Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

Your local newsletter sponsored by the Parish Council and delivered by volunteers.

November 2023 Edition No.498

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

Sunday 5th	Litter Pick. Meet 10.30am at Swindon
	Village Hall.

- Sunday 12th Remembrance Sunday
- Monday 13th Parish Council Meeting
- Wednesday 15th Swindon Village Society. 'Pilgrims and Pilgrimages in Gloucestershire'. By John Putley .

Village Hall. 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

Sunday 19th Craft fair. at the Village Hall. 1 - 5pm Saturday 25th Quiz at the Vilage Hall

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rdLitter Pick. Meet 10.30am at Village Hall.Monday 11thParish Council MeetingThursday 21stChristmas Grotto at the Village Hall *Friday 22ndChristmas Grotto at the Village Hall *Sunday 31stNew Year's Eve Party at the Village Hall. *

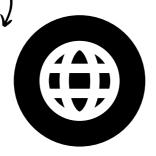
• Details to follow next month

A Connected Community!



Using your phone's camera to hover over each QR Code square below for direct link access.





Parish Council Website For full, detailed information from

and about the Parish Council visit www.swindonparish.org.uk





Parish Council Facebook Page A public page for live information and news updates from the council: www.facebook.com/swindonparish





Swindon Village Facebook Community Group

A private group for the discussion of local issues, sharing and requesting help in the local community.

Anti-Social Behaviour

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



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

NB: Get an INCIDENT REPORT NUMBER and let the parish know about it. If the police are not made aware of the problem THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM.



Once I breathe a sigh of relief as the Village News is safely on its way to the printers, I have a final task to perform before I can relax.

As well as the printed version that falls through your letterbox, the Village News is also published on the Parish Council's website. We have our own separate section - but for that to happen I must remember to send the digital version to Shaun so he can work his magic. To say that this final step is not foolproof might be one of the understatements of the year, but last month after sending it, Shaun commented that it was "a belter" Obviously other opinions are available, but I reserve the right not to publish them! The Editor's decision is final and all that...

Having not heard that saying for many years, I can see that it might be misconstrued in this age of political correctness and I wondered if it would be one that would be lost as time passed. Its Scottish roots actually refer to a cricket match where the batsmen have consistently hit the ball over the boundary. It was also later adopted by the American's to refer to a singer with a powerful voice.

As we approach the colder weather (I am writing this on what the weatherman says will be the last dry day for a while), I wonder if someone might like to do a bit more research about sayings and their origins – even maybe Cockney rhyming slang for a future article in the Village News?

Off now to look for my brolly....





SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

My work for the last couple of months has majored on trees. It is amazing how fast trees grow (or die!). I turn my back on the Amenity Area for a moment and when I look again the trees are engulfing the footpaths. It doesn't matter whether they are thriving or dying; they demand attention.



We have dealt with the fallen willow near the bridge on Manor Road. The tree surgeons took the chippings to the end of Stantons Drive. Thanks to Bill they have been used to mitigate the mud issues that we get on the footpath. Also some of the cut wood has been used by the school to provide seats for the children.

The larger pieces of wood have been left on site as a wildlife habitat.

The diseased chestnut trees in the Amenity Area are due to be dealt with on 7th December. The terminally ill one will be left as a two metre tall monolith for wildlife and the span of the recovering one will be reduced by three metres.

Next on the list will be the willows and other trees overhanging the rear gardens of Manor Court and the hedge along the allotments. Isn't nature wonderful?

I admit to having been confused about Remembrance Day, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. Karen has been kind enough to enlighten me and I have also done a little digging into the background.





The original commemorations were always on the 11th November, called Armistice Day, when everything stopped for 2 minutes at 11am, whichever day of the week it fell on. This is the famous eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

That brought problems in industry, etc. and, after the end of the second world war, Remembrance Sunday was introduced on the second Sunday in the month to remember the fallen of both world wars.

