

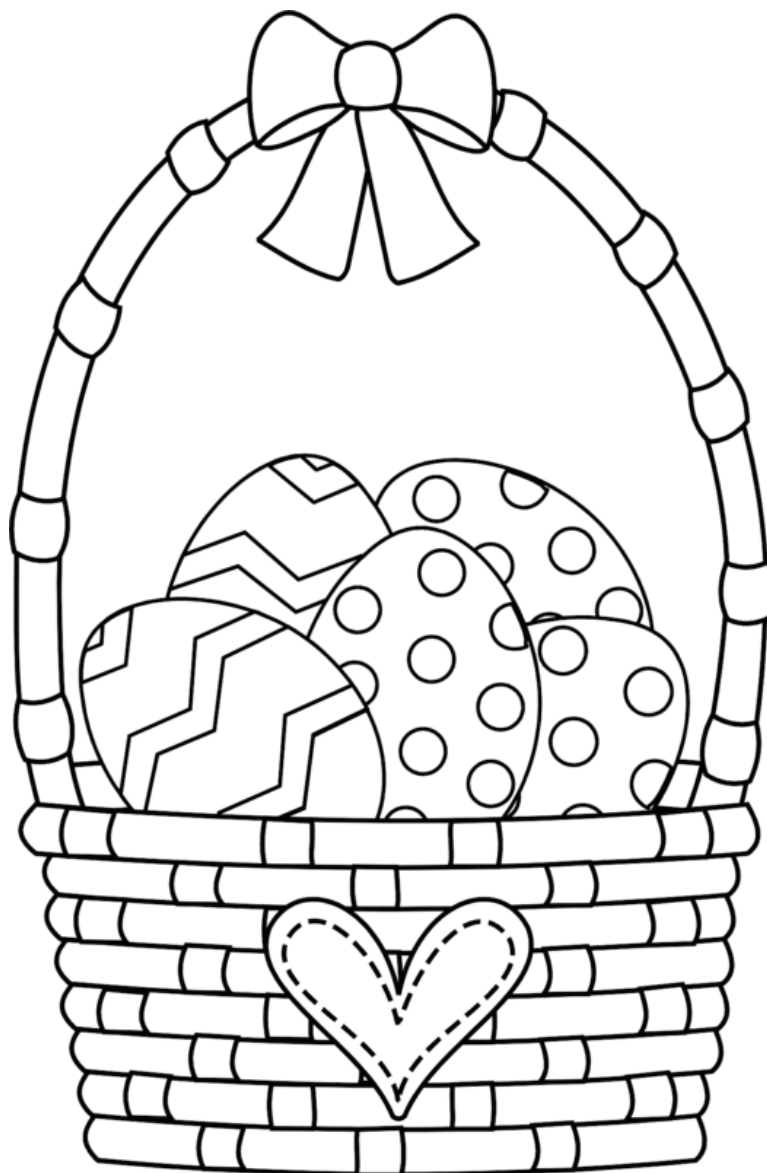
# Village News

in Swindon Village

*Your local Newsletter sponsored by the  
Parish Council and delivered by volunteers*

No. 472

April 2021



## **SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE AND GROUP**

Please join Swindon Parish Council's Facebook page and group for local information and discussion. If you do not have access to the internet you could ask a friend or relative to join on your behalf and share highlights with you.

- **Swindon Parish Council Facebook Page.** A public page for local information and news from the Council:  
<https://www.facebook.com/swindonparish>
- **Swindon Parish Community Group.** A private group for discussion of local issues, sharing and requesting help:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swindonparishcommunitygroup>
- **Swindon Parish Council website.** For full information from the Parish Council:  
<https://www.swindonparish.org.uk/>

If you receive this newsletter then you are living in Swindon Parish.

"If you have concerns about anti-social behaviour do not hesitate to contact the police.

**Ring 101** (you may be charged for this call)  
**or email 101@gloucestershire.police.uk**

Get an incident number and let the parish council know about it. If the police are not made aware of a problem **THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM**".

