

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

September 2024 Edition No.506

Upcoming Events



SEPTEMBER

Monday 2nd **WI Meeting** 7.30 St Nicholas Church Hall


Thursday 5th **Tree works in Old Mill Way** (formerly The Amenity Area)

Sunday 8th **Litter Pick.** Meet 10.30am at The Cross Hands

Monday 9th **Parish Council Meeting** - 7:30pm in the Village Hall bar area

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

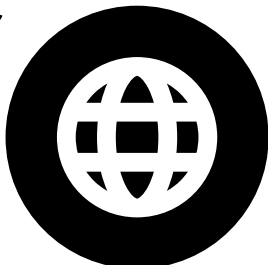
Friday night bar - Village Hall will restart in September. The date depends on the installation of our new cellar cooling system. Please keep an eye on Facebook for details.



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.



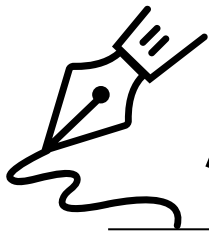
Anti-Social Behaviour

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

I do hope everyone has a had a good break. I believe that we may have had three consecutive weeks of sunshine, so feel that we can confidently refer to this as summer. I don't want to double check and ruin my illusion, but feel free to correct me!

I've just returned from a lovely couple of days in London and one of our tourist items was a guided tour around the Globe Theatre. It was very interesting and thoroughly recommend it. In the gift shop afterwards, my friend spied a badge that she said summed me up perfectly.

This is a very short editorial as this edition barely has room for me. I won't take it personally but will save up my energy for the next one. Oh yes, the quote on the badge was "*and though she be but little, she is fierce*"

You have been warned!

Karren



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



Swindon Parish Council

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

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

I am writing this on my phone in Prague. I daren't let Karren down. Please forgive any faux pas.

The August Parish Council meeting attracted 17 members of the public, a Borough councillor and our County Councillor. We like to think we are a good draw but the real reason? The current traffic conditions in the area and the development plans that will make things so much worse.

The developer proposing to develop the Home Farm site published yet more documents. They covered several topics but, critically, they attempted to argue that the housing at Home Farm could be built and occupied independently of the Elms Park development. To recap, the plan was that the roads through Elms Park phase 3 would provide access to the Home Farm site, both for development traffic and for the new residents. The broader Elms Park scheme has not yet received planning approval. Though the arguments continue to rage, the planners are of the view that M5 Junction 10 will need to be made four way before the area can sustain the increase in traffic.

The government is determined to get houses built. If planning permission for development is refused the developers may well appeal to the Secretary of State and, given the pressing need for more homes, may well be successful.

The Parish Council delivered a robust response to the new documents. Brockhampton Lane and Quat Goose Lane being used by heavy construction vehicles doesn't bear thinking about.

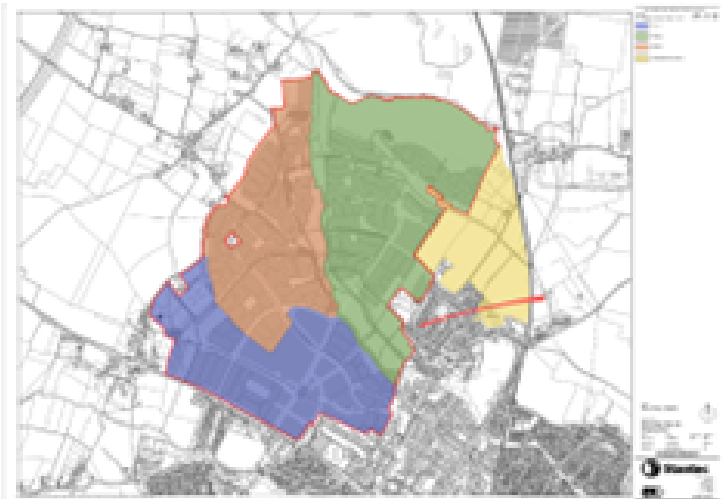


Swindon Parish Council

On to Elms Park itself. Swindon Farm is the first part of the broader Elms Park development. I told you how horrified we were to be told that Manor Road was to be closed until late August. Supported by other councillors, James did his best to get the developer to improve on this time. Double the horror then when we heard that the period of the closure was to be extended to the end in October. It is rumoured that a previously undiscovered gas main has been found and has to be diverted. Since this bombshell announcement we have been given a revised date of 6th September. This is later than the original date that caused us so much concern and yet it feels like a victory!

