

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

July 2024 Edition No.505

Upcoming Events



JULY

Saturday 6th **Church Cake Sale** details to follow

Monday 8th **Parish Council Meeting** - 7:30pm in the Village Hall bar area

Sunday 14th **Litter Pick.** Meet 10.30am at Cross Hands

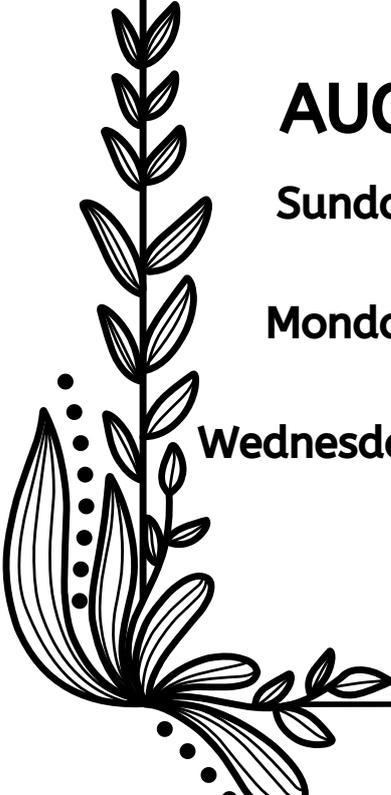
Wednesday 17th **Swindon Village Society.** 7.00pm The garden visit will be to the six gardens at Swindon Hall. See Village Society notes inside for details. Non members £3

AUGUST

Sunday 11th **Litter Pick.** Meet 10.30am at Swindon Village Hall

Monday 12th **Parish Council Meeting** - 7:30pm in the Village Hall bar area

Wednesday 21st **Swindon Village Society.** 7.00pm Swindon Village Society. Annual Garden Party at No 3, Swindon Hall Members only.



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.



A Note From The Editor

As you are aware, the playgroup changes hands in September.

Recently, I was talking to a lady – Pat Donovan- who worked at the first village playgroup back in 1969 / 1970. She remembered being in the old wooden village hall whilst the new one was being built. The old wooden building was chopped in half to make room for the new, and the open end was covered with a tarpaulin so the playgroup could still operate. Pat recalled many a time when the tarpaulin wasn't quite weatherproof, and they had to use buckets and towels to stop the rain coming in.

Although the Village Hall wasn't officially opened until late 1974, the playgroup was allowed to move in for the start of term in September 1974.

Pat was still working at the playgroup when my eldest daughter was there and we have fond memories of “duck, duck, goose” with Pat touching the children on their head – many of the children thought that was how she got her name!

Some of the parents from the current playgroup have asked for messages to Sally and Debbie be included in the Village News. Please see later in this edition. We'd like to this opportunity to wish them the best luck in the world for the future.

Karren



Swindon Parish Council

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

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Our regulars will know that there is no Village News published in August. You will be able to keep up to date with key issues via our website and Facebook page.

At the top of many people's list is Manor Road. James has been leading our efforts to understand why this has to have such a detrimental and prolonged impact on our lives. James included a fine explanation in the last issue of the Village News. The works on the gas main are now complete. However, Severn Trent's work continues. They are still working within their planned time but, in addition to reroutings, they have a leaking water main to fix. James is pressing for the footpath to be improved with proper ramps and a tarmac surface that all users will be able to transit in safety. We have had two site meetings with Persimmon. I reported that the attendees at the first meeting included Parish Councillor Sharon. Actually it was Lynne, but Sharon attended the second meeting. The meetings are useful in making sure that Persimmon and their contractors maintain their focus on getting this work finished as soon as possible.

