# Village News

### in Swindon Village

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

# No. 434 May 2017

### May

Wednesday	3	Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm Rosemary Prosser - "Hot Wheels and Cold Meals"	
Thursday	4	Local elections	
Thursday	4	Village Hall Committee meeting - 7.00pm in the lounge	
Monday	8	Marle Hill W.I St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Resolutions	
Tuesday	9	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm	
Wednesday	17	Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm Rosemary Westgate - The Wild Flowers of Gloucestershire	
Sunday	21	Save The Countryside Walk - starting Stanton's Drive at 2pm	
Thursday	25	Annual Parish Meeting - Village Hall 7.30pm	
June			
Monday	5	Marle Hill W.I St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Susie Godwin - Midlands Air Ambulance	
Wednesday	7	Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm Heather Sutton - Boots Make-Up	
Tuesday	13	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm	
Wednesday	19	Swindon Village Society - possible garden visit	
Sunday	25	Praise in the Park	

### Swindon Parish Council

(Full minutes of all Parish Council meetings are available on the Parish website www.swindonparish.org.uk. They are also available on request from the Chairman.)

I spoke last time about the difficulty we have in publishing notices when we only hear of events late on or changes are made after we go to press. The example I quoted was the resurfacing of Wymans Lane by Amey (or their contractors). That work, together with the resurfacing of Morris Hill Close, has now been completed. There appeared to be less dramas this time with the work being undertaken in accordance with the published schedule. The only issue I am aware of was the fact that the refuse collection staff were surprised to find that they were unable to access Drayton Close. A small price to pay (unless you happen to live in Drayton Close!).

Another event that will have taken place by the time you read this is a meeting of the cruisers ("hot hatches") in Kingsditch industrial estate. We know that a big meeting is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Most of the participants will be car enthusiasts there to show off their own vehicles and admire those of others. However, in the past these events have attracted some people who want to play to the crowd by performing high speed manoeuvres. There have been accidents and injuries at previous events. We have made sure the police are aware of what is going on but they do not feel able to promise a presence. They have at least one speed monitoring vehicle. Where could it be better deployed than at this event? As with the travellers last year the police seem to prefer to be elsewhere and let the community cope as best they can. We have even had advice that anyone observing anti-social behaviour should video what is going on. Anyone doing so would be taking a personal risk and in my experience the police are unlikely to act on your evidence. This is not a course of action we can endorse. My advice is to call the police on **101** or email

**101@gloucestershire.police.uk**. Tell them what you have seen and get an incident number and let us know too. Perhaps everything will pass off peacefully. Let's hope so.

On the subject of crime and the police, you may be aware that there is an organisation called **Crimestoppers**. Through them you can report concerns anonymously. I must admit I didn't realise that this is an independent charity and not a part of the police force. They can be contacted on **0800 555 111** or you can go online at **crimestoppers-uk.org**.

Finally, if you have anything to report to the police it would be helpful if you could let the parish council know by using the contact form on the web site (**swindonparish.org.uk**) or by telling a councillor. If we know what your concerns are we can press the police for action.

We tend to have issues with various hedges at this time of year. Strong growth and then the need to leave the hedges while the birds are nesting mean that some areas look unsightly and pavements can also become blocked. I walked the dog along Brockhampton Lane the other day. The hedges were beautifully maintained and the ditches cleared of debris, so a big pat on the back for the farming community responsible.

Another reminder that the **Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in the Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm.** The meeting is hosted by the Chairman of the Parish Council and gives residents the opportunity to hear about the Parish Council's year and to raise any matters of interest or concern. We are thinking of putting out maps of the area and marker pens and having an informal brainstorming session about how we want to shape our community in the future. We will not avoid the impact of housing development but we might be able to influence how this is done. The success of the campaign for an area of Local Green Space is testament to the fact that engaged, energetic people can make a difference.

Finally, we have a mystery for you. A number of small boxes have been hung at regular intervals in the hedge along Manor Road bordering the farm field. They are made out of black plastic, are about 2/3 inches square and 10 inches long. They appear to have wooden inserts and are numbered, e.g. 42/42a/43. I have made a number of enquiries and, other than one educated guess, have drawn a blank. Let me know your theories or, if they are yours, put us out of our misery. Perhaps we should offer a prize for the funniest suggestion. I am unable to offer cash but would be happy to publish your ideas in the next Village News!

#### Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

### The Chairman of Swindon Parish Council

invites you to the

# **Annual Parish Meeting**

# on Thursday 25th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

An opportunity for you to air your ideas and concerns for the parish, for example regarding the potential building development (Elms Park), green space and improvements to the park.



