

Parish of Quendon and Rickling

**The Church of
St. Simon and St. Jude
QUENDON**

A guide for visitors

WELCOME TO QUENDON CHURCH

In welcoming you to this village and its church, we hope that these notes will help to make your visit more interesting.

The original parish of Quendon was one of the smallest in Essex, with an area of only one square mile and a population of fewer than 200. In May 2012 the separate ecclesiastical parishes of Quendon and Rickling, having for many years been administered together, finally became the joint parish of Quendon and Rickling – thus reflecting the civil parish constitution. As a result of this and extensive housing developments the population of the parish is now significantly larger.

The village of Quendon stands about 300 feet (this church building is at 95metres) above sea level on what is a watershed between two infant rivers, to the east the Cam (or Granta), flowing north through Cambridge to the Ouse and thence to the Wash, and to the west the Stort, flowing south through Bishop's Stortford to the Lea and thence to the Thames estuary.

Little is known of Quendon's history, but Palaeolithic and Neolithic implements found in the village show that people were living here thousands of years ago. Two tumuli (one of them at least is in Quendon Park) remain as evidence of Roman occupation.

A walk through the village will show many houses dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, exemplifying local materials and building traditions—flint and brick, tiles and thatch, half-timber as on Manor Farm, plaster, pargeting and some weatherboarding, though much of this is modern. Some of these houses no doubt supersede much earlier ones; Quendon Court, for example, built about 1750, is known to be the third house on the same site. Panelling in the former Coach and Horses inn, now in private occupation and renamed Quendon White House, is older than the brick frontage to the road.

Ancient houses remain, but of their past inhabitants, information is all too scanty. Quendon cannot boast of connection with many famous names. The Winstanley family, which produced Henry Winstanley who designed the first Eddystone Lighthouse, had associations with it. Until the intervention of the Covid-19 infection, the poet William Winstanley, also known as “The Man Who Saved Christmas” was celebrated by a Christmas festival focused on the church.

Parts of these notes are founded on those written by the architect Stephen Dykes Bower M.A, D.Litt, F.R.I.B.A., F.I.A. (1903 – 1994) who was responsible

for much of the church restoration work described. He came to live in Quendon in 1934 and continued to live at Quendon Court until his death in 1994 at the age of 91.

Shortly before his 90th birthday he was honoured by the Archbishop of Canterbury with the degree of Doctor of Literature in recognition of his outstanding contribution to church architecture for 60 years. During that time, he worked on St. Paul's Cathedral in London, was Surveyor of the Fabric at Westminster Abbey and worked on more than 150 parish churches. His work on St. Edmundsbury Cathedral started in the 1950s and continued until his death.

The Pamphilon family, several members of which were noted violin makers, also had connections with the village.

Only one rector of Quendon became a bishop—Francis Hutchinson, the author of a History of Witchcraft (1718), who was appointed to the see of Down and Connor in Ireland and built a church on the island of Rathlin, the island where Robert Bruce, while in hiding, took fresh courage through watching the persistence of the spider that has become inseparably linked with his name.

The list of rectors (see Appendices 1 and 2) dates back to nearly 1300 and it was probably a little before that date that the nave was built. A history of the Rectory is displayed adjacent to the list of rectors; as it is not easy to read, a rendition is given in Appendix 3.

Though the Church is now the oldest building in Quendon, it stands on the site of an earlier Norman structure. The chancel of this was shorter than the present one, rebuilt in the 16th century, and had a semi-circular east end; in the piers of the present chancel arch, though not the arch itself, may be seen surviving portions of it.

Even in its present form, the building seems to have changed significantly over the years.

Drawings and paintings exist which show a very different appearance in the past. Image 1 shows a drawing found in "Monumental Inscriptions in Essex" edited by Thos. Martin with the subscription, *"This is a small old church standing upon a Rising Ground on the left hand of the Road Leading from The Littlebury to [] The arches which appear on the South*



Image 1



Image 2

outsides are those which seem to have divided the nave of the church from the South Aisle, and are now filled up with bricks."



Image 3

bell arch. The current tower, constructed in the 1960s and funded by a village resident, Elizabeth Beeman and her husband George, appears to be an attempt to recreate those shown in Images 1 and 2. Note the dormer style windows in the roof.