The purchase of the Village Hall car park has hit issues with expensive repairs being necessary to the sewer. Some of the problems may be down to the high water table (we all know that the park floods in wet weather). We suspect that water may be flowing the wrong way through the sewer in adverse conditions. If the sewer were to collapse it would mean that the Village Hall toilets would be out of commission and the hall would not be usable. With this in mind the decision has been taken to close the one side of the car park to vehicles. We now need to work out exactly what is to be done, who will pay for it. It makes sense for us to try to get the work done during the school holidays when the hall is quiet.



Swindon Parish Council



We have four noticeboards in the parish and all are in need of some TLC. If we have any volunteer DIY folk out there looking for unpaid work we would love to hear from you. Materials and gratitude would be provided!

Work continues on the cycle path near Pitville Park and the racecourse roundabout. The scheme will result in major changes with the installation of traffic lights and reduced speed limits.

Local Council Clerk Week (LCCW) took place from 10th to 14th June. Its purpose was to “celebrate and raise awareness of the profile of the role of the clerk, and to recognise all the important and wide-ranging work we do for our communities.” Even I was unaware of it!

The General Election takes place on 4th July. Don't forget that you will need to take photo id with you to be able to vote. At the recent Borough Council elections Frank Allen became one of our Borough Councillors. We have been delighted to see Frank at Parish Council meetings and on our most recent litter pick.

The website “Fix my Street” has proved useful in reporting all kinds of issues to the County and Borough Councils. I don't want to put you off the system (it normally works well) but my report of a blocked drain outside the school garnered 13 emails telling me that the problem was being investigated. I subsequently received an email saying that the problem had been addressed and that I would hear no more on the matter. Sadly I then received another 22 emails telling me the same thing!



Swindon Parish Council



Another minor victory for us. Many years ago (literally) one of our parish councillors and I met with a representative of the County Council footpaths team. We walked round the parish pointing out things that we would like to see fixed. There was much nodding and note taking and, of

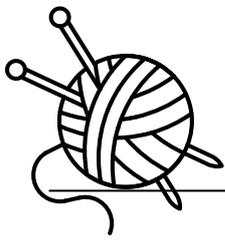
course, nothing happened. When walking past Spirax Sarco on Runnings Road the other day I was astonished to see that one of our complaints, a missing footpath notice, had been addressed.

Finally, to tide you over until September here are a couple of quotes which amused me.

Gloucestershire Live interviewed the Cheltenham Town manager about the hard time his side was experiencing. “I felt we deserved it, certainly the players did after not scoring for 11 games.” Not sure what you deserve after not scoring for 11 games. Relegation maybe?

Finally, a quick one from Amazon. The description of a walkie talkie for sale included the words: “The possibility of explosion is relatively high.” Don’t hold that one too close to your ear then.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



Marle Hill WI

We met on Monday 3 June where one of our members had organized a craft evening. There were instructions on how to make a Christmas wreath using a polystyrene ring and attaching red, green and white ribbons on, some ladies were knitting items to go on to bottles of wine and some members were making cards. It was a very nice sociable evening with members chatting and socializing.

After refreshments we had the business side of the meeting and we were given the dates and times of the book club, craft club, the month meal club. We had the usual bring and buy staff.

Our next meeting is on Monday 1 July where we will be celebrating our Birthday with representatives from surrounding WI's.

We will not be meeting in August. The meeting in September is on Monday the 2, and the speaker will be Dorothy Cook talking about her life as a Midwife.

Visitors are most welcome, Sue Davies, Marle Hill WI



Village News Distributors Wanted

We have a loyal team of distributors who bring you your Village News every month but we would like to add some extra people on a stand-by basis to cover the occasional absences for holidays or illness.

Please contact us if you can help.

Hugh and Karen Evans

Tel.241678



The Swindon Village Society

Once a year the Village Society goes on an expedition. This year it was off to Northleach under the guidance of John Heathcott.

These days Northleach is a pleasant but unremarkable Cotswold town but a few centuries ago it was a place of some importance. It was the centre for wool and wool was where the money was. You can tell this when you look at much of the housing towards the centre; fine buildings for important people. Of course there was lesser housing, now very attractive because of its age. But as you walk around you also note the charity that was afforded to the poor by way of alms houses and even a workhouse for the very poor where charity was severely limited.