Diaries list the 11th as Remembrance Day, but that has caused confusion as a lot of people shorten Remembrance Sunday to Remembrance Day.

Most large commemorations are held on Remembrance Sunday but some smaller ones do take place on the 11th November, Armistice Day, (e.g. at St. Peter's Church on Tewkesbury Road). Karen thinks there is a small ceremony at Cheltenham War Memorial on the 11th but the main commemoration with parades is on Remembrance (Sun)Day.

Each year the Parish Council gives a grant to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal on behalf of the parish. We obtain a wreath to lay at the war memorial in St. Lawrence churchyard. The ceremony is on Remembrance Sunday (12th November this year).



The Parish Council continues to operate monthly litter picks. The last one was on 8th October. We are planning to do one on 5th November starting at the Village Hall. We are grateful to the "regulars" but would love to see some new faces (and/or less rubbish).



People have raised concerns that rat poison is being left in areas where pets could access it and come to harm. Please exercise great care if you are using poison. Cheltenham Borough Council is investigating allegations of inappropriate use and should be contacted if you have concerns. They can also quote for dealing with pest issues.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Gloucestershire is conducting a survey of residents to gather their opinions about their perceptions of crime in their local area. The survey asks for views on crime, antisocial behaviour and policing and this feedback will be used to inform the OPCC's work to make Gloucestershire safer. You can access the survey at <u>https://www.ibyd.com/glosopcc</u>. If you wish to obtain and return a paper copy of the survey contact Sean Wisher on 07753 552418.

The OPCC is also introducing a Councillor Advocacy Scheme. This is a new project aiming to create relationships between the neighbourhood policing team and local councillors. It will enable a direct line of communication between local councils and their neighbourhood teams as well as the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Lisa will be our representative, supported by Alison. We are in the process of buying the Village Hall car park from the Borough Council to secure an important parish asset. The Village Hall has recently suffered issues with parents of junior footballers demanding to use the facilities of the hall. The hall is hired privately for the exclusive use of the hirer; it is important that users of the playing field understand and respect that.

For many years the Village News has been printed by Cotswold District Council. They offered a great service at an incredible price. That's probably why they have decided to close their print room! We are looking for alternative printers, probably starting with the February issue. The magazine may (or may not!) end up looking a bit different. One way or another we aim to continue to publish.

Once I am able to see the wood for the trees I will start working on the Parish Council's budget for our next year (2024-2025). The precept figure must be delivered to Cheltenham Borough Council in January and it must be based on a robust budget. I am sensing that our councillors won't want to be working on this over the Christmas period!

Shaun Cullimore Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



COMING SOON!

Plans are afoot for both Santa's grotto and the New Year's Eve party to return to the Vilage Hall in December. Look out for more details next month and signs around the Parish.

Tickets for New Year's Eve will only be available from the Friday Bar at the Village Hall from 10th November.

GREEN YOUR PROPERTY TO REDUCE FLOODING IN YOUR COMMUNITY WHILST SAVING ON WATER BILLS AND HELPING NATURE

Water Butts

Water butts collect and store rainwater. A water butt can collect around 5,000 litres a year. This water can be repurposed allowing drinking water to be preserved. As a result, you can save money on your water bill and reduce your household carbon emissions. Furthermore, rainwater is much better for your plants!

Discover if you are eligible for free products and discounted butts by scanning the QR





Permeable driveways and paving

Flooding is expected to become more common due to increased rainfall as a result of climate change. Drainage systems were not designed to cope with excessive rainfall. Paving over gardens adds to the problem as rainwater cannot filter away through the soil and instead enters the drainage system. Use permeable paving or gravel when adding hard surfaces to your property.



Rain gardens are a type of Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SuDS) which can be installed in your garden to help reduce flooding. Rain gardens store rainwater and release it slowly into the ground or sewer

system. This helps to reduce peak pressure on the local sewer network thus reducing surface water flooding. They are also great for biodiversity, colourful, and self-watering.

Scan the OR code or visit the Wildfowl and Wetlands trust webpage for more information on creating your own rain garden.