Visitors to the Church will be struck by its decorated chancel ceiling and signs of its origin as the chapel attached to the ancient Quendon Hall (now a party venue called Parklands).



Image 4 Chancel roof

Up until 2005, Quendon Church had no known dedication. However, a map dated 1897 shows Quendon Church as dedicated to Saint Simon and Saint Jude. On the 24th of October 2005, the Right Reverend Christopher Morgan, Bishop of Colchester, led a service in which the Church was rededicated.

There are plaques on the walls bearing memorial to late residents of Quendon Hall, and two mention a nearby vault (Image 5, Mary Byng). This 19th century crypt, containing the remains of the Byng family, is under the north-east corner of the churchyard.



Image 5 Mary Byng Memorial

During the 20th century most visible parts of the vault were destroyed, the stonework being used to fill in the stairway down to its entrance gate; the area was grassed over. In 2011 the glass which had provided a tantalising view of the crypt below was removed from a light in its roof. It is on display inside the Church building (Image 6). The aperture was filled with concrete, and thus the only



Image 6 Crypt glass



Images 7 & 8. South wall and gate of vault

remaining external trace of this historic vault is the faint outline occasionally visible in the grass of some of its brickwork, though some photographs of the interior were made before the light was filled, as shown in Images 7 & 8.



Image 9 North Chancel niche

Restoration of the Church in the late 19th century so changed the external appearance that the real age of the building might not be suspected from outside. It is more evident within, where the sturdy pillars and arches have a simple dignity and the aisles impart a surprising sense of space. Features of particular interest are the niches in the corners of the chancel, on either side of the altar (Images 9 & 10). Their purpose is unknown, though it has been conjectured that they may have been receptacles for banner staves. But at some period they probably contained statues, since pedestals, which are themselves a puzzle, were built into them. Though

plastered over, these pedestals are of brick and seem to be parts of old chimney shafts, taken perhaps from an old house which stood some distance east of the Church and was pulled down in the 17th century. Many old chimney stacks in East Anglia carried a group of flues with their brick sides ornamented in different ways. Here, one pedestal is of twisted form and the other has panelled sides. If the desire was to provide bases for figures, it may have been convenient to use material at hand and to salvage from demolition what seemed suitable for the purpose.

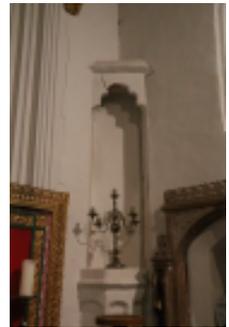


Image 10 South Chancel niche

This introduction of brick would not have seemed inappropriate because the side windows of the chancel are also built in this

material. Though plastered over at the time of the 19th century restoration and refaced externally in stone, the windows show their brick formation in the mouldings of the internal jambs. The east window was originally of similar character - also of brick but of three lights. The present window is a later insertion, constructed by Ward and Hughes (19th century) is considered to be of some merit. When the oak beam on the east wall, which acted as a tie, was severed to make room for it, a loud report occurred and the east wall fractured from top to bottom. The veil of the temple was rent in twain!



Image 11 Chancel side window

None of the stained glass is old, but the two side windows (Image 11) of the chancel contain grisaille glass that is both decorative and effective.



The paschal candle holder (Image 12) to the left of the altar was installed and dedicated to the memory of Leslie Basham who died in August 2003. Together with his brother Victor, he gave a lifetime of faithful service to Quendon Church.

On the north wall of the chancel the Turner mural tablet may be noted as a good example of its period.

Image 12 Paschal Candle

The rood screen has been heightened by the insertion of a panelled base forming the back of return stalls in the chancel: the panelling in its outer bays and the lectern were added at the same time. The keen-eyed will spot a carving of a monkey (Image 13) on one side, a play on the name of a prominent member of the parish at the time.



Image 13 Monkey

The coats of arms on the wall above are those of the De Mandeville and De Bohun families, the earliest patrons of the living.

All the windows in the nave aisles are “new”, restored to their original form and replacing smaller ones considered to have been of poor design dating from the 1870 alterations. The two light windows over the chancel arch contain old glass. Externally all windows have been provided with saddlebars and stanchions.