One thing I had not realised is that the town square was once over twice the size. Right now it is actually a town triangle but that is because there has been building diagonally across the square and that there is actually another town triangle in the other side of these buildings. So, on my visits I had been missing half the town.

Of course we visited the church; this is large and impressive and it has superb perpendicular pillars and windows. However, it was built much of a piece from sheep money and so lacks some of the layers of history that other local churches have including our own St Lawrence's. Then after the church it was off to the prison, not because of the poor behaviour of some of the group but because that was where we had left the cars and the fact that it is now a very good cafe combined with a prison museum and a collection of aged farm wagons. No fee for the museums, just buy a coffee.

This was a great visit and as ever the enjoyment was doubled because of John's wonderful knowledge of such towns and his easy way of passing it on.



The Swindon Village Society

We finally resolved our gardens visit in July. We have been trying to make our destination a garden in Gretton, advertised under the National Garden Scheme programme. However, we have now found out that the owners are moving and so have withdrawn from the scheme without telling us. So we have made a virtue of necessity and the gardens this year will be those of our own Swindon Hall. Between us we have six gardens and all will be open to the cognoscenti. I can only say that they vary in style and character but together make an interesting venue.

Entry is free to members and non members will be welcome for £3 if you let me know you are coming in advance at barry_simon@hotmail.com . There will be tea and buns afterwards. Date and times on the front cover.

So, to August, when we have our annual garden party in the streaming rain. This is a member's only do and it is back to No 3, Swindon Hall, where, if the weather is indeed as predicted above, the lukewarm wine in will be grudgingly doled out in the kitchen.

In September Dr Tim Brain will return to tell us again the tale of Gloucestershire in the 2007 floods. Strongly recommended.

Finally, I will remind you that we have agreed to include the village in the annual Heritage Open Days programme for the first time in a few years. So on Saturday 14th September we will invite visitors from the area to a talk on 'The History of Swindon Village', most probably in St Lawrence's Church. This will be followed by a walk around the village to see our more historic sites. If you are new to the village this is a good time to find out about where you live. The talk and walk will be free but the tea and buns afterwards can be purchased and any profits go to church funds.

Barry Simon



St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

This year, Paris will be hosting the Olympics – a three week extravaganza from 26th July to 11th August, of competition in an increasingly varied range of sports. Every four years the Games are staged to showcase the best human values, like fair play, respect and the courage to strive for excellence. These values are not just important to sport; they underpin the fabric of society and democracy.

The Olympics trace back over 2,000 years to ancient Greece and have always been more than a mere display of athletic prowess. They were an opportunity for Greek citizens to unite, celebrate their democracy and display their remarkable athletic skills. In the late 1800's, people around the world were ready for a modern version of the games and wanted to compete with different nations and celebrate peace and friendship.

As we watch Olympians from all walks of life, religions and backgrounds, we will I am sure be impressed by the competitors who have devoted their lives to perfecting their skills for this competition. The amount of time and commitment required for this one moment is awe-inspiring. I hope that their prowess will inspire us all to try whatever skill might be lying dormant inside us. As someone who was built for comfort rather than speed, I suspect my skills might lie in the 'arts'! But we do all have something we can offer.

The thing I am always slightly overwhelmed by is the sense of 'team'. 350 athletes from Great Britain will be travelling to Paris, together, on the same side, encouraging and supporting. They are excellent role models for unity and fellowship, which is something we can lack in our everyday, technological world.



St. Lawrence's Church

Watching these Olympians strive will, I'm sure, bring people together in community, as we cheer, commiserate and celebrate. We are designed to be together, in community, to love and support. It is my hope that the Olympics will be a time when the world comes together and makes a stand for the original values of the Games – respect, excellence and friendship. Good luck Team GB.

