

St John the Baptist, Quinton, Northamptonshire



It is likely that there has been a church building within the settlement of Quinton since around 800AD. The greater part of the current building belongs to the thirteenth century period but is a development of a much earlier building, possibly the Tythe Barn, of which the south west angle and west window remain.

The original stone building probably had an aisle-less Nave, approximately of the same size as at present, and during this time in the thirteenth century a tower and larger re-modelled Chancel would have been added. The piscine with a cinquefoiled head and circular bowl, and the Mass Dial of the South door also date from this period.

During the fifteenth century the church was enlarged by the addition of a bell chamber stage to the tower and the Clerestory and new windows.

The sixteenth century saw the removal of the rood screen. The square-headed rood-loft doorway is high in the North-East corner of the Nave, and there most probably was a substantial staircase from the now-blocked transept.

The greater part of the building as we see it today is the result of the major restoration undertaken during the incumbency of Edward Bayley in the late eighteenth century. At that time the church had fallen into disrepair and ruin, and it was only with Bayley's enthusiasm and monies received from the Montagues, Lords of the Manor of Quinton, which enabled the restoration to happen.

Using much of the old stone that was left from the ruin (much had been removed by opportunist thieves or the desperate poor) a narrower Chancel with lowered roof-line and a rounded east end was built with a new south porch.

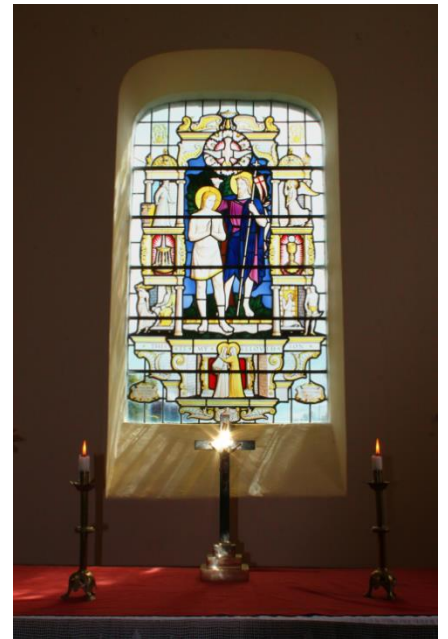
MEMORIAL EAST WINDOW

In April 1944 the Newcombe family gave the Reverend Hopkins, the Priest-in-Charge, a photograph of John (Mrs Newcombe's son Killed in Action in WW2) to be placed in the Church – this is now in the 'Soldiers' Window' in the south aisle.

A year later, in 1945, at the Quinton Annual Parish Meeting it was proposed that a Stained or Coloured Glass Window be installed in the Church as a memorial to John: this was subsequently agreed by the PCC.

In November 1946 the PCC agreed the design for the Window, made by the artist Harry J Stammers of Exeter, on the theme of the whole life of our Patron Saint, John the Baptist. The design now incorporated the names of our two men, Walter Tysom and Walter Matthews, Killed in Action in the First World War, although Walter Matthews's middle name is incorrect!

For full details please see the Book of Remembrance in the 'Soldiers' Window' in the south aisle.



Since the 1800s the building has been cared for or left to decline in equal measure, until the 1980s when it again received some tender loving care and that has continued through to today when you see the church in all its restored glory.

There is an unusual grave memorial in Quinton churchyard. Dated 1909, it was created for Eleanor Dora Margaret, wife of J.D. Kellie McCallum, Chief Constable of Northamptonshire (who is also memorialised). It was sculpted by Mrs G. F. Watts and is grade II listed. (You will see these angels reflected in our kneelers and altar covering, part of the 1980s restoration.)



The Living Brook Benefice prayer

Living God,
Your Son promised life in all its fullness
to all who follow Him
Send your Holy Spirit to help your people
in Living Brook Benefice
to take our vision forward together.
Bring life and growth to our churches,
And make that life and growth flow
Like living water from us to our communities.
In the name of Jesus
Amen

