

ST SWITHIN'S NEWS

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

Harvest 2020



A new visitor to the pond at Lower Quinton

August & September

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Contacts

St Swithin's Church

Rector: Revd Ros Greenhalgh

01789 751546

e-mail: revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com

Revd Jim Edie Assistant 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: pcquinnrs6493m@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

07976693080

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; Meon Vale church events

Barbara Craig

01789 720630

Ladies' Circle

Karen Morris

01789 721089

Police Shipston on Stour Safer Neighbourhood Team

01789 444670

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

St Swithin's News

Harvest



We are pleased to be back in print, although St Swithin's News never went away, just into cyberspace during lockdown. If you missed the last issue it is still available on the Quinton website (www.quintonpc.org.uk/community) where this and all future issues will also be appearing, with the added attraction of colour pictures!

The beginning of August is when we expect combines to be hard at work in our fields and the Harvest issue of St Swithin's News to be full of diary dates, listing the many summer holiday community events.

How our lives have changed. First the autumn and winter weather, then covid-19, have ensured that this year is far from the norm in so many ways.

At last we are easing out of lockdown, but it will not be a smooth transition back to what was "normal". As the Revd Andrew Goy points out in **'Leaving lockdown at your own pace'** (page 4), those who have been in isolation need to feel comfortable and able to return to the world in their own time. It is the same with **returning to church worship** (page 6).

Covid-19 may have disrupted many things, including this year's **Quinton Panto** (page 11) and **Nosh and Natter** activities (page 12) but there is still some positive news, with the opening of the excellent **new footpath to Meon Vale** (page 10).

Cover picture:

A Little Egret which made itself at home on the Lower Quinton pond in July

Visitors Coming

Why not stay at

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BED & BREAKFAST
"Home from Home"

Chris Spencer
01789 721108

e-mail:
chrismspencer17@gmail.com

Contributions from individuals and organisations in our parish welcomed

Copy deadline for the Autumn issue is Monday 7th September 2020

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

Leaving lockdown at your own pace

Reflection by the Revd Andrew Goy

I'm writing this at the beginning of a week where lockdown measures are due to enter the next phase of being lifted. Suddenly holidays that looked very doubtful are potentially possible, as is meeting a friend for a drink at the pub; you can even get that long overdue haircut!



Of course we must all recognise that this is a vital lifeline to many of our local businesses (although do spare a thought for the challenges they may be facing to operate safely) and hopefully there will be more opportunities for us to support them in the coming days and weeks. But I'm also aware that the easing of lockdown has produced a range of emotional responses. Some are rejoicing at the increased freedoms, others want to take a cautious approach, while others still are feeling anxious about leaving the house. Then there are those who must continue shielding and those who have no choice but to return to work. The reality facing us is that we are all going to want to go at different speeds in the coming weeks.

As for myself, I've struggled with anxiety during lockdown. I have had periods of anxiety before, but always felt able to manage without wider support. However, as lockdown began, I found it harder and harder to leave the house. On the few occasions I went out for a walk or to take care of an errand, I found myself nervously looking over my shoulder to make sure other people were keeping their distance and obsessively sanitising my hands. I will, therefore, fall into the category of people who want to take it slowly as they move out of lockdown. I'm ok with that though – it's really important to first be honest with yourself about how you feel, and then to be kind to yourself in terms of your self-expectation. If you are suffering from poor mental health, I would really encourage you to reach out for help if you can. I found it quite hard to do that, but when I eventually did, I had a very helpful conversation with my GP and wished I had spoken to someone sooner. The thing that gets me through it though is the knowledge that God cares for me and is able to supernaturally fill my heart with his peace. Jesus said, *'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest... you will find rest for your souls.'* That seems such a welcome invitation at this time of uncertainty – perhaps you would like to take him up on it?

