

Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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

June 2026 Edition No.524



MAY

Sunday 31st Litter Pick. Start 10.30 Village hall

JUNE

Sunday 7th Japanese cake sale. 1-3pm Swindon Village Hall, bar area.

Monday 8th Parish Council meeting.
7.30 Swindon Village Hall, bar area.

Saturday 20th Village Fair. 1pm Park behind Village Hall.

Wednesday 24th Swindon Village Society. 5.30pm
A visit to the gardens at Daglinworth House near Cirencester.
Meet and amalgamate cars at the Village Hall car park.

Sunday 28th Litter Pick. Start 10.30 Village hall

JULY

Saturday 4th Cake and Plant Sale 10am. St Lawrences Church

Monday 13th Parish Council meeting.
7.30 Swindon Village Hall, bar area

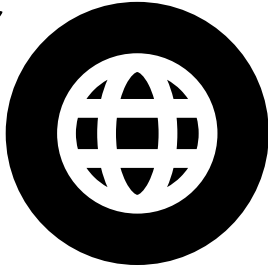
Wednesday 15th Swindon Village Society. Village Hall 7.30pm
A talk by John Reed about The Gloucester
Warwickshire Steam Railway (GWSR) .
Visitors welcome - £3

Sunday 26th 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

I'm sure I have said before many times that I am an optimist. A glass almost full to the brim person. No half measures for me!

This month I may have been a bit too optimistic... I have left a whole page for my editorial. Clearly, I am floating around in the false sense of security as I'd had last month's written before I'd even sent the previous one to the printers. Have I written a word for this one yet? No. Have I considered a topic to ramble on about? Again no...

Sometimes I look at a previous edition for inspiration. Apparently, twelve months ago I'd just come back from Pembrokeshire where we'd had unusually stunning weather. We've also just returned from a few days in Pembrokeshire. It rained every day, so the less said about that the better!

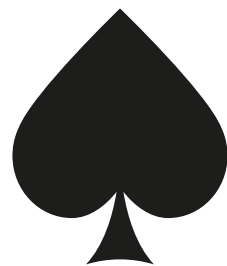
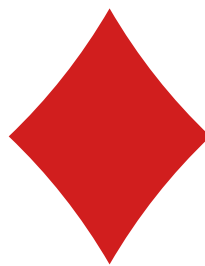
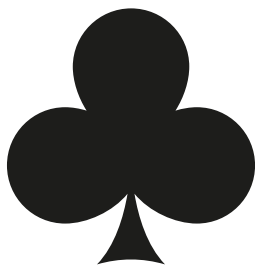
My lovely Auntie Rose is a bit of a character. She is perpetually cheerful, overflows with optimism and doesn't have a bad bone in her body. She makes friends at the drop of a hat and will talk to anyone. More accurately, everyone. At a recent theatre trip, she was chatting away to the person sat next to her, a young chap at least forty years her junior (she's just turned eighty). We all assumed that she knew him, but oh no, she just struck up a conversation because that's what she did. Upon returning to her seat, his wife didn't look very impressed, but within a couple of minutes Auntie Rose had got her chatting too!

One of the best things about Auntie Rose is that she's hilarious. She muddles her words and comes up with the most comical expressions. She has a way of getting the best of people and even has the local Italian café cooking her egg and chips because they know she loves it. There is not a single non-Italian dish on the menu and yet she has the owner wrapped around her little finger!

Well, there we go. A page complete. I'd better come up with some inspiration before I run out of family members to write about!

Karren

1. Name the lasagne loving comic strip cat created by Jim Davis.
2. Which Arsenal captain lifted league titles in three different decades?
3. What do you call the highest ranking suit in bridge and whist, as well as other card games?
4. Which British Cathedral was the first building in the world to be taller than the Great Pyramid?
5. Who said "If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses."
6. What did Tom Hanks name the volleyball in Castaway?
7. Which 1998 film stars a man who slowly discovers his entire life is being broadcast as a TV show?
8. Who played Tanya McQuoid in White Lotus?
9. What was the previous (and according to Donald Trump (but not the locals), is the current) name of Mount Denali?
10. What do the answers have in common?





Swindon Parish Council

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

What a lovely time of year! The snowdrops popped up first then the daffodils, followed by bluebells and irises. Of course, it's not all good news. The lawn mowing has started in earnest and will no doubt have to continue until October.

As you can tell, this is not a "news heavy" month. Quite often I point you to information on other websites so that you can conduct more in-depth research. I'm not daft. I know you don't do it, so I am going to give you a bit of a brief about devolution.

