

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

October 2025 Edition No.517



OCTOBER

Saturday 11th **Swindon Village Hall.** The Bootlacers . see poster inside

Monday 13th **Parish Council meeting.**

7.30 Swindon Village Hall, bar area.

Saturday 18th **Swindon Village Hall** Harvest Quiz. see poster inside

Wednesday 15th **Swindon Village Society.** 7.30pm.

A talk by David Aldred on 'Hailes Abbey and the Mystery of the Holy Blood'. Village Hall. Non members welcome - £3

Saturday 25th **Swindon Village Hall.** Family Halloween event.

Sunday 26th **Litter Pick.** Start 10.30 Village hall

NOVEMBER

Monday 10th **Parish Council meeting.**

7.30 Swindon Village Hall, bar area.

Wednesday 15th **Swindon Village Society.** 7.30pm.

A talk by Davis Elder on 'Cheltenham's Iconic Buildings'. Village Hall. Non members welcome - £3

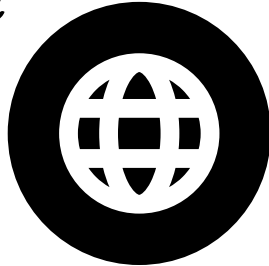
Saturday 22nd **Swindon Village Hall.** Craft Fair 1pm.

Sunday 30th **Litter Pick.** Start 10.30 Village hall

A Connected Community!



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



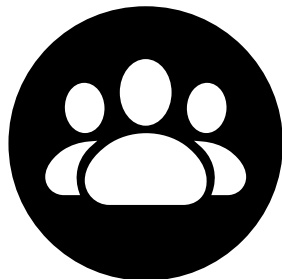
Parish Council Website

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.



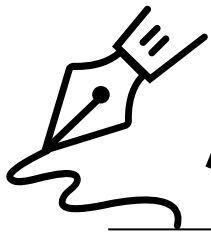
Anti-Social Behaviour

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)
email101@gloucestershire.police.uk
<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/ro/report/>

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

Hello lovely readers.

We've had a busy month in the Parsons household. September started with a week in North Wales. One of the main reasons to stay in the very pretty Criccieth, was its proximity to Portmeirion. What an amazing place! The village was designed by Clough Williams-Ellis and took almost 50 years to complete. It's Italianate buildings are stunning, if slightly surreal. It does feel like walking round a film set. If you haven't been, I'd really recommend a visit.

We spent most of the week dodging the rain, which was a bit rude after the lengthy sunshine of July and August but it didn't manage to dampen our enthusiasm. One very wet day, we decided to embrace it and ventured out to do a car treasure hunt. The sight of four grown adults running around getting soaked as we hopped in and out of the car must have given onlookers a giggle.

We returned to four days of birthday celebrations for our younger daughter, culminating in a Karaoke party! It was great fun, but we were singing with our choir at 8.30 the next morning for the Run Cheltenham event, so our voices may not have been at their best. Run Cheltenham is always a fun event to sing at, and the highlight this year, was a runner dressed as Mr Bean, complete with case and teddy who paused his run to conduct the choir!

I thought I had nothing to tell you this month, but seem to have whittled on as usual. Until next month...

Karren



Swindon Parish Council

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

The Parish Council always welcomes your feedback. We try to represent the best interests of parishioners, though you can never please everyone. I have received supportive messages regarding the possible imposition of 20mph limits. The County Council has set aside a budget to introduce 20mph limits in appropriate areas and have asked that, in areas with a Parish Council, the council indicates whether or not they are supportive. It is unclear when we will actually see action but the Parish Council (and your Borough Councillors) have indicated that they are in favour.

We have two vacancies on the Parish Council. As vacancies arise they have to be advertised, even if there were existing, already advertised, vacancies. This seems a bit pointless as we have plenty to do already, but it's the law. Anyway, I thought I would kill two birds with one stone and post our new Crimestoppers posters on noticeboards at the same time. This is part of our campaign to reduce or eliminate the amount of graffiti. You can see the poster elsewhere in this issue.

We have finally got a bench in the Quat Goose Lane. It has taken a long time but we got there in the end. As part of the work we now have a "proper" bookcase. We appreciate the effort that went into providing the previous model, but the initiative has proved so popular that we felt we had to take it to the next level. Can we ask that people don't dump books and DVDs in the bus shelter? Joan does a wonderful job managing the library. Joan accepts appropriate donations at her house. Let's leave the management to her. Thank you Joan!