So in the coming weeks let's accept that we will all want to go at different speeds as we venture back out into the world. Do not get too frustrated with the friend who is reluctant to visit you in your garden, and equally do not resent the neighbour who is reigniting his or her social life. It's important that where possible (and staying within the Government guidelines) we all find our own pace through this next season. We are all trying to achieve the same thing in the coming months, namely getting back to some sort of normal (whatever that might look like!), so let's bear with each other! However you 'emerge' from lockdown, be kind to yourself, and I pray you'll know God's love around you as you do.

Andrew

Revd Andrew Goy

New Communities' Minister for Meon Vale and Marston Mead

News from St Swithin's

Online 'Zoom' Services

Morning Praise at 10am

Kids Church (15 mins) at 11.15am (except August)

Morning Prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10am

Evening Prayer every day at 6.30pm

*Contact the Rector, Reverend Ros Greenhalgh for log-in details
01789 751546; revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com*

Churchwardens' Notes

The last few months have been quite bizarre for all of us. Hopefully we will never have to go through this again in our lifetime. Even though the Church has been closed, as Churchwardens we have been busy doing many things within the community. Paperwork never goes away thanks to the internet and the frequent Zoom meetings. Our Church is going to have a deep clean shortly. Please let one of us know if you can help and are not vulnerable or over 70.

Normally, many fundraising activities would be taking place but all have been cancelled. Earlier in the year, many people took a pack of Smarties to eat, then fill the tube with 20p or £1 coins. Please could you let the Churchwardens have your filled tubes. 96 tubes were given out, but so far we have only received 10 back. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising during the coming months while observing restrictions, please let Jane know.

Keep Safe

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

Our Church buildings are slowly reopening for public worship!

Following the recent announcement by the Prime Minister, we are pleased to announce that we will be reopening our church buildings for public worship from Sunday 2nd August.

Each Sunday there will be an 11.30am service, rotating around the Benefice, which will usually be a Communion Service. The services are 'Benefice' services and everyone is encouraged to attend any of the churches as they are able as per the following rota.

Week	Date	Church	Service
1	2 nd August	Welford	Holy Communion
2	9 th August	Long Marston	Holy Communion
3	16 th August	Quinton	Holy Communion
4	23 rd August	Weston	Holy Communion
5	30 th August	TBC	TBC

Week	Date	Church	Service
1	6 th September	Welford	Holy Communion/Morning Prayer
2	13 th September	Long Marston	Holy Communion/Morning Prayer
3	20 th September	Quinton	Holy Communion
4	27 th September	Weston	Holy Communion

Our priority is that we keep people safe and we will be following Government guidance (www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july) and Church of England guidance (www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches)

Due to restrictions on numbers you must book ahead by telephoning 01789 751546 or emailing the Rector at revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com in the week preceding the service that you want to attend. Names and contact details of those attending will be kept for 21 days for 'Test and Trace' purposes. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, please stay at home.

In addition, certain groups of people are at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. If you fall within a high risk group you are advised to stay at home as much as possible and if you do go out to take particular care to minimise contact with others. Please be mindful of this advice when considering whether you wish to come to church.

There will be a number of changes to how the service and the church looks:

- the service will be a short ‘said’ service which means there will be no hymns or sermon.
- we are unable to serve refreshments.
- shared Bibles and prayer books cannot be used but a printed service sheet will be available which should be taken home at the end of the service.
- the wearing of face masks by the congregation is not mandatory as long as you can keep a physical distance of 2m.
- everyone will be expected to sanitise their hands on arrival and before taking communion
- clergy and stewards may wear face masks and visors
- you are requested to follow the instructions of the stewards. Unfortunately they will not be able to physically help anyone who is not independently mobile except in an emergency.
- Clergy may not be wearing robes.

Despite all these restrictions, we really do look forward to welcoming you back in church when you feel it is safe to do so. Details of our church services are on page 6.

Private Individual Prayer

Welford Church will be open each Wednesday from 2-4pm for private individual prayer.