The lancet west window was severely damaged during the 20th century and for many years the aperture was filled with wooden sheets. Its remains were

subsequently discovered, and thanks to the understanding help provided by Ecclesiastical Insurance, the window was fully restored in 2008. Unfortunately it remains obscured internally by the organ, but it includes an interesting design of a serpent entwined on a staff.

The organ case dates from the 18th century and is said to have come from the chapel of Jesus College, Cambridge. It was enlarged when the instrument was rebuilt in 1938 as a 2-manual instrument of 23 draw-stops. Some of the old pipework (and shoes! - Image 15) remains and the organ is exceptional for a small village church.



Image 14 Organ manual



Image 15 Shoes

There are but three bells in the tower; they are not rung but chimed, carillon style, by three ropes in the cabinet against the south wall (Image 16). The bells now being operated in this way, the two bell ropes still temptingly hanging beside the organ must not be pulled.



Image 16 Bell pulls

Over the years the Parish has worked hard to raise money for the repair and beautification of this little church. The work done at Quendon has been helped by great generosity; for instance that of one benefactor long resident in the village, Mrs. Elizabeth Beeman. It was she and her husband who funded the construction of the current tower and Image 17 shows an inscription on one of



Image 17 Bell inscription

the bells therein, which runs, "George is my name, I call to prayer". Incidentally it may be observed that the village fountain and its shelter were restored in memory of George Beaumont Beeman.

The architect Stephen Dykes Bower M.A, D.Litt, F.R.I.B.A., F.I.A. (1903 – 1994) was responsible for much of the church restoration work described here. During the past century and with his guidance the porch was restored, the churchyard levelled, and its paths paved. The Church floor was repaved throughout, the roofs of the nave and aisles were reconstructed, the fixed oak pews, screen and pulpit “toned” to a grey colour, the interior redecorated and the vestry refurnished. Years of patient cleaning since, by the volunteers who care for the church, have restored much of their glossy lustre.

The chancel walls were panelled and the old timbers of its roof, previously disfigured by dark stain and varnish, painted and gilded.

The hassocks in the nave, with flowers on a rose-pink ground, and the cushions for the altar rails, were all embroidered in the village; notice also the wrought-iron kneeling rails at the east end of the aisles, the work of a local smith.

Externally the bell-cote, containing three bells, replaced a 19th century structure of stone which was struck by lightning. This wooden bell tower was completely restored and repaired in 2013 with new wood, shingles and lead work. On its completion a box, with a record of the work was placed in the tower for discovery in the future. This major project was funded by grant making bodies and fundraising. Alas, though it forms a prominent feature of the Church and village, maintenance of its wooden structure continues to be a significant burden on the parish, and it was again cleaned, repaired and repainted in 2022-2023.



Image 18
War Grave

The Graveyard is in two sections, that immediately surrounding the church building is obvious, and another, the "New" yard is on the other side of the car park. As is common, many grave markers on the older yard have been lost or removed, due to damage, or were never present. Attention is attracted by a very new-looking monument in the south-west corner, marking the grave of "94801 Private F.A Negus". It is the only grave here maintained at the expense of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but not the only one with the name Negus. An unusual grave marker on the north side of the

church is that of Charles Barrack, who "passed on" in 1932 aged 64[?]; intriguingly "He gave his life for his work", though enquiries have not so far revealed what that work was. Perhaps a reader of this guide can enlighten us!



Image 19
Charles Barrack

There is always more to do, but as a church grows in beauty, so it comes to be more loved. In gratitude to those who in the past laboured to build and maintain this House of God, each generation is under an obligation to cherish it with zeal and devotion. Over the years much that seemed impossible has been accomplished and the results will, it is hoped, give pleasure and encouragement to others.

A service attended by the Bishop of Chelmsford was held in Quendon Church

in May 1993 to celebrate Dr. Dykes Bower's 90th birthday. Many tributes were paid and in due course an altar frontal chest was made of oak and installed in the Church to mark the occasion. In a speech at the end of this happy day Stephen Dykes Bower said that buildings want to speak to us.

Quendon Church speaks of the love he had for this place. 'Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house and the place where thine honour dwelleth'.