I've mentioned it before, but what is devolution? It is a government initiative to reduce the number of tiers of local government. In Gloucestershire, the plan is that the County Council and the Borough/District Councils will be subsumed into a single, unitary authority. In fact, there are three competing plans:



Two unitary authorities, with an east (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Cotswold) and west (Gloucester, Forest of Dean and Stroud) split



Swindon Parish Council



One unitary authority for the whole county

Two unitary authorities, one being an enlarged Gloucester city, and one being the remainder of the county.

You think this one seems bonkers? You are not alone. By the way, my views don't necessarily represent those of anyone else.



Each of these proposals is backed up by a 300 page document. I can point you to them if you are keen!

Cheltenham Borough Council supports the east-west split.

A submission to the government must be made in the autumn. If local agreement can't be reached then the decision will be made by Westminster. In 2027 elections will be held for the new unitary authority and it will take over 2028.



Swindon Parish Council

What are the perceived advantages?

- more powers and more funding being passed down from central government
- better co-ordination of services across the whole region
- better support for skills development for our residents
- more strategic control over planning and housing
- a stronger voice for our region with central government
- a more co-ordinated approach to service delivery
- giving better value-for-money
- financial savings
- providing stronger strategic and local leadership

Are there downsides? Well, financial savings normally mean job losses, and will funding really be passed down the food chain? It is possible that the Parish Council could end up with a larger geographical area and greater responsibilities. Without additional funding that would put us in a very difficult position.

It is not 100% certain that devolution will go ahead; it is a decision for central government, but Gloucestershire is one of the few authorities in the South West that hasn't gone down this route.

If it happens it will be without my help as I have now submitted my resignation. We have found my replacement, a lovely lady called Meg. I will introduce you to her next time.

A big thank you to Neil who maintains the horse trough outside the Village Hall. He has recently given it a complete overhaul. It always looks wonderful even when the climate decides to make life difficult



Swindon Parish Council

Unfortunately we have suffered graffiti issues yet again. The bridge that takes the footpath underneath the railway beyond Seasons has been defaced. Network Rail says that they can't afford to deal with it. Anyone who has gone into Paddington on the train can appreciate the extent of the problem they face. Alison has obtained a couple of quotes and it will take over £1,000 to clean it up. Big money for a small Parish Council, and the bridge isn't our responsibility. However, it is a horrible eyesore marring a lovely country walk.

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We mentioned the tools purchased to help the volunteers maintaining the churchyard. The tools will remain in the ownership of the Parish Council though these volunteers will remain the primary users. Volunteers (Parish Councillors, churchyard and horse trough maintainers, litter pickers, Village News editors and distributors, Village Hall and allotment managers) are the lifeblood of a community. When you think about it it is amazing how much depends on these public spirited folk.

Thanks to everyone who turned out to vote in the local government election. Five Parish Councillors were re-elected unopposed (Alison, James, Natalie, Sharon and Tom). At the May meeting we were delighted that Andy and Katy put themselves forward for co-option, so we are back up to seven councillors with two vacancies. The meeting also saw Alison and Natalie re-elected as chair and vice-chair respectively. A management dream team. Perhaps they should lead England in the World Cup.

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

SWINDON VILLAGE

**SUMMER
FAIR**

In the Park

**SATURDAY 20 TH JUNE
1PM - 5PM**

- Stalls
- Games
- Music
- Bouncy Castle
- Tea, coffee and cakes
- BBQ
- Bar Open
- Face painting
- Ice creams

St. Lawrence's Church Cake and Plants Sale

Take this great opportunity to treat yourself to some home-made cakes and browse an array of plants for your garden.

St. Lawrence's Church annual cake and plants sale will take place at the church on Saturday 4th July, starting at 10am.

Proceeds from the sale will go towards building repair and maintenance funds. An ancient building like St. Lawrence's constantly requires repair and renovation and we currently face the cost of replacing the tower roof which is leaking.

Donations of cakes, other bakes and plants will be gratefully received by May Shurmer (01242 241033), Helen Harris (01242 239239) or Liz Attwell (01242 692483).

Thank you in advance for your support.