Well, so far this summer has been a mixed bag! We've had a heat wave, followed by storms, and now, a period of colder, wetter weather. The garden is lush and thriving and I'm managing to avoid lugging around watering cans to water the containers.

Preoccupation with the weather is a very British phenomenon and the subject is often used as a conversation tool when we make small talk. There is a myth that the Romans left Britain because they were fed up with cooler, wetter weather. I have some sympathy when I see holiday makers making the best of things whilst struggling with wet tents, children and inclement weather.

We sometimes take our rain and provision of water for granted. It's perhaps only when we hear about hosepipe bans or water companies in crisis that we pay more attention to where our water is coming from. The bible story of the Samaritan woman who went to the well to collect her water (John 4. 5-30) is one which still reminds us of how fortunate we are in the UK to be able to have water piped into our homes. The woman's encounter with Christ at the well was one which quickly developed into a discussion about her brokenness, lifestyle choices and how she could break away from the barriers she had carefully put up.



St. Lawrence's Church

We all want for things in life, perhaps a new car, or a better job or the most up-to-date technology, but these things are only a temporary fix. Christ offers us all, whoever and wherever we are, a relationship with Him which gives us permanence and a sense of belonging. Christ sees through our superficial desires and offers us living water, where we will be sustained through a constant flow of grace which will quench our spiritual thirst.

Throughout the scriptures then, water is a powerful image. It is that which refreshes and satisfies and sustains. This is why water is used during baptism services. It is salvation and the glory of God. It is abundant life. It is the presence of God with us. It is a force that works in our lives in just the way we need. That is just the start of what Jesus offered to the woman at the well, and it is what he offers to each one of us every day. All that remains is for us to say the words of the Samaritan woman. "Please, give me some of that water."

Rev'd Jacqueline Henson





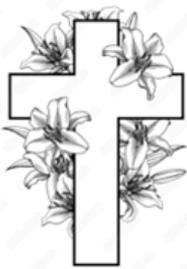
St. Lawrence's Church

From the registers



Marriages

We celebrated the marriage of
Julian Waton and Lorna Barron
25th May



Funeral

We gave thanks for the life of
Christine Hunt 5th June
(at Cheltenham Crematorium)

Burial of Ashes

We commemorated the lives of
Anthony Gerald Eric Sims 12th April
Valerie Jean Corke 17th June

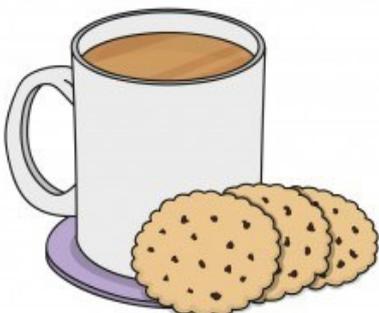
St. Lawrence's Church

Chatterbox

Every Tuesday

10.30am to 12noon

Pop in for coffee/tea and biscuits
and a good old chat about
anything and everything.





Julian and Lorna after their wedding.



A military fly-past for our wonderful mowing team!



