

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 461 February 2020

February

Monday	3	Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm Virginia & David Adsett - Those were the days
Wednesday	5	Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm AGM
Tuesday	11	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm
Wednesday	19	Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm Celia Hargrave - Her garden at Trench Hill
Wednesday	26	Wine Club - Village Hall Mr Clive Boyd - America and the Second World War

March

Monday	2	Marle Hill W.I. - St. Nicolas' Hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	4	Wednesday Club - Village Hall 8.00pm
Tuesday	10	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall Beginning with Public Session at 7.30pm
Wednesday	18	Swindon Village Society - Village Hall 7.30pm The Gloucestershire Regiment at the Battle of Waterloo
Wednesday	25	Wine Club - Village Hall

(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.)

Welcome back after the holidays.

We have talked about the consultation on the Cheltenham Local Plan. This closed in December.

The Parish Council made strong representations that the Local Green Space defined around Swindon Village should be retained, a conclusion also reached by the Planning Inspector examining the JCS. We now await the latest Planning Inspector's conclusions.

However, when one consultation ends another two rise up to take its place. Firstly, there is now a draft Local Transport Plan produced by the County Council. Seeing that traffic management is one of the key issues we face this is a critical document for us. The Parish Council will be responding but everyone is entitled to have their say. The consultation ends on 26th March.

Secondly, the Borough Council have issued draft plans for what they are calling the Cyber Central Garden Community. It is proposed to build houses, high-tech businesses and leisure facilities near to GCHQ. Whilst this is not in our area the resulting traffic probably will be! The consultation ends on 17th February.

Both these consultations can be accessed from our website. Even if you do not wish to respond to the consultation yourself you may be interested to find out more.

We have taken possession of a bench which will be installed at the entrance to the Amenity Area off Manor Road. We have accepted a quote for doing this work and look forward to seeing the finished result. The bench will bear a plaque to the memory of the wonderful Elizabeth Heathcott, long time servant of the Parish.

I mentioned the problems of drainage in Church Road. I was recently passing by and noticed that, although most of the roads were dry (well, dryish), water continues to burble out of the service covers in the area. The picture shows the cover of a safety valve opposite Quat Goose Lane (I keep wanting to call it a manhole cover but you'd have to be pretty small to get down the hole).



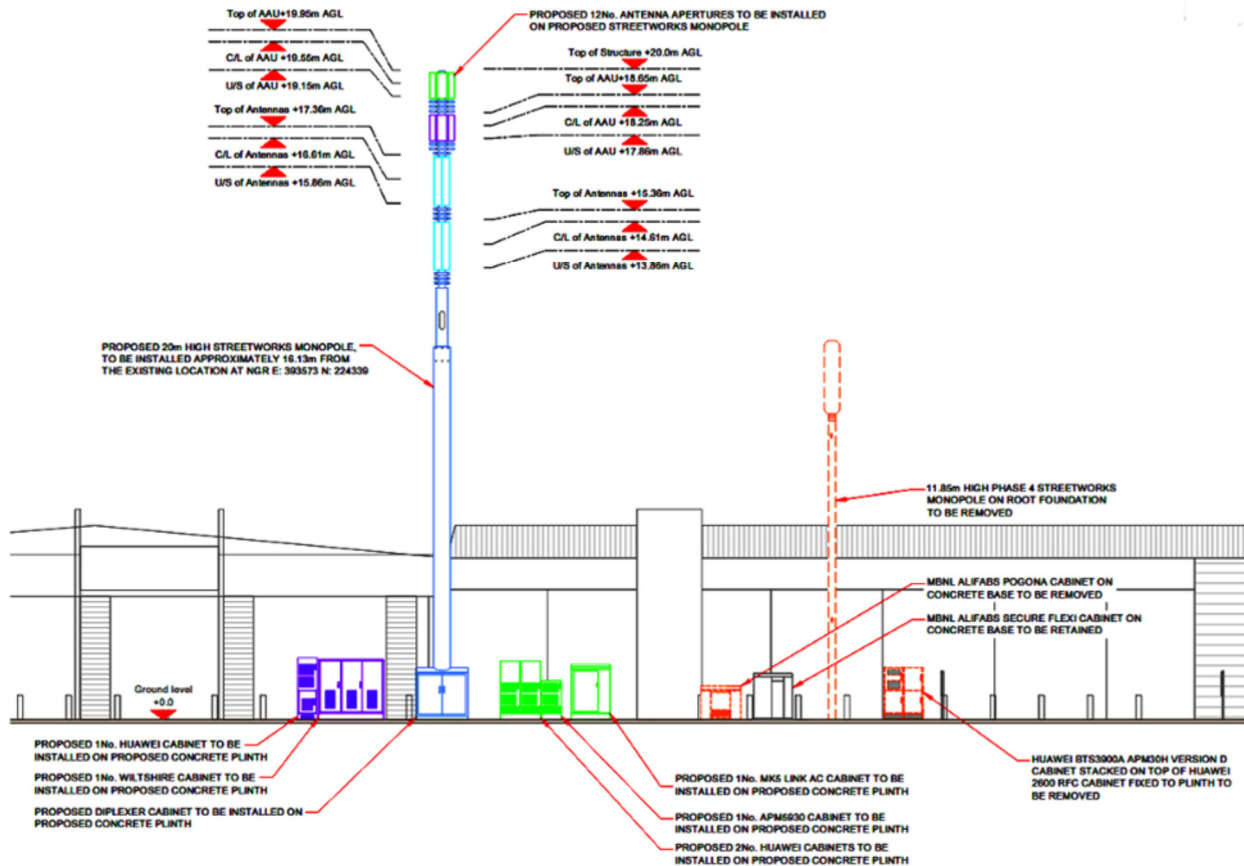
Water also emerges from a gap between kerb stones and from a manhole cover near the entrance to Smythe Road. We are pressing the County Council to take a look at drainage in the area and along Manor Road which has flooded recently.