It is proposed that the Elms Park phases be swapped, with the original phase 3 (the land adjacent to Home Farm) being developed in advance of the phase 2 middle section. The Home Farm developer

is likely to argue that this will mean that the poor traffic conditions through Quat Goose Lane, Brockhampton Lane and Dark Lane would only be temporary. However, the development timescale for Elms Park is still unknown. “Temporary” could be literally years.



Last time I mentioned that the Parish Council's plan to purchase the Village Hall car park from the Borough Council had hit a snag. Extensive repairs are required to the sewers. The Parish Council has decided to bite the bullet and to proceed with the purchase. We have secured grant funding for the capital cost and also some of the repairs.



Swindon Parish Council

The churchyard at St. Lawrence Church has no more space for new burials. The Parochial Church Council has decided that it no longer has the capacity to maintain the churchyard. In law, responsibility for maintenance can be passed to the Parish Council. The Parish Council would then have three months to decide whether to take on the responsibility or to pass it on to Cheltenham Borough Council. For a small, low spending Parish Council accepting this new obligation would have a huge impact. We are considering the best way forward for the Parish Council, the church and the community.

There are other things going on, but these topics are the “big hitters” that occupy so much of our limited resources. We are delighted then to welcome a new member, Tom Harcourt, to the Parish Council. I'm sure Tom will help us in many ways but his particular interest is in the management and improvement of Old Mill Way. A big thank you to Tom. We still have two vacancies. Snap them up while you can.

A couple of silly headlines for you.

“Fourteen mistakes people make when cooking sweet potatoes.” If fourteen things can go wrong I shall never try to do anything with a sweet potato.

Lastly, “Hedgehog has to be deflated after balloon syndrome diagnosis”. I don't know what that is but it sounds painful.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

PETITION

Our new Cheltenham Borough Councillor Frank Allen is tackling some of the transport issues leading into and around the Parish.

He has written a petition and needs your help to address the matters with Gloucestershire County Council.

In sum, the petition is calling for Gloucestershire County Council to:

1. Coordinate road closures to occur at different times to reduce cumulative impacts;
2. Expand the bridge connecting Swindon Road to the Kingsditch Estate to ease traffic;
3. Promote transparent and clear engagement around road closures;
4. Reduce the impact of road closures on pedestrian walkways;
5. Enforce strict adherence from developers and utilities providers to the time frames they have proposed

So far it has 60 signatures, but it would be good to have as many as possible.

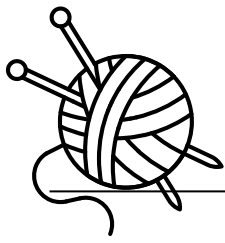
The best way of adding your name is to access through GCC's web portal first as this is the official platform, but a google document or a paper version is available on request. You should not sign more than one petition even if it is in a different format.

The deadline for signing the petition is 30 September.

For more information and instructions to access the portal please contact Cllr Allen for details:

cllr.frank.allen@cheltenham.gov.uk or 07402 011272





Marle Hill WI

Marle Hill WI met on Monday 1 July 2024, which was our Birthday party meeting and we had invited members from WI's in the area. Members brought a plate of food and it always amazes me how everyone seems to bring a variety of food and nothing is duplicated. We were entertained by Lizzie who sang songs from musicals, and we all had to guess which one. It was certainly a different kind of musical quiz.

We are looking forward to two events over the summer. One being a trip to Javelin Park, the incinerator that you see if you go down the M5. There are a lot of do and don'ts for this trip like covering your legs and arms, no mobile and we have to wear high vis jackets and a hard hat. I will be taking pictures for our scrap book. Our other trip is to the Wye Valley with a cream tea at Tintern.

