

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 489 December 2022

December 22

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monday 12th | Parish Council Meeting |
| Saturday 10th
Sunday 11th | Christmas Tree Festival, St Lawrence's Church |
| Friday 16th | Carols at the Hall 6pm. |
| Thursday 22nd
Friday 23rd | Father Christmas Grotto, Swindon Village Hall. More dates may be added if become fully booked. |
| Friday 23rd | Christmas Friday Bar! |
| Saturday 31st | New Years Eve Party, Swindon Village Hall |

January 23

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Monday 9th | Parish Council Meeting |
| January 18th | Swindon Village Society. AGM. Should be finished by 8 after which tea and then Helen Wells will update us on planning developments. Village Hall. 7.30. Visitors welcome. See the SVS article inside. |
| Friday 27th | Bingo, Swindon Village Hall. Look out for posters in the New Year. |

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

Work on the war memorial was completed in advance of the Remembrance Day ceremonies. The final stage was the darkening of the faded lettering. This work should ensure that the war memorial does not need any further maintenance action for some years.

We have been bombarding you with requests that a few good souls step forward and join the Parish Council. You might be interested in the results of a recent survey. A sample of councillors were asked why they had taken on the role. To serve the community (85.80%) and to change things in their community (31.36%) were the top responses. Even more interesting is the finding that 94.71% of these folk recommended becoming a councillor.

Our litter picking efforts continue. As I write, the next one is scheduled for 27th November. That one should have taken place when you read this. The next one will be 15th January starting at the Village Hall at 10:30am. Keep an eye on Facebook and the website in case there are changes or additions.

I know that many of you pick up litter when you are, for example, out walking the dog. This is very public spirited and very welcome. It has been suggested to me that some residents might be happy to “adopt” a street, or part of one, and do what they can to keep it litter free. How do you feel about that? I’m sure we could provide you with resources (hi viz, litter pickers and bags).

City Fibre are currently undertaking the installation of fibre optic cables in the area. We have received a number of complaints about their working practices. Residents have observed unguarded trenches, piles of soil blocking footpaths and employees not using appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). The situation is dangerous for everyone. Our County Councillor has taken up the cudgel and is pressing Gloucestershire Highways to seek improvements.

Every season I receive complaints about hedges. We are now out of nesting season and, though I am no gardener, I think now is the time to do your clipping. We seem to have a major problem this year with hedges having grown so wide that they impede pedestrians attempting to use the pavements. Hedges may look neatly clipped but that’s no good if they don’t allow safe passage. Please take a long, cold look at your hedge and ask yourself whether

it is contributing to the problem. Don't force neighbours who may be elderly and/or disabled to walk in the road.

When I became Parish Clerk it meant learning new information and skills. That was one of the main reasons for doing it! One of the many things that I found confusing was the difference between the boundary of the parish and the ward.

The parish is called Swindon Parish, not Swindon Village parish. We try to be correct in our use of the name because the Parish is more than just the Village; it includes homes south of the Tewkesbury Road.

The ward is called Swindon Village Ward, which is even more confusing as it is bigger than the parish! The ward defines the "territory" of our Borough Councillors. Our ward has two, and boundaries are periodically reviewed to ensure that each Borough Councillor represents roughly the same number of people.

A review of the Cheltenham ward boundaries is being conducted. The coming housing developments will increase the population of the ward significantly. It is therefore proposed that an area at the south east corner of the existing ward be transferred to St. Peters. The parish (and parishioners) are unaffected. So why did I start telling you all this? I can't remember.

By the way, there are also proposals to change the boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies. Springbank would move from Cheltenham to Tewkesbury (not physically!). A consultation is in progress.

The Parish Council recently took a look at the sort of initiatives we would like to progress in the next year or two. I will share with you the list of topics we came up with to give you a flavour of our work. In no particular order:

- Village Hall Car Park
- Recruiting Councillors
- Improving Community Engagement
- Footpaths
- Elms Park
- M5 Junction 10

- Emergency Planning
- Annual Parish Meeting
- Climate Change
- School Car Parking
- Way of Working and IT Infrastructure
- Warm Space
- Play Area and Park
- Speed Limits and Road Safety
- Community Sharing Initiatives
- Summer Fete/Event

This is very ambitious. To make real progress we need more councillors and also to engage other interested people who might feel they could make a contribution but who would not want to join the council. There's room for everyone!