St. Lawrence's Church

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

St. Lawrence's Church is part of the



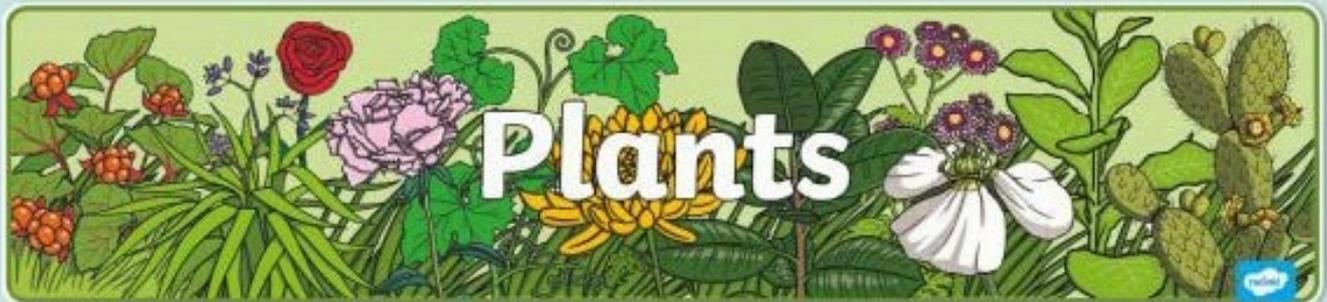
Enquiries about baptisms or weddings

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 Team Vicar, Revd. Jacqueline Henson, by email: revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com or by phone: 01242 220053 or via the office as above.



St. Lawrence's Church
Saturday 6th July
10am until we've sold out!



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Please give me, Ken a ring to arrange a booking, and subject to prior workload most jobs are done in 48 hrs.

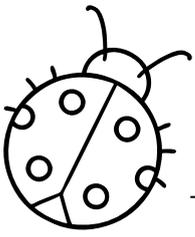
If an item is needed urgently, I keep slots available for a same day service and if the workload allows it can be done whilst you wait.

Unit 15 Space Business Centre, Tewksbury Road (Behind Homebase) Cheltenham GL51 9FL

Call: **07379 422942** Email: ken@kwsharpening.co.uk

Instagram: [@kw_sharpening](https://www.instagram.com/kw_sharpening) Web: www.kwsharpening.co.uk

1. What golfer won a record eight European Tour Order of Merit titles, including a streak of seven consecutive from 1993 to 1999?
2. What creature was Fawkes, Albus Dumbledores animal companion and defender?
3. Who played Princess Margaret in series 3 and 4 of the Crown?
4. The fastest trans-Atlantic crossing by a passenger plane is 2 hours, 52 minutes and 59 seconds. What was the name of the type of aircraft that completed this journey?
5. Which English explorer was born in 1554, knighted in 1585 and executed in 1618?
6. Who is credited with bringing about the unification of Germany in 1871?
7. Which area of Cheltenham shares its name with which French city, lying 6 miles inland from the Mediterranean coast?
8. Where was the Ancient Wonder of the World, the statue of Zeus?
9. Which constituency does Rishi Sunak represent?
10. What is the connection between all the above answers? NB spellings may vary slightly.



Swindon Village Early Years

Thank you Sally and Debbie

Sally and Debbie were really lovely through those almost two and half years. We spoke about nappy free, night patterns, volcanoes and a few days ago my son brought a treasure map home.

Now they are are going to new adventures. My little one to Big school, and Sally and Debbie for a new chapter in their lives.

Best wishes for all of them and a long and strong life to SVEY!

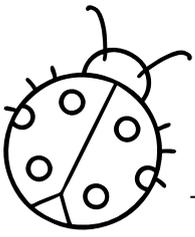
Ludmila



I would like to say how amazingly they have done with allowing Hudson to join in the nursery and become part of their little nursery family. Sally and Debbie have played an amazing part within Hudson's time at the nursery, no matter how shy he was/is Sally and Debbie managed to get him involved in all sorts of activities. It's such a shame it came to this with you guys going but I'm sure you both have better things ahead of you!

Hudson will miss you guys

Again thanks so much
Megan



Swindon Village Early Years

We cannot thank you enough for all you have done for our little Olive. She took a while to adjust, but your kindness, love and patience has really helped to bring her out of her shell! We will never forget you and are forever grateful we found you! Such wonderful women in the community.... What a wonderful legacy to leave! Hope you enjoy your time now to concentrate on yourselves and your families

Love Greg, Bekah and Olive



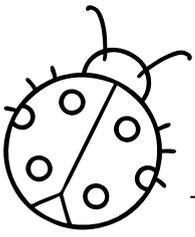
Dear Sally and Debbie,

Thank you so much for looking after both of our Son's at Swindon Village Early Years. We hold close to our hearts how attentively you looked after Nikshay and Hari.

