How could you be involved?

Quinta is a centre loved by many people and has been for 40 years. So, we want to be able to give as many people as possible the opportunity of being involved in these ambitious plans for the next 5 years. There are a variety of ways that you can partner with us –

- Become a prayer supporter and commit to praying for Quinta and these plans on a regular basis. A monthly prayer sheet will be emailed to you to help inform your prayers.
  Email manager@quinta.org if you want to support us in this way.
- Help raise the funds needed for these various projects. This could be a one-off gift or a regular donation. Gift aid can be added. A new bank account has been opened to receive these funds so that they are separate and ring-fenced from our normal day to day income and expenditure. You can donate directly to this new bank account via Just Giving, a charity giving platform, which passes 100% of your donation directly to Quinta. Please use this QR code to make your donation.
- Pass on all this information and see whether your group as a whole could help us with a financial donation or a fund-raising event. Let us know if we can help with this.
- If you know of any grant making trusts that we could apply to please do let us know.

Summary

Thank you for reading all of this. I am sure that if Thomas Barnes was still around today, he would be amazed that the work he started 170 years ago has developed into what Quinta is today. Please join us in giving thanks and praise to God for all that has happened over the past 40 years, commit to Him the plans that we have for the next 5 years, and pray that many more lives will be changed.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in this process – staff, Trustees, Centre Ministries CEO, some group leaders.

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1985-2025 40th ANNIVERSARY QUINTA CHRISTIAN CENTRE

THE QUINTA CHRISTIAN CENTRE

— Planning for the Future —

The Quinta
space to grow

Introduction

On Thursday 10th August 1871, Thomas Barnes, the then owner of the Quinta Estate, hosted The Oswestry Institute Annual Fete and Picnic, welcoming over 3,000 people to Quinta that afternoon. A report of the event in the Oswestry Advertiser six days later said: This event was an opportunity for the dwellers in towns to get away from the worry and toil of ordinary life to a spot where one can drink in the beauty of the trees and flowers and bathe the weary senses in repose. Thomas Barnes was a Christian MP and he knew the benefits of people spending time in the beauty of God's creation. 114 years later, in 1985, The Quinta opened its doors for the first time and began welcoming people on to the estate – still providing an opportunity for weary people to spend time in the presence of God, away from the worry and toil of ordinary life. 40 years on, and God is graciously still using The Quinta to enable Christians from around the country to spend time studying His Word in the beauty of His creation. What, though, of the future? Read overleaf to see what plans there are to enable Quinta to be used for God's eternal purposes, for many years to come.

Snapshot of The Quinta today

Quinta welcomes over 12,000 people every year, from over 200 groups, who collectively stay for over 35,000 nights. We have 6 stand-alone accommodation facilities, which can together sleep 285 people, with space for others to camp. Groups from as small as 6, to as large as over 1,200, can all find a warm welcome and their own space. The estate covers 52 acres and is a mix of open fields, woodland and a lake. Our groups range from church all-age groups, church youth and children's groups, students, schools and some national conferences. Most of our guests come from The Midlands, Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

Why do we do what we do?

Because.....Retreats, camps, conferences and adventure experiences are the places where the people of God, the love of God, the truth of God, and the grace of God intersect. And at that convergence – within the beauty of God's majestic creation – lives are changed for ever. *(Extract from 'Blueprints: Biblical Designs for Christian Camping' by Dan Bolin)*

Accessibility

At Quinta, we want to be as accessible as we can, so that all guests, irrespective of any disability, can feel welcomed and cared for. However, we know that we fall short in this area. Inheriting buildings that are over 150 years old and which were built in an era when accessibility was not really considered, does present us with some quite serious challenges. So, over the next 5 years we plan to.....

- Undertake a full Disability Access Audit, as a priority. This will set out some clear recommendations so that we can plan and budget for necessary adjustive works.

Buildings and recreational facilities

Quinta's mission statement is 'to advance the Christian faith'. How do we do that when we don't run any programmes, nor get involved with what groups do whilst they are at Quinta? You could say that our ministry is providing buildings so that our guest groups can fulfil their ministry. We want to provide everyone with buildings and facilities that help with ministry, rather than hinder it. But as mentioned previously, 150 year-old buildings that were never designed for residential Christian ministry and 52 acres of grounds, give us a number of challenges to overcome if everyone is going to have what they need! So, over the next 5 years we plan to.....

- Build a new activity barn
- Improve the Severn Lodge accommodation with additional showers upstairs and an improved kitchen
- Implement a phased programme of developments and improvements across the site
- Begin a programme of renovating the windows in Quinta Hall
- Extend the range of activities available for groups and create a new low ropes course
- Encourage guests to continue to enjoy the beauty of God's creation around the grounds.

Communication and technology

How should we communicate with our groups and our guests in the 21st Century? Probably not in the way that we did 40 years ago when everything would have been sent by post! How can we make the most of new technology, digitalised forms and social media? What can we provide on site to help groups whilst they are here communicate with each other and the outside world? These are some of the challenges we face. So, over the next 5 years we plan to .....

- Look at all our existing communications, both internally and externally, to ensure as many people as possible can keep up to date with Quinta.
- Make greater use of social media and the Quinta web site
- Ensure the technology we provide for guests is still up to date, useful and all works!

Finances

Quinta starts the next five years on a sound financial footing, thanks to God's on-going and generous provision for us. Much of the work will be covered by our usual maintenance and improvement budget. However, three of the more expensive plans will need a more imaginative approach to generate the funds required.

The planned activity barn is likely to cost in the region of £500,000, and amazingly half of this has been promised to us already, over the following 5 years. Centre Ministries will be able to cover this outlay in the meantime, whilst the funds are received. But that still leaves us £250,000 to find. There will be a three-pronged plan – we will seek funding from **G**rants, **G**roups and **G**uests. See over the page for how you could be involved.

Quinta Hall windows will be an expensive project and we are still waiting for more detailed costs to be provided by the consultant who is advising us. Although we hope to obtain some grant funding to help meet these costs, there is still likely to be a significant shortfall. The low ropes team-building course, will be costly to replace, but the current course is nearing the end of its life. It could cost as much as £30,000 for a new course, as a one-off cost, and we are looking at different ways that these funds could be raised.