Early in 2005 the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (N.A.D.F.A.S.) completed recording and photographing every item in the Church. We are pleased to have this record and appreciate the time given by all involved in this project.

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Appendix 1

Lists of Rectors and Vicars

| Ep Lord | Rectores | Anno | Patrom. |
|----------------|-------------------|------|---------------------|
| Stp. Gravesend | Will. de Loudon | | |
| " | Will. Sperman. | 1324 | Edward II. R. |
| " | Bene. de Scapeia. | 1326 | " |
| " | Joh. de Arkesden | | Edward III. R. |
| " | Joh. De Renmersh | | " |
| Sudbury. | Tho. Wottham. | 1366 | Hum. de Bohun. |
| " | Bad. Dale | | " |
| " | Will. Blog. | 1367 | " |
| " | Will. Forster. | | |
| Braybroke. | Joh. Bardy. | 1392 | Tho. O. Gloucester. |
| " | Rob. Tebb. | | |
| Grey. | Joh. Borneys. | 1426 | Kathrina. R. |
| " | Joh. Grimmesby. | 1430 | " |
| " | Will. Overbury. | 1430 | " |
| Kempe. | Ric. Baomford. | 1453 | Margareta. R. |
| " | Joh. Crossby. | | |
| " | Joh. Bedford. | 1475 | Elizabeth. R. |
| " | Tho. Richer. | 1477 | " |
| " | Will. Cokkys. | 1480 | " |
| " | Ric. Rose. | 1484 | Ep. Lond. Per Lapse |
| " | Will. Cramford. | | |
| Hill. | Will. Bamlley. | 1503 | Henry VII. R. |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------|----------------------|
| Tunstall. | Tho. Denys. | 1523 | Henry VIII. R. |
| Stokesley. | Will. Bullock. | 1530 | " |
| Bonner. | Joh. Wystow. | 1553 | T. Newman. |
| " | Will. Ampleforth. | 1554 | " |
| Grimdal | Ric Hedge. | 1561 | " |
| " | Tho. Comte. | 1564 | " |
| " | Tho. Lodge. | 1566 | " |
| Aylmer. | Tho. Smith. | 1577 | " |
| Aylmer. | Fra. Sea. | 1581 | T. Newman. |
| " | Joh. Knightly. | 1581 | " |
| " | Will. Browne. | 1582 | Ep. Lond. Per Lapse. |
| " | Rog. Philips. | 1585 | T. Newman. |
| Laud. | Joh. Hawker. | 1632 | Hen. Wilford. |
| " | Abr. Crifford. | | " |
| Sheldon. | Joh. Nye | 1662 | Sam. Gibbs. |
| Henchman. | Fra. Huchinson. | 1686 | F. Turner. |
| Compton. | Hen. Twissleton. | 1691 | " |
| " | Edw. Tatham. | 1707 | " |
| Gibson. | Ber. Mould. | 1735 | Arth. Bernardislon & |
| Jas. Moyle. | | | |
| " | Ralph. Skegg. | 1744 | J. Cranmer. |
| Osbaldeston. | Ric. Davis | 1764 | Hen. Cranmer. |
| Terrick. | Will. Croucher | 1764 | " |
| " | Ed. Cranmer. | 1773 | " |
| Porteus. | Joh. Collin. | 1802 | " |
| Ep. Rochester. Wigram. | Jos. Brackenborg. | 1862 | Hen. Byng. |
| " | Jas. M. Tayler | 1864 | " |
| Ep. St Albans. Claughton. | Hen. S. Brooks. | 1885 | A. Cranmer Byng. |
| " | Alg. E. Tollemache. | 1890 | " |
| Festing. | Arth. G. Green. | 1897 | " |
| Jacob. | Ric. C. Earle. | 1909 | W. Foot Mitchell. |
| Ep. Chelmsford Wilson. | Alf. J. T. Lewis. | 1934 | " |
| " | J. Lloyd Milne. | 1938 | " |
| " | Arth. C. M. Fletcher. | 1940 | " |
| " | Leon. Woodcock. | 1947 | " |
| Ep Chelmsford Faulk. Allison. | Cecil Swann. | 1952 | Sir. Arthur Ellis. |
| " | Alex. Knopp. | 1959 | Faulk. Allison. |
| Tiarks. | Alex. B. Dawes. | 1969 | Lady Adeane. |
| " | Ron. F. Richards. | 1971 | Tiarks. |