If all went according to plan the Traffic Regulation Committee of the County Council met on 16th December to recommend the way forward to Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet for the "Boots Corner" traffic routing changes. As I write the minutes of the committee have not been published on the County Council website, so I'm still holding my breath.

Demolition of the Vibixa site has started. Hopefully the new industrial/commercial development will ultimately tidy up a corner that is currently a bit of an eyesore.

Across the road outside Evans Cycles there are some steel cabinets and an aerial that are part of the local mobile phone infrastructure. Apparently 5G is coming. 5G phones will be capable of receiving data at a higher rate than your home broadband will support. The good news ends there. Because 5G uses higher frequency signals the aerials required will be taller and more of them will be needed. Plans have been submitted for replacing the existing equipment. The new aerial will be nearly twice as tall. The Parish Council is concerned that the siting of the new equipment at this location could mean that there will be no room to replace the two mini roundabouts with a better traffic management solution. The government wants to push through these upgrades to ensure good coverage across the country. The picture overleaf shows the height of the new aerial compared to the existing one.

You may not know 5G from a hole in the ground (oh, covered that already) but you might have a view on the height of the aerial.



The Parish Council have at last received the results of a traffic volume and speed survey that looked at Church Road, Manor Road and Wymans Lane. We are looking at the data to see what conclusions we can draw.



We have another litter bin! This one is at the end of Stantons Drive near the fields. The path is very popular with dog walkers, unfortunately including the type who leaves their dog bags in the hedge for someone else to clear up. There were no excuses for this before, now there are DEFINITELY no excuses!

As you can see, Colin approves.

Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council
<https://swindonparish.org>

Services and Events in February

2	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty for Candlemas Holy Communion
4	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
9	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
11	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon 7.00pm	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In Holy Communion “Wholeness and Harmony”
16	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ The Table Evensong
18	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
23	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
25	Tuesday	10.30am - 12noon	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In
26	Ash Wednesday	7.00pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
28	Friday	12noon - 2.00pm	Lent Lunch

And did those feet.....

Although Christmas is only just behind us and a new year has begun, it's only February and yet we are on the cusp of the beginning of another Lent, and it all kicks off with Ash Wednesday on the 26th. Once again our foreheads will be marked with the sign of the cross testifying to the call to return to our Lord God, but it also marks the fact that our God walks with us too on all of our journeys.



The children in school, by choice and with permission sought, very often enjoy having their foreheads 'ashed' at the end of an assembly. More than anything else, I think they have fun teasing one another about how ridiculous they look. On the way out they're pointing at one another and laughing. It's all a bit of fun for them, and beneath the symbolism, a bit of fun for me too. Yet, as they walk out of the hall and make their way to their lessons, I can't help but think about those small feet, which will grow as they themselves grow. As they do more and more journeying, leading them to come to know themselves in ever new and exciting ways, the hope is that their walks will bring them into a relationship with God of varying kinds.

While it is true that a journey begins with one solitary step, what Lent actually does in many ways is invite us to actually stop walking, or at the very least to move along at a slower more purposeful pace. To reflect and to contemplate and to listen to that still small voice of calm is never an easy thing to do at the best of times; but whilst the goings on of the world don't stop just because Lent has started, if we don't at least try to stop and look around once in a while, we could miss the point of life entirely.

