a part. We did it thanks to you all.

Dionne Sambrook

Resident of Meon Vale

Quinton boundary changes!

Where does Lower Quinton end and Upper Quinton begin – or vice versa? The answer may seem obvious to anyone travelling along Goose Lane – there are village road signs to inform you when you are passing from one to the other. But recently they moved!



The Upper Quinton sign in Goose Lane, north of the Medical Centre entrance, while the older Upper Quinton sign is beyond the bend in the distance

For many years the division was marked by more substantial village signs, situated about 100 yards south of the current signs, complete with 30mph speed limit signs facing both ways for those driving in either direction.

With the entrance to Meon Medical Centre and most of the building now being on the other side of the boundary, technically the surgery is now in Upper Quinton. If this is so it could make it difficult for the parish council to uphold its long held policy of maintaining a green belt between the two communities.

The old Upper Quinton sign some 200 yards south of the current village signs



Some 200 yards south, just before the Manor House and the turning to LQG Agri, there remains an even older Upper Quinton sign. Is this an indication that Upper Quinton is steadily extending its sphere of influence along Goose Lane?

Experience and judgement

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Good judgment comes from bad experience and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

Nosh and Natter Group

Luncheons, Trips4U, Meon Tea & Chatter; 3M's Café + *NEW Nosh on Wheels*

Hello everyone and hope that you are adjusting to the new circumstances and keeping safe.

Following the recent announcements from the Government about the new variant of Covid-19 it may still be a while before our Lunches can take place. So, we are unable to announce when our lunches may restart, or the Meon Tea and Chatter.

Trips4U

We can confirm that our summer holiday to Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey will be from Monday 24th to Friday 28th May, so put the dates in your diary as this will be a lovely trip.

The hotel has confirmed that the booking still stands. Should we have to rearrange because of Covid then we have problems as they are fully booked.

The hotel cost per person per night is £75 (double room) and £95 (single room), including dinner, bed and breakfast. Coach cost will depend on how many people book. There is no extra charge for sea views etc. – rooms will be allocated on a first-come basis.

Keeping Positive we are looking to arrange a couple of days out to: -

Weston-super-Mare on 6th September - with an afternoon tea on the way home.

Hereford on 15th November - for festive shopping and lunch.

The Turkey Tinsel Trip to Potters will be going ahead not sure of dates but Potters have not confirmed the dates.

Nosh on Wheels

This venture will continue for the next three months – until April. Longer term Nosh on Wheels continuation will depend on the Government rules for Covid and our members wish. The volunteers and Isobel Slatter thank the members for all the messages of gratitude and praise.

Meon Vale

The Elves from the Santa weekend are looking to plan something for Easter so please look out for the posters and Facebook page for their plans.

Barbara 07771708151

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It is with considerable sadness that we record the recent deaths of four well-known Admington residents

Mrs Doris Morse, on 21st November; Gordon Andrews, on 12th December; Bob Cook on 14th December; and Mrs Maria Malec on 8th January.



Doris Morse was a long-time supporter of the Poppy Appeal, selling poppies door-to-door for more than 30 years, for which she received Royal British Legion recognition.

Born in 1937, she married Ken in St Swithin's Church at the age of 19 and they were together for 53 years. They lived in Lower Quinton for seven years before moving to Admington where she remained for 56 years.

A keen supporter of events in Quinton and Admington she especially enjoyed the annual St Swithin's Christmas Bazaar which she would

never miss. She was always happiest when she was helping others.



Maria Malec was born in Poland and in 1940, at the age of 16 she was sent to work on a farm and never saw her parents or brothers again. When the war ended she was moved to Italy where she met her future husband, also Polish, and they then came to Britain, firstly to Wrexham, then Winchcombe and eventually, in 1955, to the camp by Ettington Park, where Maria was able to keep pigs and chickens.

Mr Malec had a job at Long Marston army camp, cycling there daily. Maria had five children, Helen, Dancha, Henry, Teresa and George and in 1965 the family moved to Admington and that is

where Maria stayed until December 2020 when she had an unfortunate fall which led to her death in January.

Maria's husband was a bit older than her and once he retired and looked after the children Maria went out to work, working at the Needle Factory in Studley, then at the Red Horse Hotel in Stratford and finally, for many years, at the canning factory in Stratford.

Dancha lived at home in Admington and had looked after Maria for many years with the help of George whom everyone knows as the log man.

Bob Cook was born into a farming family in Gotherington near Cheltenham. He married Betty in 1956, (coincidentally on the same day as Doris and Ken Morse got married). In September 1964 Bob and Betty made the brave move to Oxstalls Farm, Admington. Neighbours were surprised to see someone new at Oxstalls as it was sold privately through a mutual friend and had not been advertised for sale. Strangely they had more Cooks next door!



Bob and Betty had sheep and cattle, but will be remembered most by older people in the villages for the potatoes they grew. There were also the Christmas geese.

As they got older and the younger Cook Boys had more say, most of the land was turned over to arable. Bob was still helping with the ploughing and power harrowing until three years ago, at the age of 88.

Bob actively helped with the annual Admington Fun Ride, right from the start, more that 20 years ago, spending hours on the JCB machine putting the jumps out, and for any Admington event he would deliver the tables and chairs to the appropriate place. On the day of the Fun Ride he would be at Betty's beck and call as she did the refreshments on the day.