Finally, the usual thanks to the usual folks. To Karren and Katie for editing the Village News and to Karen and Hugh who continue to collect it and arrange delivery. To Ian (allotments) and John (footpaths) for their voluntary efforts. To our County and Borough Councillors Bernard and Flo who continue to work with us in often difficult and frustrating circumstances. To my colleagues on the Parish Council who put in a shift on behalf of the community.

Enjoy your Christmas, whatever form it takes.

Merry Christmas!

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



SANTA STOP!

Come and meet Santa and his Elf at
Swindon Village Hall this Christmas!

22nd & 23rd December

4.00-7.00pm £7.50 per child



For More Information & To Book Visit
bookwhen.com/swindonvillagehall

*Price includes an age appropriate gift and a hot chocolate with
marshmallows (or a soft drink) at the bar afterwards.*

New Year... Time for a New Interest?

Why not try... Sheila Bryant's Art Classes on Fridays, held at St Nicholas Church on Swindon Lane.

I came to live in Swindon Village post-lockdown and, by very lucky chance, came across these Art Sessions locally. I hadn't picked up a pencil or paintbrush for decades but decided to give it a go (No obligation to return a second time I thought).

I am now in my second year which says it all!

The excellent tuition from Sheila, the friendly encouragement from the rest of the group, plus the chance to socialise during the coffee break, have made these sessions a highlight of my week.

Whatever your level of artistic ability... from doodler to Art College graduate...you will be welcome and may surprise yourself at progress made.

Friday morning sessions focus on portraits, whereas the afternoon is all about life drawing (models are provided for both).

For more information do refer to Sheila's website at Sheila Bryant Fine Arts where you can find all dates, costs and details.

Why not come and give this great group a try.

Sandra Edgington

Editor's note—if you are feely arty don't forget our very own Arts and Craft Club on a Thursday evening. Why not do both?!!

Aircraft in our Skies

My occasional articles on trains travelling through the parish were quite well received. At least two people read them and I'm sure one of them found them interesting. I thought I might do the odd article about the planes we see flying above us.

I was walking along Church Road the other day and saw these aircraft in the sky. My thanks to Judy for the photograph, hastily taken on a phone.



I think the plane at the front is a McDonnell Douglas/Boeing C-17 Globemaster. It is a huge transport aircraft. Eight of them are in service with the RAF and operate out of Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. The plane is capable of hosting a fully equipped field hospital or carrying armoured fighting vehicles. It was one of these aircraft that carried the body of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from Edinburgh Airport to RAF Northolt in London. I confess I have no idea what the second aircraft is or why it was flying so close. It looks like an in-flight refueling scenario but, as far as I am aware, none of the C-17s operate as tankers though they are capable of being refueled in mid-air themselves.

We have also seen the occasional B-52 Stratofortress in our skies. This a massive strategic bomber operated by the US Air Force. They are based in North Dakota but come to RAF Fairford on training exercises. By the way, I didn't take the photo! (On the next page)



Using a free app on my phone I looked at the track of one circling over Swindon parish the other day.

As you can see it was circling above us for some time. These aircraft are so heavy that, having taken off, they are unable to land immediately

because of the weight of fuel on board. The undercarriage would buckle when the aircraft touched down. This one developed engine trouble (not a massive problem when you have eight engines!). It had to circle round burning fuel to make the aircraft lighter before returning to the ground at RAF Fairford.

I hope you found that interesting. Keep your eyes skyward and see what you can spot!

Shaun Cullimore



In October, John Heathcott told us about the Gloucestershire poets. The centre of poetic life in the county in the period up to the start of the First World War was really Dymock, but there were several other outliers too. At the time Lascelles Abercrombie, Wilfred Gibson, John Drinkwater, Rupert Brooke, Robert Frost and Edward Thomas would not even have considered themselves a group but because they overlapped, supported each other and became friends in one place over just a few years, that is how others came to see them and they are still known as the Dymock poets.