## **SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

A number of you seemed to enjoy last month's article on the Tesco train. Thank you for your feedback- it is always appreciated. It's funny though, I tell you about the finer points of planning law and get no feedback at all, yet you get excited about a train? What a strange lot you are. Seriously, I have a deal for you. I am going to start with planning this month and, if you promise to read it, I'll tell you about another train next month.

On a number of occasions I have mentioned the Cheltenham Local Plan and hoped that it would be for the last time. Like the Joint Core Strategy it has refused to lie down, but I think we can now put it to bed. In the expectation that I won't need to talk about it again, I will summarise what it is and what has gone on.

The Cheltenham Local Plan sets out a planning policy for the Cheltenham Borough until 2031, when a new Plan will be needed. Initially, proposals were put to the Borough Council and consultations took place with interested parties including parish councils, community groups, etc. A Draft Plan was then prepared that had to be in accord with the Joint Core Strategy for the wider area (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Gloucester). Once the Borough Council was happy with the Draft Plan it was submitted to an examination by a government-nominated Planning Inspector.

The Inspector had to hear evidence from all the stakeholders and recommended changes to the Plan. The changes had to be considered by the Borough Council. Eventually a Plan was arrived at which could be signed off by both the Planning Inspector and the Borough Council. At every turn we had to fight our corner to try to protect the Green Belt and retain some Local Green Space.

Finally, the Plan went to the Secretary of State. Even at the eleventh hour the Plan was challenged by a developer wishing to see the area of Local Green Space significantly reduced in size.

I can now report that the challenge to the Cheltenham Local Plan has failed. As the Local Green Space around the north of Swindon Village is enshrined in the plan that should mean it is protected for the foreseeable future. It may be the most significant area of Local Green Space in the country. This is the culmination of a tremendous amount of hard work by a small number of dedicated people principally from Save the Countryside, the Parish Council and the Borough Council.

Persimmon Homes had submitted plans for the first part of the Elms Park development. Elms Park received outline approval and could see over 4000 homes built in the area. The first phase of this is the application for full planning permission for 260 homes on the Swindon Farm land. You may have noticed that Swindon Farm itself is already being demolished in preparation for the development. Following objections from the Parish Council and others, the plans have been completely revised and resubmitted. At the time of writing our Parish Councillors are reviewing the new plans. A major concern is that it is unclear how the overall infrastructure needs of the area (medical practices, sports facilities, shops, etc.) will be met. The first tranche of the development fails to provide any of these facilities. We think it is inadequate for the developer simply to say that the overall scheme will make provision. The site will be built out in increments and there should be a credible plan that shows how and when these facilities will be provided.

There is a footpath across the fields from Dog Bark Lane to the Gallagher Retail Park. The developer was seeking to divert this footpath but the application has been withdrawn. The footpath will now continue to follow its existing route.

The photograph shows the view from the footpath looking back towards Dog Bark Lane with Spirax Sarco visible on the right. Once the development is complete this will be a view down the road of a housing estate



The other end of the footpath joins a track that runs to the side of Next and into Gallagher Retail Park. This track has been overgrown and strewn with rubbish. The trees and bushes have now been cut back and the Parish Council is looking to get the fly tipping and general rubbish cleared.

Speaking of Dog Bark Lane, you will recall that the gates were stolen from the junction of Dog Bark Lane and Manor Road. They were quite distinctive, the smaller one being a bridleway gate designed to be operated by a mounted horse rider. Thanks to an eagle eyed walker they were spotted! They were leaning against a hedge in a field half way between Swindon Village and Elmstone Hardwick. The County Council will be recovering them and re-hanging them. The motive behind the theft remains a mystery.

Another footpath initiative the Parish Council is exploring concerns the frontage of the gym on Wymans Lane. At the moment people struggle up and down a muddy section of rough ground. The grass verge is owned by the County Council and we are negotiating with them in an attempt to see a proper footpath put in place.