‘Zoom’ Services

For those of you who are unable or do not wish to physically attend church at present - our ‘zoom’ services will continue – see page 5 for details:

Everyone is very welcome to join with us either online or in church.

With our best wishes
Ros and the team

Following a Parish Councillor's resignation, by the time you read this, we will know whether anyone has requested an election to take place to fill that position. If not, the Council is able to choose a person by co-option; that is voting a volunteer onto the Council at a Council meeting. It would be good to have someone from the Meon Vale locale of the Quinton Parish, but the vacancy is open to all qualified people.

For further information and requirements visit Stratford District Council website: www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/be-a-councillor.cfm

Covid-19 restrictions have lessened but, like the virus, not gone. Some people have continued to work, others been furloughed and some lost all income — a dreadful place to be in, terrifying if you cannot buy enough food. Stratford has a food bank but if you might need that level of help, contact the Quinton Helpline on (01789) 549432 or e-mail me on pcquinnrs6493m@outlook.com and we will do all we can to help feed you and in all the confidence you need.

Play areas – The Fordway and playing field play areas are now open with the rules to be followed viewable on the gate and fencing.

Ditches – if you are adjacent to drainage ditches you or your landlord are almost certainly responsible for keeping them clear. I put up the Parish Council's hand to say we have recently discovered a small stretch which is ours to keep clear and must now sort that out.

Vegetation – Is any vegetation coming off your property obstructing free passage? Is it making people walk in the road to get by? If so you are responsible and we can ask Stratford District Council to enforce, but it is much better if residents just clear the way. As part of the Parish Council's rules when we need to do that - we have to get estimates, put them to the next Council meeting, publicly approve the cost and then wait for the contractor. But one resident bypassed all that. The path between The Fordway and Goose Lane had become difficult for his mother-in-law and others to transit. He has done a brilliant job on cutting the hedge back. Thank you T.

Quinton Neighbourhood Plan - A draft of the plan has been sent to Stratford Council for review. Once the draft is finalised we will post it on the Neighbourhood Plan website at www.quinton-plan.org together with information on how we intend to progress the Plan including communication and consultation with residents.

There are potential activities being looked at for the summer holidays but not yet sorted enough to write about. If they happen, volunteers will be sought!

Robert Spooner Chair Quinton Parish Council

District & County Councillors' notes

Annual report from District Councillor Edward Fitter

It has been just over a year since you elected the youngest councillor, at 25 years old, to Stratford-on-Avon District Council. I wanted to say thank you again for giving me this opportunity. I am learning lots about local government every day.

My local focus has been tackling fly-tipping and ensuring that our bins are collected on time. On the Council, I brought all political groups together to enable local action on climate change. Councillors from the two biggest political groups also elected me to Vice-Chairman of the Regulatory Committee. I also sit on the Licensing Panel.

Below are some updates on what I'm doing in the local area:

Admington – Broadband: I have helped to secure a survey from Openreach to consider the installation for state-of-the-art full fibre network by 2021/2022. This will benefit the local business units in Admington and its neighbouring homes, who currently have poor connectivity.

Meon Vale – Area Management: On my walks, I have noticed several issues at Meon Vale and I am liaising with Mainstay Group to have them fixed. I am also applying pressure for the developers to resolve issues so the roads can be adopted by the local authorities.

Quinton – Parish Council: I also continue to serve as a Parish Councillor after joining Quinton Parish Council in 2017. The Parish Council is doing great work for local residents. From improving the safety for children and parents walking to school, maintaining and looking after our play areas and ensuring our green spaces are kept neat and tidy. I would like to thank all Parish Councillors (past and present) for helping to make Quinton a wonderful place to live.

I would also like to thank the editor of St Swithin's News and the team of deliverers who work very hard to keep our community connected.

Please continue to stay alert so we can control the coronavirus.