If you are wandering along Church Road you may notice that the post box is half what it was. It is out of commission pending the arrival of a new 21st Century solar powered electronic box.



Swindon Parish Council

The news that this was coming caused us (and residents) great concern. We envisaged something like the space craft from ET descending into Church Road accompanied by flashing lights. We are relieved to discover that the new box will have a traditional look but will be able to accept parcels as well as letters. Such is progress.

More fly tipping has taken place in the car park of the Village Hall. This is a huge inconvenience to the folks who kindly manage the hall and hall users as well as a danger to children attending the playgroup. It will also cost the Parish Council (and therefore local residents) money to remove. Let's get these selfish, inconsiderate people prosecuted!

We have had yet more roadworks. It is hard to keep up! Traffic lights were deployed on Kingsditch Lane ("highway improvements"), then National Grid put temporary traffic lights on Runnings Road ("new connection") and Swindon Lane ("utility repair and maintenance works"). On a recent visit to Birmingham Art Gallery I came across this sign. Perhaps we should adopt the same approach.



Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council
parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk



Know who's tagging?

Graffiti is criminal damage and can lead to a fine or imprisonment.

We pay up to £1000 for anonymous information that leads to the arrest and charge of someone responsible.

We won't ask your name.

We can't trace your device or location.

No one will know you contacted us.

You can speak up and remain 100% anonymous. Always.

© Crimestoppers Trust, registered charity in England & Wales (1108687), Scotland (SC037960).

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.

crimestoppers-uk.org

St. Lawrence's Church Swindon Village

Monthly Services

1st Sunday	9.30am	Family Communion
	5.00pm	Evensong
2nd Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
	5.00pm	Evensong
4th Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
5th Sunday	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion Alternating between St. Lawrence's and St. Mary Magdalene, Elmstone Hardwicke (Phone Churchwarden for venue)

The church is open for private prayer
every Wednesday between 10am and 12noon



St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

Summer seems to be a distant memory as we turn from its associated balmy evenings, holidays and barbecues to autumn and cooler, wetter weather, shorter days and harvest festivals. I, for one, love this time of year when we see the colours of the leaves turning, the crisp mornings and the smell of bonfires and woodsmoke. The vibrant flowers in our garden have taken a back seat to the foliage which is becoming more impressive each day. Our apple trees have been incredibly productive, to the point where a branch broke because of the weight of the fruit!

October 21st is Apple Day, which was founded in 1990 by a charity called Common Ground, who wanted to highlight and demonstrate the variety of produce we are in danger of losing. The apple became their symbol of the provenance of our food and rich diversity of wildlife which they work hard to support.

The humble apple has been a symbol of myths for centuries; the ancient Greeks believed that the apple was a symbol of fertility, in Norse myth, the apples were understood to bring eternal youth to anyone who ate them and of course, there is the discussion about whether it was an apple Eve picked from the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden. There are songs, carols and poems all written about apples and there is still a tradition of 'wassailing' to sing to apple trees in the hope of ensuring a bountiful crop in the year ahead.

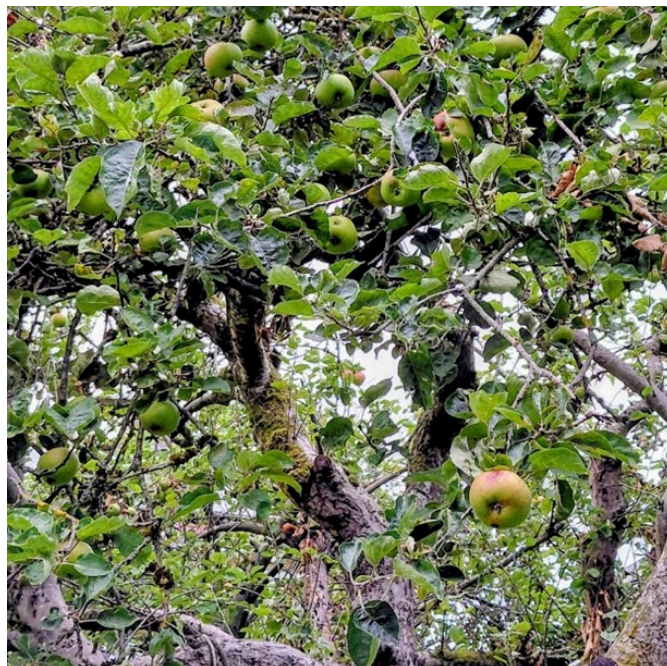
Apples are a very good representation for our lives. Supermarkets spend phenomenal resources on selling perfect specimens of fruit and pressurising farmers and growers to cultivate fruit that is blemish-free.