I have been in touch with the developer of the former Vibixa site. Their plans have been adversely affected by the Covid pandemic. The latest news is that the contract for the construction of the industrial units has been awarded to local company Barnwood. It is due to start work on 19<sup>th</sup> April. The project is now scheduled to complete by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

The telecommunications equipment on the corner of Runnings Road and Kingsditch Lane is being upgraded to 5G. I queried why the old mast was still in situ. Apparently the new 5G mast is not yet in service but when it is the old mast and some of the associated boxes should be removed.

The Parish Council has commissioned a report on the condition of the war memorial in the churchyard. We are concerned that some of the lettering has become difficult to read. A stone conservator has examined the monument. He will submit a condition report and recommend remedial work. In planning matters we generally deal with Cheltenham Borough Council, but the Borough Council has no jurisdiction on church property. We will share the report with the church and the diocese and agree a way forward.

The Parish Council has accepted a quote for repainting our two wooden bus shelters (one in Wymans Lane and one in Quat Goose Lane).

I continue to recommend the website [fixmystreet.com](http://fixmystreet.com) for reporting fly tipping, potholes and other issues to the appropriate authority. A creative individual recently reported a pothole and cited the meteorite that landed in the vicinity of Winchcombe as the probable cause. I'm not sure whether this drew a higher priority response but it was worth a try.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

As we are all forced to “stay local” during the pandemic, I have really started to appreciate the area we live in. Moving back to the village after four years away at university, and under such unusual circumstances, a part of me was worried that the “magic” of living here as a child would have faded, once I was “stuck” here with little to do during the various lockdowns.

Because this is a really great place to live as a child. The quiet roads of the village meant that I experienced the independence of both walking to and from school, as well as “playing out” from a young age, something that I’m sure other children in busier areas would have loved to do. And for a child (and now an adult) obsessed with nature and exploring, the fields and parks around us provided the adventure that I read about in books.

With my usual distraction of the climbing centre down near Kingsditch temporarily closed, I have begun exploring these places again - and they’re still as exciting now as they were then. I’ve gone on adventures following footpath signs that I’ve seen countless times, and always wondered where they went. I’ve taken a map kindly provided by Barry Simon and walked from Charlton Kings and back through our many parks. And I’ve seen buzzards, woodpeckers and I think a kingfisher? (It was something blue anyway).

My point is, there is a lot to see and do in our little village. Although I will be very excited when everything starts opening up again, (see my comment about pubs in the quiz section), my lockdown in Swindon Village was much more enjoyable than I first thought it would be!

Katie

## Quiz #3

Who else is counting down the days until the pubs open?

I am, of course, impatient to get back to spending time with old friends (both human and liquid), but I also can't wait until pub quizzes start again! I am hoping to start a quiz as a monthly affair at the Village Hall bar when we are able, but until then, this will have to do!

All of this week's answers can be made by rearranging some of the letters in "SWINDON PARISH". (For example: "A buzzing insect" could be a clue for "wasp")

1. Which garden pests are often eaten by ladybirds?
2. According to a recent study, "123456789" and "letmein" are the common examples of what?
3. What word can mean both a type of fruit, or a play detailing the life of Jesus, performed at Easter?
4. What type of bend in the road is called a "switchback" in America?
5. What do you call a series of tubes of different lengths, used to transfer water from one place to another?
6. The name of what type of sandwich comes from the Italian for "small bread roll"?
7. What subatomic particles are collided together during research at CERN in the LHC?
8. The Tower of London and Robben Island are both famous examples of what type of building?
9. What do the following literary characters have in common (in relation to their parentage): Harry Potter, Jane Eyre and Oliver Twist?
10. In "Peter Pan" what "personal" possession does Peter lose while at the Darling house?

**Answers on page 16**



## Services and Events in April

	Wednesday <b>31st March</b>	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
2	<b>Good Friday</b>	12noon	Good Friday Meditation
4	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer
7	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
11	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer
14	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
18	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer
21	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
25	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evening Prayer
28	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer

## MARK AT WORK

Post-Easter Sunday has always been a very reflective time for me. For some reason it feels as though I can take deeper breaths basking in the joy of the resurrection. Of course, we know that the story does not end here, but it feels as though there exists a 'clearing' in this wonderful moment that makes things that bit more lucid and visible.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, we celebrate St Mark the Evangelist. I thought about Mark for this month in relation to that feeling I have just described. I happened across the word, '*Ephphatha*' in Mark 7: 31-37 and in doing so I realised that it was a word and story that best captured what I was feeling.