### News from our Village Agent

Over the last week I have spent more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours on the 'phone trying to negotiate my new car insurance deals. It's something I hate but something that has to be done. I put the job off for a long time – I'd rather be doing the ironing, well maybe not!

After hours filling in all the details online I then had to call the company to clarify something. That then meant going through everything again – aaaagggh!! After getting a cheaper quote from a different company I was then able to go back to my existing insurer to see if they could match it. Guess what? They could and so now I can stay with them and have my insurance at a considerably cheaper price. Why they couldn't just give me that price in the first place I do not know.

It made me think though of a couple of things. For many people, especially the older generation, access to the special deals available online are not possible which is simply not fair. Also, negotiating deals via the telephone can also be challenging – either because of hearing problems or just because it is a scary thought.

In these times when saving money on any kind of insurance can make all the difference to the monthly budget, a bit of time switching your insurer will be time well spent. Beware though of scam telephone calls that catch you unaware at home and try to pressurise you to change something without having the time to think it through first. If it seems too good to be true – it usually is.

If you would like to talk to me about switching your insurance for anything or your energy supplier or if you're having a problem with nuisance calls then please don't hesitate to contact me.

And this month I'll leave you with this "Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship" *Benjamin Franklin* 

#### Liz Heckford

Village Agent 07810 056770 lheckford@villageagent.grcc.org.uk

### St. Lawrence

### Services and Events in May

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox coffee drop-in Tuesday Group
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty Holy Communion
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox coffee drop-in Holy Communion followed by Tuesday Group
14 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	<i>Easter 5</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.30pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday	<i>Easter 6</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Tuesday Group
28 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	<i>Easter 7</i> 9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
30 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.30am 7.00pm	Chatterbox Tuesday group

### From the registers



**Baptisms** 

We welcomed in to the family of the churchHarry Starkey2nd AprilJacob Studd30th April



**Marriages** *We celebrated the marriage of* Barry Turner & Sian Fennell

7th April



Burial of AshesWe gave thanks for the life ofNancy Spencer27th April

#### 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 church, please visit the Team Surgery at St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane on any Saturday morning between 10.30am and 11.00am. (Enter through the main door and turn right.)

If this is not possible contact the Team Office, which is open Monday to Friday from 9am until 12 noon. The office is based at St Nicolas' Church in Swindon Lane. Contact the Office on **244373** or **admin@northchelt.org.uk** 

You can contact me, the Revd Liz Palin (Team Vicar) on 575547, liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk.

By the time you read this we will have had our Annual Parish Church Meeting. The meeting is a time to look back and review the year that has been, as well as look ahead to the future.

We now hold our meetings in St Lawrence Church – something we struggled to do before our re-ordering work three years ago. The building of St Lawrence is a good symbol of looking back to what has been, and looking to the future. I often think of all those who have prayed faithfully in the church over the centuries, and all the christenings, weddings and funerals that have taken place there. I also look ahead, as we seek to grow the church, to share the good news which impacts our lives so much, and to reach out and show God's love to the community around us. Our church building is part of that, but is not only that. The church is people – people who care, who pray, who use their gifts and talents in the service of others.

But we can't escape the fact that we have a wonderful historic church to look after. Every five years the building is inspected and recommendations made as to what needs doing to keep it well maintained, and ensure its heritage is preserved.

The report came through at the beginning of the year – on the whole the building is in a good state of repair, but the time has come when we need to replace the tower roof (rather than patch repairs which we have previously done). As you can imagine this will not be cheap! We are planning to apply for grants to assist us with the task (after all the tower is pretty unique!) but we will still need to raise a substantial amount of money ourselves – in the region of £30,000.

Our church is a place of life and hope, a place which sees its role as being a presence in the community, for all the community.

If you have suggestions as to how we might raise funds (in addition to our usual activities) please do get in touch – who knows what the vicar may do if enough people suggest a novel way of raising large sums of money!

In John's gospel we hear Jesus say that he has come to bring life in all its fullness. Please help us to continue providing a church building that resources the life of our community and those who live within it.

**Rev Liz** 

### View from the Pew

### The church of St Lawrence, Swindon Village

We are all grateful to Barry Simon and other researchers for giving us a picture of the foundation of St Lawrence Church. In a piece entitled "The Church of St Lawrence Swindon Village" he recorded the likelihood that the first church consisted of the stone built tower and possibly a wooden nave. Barry Simon points out that as there is no mention of a church in the Domesday Book "the probability is that it was some Norman Manorial Lord in around 1100 who first erected a church in Swindon". Dedicated to St Lawrence - a saint whose badge is a grid iron for roasting meat over a fire recalling his martyrdom - it has stood on a hill as an expression of the Christian faith through two centuries.