St. Lawrence's Church

Beauty is only skin-deep and we have to ask whether what might look perfect on the outside is as appetising on the inside. This is not a new dilemma as social media and lifestyle magazines continue to bombard the public with images of 'perfect' bodies and airbrushed celebrities. There is an expectation among some young men and women that they need to look a certain way or should strive for perfection, rather than being happy in their own skins. In 2025, the UK beauty industry is worth £31.5bn!

Maybe it would be better for all of us to be more accepting of ourselves and each other, however we come. God made us all in His own image and we are, as they say, "the apple of his eye". The rich diversity and variety of our world should be embraced and encouraged. Perhaps as we celebrate harvest and creation, we could also give some thought about humanity as God's creation and give thanks for the gifts we have been individually given. Personally, I will be using my skills to make apple crumble and apple cake. The custard will be bought!





St. Lawrence's Church

Services and events in October

1	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
5	Sunday	9.30am	Family Holy Communion for Harvest Festival
		5.00pm	Evensong
7	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
8	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
12	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
14	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
15	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
19	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
		5.00pm	Evensong
21	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
22	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
26	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
28	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
29	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer

Services and events in November

2	Sunday	9.30am	Family Holy Communion
		3.00pm	All Souls service
		Note: No Evensong today	
4	Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
5	Wednesday	10am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
9	Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion
		10.45am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial



St. Lawrence's Church

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.

Everyone's welcome, old or new. (It's free!)

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

St. Lawrence's Church, Swindon Village

Back by popular demand... the annual

Quiz & Supper

Saturday 18th October

in the Village Hall

Doors and Bar open at 7.00pm

Supper at 7.30pm

Menu

Jacket potato with a variety of hot and cold fillings
(chilli, ratatouille, chicken, sausage, cheese, salad)

An apple pudding with cream

£12 per person

6 bottles of wine for the winning team

Book as a team (max. 6 per team)

or individually and make up a team on the night

Bring cash for the raffle!

Karen Evans - 01242 241678 or karen.j.evans@outlook.com

Profits to St. Lawrence's Church



£10
a table

Christmas

CRAFT MARKET

FOOD & GIFTS

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN HAVING
A TABLE. PLEASE EMAIL
SWINDONVILLAGEHALL@GMAIL.COM



NOVEMBER 22ND



1PM - 5PM

SWINDON VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH ROAD,
SWINDON VILLAGE. GL51 9QP





The Swindon Village Society

It is always a little tricky to provide the Village News with a decent write up about our August activity. No talks and no visit away.

Instead we have our annual social – the garden party.

Now those who can cast their mind back may remember that the day was cloudy, grey and cool. Not what we were after as garden party weather. That was until five o'clock when the clouds rolled away, the sun came out and the temperature rose nicely to 'Just Right'. And so I can report that we had a fine evening, perfect for sitting out and admiring my wife's wonderful flowers but ignoring the wasteland that was the lawn. Later, when our dear Vicar joined us I realised why it had all worked out; I am sure that the church is fully in charge of climate control for the village and it was she who had organised it all.

Anyway, we had about thirty turn up. In addition my eldest son, Tim, and family were staying with us. This gave us the added bonus of paid staff, two grand-daughters who were only too happy to wander around topping up glasses and chatting. We also had my son's partner Jo and quite a few had a chat with her. She has in the past written a couple of her pieces for the television including a six part drama called 'For Her Sins' which went out on Channel Four a couple of years ago. Even I thought it was good. It looks as though she will have another drama broadcast in a year or so. So we can just about claim that we had a celebrity with us.

We did have a few non members along and two or three of these have indicated that they would like to join. If you did bring them along please apply an arm-lock on them or other appropriate pressure: we are always happy to have new members. Indeed, if any non member wants to join us for one of this year's remaining talks you can either pay the visitor fee of £3 but if you pay £10 and join us the membership will last until the end of next year, 2026.



The Swindon Village Society

So, thanks to all who came and particularly those who brought things, which was not necessary but which was welcome. I think our cellar may have just about made a profit over the evening.

Now, how to fill up a bit more space? I think the best I can do is repeat my write up on what we have in store over the next couple of months. In October David Aldred will tell us about 'Hailes Abbey and the Mystery of the Holy Blood'. You will then be so much better informed when you go to Hailes Abbey itself, which is well a visit.