If you remember, the story is about the healing of the deaf-mute. Ephphatha is a Greek word from the Aramaic, which means, 'to be opened'. It was the word that Jesus used to heal this man from his disability. It is a story which contains many actions that demonstrate that sense of 'release'; from Jesus' own deep groan while looking up to heaven, to the man's own sense of being made free once Jesus touched his tongue and removed his fingers from his ears.

From that moment, the deaf-mute would experience life in a very different way, dare I say it, perhaps in a more lucid way. He had experienced his own 'clearing', and maybe it can be said that he was a witness to the meaning of the resurrection before it had even happened in reality. Jesus had set this man free from his own unique knowledge of bondage, as an example of all the bondages with which Jesus' sacrificial life was to address.

Maybe, as a result of reliving the story of the resurrection, we feel that '*Ephphatha*' moment as a form of release. We become more open to understanding what has been won for us.

I pray that as we enjoy these days of Spring, we can once again allow ourselves to be opened up and transformed into the people that God would have us really be, and to the life with which he would have us enjoy.

Rev George

## **Enquiries about baptisms or weddings**

If you would like to enquire about baptism (also called christening) or would like to book a wedding in St Lawrence's church, please contact the Team Office, which is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 12 noon. The office is based at St Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane. Contact the Office on **244373** or **admin@northchelt.org.uk**

**You can contact the clergy by email:**

**Revd. George Davis (Team Vicar) [fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com](mailto:fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com)**

**Revd. Nick Bromfield (Team Rector)**

**[nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk](mailto:nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk)**

**or via the office.**

## **From the registers**



### **Funeral**

*We gave thanks for the life of*  
Heather Hawker      5th March

In the last edition, there was a list of the 26 parks I had found around Cheltenham. Since then I have found three more. One is Prestbury Park and playing fields. I had looked at it and thought it not worth mentioning but since then I have revisited. I have now found that if you walk across the playing field from Prestbury Road towards the new development on the south side of New Barn Lane you come to a large open area with a play area including a zip wire. There is also a stream running through and a flood catchment. There are other open areas in the estate. Then the day before this second visit, a small refreshments hut had opened up in the playing field area- so I now award the place two stars.

Next, I found that under Pilley Bridge there is a small nature reserve that you can walk through. It has a stream that comes from a spring and then disappears down a culvert. Perfect for small persons with gum boots, so two stars. If you come out at the western end you are close to Naunton Park which has a coffee bar. The area is part of the old rail line to Banbury and there is quite a good mural under the bridge and a short stretch of railway line.

Finally I found Burrows sports field not far from Pilley. That too has a coffee hut and quite a few interesting paths to and from it. It has a child's play area, but it also has a lumpy bumpy cycling track with banked corners, which is going to get my grand-daughters over excited when they finally get to visit; so another two stars.

Well, that makes twenty nine parks but everyone (me) likes a round figure so I am going to add the Fiddlers Green open space off Springbank Road. It is small, but does have a play area and two interesting grassed mounds. So I have been down into the cellar, rummaged around and found one small, rather dusty star I can give the area so that we have thirty parks. I will keep looking.

I have to say that the town is exceptionally well served with such areas. No one (me) likes to give CBC credit but the state of most of the parks is excellent.

I know of no play area anywhere better than the one in Pittville. But the greatest surprise of all was my reassessment of Fiddlers Green Park. Having not been there for many years and remembering it as nothing special, I thought the trees excellent, the kids play area good and the art work – The Listening Stones - really outstanding. The only thing missing was coffee but I imagine that you can find one in Coronation Square which is five minutes away.

Now to market gardens. These were very important to the village for many years. There were many such gardens in the Kingsditch area. Eileen Allen and Sally Self of the Cheltenham LHS have put together an article which describes many of them. This will be published in the next edition of the CLHS bulletin. If anyone would like a copy please contact Eileen at [emallen@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:emallen@blueyonder.co.uk). The bulletin will cost £2 and I can promise it will make an interesting read.