The ancient building has undergone a number of changes over the years. Recent imaginative changes have improved the flexibility of the seating enabling a range of uses. At this time when many small rural churches are under threat of closure St Lawrence Church continues providing for a lively community.

I think it's fair to claim that St Lawrence Church is one of the village's major historic buildings in what was once a rural setting attended by people who lived their lives in the community and were involved in some way in agriculture. The name 'Swindon' seems to derive from 'the hill of the swine". The well-drained hill was very suitable for pig farming with a ready market for pig meat nearby.

The church of St Lawrence exists, as it always has, to provide a special place for the worship of God. People from near and far value its repose and charm. It is valued as a place for special occasions - family and national. It has attractions for those who want a church wedding to seal their partnership and make promises before God.

Christians believe that those of the Christian faith now represent Jesus Christ on earth. Followers of the faith believe that "Jesus has no other hands but ours". Christians are the "body of Christ".

Why is St Lawrence there? To enable us to worship God and to serve the community.

#### **Ralph Griffin**

### Wednesday Club

Our April meeting welcomed Ken Brightwell, the Cheltenham Town Crier, who gave us a talk "The Experience of Town Crying", one of the oldest professions in the world, because they are Messengers and every village, hamlet or town would be visited by a messenger to give news.

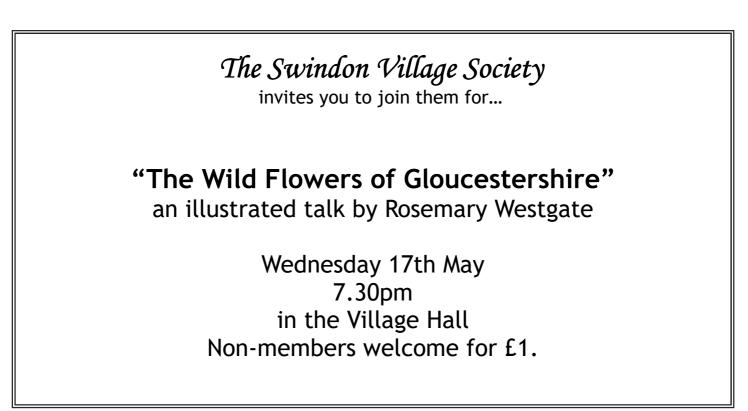
In 1066 after King Harold's death, William sent messages to every part of the country to tell the people that he was now in charge. The call of Oyez Oyez Oyez , meaning listen, was always the opening of the message and after the Civil War, any message sent was finished with the call "God Save The King (or Queen)".

Ken was appointed Town Crier in 1991 and there are 300 Messengers in the Country. There is also a World Wide Federation. The job is varied, from official engagements for the Council to talks for clubs, birthdays, weddings and anniversaries and announcing important persons at functions.

Ken is also a keen supporter of the Steam Railway and is often to be found as the Fat Controller on Thomas the Tank Engine and is one of 16 Father Christmases on the Santa Specials.

Our speaker on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May is Rosemary Prosser and her talk is entitled "Hot Wheels & Cold Meals". Visitors are always welcome for a fee of £3 to include supper so do please come along and join us.

#### **Shirley Ruxton**



### The Swindon Village Society

We have only a short report this month because as I write the April meeting, the annual bird walk, has yet to take place. Fingers crossed for some useable weather because last year's walk was on the cold and wet side.

We are still on the conservation side of things in May when we have a talk on 'The Wildflowers of Gloucestershire' by Rosemary Westgate. I have to say that so far this year things have been good on the wildflower side. My neighbour's garden is covered in primroses that I don't think anyone actually planted and there seem to be bluebells everywhere. We will keep our eyes open on the bird walk and see if there is anything exceptional. In July the talk will be on the birds of Gloucestershire so if we do spot anything unusual we may find out what is was then. It must be remembered that about three years ago our star spot was an African Spoonbill (honest) so anything is possible.

I must mention here the other walk that we support; the annual Save the Countryside walk will take place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May. One great pleasure last year was, when we were crossing Dog Bark Lane, being able to say that not only had Edward IV passed down it in 1471 on his way to the Battle of Tewkesbury but that he was accompanied by Richard, Duke of Gloucester. He, of course, became Richard the Third and because of the recent discovery of his body under a car park in Leicester and subsequent re-interment all the children knew who I was talking about. This year I may mention George, Duke of Clarence, Richard's brother, who was also with them but I don't suppose he has quite the same vibe.