Slowing the flow of water mimics the natural system to help reduce flash flooding, improve water quality, and allows wildlife to thrive through both garden greening and restoring groundwater baseflow to watercourses.

Images from: Rainwater terrace website - blog post by Sarah Brayshaw; Environment Agency; Gloucestershire wildlife trust; Cheltenham Borough Council



🖄 St. Lawrence's Church, Swindon Village

Christmas Tree Festival

A Favourite Book or Film Saturday 2nd December Sunday 3rd December 11am to 5pm

> See the decorated trees Raffle for a Christmas hamper Christmas sales table Refreshments

> > Saturday only at 2.30pm Singalong with The Ukuladies

> > > Free admission

Donations to St. Lawrence's church maintenance funds



Hello!

I am Reverend Jacqueline and will be licensed as a Team Vicar in the North Cheltenham Team Ministry on 31st January. I will be based at St. Lawrence, and St. Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke. I am really looking forward to becoming part of the Swindon Village community and meeting people in their different contexts. I had a very warm welcome on my interview day, and I am excited about what the future holds for the Village.



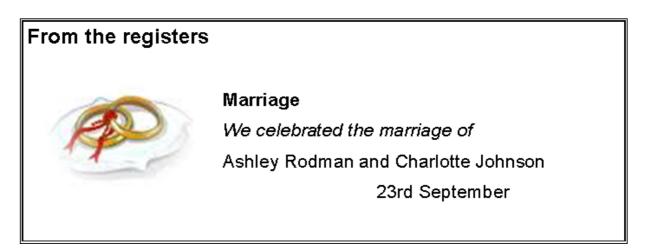
I was brought up in Devon on the edge of Dartmoor. On leaving school, I moved to North Wales to study Criminology at the University of Wales, Bangor. I joined the police after graduating and served as a Constable for 21 years, predominantly in investigative roles. I have lived on Anglesey, where I picked up a smattering of Welsh, Llandudno, Newton Abbot, and Cirencester. My only fluent phrase in Welsh is "When red light shows, wait here", which has been helpful on rare occasions, usually in a pub!

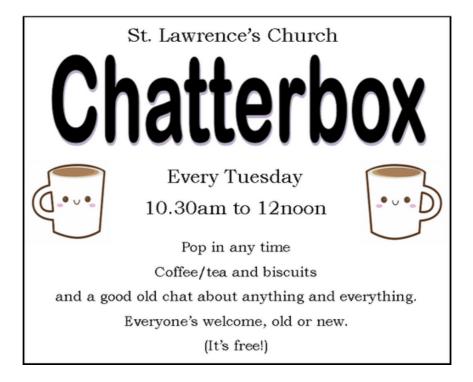
I have been ordained since September 2020 and have served my curacy in the South Cheltenham Ministry Team. Cheltenham is such a diverse town and has its own individual challenges and joys, which I am excited about discovering and working through with the community. I am married to David, who is a solicitor and we have two daughters, Eleanor, 12 and Martha, 10, who both attend local schools. We are quite a musical family and in my spare time, I enjoy playing my violin and singing in choirs. We also enjoy socialising, camping, gardening and making the most of our National Trust membership!



I love this time of year where the autumn really starts to get underway, and we look with anticipation towards Remembrance and Advent. It is these endings and beginnings of new seasons which mark our year and episodes in our lives. We, as a family are starting to lay down our South Cheltenham season and look towards a fresh start in the New Year, when we move into the Rectory. It's an exciting time and I am looking forward to journeying with you as we minister and serve the people of Swindon Village and Elmstone Hardwicke.

Rev. Jacqueline





St. Lawrence's Church



In Loving Memory

A service of remembrance and reflection

Sunday 29th October at 6.30pm

The commemoration of All Souls is a quiet festival when we remember all those whom we have loved but who are no longer with us.

Our annual "In Loving Memory" service gives us a chance to remember our loved ones by name, and by lighting a candle, in God's presence.