We would also encourage people to look at the revised planning permission for the area around Swindon Farm where they are planning to build three storey houses. There is some information on the Swindon Community Facebook page where you can add your own comments. However, if you want your opinions to really count, you should be prepared to put your opinions to the Cheltenham Borough Council.

Finally two repeats from last month's article because we had some success here. The Society has produced seven volumes of village history. These are still available. Barry Simon and Eileen Allen are happy to provide them to anyone who is interested. If you have a particular interest and want to know if it features at all in any of the volumes just e-mail Barry as above and we will let you know. Prices for the volumes vary in the region £5 to £8.

I also have one or two copies of the 'Teddies in Lockdown' book which has over fifty pictures of Teddy Bears getting through the last year. It is very well put together and will make even adults smile. I have a few copies for sale at £8 which goes to the Deaf Society. If anyone is interested I can leave a copy on our porch at No 3, The Hall and you can see the book and donate if you want to take it. E-mail or phone me on 521723

Barry Simon

## THE VILLAGE SIGN

Those of you with sharp memories may remember that back in our February edition (which simultaneously feels like it came out two days and two years ago) Shaun spoke about the old village sign, and how the money for it was raised from the then annual Gymkhana.

Since then, we have learned more about the history of the sign, courtesy of Betty Harrison, who lives in the village:

“Back in, what I think was 1989, I was asked to paint on top of the carved village sign. I'm not sure who carved the original or why the decision was made to give it some colour. As you can see it was first erected in 1981 for the royal wedding. The photos were taken when we put it back in place. The first photo is me (Betty Harrison) and my husband Graham.

The next photo shows Graham and a lovely chap called Richard who many long-term villagers will remember working on Mrs Davis's farm. Also hiding in the photo is our son Max Harrison who is 40 this year.”

Thank you Betty for getting in touch, if anyone else has any memories of the village “back in the day” then please get in touch.





**HAPPY EASTER!**

Colour me in for fun!



Bit of a role reversal this month! Katie has written the Editorial piece and I am standing in for the Village Hall.

You may know that one of my hats that I wear is that of Treasurer at the Village Hall. As is often the way with any volunteer role, the job title is just a starting point. It's taken as read that I can create a carefully balanced set of accounts, but have also shown prospective bookings around the hall, done a shift behind the bar, manned the phone to cover Jana and give her a well earned break to name a few extra roles undertaken. I have to admit that as someone with no bar work experience, I really enjoy this, particularly when we have a fun party on.

You may remember that we held a Village barbeque back in 2019. We had hoped to repeat that for VE Day last year, but as with many plans that didn't happen. We are cautiously optimistic that we may be able to have a Village event this year so watch this space.

Once things are starting to get back to some sort of normal, we hope to get the events calendar back up and running. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch. As you can see, enthusiasm is the only thing that matters. I can wholeheartedly recommend joining the team of volunteers that we already have. You can choose to be part of the permanent committee, join a smaller planning group or just volunteer for single events or bar shifts. For more information contact any of the committee or better still pop down to the bar on a Friday when we reopen for a chat.

Karren.

### **Answers to Quiz:**

1. Aphids
2. Password
3. Passion
4. Hairpin
5. Siphon
6. Panini
7. Hadron
8. Prisons
9. (They are) Orphans
10. Shadow





# Cheltenham Rotary Vaccine Appeal

We are so lucky to be receiving our Covid-19 vaccines in record time, free of charge and in a safe and secure location

**But of course, most of the people of the world are not so fortunate**

**Please consider donating the cost of your vaccine**



**This project will support GAVI/COVAX in providing Covid-19 vaccines to countries where cost is an issue**

**Full information & donate option on our website  
[www.cheltenhamrotary.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrotary.org.uk)**

**or send a cheque payable to  
Rotary Club of Cheltenham.**

**57 Albert Road, Cheltenham GL52 2RB**

Link to  
Website



Direct Link  
to Donate



Until everyone around the world has been offered a vaccine, we are all still at risk from this awful virus!