June sees our annual garden visit. Nothing has been decided yet but I have been thinking over the idea of visiting a few members' gardens in the village rather than looking for somewhere distant. If any member would consider opening up their garden for a quick visit on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June would you please let me know. For that matter if any non-members would consider letting us have a look that would be great. Nothing splendid is needed, a really interesting set of slugs and aphids can provide a good gardening talking point. So don't hold your gardening prowess under a bushel - give me a call on 01242 521723. If we can rustle up four or five gardens I think it might make for a pleasant evening.

Don't forget that we are always happy to have new members. Single membership is £5 for the year and family membership is £10. Come to a meeting - visitors are always welcome - or if you come to the door of 3, Swindon Hall with money in hand there is every chance of a cup of tea.

#### **Barry Simon**

Save The Countryside

# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk

Celebrating 10 years of strength in our community voice And a passion for the beautiful place in which we live!

# Starting at Stantons Drive, Swindon Village Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2pm

**Everyone welcome including dogs and horses. Refreshments available mid-way and at the end.** 



For further details contact 01242 680602 (Anne) or 07770 986078 (Helen)

### Marle Hill W.I.

Tore Fauske gave us a very interesting talk at our April meeting. He grew up in Bergen, Norway, and was 8 years old when the country was invaded by Germany on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1940. The Germans occupied Norway so they would have access to the iron ore mining in the north, and safe transportation along the coast to Germany. The children treated the situation as an adventure, despite the strict Nazi authority, and would tease the soldiers. They had to join the Young Vikings, similar to the Nazi Youth, and were made to learn German at school. When teachers refused to join the Nazis they were sent to concentration camps, as happened to all those who were openly opposed to the regime, then there was no schooling. There was strict censorship, no imports were allowed so no coffee, sugar etc. and they lived on a diet of herrings. The ladies' shoes were made of papier-mâché and the men's of tuna skin, all with wooden soles. They secretly listened to the BBC radio programmes on headphones. There was much bombing first by the Germans and then the RAF who, in 1944, flattened Bergen.

A few of us went to Denman College for a sale of excess stock and equipment. We called in at Aston Pottery on the way back for lunch and some retail therapy.

Unfortunately neither of our teams managed to get through to the next round of the County Quiz. A Skittles and Supper Evening at the Suffolk Arms was a great success, and a bit noisy! Gloria hosted a tea afternoon, though it was not warm enough to sit out in her beautiful garden. A day in Bristol included a visit to Cabot Circus, more 'therapy', and a tour of the BBC Studios there. Here we saw the various programme offices, the actual transmission studio and control room and saw where the weather forecast was broadcast from the roof garden. We ended the tour with a chance to have a go at producing a news programme complete with news readers, autocue and Phyllis ad-libbing the weather forecast complete with map. Our meal-out was at the Gloucester Old Spot. I will let you know how we got on on the GFWI Holiday in Lincolnshire in the next issue.

In May we have our Group meeting when Dame Janet Trotter is the speaker. There is a Silk Scarf Workshop and also one for Shobori Beading. We have our usual Craft and Book Club meetings and a GFWI walk.

At our meeting on the <u>8<sup>th</sup></u> May (the 1<sup>st</sup> is a Bank Holiday) we will be discussing the two resolutions to be debated at the National Meeting in Liverpool in June. We have also invited Peter Bryant, the now retired County Secretary, to tell us about his experiences as 'A Man at the WI'. We welcome anyone who is interested to join us for the evening at 7.30 at St Nicolas' Hall, Swindon Lane.

#### **Sara Jefferies**

### 1st Swindon Village Scout Group

With the Easter break, it's been a quiet few weeks for the Scout Group.

During the school holidays, two of our Scouts, **Leo Harcourt** and **Todd Lewis**, joined others from around Gloucestershire to tackle the Expedition Challenge award. This involved two weekends in March and April planning, training and then carrying out an overnight expedition to gain the award. They set off in patrols from Cheltenham and, carrying their equipment, hiked to Cranham Scout HQ where they set up camp for the night, then cooking their own meals before hiking to Cowley the following day. And all of this was undertaken without adult leaders calling the shots. A great experience and a great achievement at such a young age - well done, lads.

The last few weeks has seen far more planning than doing and we have lots to look forward to including the Cheltenham District Scouts Fete & Funday at Montpellier Gardens on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May; a joint Beaver, Cub and Scout Camp up at Cranham and the Poacher International Jamboree in Lincolnshire during the summer holidays.

Finally, we are collecting **Sainsbury's** *Active Kids* **vouchers** again and we hope to obtain some new equipment at the end of this scheme. If you could please hand your vouchers to any of the leaders, we would be grateful. Thank you.