Services at St. Lawrence's Church
June 2026

	9:30am	Family Communion
Sunday 7 th June		
	5pm	Evensong
Sunday 14 th June	9:30am	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer
	9:30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st June		
	5pm	Evensong
Sunday 28 th June	9:30am	Holy Communion



St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

Over the weekend of Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June there will be two ordination services at Gloucester Cathedral. Eleven new Deacons will be ordained by Bishop Rachel Treweek. They have been through a rigorous formation process and theological training in response to what they have perceived to be a vocational calling on their lives. Some of these new Deacons will stay in their current jobs and minister on a part-time basis. Others have moved into a new parish to start their ministry full time.

A Diaconate year (the first year after being ordained as a Deacon) is a full twelve months and forms the foundation of all priestly ministry. The Deacon is encouraged to serve their parish in worship, proclaiming the Gospel and ministering to the community. It is an opportunity to settle into a new parish and home and put down some roots at the start of a curacy. Priests and Bishops and even Archbishops always remain Deacons first and foremost, with the call to strengthen the faithful, leading worship and distributing Holy Communion. Priests, however, are ministers of the Sacraments and this shift in ministry is the reason why there is a second ordination service.

Priests in the Church of England are “anointed and appointed” and through prayer and the laying on of hands by the Bishop, are given the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is the key moment in the service where ordinands are presented to God as servants to continue the work of Jesus Christ and mediate between humanity and the Divine. Sacramental ministry is best described as ‘an outward sign of an inward grace’ and it is a role where Christ is made present to all people. There is a lot to reflect on and think about before ordination. Priestly ministry isn’t just about presiding at a Holy Communion service on a Sunday.



St. Lawrence's Church

It's about discerning gifts in other people, blessing and bearing witness to the bringing in of the Kingdom. There are five roles listed in the Ordinal Declarations which are read by the Bishop. They are: servant, shepherd, messenger, sentinel and steward. These all form the basis of priestly ministry and our calling. Yet there are other roles which individuals hold within their own families. Mine include wife, mother, daughter and sister and amongst my friends of differing faiths (and none). The priestly 'job' does not stop when I take my collar off. It starts to grow through daily life like the words through a stick of rock.

It takes a lot of courage to say "yes" to God and yet, this is what we are all asked to do. We all have individual gifts and skills which we are encouraged to use in service to others. The churches across the North Cheltenham Team Ministry have all recently had their Annual Parochial Church Meeting where priorities and finances were discussed. As part of the plans for the year ahead, we are challenged to consider how we all might best serve our communities. There are some big decisions to be made about what the future of the Church might look like, both locally and nationally. It is everyone's calling to help bring in God's Kingdom into our small corner of the world. Please do contact me if you would like to talk about how you can contribute. Perhaps it might be visiting neighbours, offering refreshments at a community group or using professional skills such as writing grant applications. However you might be able to help others, be reassured that your outward sign of an inward grace will be much appreciated by those who receive it.

*"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."*

(2 Corinthians 9. 6)

Moving On ▶▶

For those taking the next steps in their faith journey

Exploring Christian discipleship
in 6 small group sessions.

If you want to grow in your Christian faith, discover more about following Jesus or find out more about being a committed member of the church, then maybe it's time for Moving On.

Course to be held at St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane,

GL50 4PA

at 7pm on Mondays 8th, 15th 22nd & 29th June

and 6th & 13th July 2026.

Everyone welcome

**Contact Rev. Jacqueline Henson on
revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com for more information**



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

CAKE SALE



St Lawrence's Church
Saturday 4th July 10am



● JOIN BEAVER SCOUTS!

Ages 6-8

Fun • Friends • Adventure • Skills for Life

☀ What we do

- 🎯 Games
- 🏕 Camping
- 🌲 Hiking
- 🚣 Canoeing
- 🌐 Trips & activities (including Go Ape & football matches!)



⚡ *New and exciting activities every term!*

💡 Why join?

- ✓ Make new friends
- ✓ Build confidence
- ✓ Learn teamwork & life skills
- ✓ Try new adventures in a safe, fun environment



📍 When & Where

Swindon Village Hall
Mondays (term time)
🕒 5:00 - 6:00pm

🚀 Ready to join?

👉 Visit:

www.1sv-scouts.co.uk



🌀 Continue the adventure

Cubs (8-10 years)

Scouts (10½-14 years)

Scouts
Gloucestershire 



The Swindon Village Society

Once a year we have a history outing and this year John Heathcott took us to Cirencester. Twenty of us joined the expedition. I have been there often but somehow John managed to show us parts of the town that most of us had never seen before. First he showed us somewhere to park which was easy and free. Maybe next year we will get him to take us to Cheltenham. We then walked to the town centre along Gloucester Road. This used to be the main road in from that city but because of all the new by-pass roads it was quiet. The buildings in it have hardly changed in three hundred years and as John said, except for a rather better road surface, it would be immediately recognisable to a merchant on his horse and cart approaching from Gloucester in April 1726.