St. Lawrence's Church will also be open on Saturday 28th October from 10am to 3pm

for anyone who would like to spend some quiet time in remembrance or prayer and to light a candle for a loved one.



Mc North Cheltenham Team Ministry

St. Lawrence's Church Swindon Village

Regular Services

1st Sunday of the month:

10.30am Together @ Ten Thirty all-age worship 6.30pm Holy Communion

All other Sundays:

9.15am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Every Wednesday:

10.00am to 12noon Church open for private prayer

(Services are subject to change at short notice; contact the Churchwardens if you want to check.)

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 Karen in the Team Office on

01242 244373 or admin@northchelt.org.uk

You can contact the clergy via the office or by email: Revd. Nick Bromfield (Team Rector) **nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk** or via the office.



Remembrance Sunday 12th November

9.15am Holy Communion in St. Lawrence's Church

10.45am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial with laying of wreaths

6.30pm Taizé-style service for Remembrance at St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane (No evening service at St. Lawrence's)

St. Lawrence's Church is part of the

Morth Cheltenham Team Ministry

St. Lawrence's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December "A Favourite Book or Film"

There's only a month to go to the Christmas Tree Festival!

This year's theme is "A Favourite Book or Film".

As usual, the theme can be interpreted in any way you like and we hope that lots of you, groups and individuals, will want to take part in what has become a bit of a local tradition marking the start of the Christmas season.

To register your interest or for more information please contact me.

As well as decorated trees to admire, we'll have a raffle for a Christmas hamper and a Christmas-related Bring & Buy table, and we'll welcome donations for those. Cakes always sell well (hint, hint!)

Children will be able to make a Christmas decoration and there will be a little competition, as yet undecided!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Karen Evans - tel. 241678



Churchyard Tidy-Up

Here's a photo of some of the 20-strong workforce who spent a morning weeding and strimming in the churchyard to tidy it up for the winter months. They did a magnificent job. Thank you very much to everyone who helped.

May Shurmer Churchwarden.



The Children's Society Home Collecting Boxes

The annual emptying of the boxes for the Children's Society resulted in a total donation to the Society of £540.31. This is a magnificent sum, especially given rising bills and the decreasing use of cash in preference to cards. It's heartwarming to know that people will give spare cash to a good cause. Thank you all so much for your generosity.

When we all pull together, a little can make a lot.

If you'd be interested in having a box to pop your spare change into at home, or if you'd like information about the work of the Children's Society, please contact us.

Derek & Helen Harris Tel. 239239





Shared names

- 1. What name is shared by an actor in Succession and a famous astronomer?
- 2. Which east of England city shares its name with the capital of Nebraska?
- 3. Which Hollywood actress shares a name with the wife of an English playwright?
- 4. Which city in Tennessee shares its name with an ancient capital of Egypt?
- 5. What name is shared by the drummers in Queen and Duran Duran?
- 6. Which east coast cities in Canada and Australia share a name?
- 7. What name is shared by the director of "12 Years a Slave" and an actor from "the Great Escape"?
- 8. Which US state shares a name with a country which used to be part of the Soviet Union?
- 9. What name is shared by a character from Eastenders and a character in Line of Duty?
- 10. What name is shared by 67 towns or cities in the USA, including one state capital, and was used by a highly successful and long running TV programme as its location due to it being such a common name?



Tim Brain's talk on the Battle of Imjin River was first rate. He is a real historian and also a darned good speaker. The Korean War was a messy affair for which we were not really prepared but then neither were the American or our other allies. We did not have the right weapons in the area for this type of war but then the North Koreans and Chinese did not either. The latter just relied on numbers and fought the war on manpower alone. So when, after much tooing and froing they made an assault on the South it was using massed infantry. And the Gloucester Regiment was in the middle of it in a difficult position where they did not have much in the way of support. The obvious tactic was retreat but this option was denied them. So they stood firm and stood firm and stood firm some more. In the end they delayed the enemy for sufficient time for the other allied forces to prepare. Finally the Gloucesters were over-run. Some were killed, some wounded, many were captured and a few did manage to escape. Crucially, they had delayed the Communist Forces for such a time that the allies of the South could gather their strength and stop the advance. The capital of the South was saved by this one action. The enemy losses were ten times those of the allies. In the end after more indecisive actions the position remained much as it started and Korea finished up in two very different halves much as it is today. Had it not been for the Gloucesters there would probably be no South Korea.