We continue to enjoy our Book Club, Knit & Natter, walks, workshops, meals out and social events.

Our next meeting is on Monday 2 September 2024 and we meet at St Nicholas Church Hall at 7:30pm.

Our speaker for this meeting is Dorothy Cook with her tales of being a Midwife. I have personally heard her talk and it is hilarious.

Do come as a visitor and you will be warmly welcomed.
If you want any more information contact Sara Jefferies.

Sue Davies
Marle Hill

The Children's Society

Home collection boxes

It's time for the annual emptying of The Children's Society home collecting boxes.

Please will all box holders bring them to us at 2 Manor Court, or give them to Hugh Evans at church services, or phone us and we'll make other arrangements.

We are reluctantly having to give up doing this collection and we're looking for someone else to take over. Please phone us if you think you could take it on – all the work is compressed into just a couple of weeks once a year.

If the scheme cannot continue, we would ask you to consider other ways of donating to The Children's Society – we can give you details. Thank you for your past generosity.

Derek and Helen Harris
2 Manor Court, Tel. 239239

St. Lawrence's Church

It's the annual

Quiz & Hot Potato Supper Evening

Village Hall

Saturday 26th October 7pm for 7.30pm

Put the date in your diaries now!

More details next month but you know the format!



The Swindon Village Society

In June we had a very interesting talk on Funerary Monuments in Gloucestershire. Now this might sound like a somewhat downbeat subject but it is about the history you can see now. We have many fantastic churches in the area and, as Simon Jenkins says in his book about the thousand best churches in England, they are the museum of the English People. By the monuments there is normally an explanation of who they were, what they achieved and how they affected their world. Within three days of this talk my walking group had visited a church with just such a monument and we all came away with a better idea of time, place and our own history. Visit Churches!

The garden visit in July did finally work out well. We had about twenty folks in the group visit and none had to travel far because we ended up at Swindon Hall after our visit to rather more distant National Garden Scheme garden fell through. Damon in The Lodge showed us his work in progress; a sunken patio with the excavated earth being used to build a small hill for a stream to flow down. This, together with many sunflowers staring at the visiting hoard made for quite an impact. Then on to visit John's rather splendid garden at Fortune Cottage. Then things were rather more free range with the gardens of Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 5 to roam before finishing up at number 3 for a cuppa or a glass of something better for the garden owners. This glass was also offered to Mel in the hope that it would act as an anaesthetic.

Just to add a bit of drama, as people were roaming free including visiting the garden at number 1, a full sized deer, possibly a female Roe, shot out from the far end of the No 1's garden and in trying to escape hit Mel's arm with enough force to give her a considerable bruise.



The Swindon Village Society

Fortunately we had two doctors with us who could check it was nothing worse but the anaesthetic provided by a glass of white did seem a good idea. We have never seen a deer in the grounds before. This one shot past me as I was showing folks in through the gate and it was certainly a reasonable sized beast. It headed off into the trees possibly aiming for the Village Hall to see if the bar was open since it probably needed a steadier itself.

Thanks to all those who showed us their gardens. We would not have done nearly so well had the original plan gone ahead.

In September Dr Tim Brain will return to tell us again the tale of Gloucestershire in the 2007 floods. We have had this talk before and it was so well received that I was asked to invite him back by those who missed and by new member. Here again is a part of our history and many of us were involved in or affected by the floods. But there was much more to the event as is revealed in the talk. Strongly recommended and, as ever, visitors will be most welcome.

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', in St Lawrence's Church at 2pm. 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. Bring your children. 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

I hope you have had a lovely summer, whether you spent it at home or travelled further afield. It's good to be able to take some time away from the usual routines of life and reflect on what has been going well and what might have been differently.

As we come into a new season, both meteorologically and ecclesiastically, we, as a Church, have been reflecting. The last six months have been a period where my family and I have been settling into a new home and community. I have enjoyed getting to know residents of Swindon Village and leading services in the beautiful church, which is over 1000 years old in parts.