Until John's talk I had not realised that Robert Frost was, in fact, an American. I have known and loved his poem 'The Road Not Taken' for years and was delighted to find that although it is also one of America's best loved poems, it was indeed written in England and inspired by the beautiful countryside of Gloucestershire. And then from the outlier faction there is Laurie Lee. To me a poet of variable standard but if you just go to the woods near Slad where some of his best verses have been set into wooden posts, he can make your heart sing. Then you can go to The Woolpack and over a pint of proper beer give deep consideration as to whether the girl Rosie, who featured in his book 'Cider With Rosie' was in fact one person or a conflation of several of the girls he knew when he was young. These matters need serious thought; and another pint.

Now as I write this we are trying to get together a programme for next year. I can say that we have the AGM in January and that it will be short, followed by tea after which Helen Wells will give us an update on where the various big housing plans have got to.

February is settled with a talk on 'The Birds of Gloucestershire'. After that we are looking forward to talks on The Gloucestershire Regiment at Imjin River, their battle in the Korean War, the Landscape Legacy of The Normans and possibly a talk about the firm H H Martyn which helped to found The Gloster Aircraft Company. There will be others. As ever, we will have an organised walk with John Heathcott in April, a garden visit in June and our annual garden party in August.

For those of you who do not really know what the Society is about, our main interest is in keeping Swindon Village a reasonable place to live. We are not against development, we just want it to take place without adversely impacting the lives of those of us who already live here. To that end, knowledge of local

history and local wildlife can be very useful in ameliorating some of the dafter ideas put forward by developers. So do think of coming to join us. The lockdowns have taken a toll on the number of members we have, speakers seem to be increasing their costs in line with the growing cost of gas and no doubt the Village Hall will need to make some increases to cover heating costs. New members are always welcome; you don't have to turn up to anything except the Garden Party where we are considering a three line whip.

In theory the AGM should be members only. However, feel free to attend even if you are not a member. You just can't vote but you will get a cuppa and hear Helen's update afterwards. No visitor fee on this occasion.

Family membership is £20, single membership is £10. And visitors are welcome at any meeting for £2. We will be glad to see you.

Barry Simon

Thank you litter pickers!

A very big thank you to Amelia and Dan, and our great team of litter pickers on Sunday 30th October.

We just about avoided the rain and collected lots of bags of rubbish. Now our streets and footpaths are much cleaner.

Thanks guys!

Next pick is Sun 27th November, meeting at the cross hands pub



he Festival of Christ the King

“Hark, the herald Angels sing! Glory to the new born King!” So begins a famous and well loved Christmas Carol. We are so used to hearing these words, but I wonder if most people ever stop and think about what it means to call Jesus the King?

The name ‘Christ’ is more properly a title, from the Greek *ho Christos*, and Hebrew *ha Mashiach*, and it means ‘the anointed one’. The kings of ancient Israel were anointed with oil, a symbol of God’s Spirit, by the priesthood at the start of their reign, and in a similar way, King Charles will be anointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury at his Coronation next May.

For the ancient Jews, the human experience of disappointment with the reality of their often too fallible kings gave birth to the future hope for a Messiah, a God-sent King like no other. Jesus accepted this title, but radically defined what it meant, and his Kingdom was not one of imperial might and political power, but one of love, service, inclusion and self-sacrifice. From the earliest times, Christians believed that Jesus is the King who is victorious over all the violence and death of the world by his own death and resurrection. The victory of the power of love over the love of power, if you like.

There is a special festival in the Christian year, celebrated on the Sunday before Advent each year, which was created only in 1925, to remind Christians of where their primary allegiance should lie. In 1925 Pope Pius XI was a worried man. In a few short years the world had witnessed the unprecedented slaughter of the First World War, the bloody revolution in Russia, and all over Europe, in the grip of economic recession and depression, extremist nationalism was on the rise. Mussolini had been in power for 3 years, and in Germany, a young rabble rouser by the name of Hitler was not long out of jail and was beginning to stir up hatred. Concerned by the rise of communism, fascism, and extremist nationalism, the Pope decreed a new Feast Day of Christ the King of the Universe, to remind Christian people that they must never put nation, or politics first. We are to be primarily citizens of the heavenly Kingdom of the crucified and risen Jesus.

In subsequent decades, this festival came to be celebrated not only by Roman Catholics, but by many churches, including the Church of England. As a Christian, the festival reminds me that if I define myself primarily by my nationality,

my political views, my race, or any identity, and not my faith in Jesus, then I am being untrue to the one who loved me and died for me! The message of the festival is as relevant to the world today as it was when it was first celebrated in 1925.