Once again I am reminded of the small stone cross in Gloucester Cathedral which was carved by their commanding officer, Lt Col James Carne, during his captivity. It is worth a visit as is the Gloucester's Museum in the dockland area.

The thing that impresses me mightily about Dr Brain is that he manages a one hour talk with no notes. He just uses the slides as prompts. As a speaker myself, and one who must have a full script, this is impressive.



In December we have a talk on Pilgrims and Pilgrimages in Gloucestershire by John Putley. I remember being surprised to be told by another real historian that probably the most interesting part of our own St Lawrence's Church are the carvings on the left side of the inner door stone jamb, which were made by pilgrims in centuries past. Maybe we will find out who they were, where they were going and what caused them to stop and leave their mark in Swindon Village.

And so to next year. Well, of course we start with the AGM in January and you may, or may not, be relieved to hear that work is underway to produce a programme not unlike this year's with local history, wildlife and, if we can find it, something Nimby oriented. Should you have already prepared a really good talk on how to stop four thousand houses being built around us in the greenbelt, do let me know.

New members are always welcome and visitors are welcome at any meeting for £2. We will be glad to see you.

Barry Simon

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Hello all,

it's been a relatively warm start to Autumn, a chance for us gardeners to use this to our advantage, particularly if you're planting something now ready for next year. This month I've got a couple of tips as to what you can plant now to save yourselves money on the food bill next year.

If you're a fan of Raspberries, you know they can be quite expensive at the supermarket. With this in mind, you can do what I'm doing this month and buy 'Raspberry Canes'. I pre-ordered 5x Autumn Bliss Variety Raspberry Canes (good for pots) for £11, two months ago, and they should still be available in all good fruit nurseries (in person or online). Gotherington Nurseries locally sell them and usually locally sourced. Raspberry Canes need a minimum spacing of 45cm between each other and a minimum soil depth of 30cm, so pot on if required, as soon as you get them, so that they fruit well come August-October next year. When you pot up, be sure to make sure you have well drained organic compost that is neutral-slightly acidic for best results. Don't worry about any Winter frost protection, Raspberry Canes are very hardy and autumn varieties don't need any pruning in the first year. In my mind, if one Cane produces you more Raspberries than a single punnets worth next year, you're already saving money.

Blueberry Shrubs are also worth considering to save money (my wife loves them on her cereal) as they cost around the same as Raspberries at the supermarket. They are more expensive to buy initially, around £20 for a 5L pot, but grow very quickly if you pot them on (45cm pot is the max they'll ever need) and hence give you a lot of fruit (July-Sept) from one plant. They can grow up to 2m tall/1.5m width if they're in a sunny spot. I went with the 'Bluegold' variety as it's good in pots and one of the best fruiting varieties. One thing to note with Blueberry



Shrubs in general is that they need acidic/ericaceous compost or they will not fruit at all! One Blueberry Shrub is unlikely to save you money in the first year, but will most definitely save you a lot of money in subsequent years. Again, you won't need to do any winter frost protection with Blueberry Shrubs.

It's worth noting that both Raspberries and Blueberries freeze store extremely well, so even though their fruiting period is only around three months, you can still be enjoying them for months afterwards.

That's all for this time. Thanks for reading. Dale.



Litter pick volunteers

We have our monthly litter pick on a Sunday morning at 10.30 starting at the village hall or the Cross Hands pub. A very big thank you this month to Barry, Ruth and Councillor Sharon for joining the October pick.