Bob and Betty were often to be seen driving round the countryside in their silver vehicle, not too fast as the neighbours' fields had to be checked out.

Their children, Sue, Chris and Paul have expressed their pride in everything their parents did for them and others.

Gordon Andrews and his wife Jan moved to Admington from Solihull 40 years ago in their search for a home with a granny flat for his mother. They quickly embraced village life, hosting the village barbecue for over 20 years, as well as the annual carol singing and parish council meetings on many occasions.

When it came to having to downsize five years ago Gordon and Jan did not want to leave the area and they were glad to move into an apartment in Quinton Grange, just across the fields, and to be able to maintain their local contacts and involvement in Admington.



Birds

It is surprising how many of my memories are of birds - I mentioned the cheeky blue tits in the last issue. Now, the birds are singing in the mornings, the real sound of Spring. A reminder that this cold weather will pass. The male blackbirds sit as high as possible on chimneys, telephone poles and trees. Their song is the one I love most, apart from the increasingly rare call of the cuckoo which we will be hoping to hear in April.



Once, when on the way to visit my cousin Jenny in Mickleton, I crossed the road after alighting from the bus and there, on an overhanging apple tree branch was a beautiful little goldfinches' nest. As it was just at my eye height it was impossible to miss. The eggs were absolutely minute; how could such tiny things produce baby birds? As children, Jane and I often went looking for birds' nests and found them too, mostly of thrushes and blackbirds, but also of blue tits and low down, robins. Perhaps it was to do with being short and also sharp eyed, but as an adult I rarely find nests. We have had goldfinches nesting in the apple and quince trees and a pair of wrens nesting in the Ivy on the fence. Mostly though, we are just a feeding station for many birds which then go off to nest elsewhere! Some years ago, my niece Karen gave us a nest box complete with a colour camera. Ken put the box on a North facing wall of the house and the camera feed through the kitchen television. We were thrilled when a hen blue tit built a beautiful little nest in the box and we were able to watch as a new egg appeared daily until there were nine. The mother bird started to incubate the eggs and her mate fed her every day. Some days later, the eggs began to hatch and we were treated to the sight of the parents rushing to and fro, feeding their babies. The mother kept her babies warm but also did lots of housework, and kept the nest clean and tidy. All of the tiny blue tits eventually flew the nest and we were lucky enough to see it happen. The whole experience was wonderful and I still have the photos which I took.

Two years ago, a very friendly blackbird 'adopted' us and came every day for mealworms. He was fearless, coming right to my feet and if I was a little tardy with the food he sang loudly to remind me. We called him 'Bird' and occasionally he would bring along Mrs Bird. Last Spring he returned and he's back again this year!

Marguerite

St Swithin's Church

Quinton with Admington

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals - To arrange these services please speak to the Rector, The Revd Ros Greenhalgh – see page 2 for contact details

Under current restrictions, at the time of going to press all public worship is suspended but our online services will continue until such time that we can all return to church safely.

Zoom Services

Sunday Morning Service 10am

Kids' Church 1st and 3rd Sunday at 11.15am (see back cover for details)

Morning Prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10am

(a short 20 mins service with Bible Readings and for open prayer)

Coffee morning after Morning Prayer on Wednesday at 10.20am

(join for a coffee and chat - please bring your own refreshments!)

Evening Prayer usually at 6.30pm each evening

(a short service of Bible Readings and prayers)

For details please contact John Ryder at doctorjohnryder@hotmail.co.uk

Private Prayer

Welford Church is open on Sundays and Wednesdays from 2 - 4pm (with heating) for private prayer. Weston Church is also open for private prayer. Please ensure you wear a face covering and sanitise your hands on the way in. Please note that you are not allowed to mix or mingle with anyone indoors other than your household bubble - this includes in church.

Craft and Chat Group - Fridays from 10.30 -12 on zoom. Come for a chat and share your projects with each other – see page 8 for details.

Alpha - is coming to a computer near you in February. Whether you've been coming to church for 90 years or only just joined, do come along and join in. Contact Revd Jim e-mail: revdjimedic@gmail.com for further information.

Lent Course - during Lent we will be doing 'The Prayer Course' on zoom.

For information and details of zoom connections phone 01789 751546

Zoom in to Kids' Church

Usually on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month
from 11.15 to approx. 11.40 a.m.

Messy Church in Welford and Meon Vale is not able to meet at the moment. So we have started Kids' Church on Zoom.

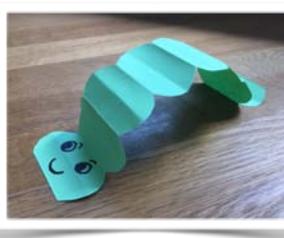


We enjoy sharing a Bible story together with different ways to join in.

We usually have a music video to dance and sing along to.

Getting crafty!

These are some of the paper crafts we have made so far with just paper, a pencil and a pair of scissors!



If your family would like more details about how to join in we would be happy to hear from you, please contact

Revd Andrew Goy

(07554 932271 cotswoldpioneer@gmail.com)

or Revd Yvette Grundy

(01789 750006 ygrundy@icloud.com)

Different ways we can pray together...



Teaspoon prayers

Thinking of a teaspoon (tsp) to help us to remember to say to God...

Thank you
Sorry
Please



Thumb Prayers

Thumbs up - Good things to thank God for
Thumbs down - Not such good things to say sorry to God for
Thumbs out - praying for others