We passed ancient hospitals and schools and once in the centre, rather than visit the market we entered the area behind the main church, once a monastery, and to most people's surprise, we found a rather pleasant park with some interesting features. Now I have been there before but what I did not know is that if you go to the further, eastern, end there are the remnants of a roman wall built in about 200 AD. You can even sit on it.

So once again, thank you John for making us appreciate that much more one of our local towns and its history.

By the time this is in print it will be too late to tell people that our May talk has had to be changed but apologies to anyone who turned up expecting a talk on Amy Johnson and found it replaced by one on Education in the 1600s. Our speaker has been taken ill and was due for some chemotherapy on the day of the talk. However, his prognosis is good and he hopes to be back to tell us about Amy in November. Thank you to, Angela Dunsby from The John Moore Museum in Tewkesbury for standing in at short notice.



The Swindon Village Society

Now on to our garden visit in July. On 24th July we will make an evening visit to Daglinworth House near to Cirencester. There are three acres of gardens with much to see with several 'rooms'. There is also a fine church alongside, with some interesting pieces inside, especially some fine Anglo Saxon work on the walls. We will amalgamate cars at the Village Hall car park and hope to depart by 5.30pm latest. If you plan to go direct please let me know and I can give you directions. The cost is £8 each which goes to National Gardens. If non-members want to join us please contact me. We will try to fit you in but we are limited to numbers.

The July talk will be on the Gloucester/Warwickshire Steam Railway. In August we have our annual garden party which is members only so join now.

In September we will hear about Snowhill Manor.

Visitors or new members are always welcome.

Barry Simon



Answers to the Quiz

1. Garfield
2. Tony Adams
3. Trump suit (or just trumps)
4. Lincoln
5. Henry Ford
6. Wilson
7. The Truman Show
8. Jennifer Coolidge
9. Mount McKinley
10. All answers contain surnames of US Presidents

In memory of Zoe



Sale of
HOME-MADE
Japanese cake
&
mochi

Come and try some Japanese sweet treats!

Eat in or takeaway

SUNDAY 7th JUNE 1-3pm
Swindon Village Hall

Mochi



*Matcha cream
Chocolate
Strawberry
Hoji cream
White chocolate*

Cake



*Castella cake
Matcha cake*

Drinks



*Tea
Green tea
Coffee
Apple juice*

All proceeds to Dogs for Good
www.dogsforgood.org

PROUD TO
SUPPORT



**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**

**SWINDON VILLAGE
SUMMER FAIR
SATURDAY 20TH JUNE**

PLEASE COULD YOU HELP WITH?

- ✓ **PRIZES FOR TOMBOLA AND RAFFLE**
- ✓ **CAKE DONATION**
- ✓ **HELP TO SET UP**
- ✓ **HELP TO TIDY UP**
- ✓ **RUNNING A STALL**

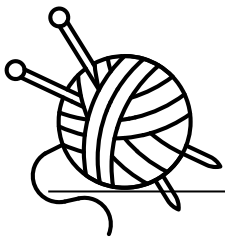
DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF:

**AT HALL ON FRIDAY EVENING OR
29 DARK LANE**

PLEASE CONTACT US ON:

swindonvillagehall@gmail.com





Marle Hill WI

Marle Hill WI Meeting – Monday 11 May

The speaker at Marle Hill WI on Monday 11 May was Joyce Brooks, who members may remember from her lingerie shop in Cheltenham and also from Cavendish House. Joyce brought along a selection of items for WI members to model and gave an interesting talk about the kind of products she sells.

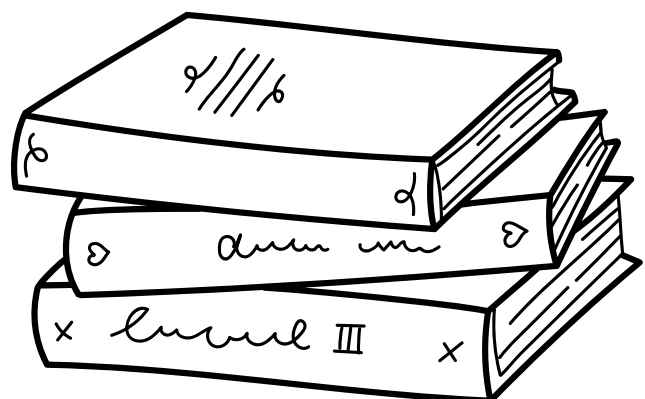
After refreshments, members moved on to the business side of the meeting, which included voting on the two resolutions going forward to the national annual meeting. The resolutions concerned homelessness for women and asking the government to provide more accessible public toilets for women. Members agreed that both were very worthwhile resolutions and voted for the delegate to support them accordingly.