Here are Barry and Ruth modelling some fine bags of rubbish

Electrical Woes in Swindon Lane

Recent TV ads for electric cars use the tag line "Who says electricity can't be exciting?". It certainly can be in Swindon Lane.



It started with an almighty bang and flash when the power blew on the lines that cross the field adjacent to Swindon Lane. They look like telegraph poles but they actually carry 11,000 volt cables. The cables supply transformers that step the voltage down to the 240 volts that we all use in our houses. Apparently no-one lost power because the network can be reconfigured around the fault. To add insult to injury the two guys tasked with fixing the fault also had to deal with their van getting stuck in the lovely clay soil!

While all that was going on I noticed that the floodlights that illuminate the level crossing had gone out, quite eerie when you are used to the blazing illumination every night. This was, I am told, a completely separate fault in a low voltage underground cable. Apart from the flood lights the only other "casualty" was a neighbour's house. The temporary solution has been two generators; one on the east side of the railway to supply the floodlights and one on the west side supplying the house (through the letter box!). The generators run 24 hours a day so I'm sure everyone in the area will be glad when these faults are fixed!

Shaun Cullimore

Sunday 19th November Ipm - 5pm at Swindon Village Hall

Homemade local craft fair. Free entry. Raffle, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, mulled wine, mince pies.

> £1 off hot drink with this advert



Answers to quiz

Brian Cox 2. Lincoln 3. Anne Hathaway 4. Memphis 5. Roger Taylor
Sydney 7. Steve McQueen 8. Georgia 9. Dot Cotton 10. Springfield



<u>A Taste of Thermomix</u>

At the Village Hall - Saturday 11th November 2023 10 AM for 10h15 start until 12 PM

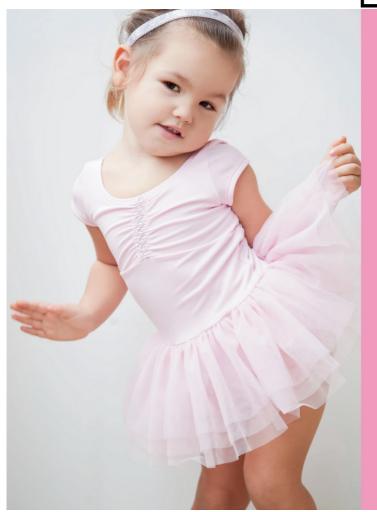
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Natasha Mawkins

Blank Canvas Cakes is about creating beautiful distinct artwork on delicious freshly baked cakes.

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SWINDON PARISH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers		info@ 1sv-scouts.co.uk
Rainbow Guider	Hannah Butler	07464 784155
Village Hall Chair	Jana Bridger	07913 911930 swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Jana Bridger	07514 594351
Villge News Distribution	Hugh Evans	241678
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers' Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
School Headteacher	Geraint Mills	690016
Friends of the School		chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Lynne Mumford	07515 461876
Swindon Village Society	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	mgu5@hotmail.co.uk
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	07477894639 / 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 November 2023 Please send contributions to the editors via Karren Parsons at 29 Dark Lane or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. James Cornish (Chairman)	07950 196709	
Clr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078	
Cllr. Lisa Whitaker	07715 470842	
Clr. Sharon Collicutt	.07884 184423	
Cilr. Natalie Blankley	.07725 948935	
Clr. Alison Berry	07754 006634	
Clr. Lynne Allen	.07979 890134	
Vacancy 1 (please get in touch if you would be interested in joining)		

Vacancy 2 (please get in touch if you would be interested in joining)

Mr Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Council)	07833 089435 parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	
Clr. Flo Clucas	2.55844
Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012

County Councillor

Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
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Allotments Manager

Chaz Pearce..... Please contact via Shaun Cullimore

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,	<u>n</u> ick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk		
	Hugh Evans,			
	May Shurmer			
Tower Captain:	Hugh Evans,			
	John Collins			
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office				
St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane,		244373		
Cheltenham GL50 4PA		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.