Then in November we have 'Cheltenham's Iconic Buildings' by David Elder which will make your Christmas shopping visits so much more fun when you give the rest of the family the benefit of your greatly expanded knowledge of many of the town's finest structure.

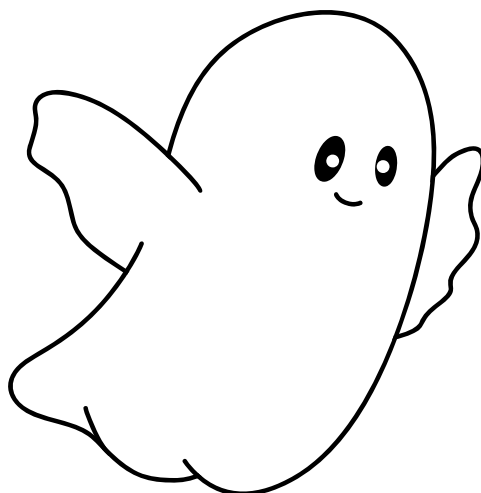
Finally, in January, there will be the dreaded AGM and off we go again.

Barry Simon



Oct 2025: Spooky things:

1. What are the tunnels in Paris that are lined with more than 6 million human skulls?
2. What is the name of the Gryffindor House ghost in Harry Potter?
3. What Pennsylvanian battlefield is said to be haunted by the ghosts of unburied Civil War soldiers?
4. "The Legend of" is a story about Ichabod Crane and a ghost called the Hessian. Fill in the blank.
5. What is the name of the goo that ghosts are supposed to make (eg in Ghostbusters)?
6. What did Romans call troubled spirits that rise from the grave?
7. What term refers to a ghost that moves objects?
8. In literature, who did the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future visit?
9. Fill in the blank: Casper the Ghost
10. In which Shakespeare play does a ghost tell the main protagonist that his father was murdered by his treacherous brother Claudius?



Hear classic songs from legendary acts –The Beatles, Billy Joel,
The Eagles, Buddy Holly, Queen and many more...!

THE BOOTLACERS

Swindon Village Hall, Cheltenham

Saturday 11th October 2025

Doors 7.00pm, Show 7.45pm



**ALL TICKET AND RAFFLE PROCEEDS WILL BE SHARED
BETWEEN...**



Gloucestershire Animal Welfare Association &
Cheltenham Animal Shelter



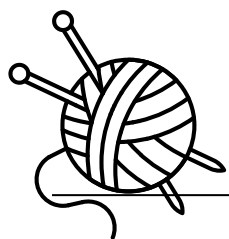
Emily's Gift (The Pied Piper Appeal)

Providing support for children with cancer and their families

TICKETS £10.00

BAR – RAFFLE – MERCH – FOOD TRUCK

Email swindonvillagehall@gmail.com for tickets.



Marle Hill WI

Marle Hill WI as with most WI's did not meet in August. Instead we had a trip organised by the committee to London. We had a coach which deposited some of us at Hampton Court with the rest going onto to the Chelsea Barracks and gardens.. We all had a wonderful day.

Marle Hill met on Monday 1 September where our speaker was Adrain Moss who gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the works of the Commonwealth War Graves. It made us all think about the thousands of men and women buried over all parts of the world.

We will meet again on Monday 6 October when our speaker will be Alexandra Stanbrook whose talk is entitled Hilarious Hats.

Our meals out, knit and natter, social events are beginning to be arranged.

Do come and visit us and see what you are missing and have some "Me time" with like minded ladies.

Sue Davies

Marle Hill WI

We meet at 7:30pm at St Nicholas Church



Hello fellow Gardeners, October already, a busy time for any keen gardener. Autumn is a time for movement of plants, division and planting anew.

So far this Autumn, I've planted a thornless Blackberry, moved some Hellebores and potted up a new Honeysuckle.

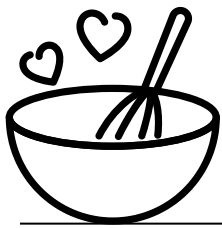
The latter, the Honeysuckle, which is in a big pot out the front of our house, was derived from some inspiration from our recent family holiday to Amsterdam. I never knew the Dutch loved their gardens so much. With plant space at a premium in any big city, most Amsterdam terraced houses had a huge selection of pots outside their front door. Usually with an array of unusual non hardy plants that clearly thrive in a warmer microclimate of a city and near the warmth of house walls. The wife was forever waiting for me whilst I took pictures, to then use Google Lens to tell me what they all were!