We wish you both a restful and enjoyable retirement and will miss seeing you at the nursery.

All our very best wishes,
Dipali, Kiran and family

*Thank
you.*



Swindon Village Early Years

Following the announcement from Sally and Debbie, we are excited to introduce ourselves to you as the new owners of Swindon Village Early Years!

My name is Sharon Montague and I am currently working at playgroup.

My name is Stacey Sandey and I am excited to be coming back to playgroup!

We have some space available for September, so please contact us if you would like your child to start with us!

Our email address is swindonvillageearlyyears@outlook.com and our contact number is 07949 352 507.



Cheltenham Horticultural Society Summer Flower Show

Many Stalls including Plant supports, Cakes ,Greetings Cards, Books Photographic Prints Locally Produced Jams and Pickles
Refreshments available.

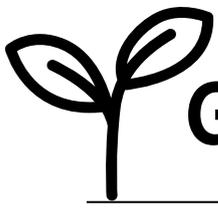
WHERE: Pittville School, Albert Road, GL52 3JD ****new venue**

WHEN: Sunday 18th August 2024 12.30 to 4pm

ADMISSION: Adults £2.50 accompanied under 16's Free

www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk





Go grow with Dale

Hello Gardeners, it's been a fairly chilly start to the summer, it seems our seasons are far from predictable the past few years.

With this summer being cool and fairly wet at times so far, those pesky garden pests, namely slugs and snails, must be having the time of their lives. I almost lost a Courgette just the other day from slug attack and because of the lack of heat, something courgettes love, it's slow to recover.

Since then, I've upped my defences in the form of more 'Beer Traps'. For these, I use small glass ramekins (any shallow container will do though) and put them near the plants I want to protect before filling them with beer. Obviously cheap beer is a good way to go, I've been using cheap stouts of late. They're so effective I usually have to empty and refill them every couple of weeks as they're so full of slugs by then. Be sure to have one beer trap every square meter if the slugs are particularly bad.

The science behind it is rather hilarious, slugs love the yeasty smell of beer, meaning non-alcoholic beer works too, go in for a sip, have no self-control on how much they should drink, fall in and drown.

Something else I do to assist my vegetables is grow Nasturtiums close by, they're irresistible to mainly Aphids but Caterpillars as well. They're edible and they drape down from pots/raised beds so they don't invade precious vegetable growing space.

Hopefully these couple of tips will assist your garden this summer.

Until next time, thanks for reading.

Dale.

Answers to quiz:

1. Colin Montgomery
2. Phoenix
3. Helena Bonham Carter
4. Concorde
5. Sir Walter Raleigh
6. Otto von Bismarck
7. Montpelier
8. Olympia
9. Richmond
10. They are all US State Capitals

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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 Bookings	Jana Bridger	swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
Village News Distribution	Hugh Evans	241678
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
	For Sept 24 admission	07949 352507
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.L.	Sara Jefferies	07477894639 / 692500

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 August 2024

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. Lisa Whitaker (Chairman)	07715 470842
Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
Cllr. Sharon Collicutt	07884 184423
Cllr. Natalie Blankley	07725 948935
Cllr. Alison Berry	07754 006634
Cllr. Lynne Allen	07979 890134

There are currently **THREE** Vacancies *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

Springbank Ward (south of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Peter Jeffries	07717 493686
Cllr. Suzanne Williams	01242 230648

Swindon Village Ward (north of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Flo Clucas	01242 255844
Cllr. Frank Allen	07402 011272

County Councillor

Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
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ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Vicar: Revd. Jacqueline Henson revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com
220053

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, 244373
Cheltenham GL50 4PA admin@northchelt.org.uk

The office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.00am to 1.30pm, and on Friday from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

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.