Dates for the book club, meal out, Knit and Natter, and our social event were also given to members.

Marle Hill WI meets on the first Monday of the month at St Nicholas Community Centre. Our next meeting is on Monday 1 June, when Paul Evans will give a talk about Victoria Wood.

Do come along and see what the WI is all about – visitors are always welcome.

Sue Davies
Marle Hill WI



Hello all, I hope you're enjoying the start of summer!

I'm writing this after getting back from RHS Malvern Spring Festival (my favourite event of the year), so I've definitely got fresh inspiration for gardening related projects.

A project that's at the forefront of my mind at the moment is building a huge stone raised bed for our front garden. At RHS Malvern I always see amazing gravel gardens, with plants such as Verbena, Herbs, Grasses etc all embedded within. To achieve this effect is going to take a lot of work, as our front garden reaches sub base after just 10cm depth, so the plan is to dig out the turf, then build a brick layer all the way around to increase the eventual soil depth. This will give us a lot more options when it comes to planting. This won't be a quick turnaround project by any stretch, but I love having a project on the go.

On the subject of inspiration, myself and my wife have enjoyed RHS Malvern so much, we're planning on attending the first instance of RHS Badminton (near Westonbirt Arboretum) between the 8th - 12th July. The venue looks incredible and it will be nice to see some different plant vendors too! I'm sure it's not just the fact that some of Bridgerton was filmed there is why my Wife wants to go...

On a more practical note, June is definitely time to move a lot of your homegrown vegetables into their final growing positions. This includes Tomatoes, Courgettes, Cucumbers & Sweetcorn. Only a week ago, I was also topping up my Potato grow sacks (mounding up equivalent) for my Main crop variety, that will produce more Potatoes because of this.

That's all for this month, thanks for reading. Don't forget to relax in the garden too!

Dale.



Cook with Dawn

Tis' the season for those beautiful pink stalks of bitter/sweet rhubarb. An old favourite treat of mine was buying a quarter of rhubarb and custard sweets from our local sweet shop, not good for young teeth though...This is my take on those colours and flavours, a delicious rhubarb and custard pud.

RHUBARB and CUSTARD POTS Serves 4... cooling time 2-3 hrs

Ingredients

- 400g rhubarb, trimmed, washed and cut into short chunks.
- 1 level tbsp sweetener or sugar
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- Zest and juice of one orange
- 2 drops of pink food colouring
- 150g fromage frais
- 400g ready made custard from a can or carton

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/fan 160°/gas 4.
2. Put the rhubarb into a large shallow ovenproof dish.
3. Sprinkle over the sweetener or sugar, ginger, orange zest and juice and the food colouring, mix well and spread out.
4. Cover with foil and bake in the middle of the oven for 25-30 mins until rhubarb is tender.
5. Cool completely, then chill for 2-3 hrs.

To Serve

1. Put the fromage frais and half the rhubarb into a bowl and mix well.
2. Divide between 4 desert glasses.
3. Top each glass with a quarter of the custard.
4. Divide the remaining rhubarb between the pots and serve.

This desert looks beautiful.. and tastes delicious...
as always... enjoy ;) 😊



Cheltenham Horticultural Society Summer Flower Show

Sales stalls to include Plants from local nurseries, Garden Equipment. Home made Cakes, Books, Jewellery, Photographic prints and Cards and Locally Produced Jams, Chutneys and Marmalade.

Tombola, Refreshments and Free Parking.

WHERE: Pittville School, Albert Road, GL52 3JD

WHEN: Sunday 23rd August. 12.30 to 4pm

ADMISSION: Adults £2.50 Under 16's Free

www.cheltenhamhorticultural.co.uk



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- Full Page £36
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- Hand delivered to 900 homes
in Swindon Village

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	07787 485221 / 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 June 2026

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
Cllr. Tom Harcourt	07963 581371
Cllr. Andy Carvell	07833 089435
Cllr. Katy Kendry	07919 178555
Mr Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Council)	07595 452662
	parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk

There are currently two vacancies. 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

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.