Highly recommend a trip to the Netherlands if you love your gardening! I love getting inspired for my own garden.

Until next time, thanks for reading.
Dale.

Answers to quiz

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Les Catacombs | 6. Strigoi |
| 2. Nearly Headless Nick | 7. Poltergeist |
| 3. Gettysburg | 8. Ebenezer Scrooge |
| 4. Sleepy Hollow | 9. Friendly |
| 5. Ectoplasm | 10. Hamlet |



Cook with Dawn

Let the autumn harvest begin....

Fruits and vegetables in season... October

Fruit: Apples, Blackberries, Elderberries, Pears

Vegetables: Aubergine, Beetroot, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Butternut Squash, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celeriac, Celery, Chestnuts, Chicory, Chillies, Courgette, Cucumber, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Marrow, Onions, Parsnips, Peas, Potatoes, Pumpkin, Radishes, Rocket, Runner Beans, Spinach, Spring Greens, Spring Onions, Summer Squash, Swede, Sweetcorn, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watercress, Wild Mushrooms, Winter Squash

I have a nice warming, quick and easy recipe for you today...

Chorizo Mac 'n' cheese... Serves 4

1 onion, chopped

2 leeks, thinly sliced

2 red peppers, deseed and thinly slice

2 garlic cloves, crushed, or 2 tsp ready chopped from a jar

1 tsp smoked paprika

60g. Chorizo sausage, mild or spicy, remove skin, cut in half lengthwise and thinly sliced

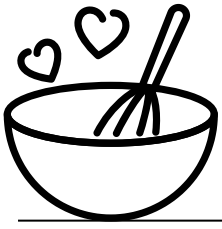
1.2 litres boiling vegetable or chicken stock

400g dried macaroni

60g cheddar cheese grated

To serve... Rocket lightly chopped


Equipment... High sided frying pan or a wide wok



Cook with Dawn

Method


1. Heat the pan over a medium heat, when it's hot add the chorizo and fry for about one minute until the oil starts to run.
 2. Add the onion, leeks, peppers and garlic cook until soft.
 3. Stir in the paprika and cook for one minute.
 4. Add the hot stock and macaroni, bring to a boil stirring so it doesn't stick.
 5. Reduce the heat to low, cover and cook for 7-8 minutes, stirring often, until the stock has almost been absorbed and the macaroni is tender.
 6. Remove macaroni from the heat and stir in the cheese.
 7. Divide between 4 bowls and sprinkle over the rocket if using
- As always... Enjoy



Ying Gibb Dip.FHP
Registered Foot Health Practitioner
Home Visits

Nail trimming	Nail Problems
Ingrown toenails	Fungal nail
Corns	Calluses
Athletes foot	Cracked heels
Diabetes foot issues	Verrucas
Foot care advice	

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Swindon Village Hall – What's on

October

11th Bootlacers – We welcome back the Bootlacers playing hits from the sixties and seventies.

Email swindonvillagehall@gmail.com for tickets.

18th Harvest Festival Quiz – see poster on page 14

25th Family Halloween event – look out for posters.



November

22nd Craft Fair 1pm. See poster earlier in the Village News

December – Dates to be confirmed:

Wreath making

Carols in the bar / in the hall depending on numbers

Santa's Grotto

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) For Sept 24 admission	690479 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 October 2025

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. Alison Berry (Chair)	07754 006634
Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
Cllr. Sharon Collicutt	07884 184423
Cllr. Natalie Blankley	07725 948935
	07979 890134
Cllr. Lynne Allen	07963 581371
Cllr. Tom Harcourt	07850 185871
Cllr. Ruth Hudson	07833 089435
Mr Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Council)	parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk

There is currently a vacancy. Please get in touch if you would be interested.
Cheltenham Borough Councillors

Springbank Ward (south of Tewkesbury Road)

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

Swindon Village Ward (north of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Flo Clucas	01242 255844
Cllr. Frank Allen	07402 011272
County Cllr. Ian Cameron	ian.Cameron@gloucestershire.gov.uk

ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Vicar:	Revd. Jacqueline Henson	revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com
		220053
Churchwarden:	Hugh Evans,	241678
Tower Captain:	Hugh Evans,.....	241678
Organist:	John Collins.....	511950

North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office 244373 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.