For up-to-date information visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Edward Fitter District Councillor

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New footpath to Meon Vale

On a bright sunny day in the middle of June a ‘social distanced’ event marked the opening of the new footpath between Meon Vale and Quinton. This long-awaited amenity allows the families from Meon Vale to access the school safely at last with no need to walk with pushchairs and children in tow on the narrow pavement alongside the B4632.



Present at the official opening (from left) were County Councillor Izzi Seccombe, Parish Council Chairman Robert Spooner and District Councillor Edward Fitter

The new path is the result of tenacious work by me, over four years, and supported by Cllr Mike Brain. We have both put our funds together to help finance it. With the support of the local landowner and Quinton Parish Council, this has now become a reality and even has solar powered lighting dropped into the side of the path for those winter evenings. It will join up with the cycle route and become a facility for all and I for one have no doubt how much it will be used. I always felt this option to be safer and better than the initial proposal to put a traffic light crossing across the B4632 and I am so pleased to see it come to fruition.

I would like to thank everyone involved and particularly the Warwickshire County Council team, who developed it, for their high-quality work.

Izzi Seccombe OBE Leader Warwickshire County Council

Covid kills Panto



Quinton will be without its annual pantomime for the first time in the past 15 years. Reluctantly, the QUADS committee has unanimously decided that it would not be possible to put on a pantomime safely this year. It is still hoped that the Murder Mystery and the YoungQUADS performance, which were cancelled this spring due to the lockdown, can be staged in 2021.

Village Hall remains closed for the time being

Having considered the latest advice from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) on the Government guidance and restrictions in respect of the reopening of village halls, Quinton & Admington Village Hall Committee has decided that the Hall should remain closed until the end of August, when the situation will be reviewed.

The Hall AGM, which is normally held in July, has been postponed until the beginning of 2021.

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www.meonhillinteriors.co.uk

A message from our Member of Parliament

The last few months have been very difficult times for the country, but one positive thing to be drawn from lockdown has been the wonderful response of communities to help the vulnerable, the housebound and those who are shielding. This support has taken many forms including help with shopping, cooking and delivering meals, or simply picking up the phone for a regular chat. I want to thank everyone in Quinton, including the Quinton Volunteers group, who have been involved in this effort, however big or small your contribution.

As the economy has gradually reopened over the summer, it has been good to see communities throughout the Stratford-on-Avon District slowly returning to some sort of normality. I hope that many of you have been able to take the opportunity to visit a local shop by now, and perhaps a pub or restaurant. If not, and you are able, then I really would urge you to do so. Grants from the District Council, rates holidays, and the furlough scheme have all done amazing things to tide many of these businesses through this difficult period, but if they truly are to bounce back then it is vital we all continue to make the extra effort to shop, drink and eat out locally in order to support them.

As always, my team and I are available to help with any problems or queries you have, however big or small. The best method of contact is via email on constituents@zahawi.com, or by phone on 01789 264362.

I send my best wishes to everyone in Quinton at this time and I look forward to coming to the parish in the near future.

Nadhim Zahawi MP

Nosh and Natter Group

Luncheons, Drop in Coffee; Trips4U and Meon Tea and Chatter

Hello everyone

Following a meeting of trustees we have decided that for safety and health reasons it would not be prudent to start these events currently.

However, we will continue to review the situation, keeping in mind the safety of our members, helpers, and all the supporting organisations and local businesses. Please all keep safe and if you need any support or advice, I will be only too happy to talk to you.

Barbara

01789 720630 / 07771708151

Biblical fruit cake

My mother, Evelyn Colyer, was an adventurous and imaginative cook. In her early nineties, she still entertained friends on a small scale and actually purchased a new cooker and a new garlic press!



After she died, I inherited her small, worn cloth-bound cookery book. Handwritten, it contains some of her favourite recipes, which I continue to use. One such recipe, written in her mother's hand on a separate piece of paper had been tucked between the pages. I think Granny was known as 'a good, plain cook'. She was born in 1883 and had eight children and fewer resources than later generations, but obviously enjoyed a challenge.