There are always things which can never quite stay the same, however much we would like them to, and in the case of the church at the moment, it is the churchyard. We have a brilliant, enthusiastic group of volunteers who work very hard to maintain the churchyard and keep it looking welcoming for everyone. Unfortunately, after centuries of burials, our relatively small churchyard is nearly at full capacity; practically, we have been unable to accommodate any requests for new burials for a number of years. As a legal formality, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is now in the process of applying to the Ministry of Justice for permission to permanently close the churchyard for future burials. There will be exceptions, including where anyone has already reserved a plot, and it may also be possible for burials (if there is space) and interment of ashes to take place within existing family graves.

As regards ashes, interments would still continue in our Garden of Remembrance following closure of the churchyard, although the



St. Lawrence's Church

number of available plots is becoming increasingly limited. You may also be aware that the PCC passed a motion several years ago that for ashes to be interred in the churchyard, the deceased had to be a resident of the parish, have some form of connection with the church (such as being on the church electoral roll) and have had a Christian funeral.

It is a difficult situation and I know this will come as distressing news for residents of the parish who would like to be buried or have their ashes interred at St. Lawrence. Please do contact me if you have any questions about the PCC's application to close the churchyard. And please be assured that I am always available for a conversation with you and your loved ones to discuss expectations and talk through different options.

In the meantime, we are looking forward to a month of new beginnings in our schools, and we have a number of baptisms coming up at St. Lawrence. As we look ahead towards the Harvest Festival, please do come along to a joint service being held at St. Mary Magdalene in Elmstone Hardwicke on Sunday 6 October to celebrate Harvest, which is being led by the Bishop of Tewkesbury, Robert Springett. Any donations of non-perishable goods are very welcome and will be given to the Fresh Hope Community Pantry, based at The Rock in St. Peter's Church on Tewkesbury Road.

So as we face a period of change and fresh starts, I hope that you will experience God's blessing on you in all your endeavours.
"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
(Lamentations 3. 22-23)



North Cheltenham
Team Ministry

Celebrating Harvest Together

Saturdayth 5 October 2024
Harvest Supper, 6:30pm @ St Mary Magdalene

Tickets are £12.50 and available from
Ian Richings on 07771 792865
ianrichings8591@hotmail.co.uk

Sunday 6th October 2024
10:45am @ St Mary Magdalene
Joint Harvest Communion Service
with St Lawrence, Swindon Village
led by the Bishop of Tewkesbury, Robert Springett.
Bring-and-share lunch afterwards.

Any non-perishable donations will be given to the
Fresh Hope Community Pantry @ St Peter's Church,
Tewkesbury Road



St. Lawrence's Church



From the registers



Baptisms

We welcomed into the family of the church

Kitt Thor Dean

28th July

Thank you to The Boneyard Bunch

The churchyard has been looking beautiful this summer thanks to Terry and his friends, aka The Boneyard Bunch, who have done a fantastic job keeping the grass neatly cut.

It's been a tremendous effort - when you arrive with your lawnmower you realise just how big an area needs cutting; and it's not an easy job because you have to work round all the gravestones. We at the church are extremely grateful to them and I hope everyone who sees it appreciates their work.

Thank you very much.

Karen Evans (Secretary to the Parochial Church Council)



St. Lawrence's Church

Together @ Ten Thirty on Sunday 1st September

Everyone is welcome at our monthly informal worship – a story, a short talk, some prayers and lots of singing! September marks the start of Creationtide, a fairly new season in the Church of England calendar, and, with the new school year upon us, we'll be thinking about “new starts” in life.

Come and try us out!

Karen Evans



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.





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.

September 2024: debuts and first times

1. In which year did Oasis release their first album, Definitely Maybe?
2. Lily Gladstone was nominated for best actress at the Oscars for her role in Killers of the Flower Moon, becoming the first person from which ethnic background to be nominated in this category?
3. Who was the first woman to be crowned as Queen of England in her own right, rather than as the wife of a King?
4. In which country did the first human-to-human heart transplant take place?
5. In which country were the first Winter Olympics held?
6. Who was the first person to travel into space?
7. In which decade was the first same-sex marriage in the UK?
8. For which film did Steven Spielberg win his first Best Director Oscar?
9. The Beatles made a record-breaking return to number 1 on the UK's official singles chart with Now and Then in 2023 setting a new record for the longest time span between an artist's first and last number 1. What was the name of their first number one single?
10. What product was first advertised in colour on British TV?