Fr. Robert Wright

St. Lawrence's Church

Chatterbox



Every Tuesday
10.30am to 12noon



Pop in any time
Coffee/tea and biscuits
and a good old chat about anything and everything.
Everyone's welcome, old or new.
(It's free!)



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 the Team Office. The office is not currently staffed regularly but phone calls and emails are being picked up. Contact the Office on **244373** or **admin@northchelt.org.uk**

You can contact the clergy by email:

Revd. Nick Bromfield (Team Rector) nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk
or via the office.

St. Lawrence's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

A Moment in Time

Saturday 10th December

Sunday 11th December

11am to 5pm

Come and see the many novel and inspired decorated trees

Vote for your favourite tree

Make a Christmas decoration

Christmas sales table

Raffle for a Christmas hamper

Refreshments

Free admission

Donations to St. Lawrence's church maintenance funds



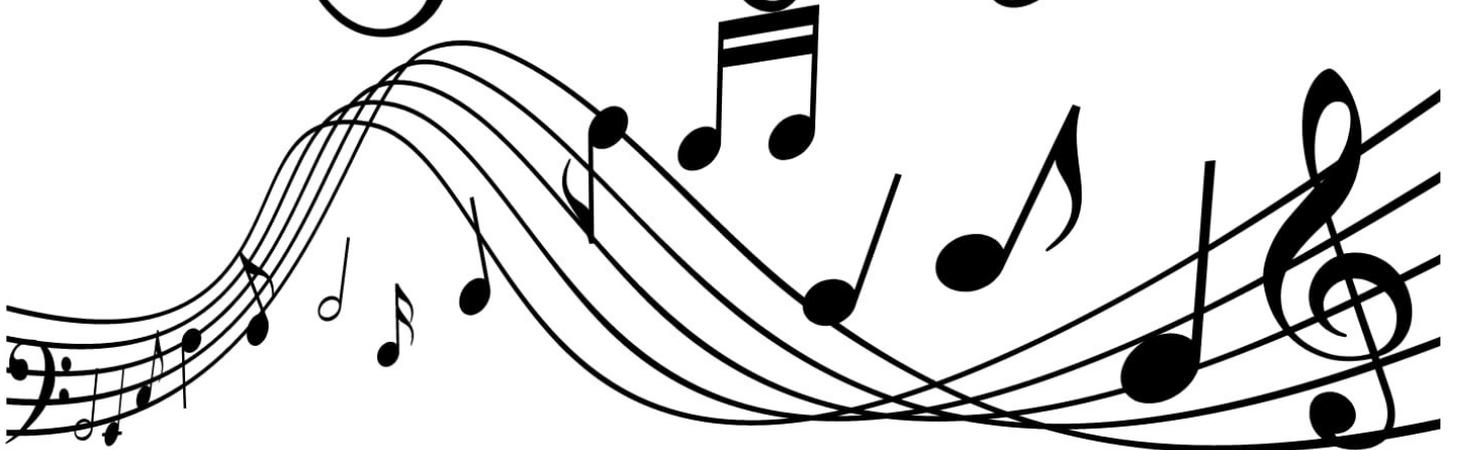
CHRISTMAS CAROLS

St. Lawrence's Church & Swindon Village Hall
invite you to Carols in the Hall, with the choir and organist from
St. Nicolas' Church and Revd. Nick Bromfield.

Friday 16th December at 6pm

Followed by mulled wine, apple juice, mince pies and biscuits.
Community bar will be open from 7pm as usual.

Winter magic



Hello All,

As I write this, there are only five Saturdays until Christmas! The days are now short and the heating has had to come on. Winter is definitely here.

We had a very busy October, which was finished off with a successful Hallowe'en party. Thank you to everyone involved in that. We've had new disco party lights installed at the hall to provide different atmospheric lighting for evening parties and events.

It's all hands on deck currently, getting ready for a visit from Father Christmas and Carols at the Hall Events. The Village Hall and Church community would like to invite you to join us on 16th December from 6 p.m. to sing some Christmas Carols, drink some mulled wine and eat some mince pies.

Our New Year's Eve party is well in hand by Martin and Dave, please ask for the tickets at the bar.

We will start the new year with a Bingo Night on 27th January. Please look out for more details on Facebook. Posters will also be dotted around the village.