The recipe is for a 'Biblical Cake'. Even affording all of the ingredients, let alone assembling them, would have been quite difficult for her and of course, Granny would not have had a modern, temperature-controlled oven such as we have now. However, the cake is delicious, quite large and suitable for a big family.

Here is the recipe:

- 3/4 lb Kings, Book 1, Chapter 4, Verse 22
- 6 oz Judges, Chapter 5, Verse 25
- 6 oz Jeremiah, Chapter 6, Verse 20
- 8 oz Samuel, Book 1, Chapter 30, Verse 12
- 6oz Nahum, Chapter 3, Verse 12
- 2oz Numbers, Chapter 17, Verse 8
- 2 Tablespoons Samuel, Book 1, Chapter 14, Verse 25
- 1/2 Teaspoons Chronicles, Book 2, Chapter 9, Verse 9
- 1 cup Judges, Chapter 4, Verse 19
- 3 St Luke, Chapter 11, Verse 12
- 1 Pinch Genesis, Chapter 19, Verse 26

I used self-raising flour and by trial and error decided that the creaming method was best. The cake needs a 9 inch or 10 inch lined tin and a moderate temperature. For mine, I used a fan-assisted oven at 140C. It took a long while to cook.

Note: No scorpions were harmed in the making of this cake!

Marguerite

A look back in time

The night a change in the wind



saved Quinton from an inferno

In his searches through newspaper archives for mentions of Quinton, David Moore has come across the following news story in the Gloucester Chronicle of 11th March 1871, at a time when Quinton was in Gloucestershire.

Serious Fire in a Village

In a yard opposite the school, in the village of Quinton, which is on the borders of this county, five or six miles south of Stratford-on-Avon – stood two barns forming two sides of a triangle and filled with straw and hay, twenty sacks of threshed wheat, four pigs and several dairy cows.

At a quarter to eight on Sunday night, these barns were seen to be on fire, and within five minutes a heavy wind had fanned the fire into a wide sheet of flame and a shower of flakes and sparks had set ablaze a third large barn about forty yards away, two cottages by its side and two other cottages with thatched roofs at the back of the school.

The large barn and its adjoining cottages were destroyed at once; the occupants of the other two climbed to the roofs with buckets of water and saved them. Meanwhile the fire was spreading in another direction: the homestead in which lived the clerk of the church, Mr J. Dutton, had caught. On the right of this, adjoining it, were two cottages – on the left two farm yards full of straw and hay and wheat – and within a few yards stacks of firewood, hayricks and the long line of thatched cottages forming part of the village. The wind blew full in the direction of all these and the villagers seemed powerless when suddenly the cry was raised “The wind is changed! We shall be saved!” – and it was seen that the wind had indeed changed from due south to north-east and was driving the flame in the only direction for safety. At once, a long ladder was placed against Dutton’s house and William Hemmings, a villager, ascended it, and with water handed to him, quenched the fire.

Afterwards, the flame was quelled as it was blowing towards the end of the village, and ere the fire engine had been brought from Stratford, all danger was at an end. But no one from the village could go to bed that night. The two cottages and the barn were destroyed; four pigs had been burnt to death; the contents of the barns had gone; and all Dutton’s stock of timber consumed. The cows were saved by being driven through the flames. Only the two barns were insured. Dutton has lost £50 and an industrious man named Sanders £65; and there is also the loss to the owners of the cottages, Mr John Hyatt and Mr C.H. Corbett, in addition to the value of the grain and fodder and the animals. The fire is supposed to have been the result of carelessness and is the sixth that has occurred in the village within the last five years. Hundreds of people were drawn from the adjacent villages, Still, the chief property owners are ever liberal in these matters.

St Swithin's Church

Quinton with Admington

See page 5 for details of current services

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

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