Swindon Village Primary School



Our school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.
Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

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- | | |
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A full list of reusable items is listed on our website
www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk

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PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS, BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM**

Please use the clothing bag provided.
You can also use any additional bag if required.

Collection Date:

Donations can be dropped off at reception from
8.30am on the morning of the 30th September.

Please remember - NO UNIFORM





Go grow with Dale

Hello Gardeners, I hope you've all been having a great summer with lots of time in the garden enjoying nature. We particularly enjoy our Anemones this time of year, as they're just coming into flower.

This month I wanted to talk about houseplants with Autumn not far away, in specific, Peace Lilies.

Peace Lillies win the hearts of many as they look beautiful but are also relatively easy to care for, we've found ours are more than happy on a windowsill, even if it only gets a quarter of the days worth of sun.

When you first buy them from the shop though, they're almost certainly already pot bound, so don't buy them based on the nice pot! If you can, get them with a plastic pot that you can easily repot into a bigger plastic pot, then hide the plastic pot inside a nice new ceramic pot, not just a prettier aesthetic, but better drainage as well. This method will slightly raise the soil and roots above the bottom of the ceramic pot. This also applies every two years when your Peace Lilly has likely outgrown its pot, but equally, don't always feel the need to upgrade if you don't want yours any bigger!

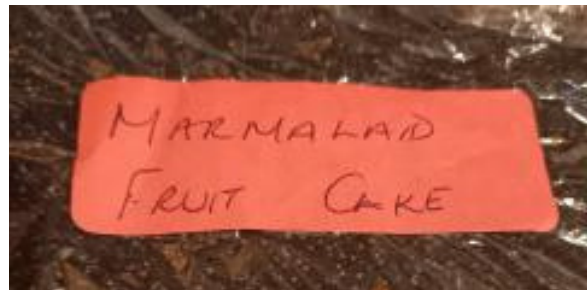
Overwatering is the main cause of houseplants dying, so make sure you only water twice a month maximum! It's generally easy to tell when it's time to water your peace lily if you stick your finger 1cm into the surrounding soil and it's bone dry or if the leaves are starting to droop.

It's also worth noting that Peace Lilies are one of the easiest plants to divide, so if you don't want to repot yours into something bigger, it may well be worth taking it out of its pot and gently pulling it in half

Go grow with Dale

with your hands, before repotting back into its original pot with some fresh compost. Maybe pot up the other half as a gift! Top tip though would be to use some horticultural/alpine grit to surround the top of your repotted plants to keep pesty fruit flies away. Two years later you'll likely have the peace lily back to the same size it was.

Until next time, thanks for reading & happy gardening! Dale



In a similar manner to that chosen to locate the owner of Cinderella's shoe, I just wondered if anyone recognised the writing on this label? It was on the superb cake that I bought at the wonderful St Lawrence Cake and Plant Sale in July.

If anyone recognises this label as the one they put on the cake they made, would they be happy to submit the recipe to the Village News please?!?

It was the most beautiful, moist, gorgeous cake - and I struggle to remember devouring a nicer fruit cake, so if the master baker would be happy to share the recipe, that would be wonderful!!

Incidentally, thank you to everyone concerned for another wonderful event at St Lawrence. The range and choice of cakes was superb and I believe the plants had been donated by the nursery nearest the Golden Valley roundabout. I'll be taking my custom there in the future - what a very generous gesture.



St. Lawrence's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December

“Our natural world”

Here's another date for your diary.

Everyone, individuals and groups, is welcome to take part -
help us grow a bumper crop of trees this year!

Answers to quiz:

1. 1994
2. Native American
3. Queen Mary.
- Lady Jane Grey was Queen for nine days, but was never crowned.
4. South Africa
5. France (Chamonix)
6. Yuri Gagarin
7. 2010s
8. Schindler's List
9. From Me to You
10. Birds Eye Peas

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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 September 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.