#### Sos

### Village Hall

The AGM once again was poorly attended; no members of the public put in an appearance and what was even more disturbing several of the organisations who use the hall on a weekly basis couldn't find the time to send along a representative. If this attitude continues then the future of the village hall looks bleak. New blood is desperately needed if you wish the hall to flourish.

Monthly meetings have also suffered from poor attendance with one excuse being that Wednesday is a bad day so the committee has decided that in future the monthly meeting will now revert back to the first Thursday in the month with the first meeting on Thursday 4th May at 7.00pm in the lounge. If you would like to attend then on this occasion please use the side door (via the gate) as the main hall is being used for the local election.

See you there.



Advertise your business in the Village News

### Monthly rates

Whole page £36 Half page £18 Quarter page £9

Contact the Editors

# Art Exhibition by Frances Whitman



# 10th -15th May 2017







### The Gardens Gallery OPEN DAILY 10am -5pm Montpellier Gardens Cheltenham, GL50 1UW WWW.franceswhitman.com



# Walk, Remember, Celebrate!

Come and join us for this year's Walk for Longfield and you won't just be raising money for your local hospice care charity. You'll enjoy a magical evening too: **Walk** ... Choose from our 5k or 10k route, to suit you.

**Remember ...** As one of our walkers you will have the opportunity to put your own message on a candle bag, in memory of your loved one, which will shine in the stunning grounds of Longfield. Visit our Decoration Station where you can decorate your bag and add it to our Walkway of Memories.

**Celebrate** ... Enjoy live music, home cooked food, a bar and children's entertainment too. This is a great family event for adults, children and pets too - dogs welcome! Don't forget, your friends and family are invited to come along on the evening. Even if they are not walking they can come and have fun too. **When** ... Friday 9th June at 6.30pm.

**How Much?** ... Registration is £10.00 for adults and £5.00 for children (4-16). Under 4's and dogs go free. Family price of £25.00 (\*2 Adults and 2 Children).

**Your Footsteps will change people's lives** ... Every year Longfield supports hundreds of patients with life-limiting illnesses, along with their families. We can only do this thanks to the support of people like you. By taking part in the walk and making a donation you will change someone's life.

For further information on the walk please go to **www.longfield/event/walkfor-longfield** or call **01453 886868**.









Friday 7 July 2017, at Walls Club Gloucester.

### Let's Talk

Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide and is becoming more common. Depression, anxiety and stress are also the leading cause of sickness absence in the UK, with 70 million working days lost each year. The World Health Organisation chose depression as the topic for World Health Day on April 7, in recognition of the growing situation, the need to speak more openly and as a way of highlighting the support available.

In Gloucestershire, Let's Talk is a free NHS service for anyone aged 18 and above to seek support and advice.

Evidence shows that if you seek support early, you can recover more effectively and more quickly, and avoid further problems developing.

Let's Talk provides a range of options, from advice over the telephone and educational courses to self-help guides and face-to-face Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

You can find out more by visiting www.talk2gether.nhs.uk or ringing 0800 073 2200.

gether

2gether NHS Foundation Trust



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#### VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Village & Community Agent	Liz Heckford lheckfo	rd@villageagent.grcc.org.uk 07810 056770
Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader	Hugh Stanford	svbeavers@gmail.com
Rainbow Guider	Jackie Bailey	706020 07871 169308
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Sandy Thornton	232045
Village Hall Secretary	Rose D'Gama	574964
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Play Group	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers' Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
School Headteacher	Jonathan Dyer	690016
Friends of the School	Sarah Vallender Nic Jackson	chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Adrian Skilling	690928
Swindon Village Society	Barry Simon	adrian.skilling@gmail.com 521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
St. Stephen's Cricket Club	Tony Jilbert	693639
Echo Correspondent		
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

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 of this month. Please send contributions to the editors: David Iliffe at 16 Stantons Drive or Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

	SWINDON PARISH CO	DUNCIL
Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Glenn Simpson	692845
	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Stuart Deakin	230009
	Cllr. Frances Hunter	692845
	Cllr. David Iliffe JP	526323
	Cllr. Mrs. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435 parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas Cllr. Bernard Fisher	255844 07523 421012
County Councillor	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	07523 421012
Allotments Manager	lan Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: www.swindonparish.org.uk

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry					
Team Rector	Revd. Nick Bromfield	nick.bromfield@northchelt.org.uk			
Team Vicar	Revd. Liz Palin	575547 liz.palin@northchelt.org.uk			
Reader	Ralph Griffin	510533			
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639			
	May Shurmer	241033			
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678			
Organist	John Collins	511950			
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office 2443 St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, admin@northchelt.org. Cheltenham GL50 4PA					
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 view of the Editors or the Parish Council