I'll finish off by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from us all.

Take Care
Jana



NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!



**2023
PRESS
START**



7PM - 1AM.

**DANCING TO
GALAXY DISCO.**

**BRING YOUR OWN FOOD. TICKETS
£7.50 AVAILABLE FROM THE
BAR ON FRIDAY EVENINGS.**

The Editor(s)

This editorial marks the end of our second year at the helm of the Village News and gives us chance to reflect on the year that has (almost) passed before looking forward to next year.

It seems that the year has passed in a whirl. For us, as many others, we have been busy catching up with friends and taking holidays to make up for lack of them over the previous years. I had enjoyed the slower pace and had hoped to keep it going, but it's difficult to stand still while others rush around you. In an effort to combat this, we have a couple of new additions to the family: Aura, a beautiful second cat to add to our madness. We are fostering her until her owner can take her, but we have become as attached to her as we have our second addition – a 15 year old motorhome. "Lottie" can't get anywhere in a hurry or take lots of technology or kit with us so we pootle around in a very leisurely manner. Our friends aren't sure if we're having a mid-life crisis or losing the plot, but we don't care. Look out for "Travels with Lottie" which will commence in the Spring next year.

Next year will also see a change in the format of the Village News. The very talented Maija who is responsible for the exceptional posters in this edition is helping us come up to date with some new software. Hopefully it will look a bit more presentable. Watch this space!

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Karren



SAVE THE DATE!
BINGO@THE VILLAGE HALL
27TH JANUARY 2023



BAR OPEN AS USUAL - FREE ENTRY!

.....

PAY PER GAME-DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED

.....

ADVANCE REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

AS EXPECTED TO SELL OUT!

WWW.SVHALL.CO.UK/WHATS-ON

Quiz #20

Hello all!

This is the Christmas-themed quiz that I originally wrote back ready for the November edition, because I was very tired and confused and didn't know what the date was! Here it is, presented at a more reasonable time of year. I hope you've brushed up on your Christmas songs?

1. The carol "Adeste Fidelis" is known by what name in English?
2. Who sang the first line in "Do They Know it's Christmas?" by Band Aid? It was originally meant to be sung by David Bowie.
3. The Christmas number one in 1993 was unusual for many (many) reasons. One of these is that the name of the artist and the song title were identical, who (or what) was it?
4. What connects the Christmas singles "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" (1971), "Ding Dong Ding Dong" (1974), "Wonderful Christmastime" (1979) and the 1999 album "I Wanna Be Santa Claus"?
5. The title character of which comedy Christmas hit of 1971 met his end when his rival "Two Ton Ted" hit him in the eye with a stale pork pie?
6. Absolute Radio holds an annual "Whammageddon" competition in which listeners have to avoid hearing which song in December?
7. How is Svatý Václav, Duke of Bohemia referred to in a famous Christmas carol?
8. In "Love Actually", Billy Mack aims to reach Christmas number one with a reimagined cover of "Love is All Around", but which band originally released the song in 1967?
9. Believed to have been around since the 1940s, Bart Simpson was the first to sing the alternative "Batman Smells" lyrics of which classic Christmas tune on television in 1989?
10. A campaign started online to prevent the X-factor winner from gaining the Christmas number one, apparently infuriating Simon Cowell. What was the name of the song by "Rage Against the Machine" that took the top spot due to this?

Answers on page 22



Answers to quiz:

1. Oh Come All Ye Faithful
2. Paul Young
3. Mr Blobby, by Mr Blobby
4. They were all released by members of The Beatles
5. Ernie (The Fastest Milkman in the West)
6. Last Christmas, by Wham
7. Good King Wenceslas
8. The Troggs
9. Jingle Bells
10. Killing in the Name

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 950
homes in the Parish of Swindon.

VILLAGE 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	www.svhall.co.uk 07514 594351
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)	mgu5@hotmail.co.uk 07477894639
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.

We have had a request to provide contact details for the classes held at the hall.

We are currently compiling this and hope to include it next month.

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th January 2022

Please send contributions to the editors via Karren Parsons
at 29 Dark Lane or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Cllr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Lisa Whitaker	07715 470842
	Cllr. Sharon Collicutt	07884 184423
	Cllr. Natalie Blankley	07725 948935
	Cllr. Alison Berry	07754 006634
	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
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