# S.V.S

## Swindon Village Services

### Traditional Home Help

#### **Cleaning Services**

Whole house clean,  
Vacuuming and dusting  
End of tenancy clean

#### **Grocery Shopping Services**

Organising orders for home deliveries  
Daily, Weekly or Bi-Weekly shopping  
Accompanied shopping trips

#### **Meal Preparation Services**

Preparation and/or cooking Breakfast, Lunch and Evening meals  
Buffets for family or friends, delivery service available for function and larger groups  
Dinner parties catered for at home, 3/4 course meals and special occasions  
Afternoon teas

#### **General Maintenance Work**

Painting & decorating  
General household DIY  
even as little as changing a light bulb

#### **Gardening Services**

Weeding & digging  
Cutting lawns  
Sweeping paths  
Collecting leaves

#### **Friendly Companionship Services**

Accompanying you to social events, church, general appointments or even for a casual walk  
General companionship including quality time in conversation

**Please feel free to call us and discuss your needs,  
even if they are not listed above**

**Enquiries please call 07375777823**  
**Swindonvillageservices@outlook.com**  
**DBS checked, References available**





# ALEXANDER BURN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**Alexander Burn is an independent family business with four offices covering the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury area.**

**COURTEOUS, EFFICIENT AND RESPECTFUL**

**24 hour personal service | Private chapels of rest**

**HM Coroner and NHS Funeral Director for Gloucestershire**

[www.alexanderburn.com](http://www.alexanderburn.com)

Bishops Cleeve  
22 Church Road  
01242 673300

Cheltenham  
436 High Street  
01242 245350

Winchcombe  
11 North Street  
01242 604888

Tewkesbury  
23-24 High Street  
01684 276200



**ELWOOD COMPUTER SERVICES LTD**  
Your Local IT Support Specialist

Setup of Desktops, Laptops (PC, Mac), Tablets  
& Smartphones (iOS, Android) • Repair/  
Troubleshooting • Software & Hardware Installation  
• WiFi & Network Configuration • Working From  
Home IT Support • And more!

Microsoft / Cisco Certified  
On-site remote support  
Collect and return available

**Jon Elwood**  
07525 691311

[jon@elwoodcomputerservices.co.uk](mailto:jon@elwoodcomputerservices.co.uk)  
[www.elwoodcomputerservices.co.uk](http://www.elwoodcomputerservices.co.uk)

Or look me up on social media:



**SMALL BUSINESS MANAGED IT SUPPORT  
PACKAGES AVAILABLE - LOW MONTHLY/HOURLY COSTS**

Advertise your business in  
Village News

## Monthly rates

Whole page £36

Half page £18

Quarter page £9

Contact the Editors

Village News is delivered to  
900 homes in Swindon Village

## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader		
Rainbow Guider	Hannah Butler	07464 784155
Village Hall Chair	Ben Williams	07971 608177 swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Jana Bridger	www.svhall.co.uk 07514 594351
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers' Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
School Headteacher	Geraint Mills	690016
Friends of the School	Caroline Williams Sarah Martin	chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Lynne	07515 461876
Swindon Village Society	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

Please inform the editors of any changes to the contact details for village organisations.

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th of this month.  
Please send contributions to the editors via  
Karren Parsons at 29 Dark Lane, contact number 01242 516085  
or e-mail [village-news@swindonparish.org.uk](mailto:village-news@swindonparish.org.uk)

### SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
	Cllr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Cllr. Lisa Whitaker	07715 470842
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435 parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas	255844
	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
Allotments Manager	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: <https://swindonparish.org.uk>

### ST. LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Rector	Revd. Nick Bromfield	nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
Team Vicar	Revd. George Davis	fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com 702890
Churchwardens	Hugh Evans	241678
	May Shurmer	241033
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		244373 admin@northchelt.org.uk

The office is open on Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon. Outside these hours please leave a message on the answer phone.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors or the Parish Council