Appendix 2

Quendon Rectors

See of Canterbury Keble College Earl of Inchcape County of Essex
See of Chelmsford

A New BENEFICE OF QUENDON WITH RICKLING AND WICKEN BONHUNT was created on 1 November 1977 when the scheme took effect which had been confirmed by Her Majesty the Queen at a Council held on 11 October 1977, the Benefice of Quendon with Rickling being thereby dissolved; the Patrons of the Benefice being the Bishop of Chelmsford in his corporate capacity, the Warden, Fellows and Scholars of Keble College, Oxford and Kenneth, Third Earl of Inchcape, jointly. The first Rector was instituted on 9 January, 1978, he having been Priest in Charge of Quendon with Rickling since 12 December 1975 (and of Wicken since 1 Feb 1976).

| From | To | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| (1975) 1978 | 1986 | Frank Milner Best, M.A. |
| 1987 | 1995 | Richard James Southerden Burn, B.A. |
| 1996 | 2003 | Anthony Lindsay, Dip. HE. |
| 2003 | 2013 | Christopher Bishop |
| 2013 | | Neil McLeod |
| Yet to be added | | |
| 2022 | | Peter Allen |

Appendix 3 History of Quendon Rectory

Saint Quendon is a Rectory in Com. Essex, appendant to the Manor of old in the Family of the Bohons, one of those Lordships which were reconvey'd to Humfry de Bohon, E. of Hereford and Essex, by Edw. I. upon his marriage with Eliz. that King's Daughter; where it continued, till by the Death of Humfry de Bohon the last of that name, E. of Hereford, Essex and Northampton, who twice presented, without Issue Male, 46 Edw. III. 1372, it came to his two daughters, Eleanor marry'd to Thomas of Woodstock, D. of Glocester, sixth Son to Edw III. and Mary Wife to Henry, E. of Derby, Son to John of Gaunt, D of Lancaster, afterwards Hen. IV.

Upon the partition of which Estate, Eleanor brought with her to her said Husband this Man. and Adv. for he, the said Thomas, presented in 1392, but he being after murder'd, his whole Estate came at last to Anne his Daughter, wife to Edmond E. of Stafford

Upon partition made by the Parl. in the 2 Reg. Hen. V. of the Estate of the said Humfry E. of Hereford &c. the Grandfather, the said R. accepted it in Porparty[?]: and having settled it upon his Q. Katherine as part of her Dower, she after His decease,

Ann. 1422, became Patroness, and several times presented, as also once, after her Decease, viz in 1453, did Margaret Q. of England, Wife to Hen. VI.

But these lands &c. accepted as aforesaid by Hen. V. coming to Edw. IV. after he had the Crown, by virtue of Acts of Parl. made against Hen VI. deceased, without issue, Elizabeth, Q. of England, wife to Edw. IV. presented several times while her Husband liv'd.

After this Henry. E. of Richmond, Son of Edmund of Hadham, attaining the Crown by the Name of Hen. VII, he, as sole heir of the House of Lancaster, enjoy'd those Lands, which, as aforesaid, came to Hen. V. and he, and after him his Son and Successor Hen. VIII. became Patrons of this Church, and several times presented, but how it afterwards came to the Newmans &c. I am to seek.

Alice Biscoe 26th February 1910
From Newcourt Repertorium

Parish, Benefice?

The civil parishes of Quendon and Rickling were historically separate within Uttlesford District until they were united in the 1940s, but the church parishes remained separate until 2012.

A benefice is a collection of parishes sharing a vicar or sometimes a team of one or more vicars, curates and assistants. When it became uneconomic for each of Quendon and Rickling to have its own rector, they became joined as a benefice, sharing a vicar (no longer a rector). As noted above, in 1977 the benefice was enlarged to include Wicken Bonhunt. This grouping has changed further at times since variously to include Widdington, Berden and Newport. As of 2023, the benefice sharing the vicar based at Newport consists of Quendon & Rickling, Widdington and Newport. The current vicar of the benefice also serves as chaplain to Stansted Airport.