During the weeks of Lent we are again encouraged to take stock, to re-examine and re-imagine our lives. We are encouraged to seek out what is important to us and to not be afraid to ask for or acknowledge what it is we want or feel we need. Any spiritual journey worth the effort must begin with an answer to a simple question posed by Jesus when he found two disciples walking behind him. He stopped walking, he turned around and asked, "What do you seek?" (Jn 1: 30-38) This is a question we are encouraged to ask ourselves also; and at times we must stop to give an answer in the same way those disciples must have stopped to hear the question. What do you want, what is it you need?.....What can I do for you?

A blessed Lent (when it comes).

Rev George

From the registers

Baptisms



We welcomed in to the family of the church

Elisha Peter Vincent-Barbour
Teddy Adam Logan Slater

24th November 2019
12th January 2020

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 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 the clergy by email:

Revd. George Davis (Team Vicar) fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com

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

St. Lawrence Church
Swindon Village

Wholeness and Harmony Service

on Tuesday 11th February at 7.00pm

All are very welcome to attend this short Communion service with personal prayers and blessings for family, friends and all who wish to be prayed for during joyful and challenging times

Reverend David Eady

It is with great sadness that we report the death of the former vicar of St Lawrence, Revd. David Eady.

David came to St Lawrence after the retirement of Revd. Betty Humphrey, and was appointed on a house-for-duty basis.

He moved with his wife Pat and daughters Ruth and Joy.

David was a very keen "Radio Ham" as well a lover of steam trains. He regularly walked his dog around the village and was always willing to stop and talk to anyone.

Whilst in post David oversaw major works to the church roof and had the situation with badgers to deal with, when they excavated into the churchyard.

David was well-liked and was always willing to help anyone in need and loved to visit and chat to people.

He will be remembered as being "a gentle man" and we sent Pat and all the family our condolences and remember them in our prayers.

Tony Jilbert

Joan Styman says "Thank you"

I would like to say a big Thank You to all my friends and acquaintances who have sent me Get Well, Christmas and New Year wishes after my recent ill health.

I send my Best Wishes to you all for 2020
Yours with love,

Joan Styman



Following John Collins' resignation as Treasurer of Swindon PCC, after 23 years of dedicated service, gifts were presented by Churchwardens Tony Jilbert and May Shurmer, and Rev George Davis, to John and his wife Rose, at the Carol Service in December. John continues as our organist and is still a member of the PCC.



Jack and Harry at the St Lawrence Crib Service on Christmas Eve, where there was standing room only, with over 50 children attending, a lot of them arriving in Nativity costumes.

The service was conducted by Karen Evans, ably assisted by her daughter Elizabeth.

Lent Lunches



A simple bread & soup lunch will be served in church every Friday during Lent.

Pop in for lunch and a chat any time between 12noon and 2pm on the 28th February, 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March and the 3rd April.

No set price; donations to church funds.

The Swindon Village Society

We had the AGM in January and to no one's surprise the committee were re-elected en-masse. The AGM was followed by an update on some new findings on the village's history by Eileen Allen. Eileen has been working with The Victoria County History of Gloucestershire for some time now. The VCH has already produced a definitive history for much of Gloucestershire but Cheltenham and its environs remain to be done. However work is now underway and it will include Swindon Village. Quite a bit of this work is based around the work done to produce the seven volumes of The Swindon Village Collection. It will be interesting to see how close we got when the experts have finished.

Eileen read to us a number of newspaper articles covering the more mundane aspects of life in the village over the last two hundred years. Deaths, fires, straying horses, storms, pollution of the River Chelt, children's parties, fights and the proposal to site the town abattoir in the village all featured. The Village Society would certainly have fought the latter proposal but even without our help it was moved elsewhere.

We now have something of a programme for this year. In February Celia Hargrave will tell us about her splendid garden at Trench Hill that we may try to visit once we have heard how it was built. March sees a talk on The

Gloucestershire Regiment at the Battle of Waterloo which will interest my wife since she had a great-great-great-grandfather involved in that. We always try to incorporate a nature walk and in May John Heathcott will take us to Crickley Hill where we will annoy any wildlife that dares to show itself, as well as finding out about the history of the site. I do know that it was the location of a battle thousands of years ago. I also know that it now has a coffee shop.

In June Judie Hodson, Chair of The Friends of Pittville Park, will tell us about the history of the park and how it is run now. In July Peter Gill will tell us about Cheltenham at War.

October will feature Chris Witts who will give us a talk on working on The River Severn. I believe that he manned the cargo barges that used to be a regular feature on the river. I may be wrong here but I think he was involved in the action when barges hit and destroyed the old railway bridge across the Severn before the current road bridges were built. We are also trying to get a nicely seasonal talk on mistletoe for November but that is still to be worked on.

There are also a couple of dates still being worked on.

So if you are not a member do think of joining us. The fees for this year are £7 for a single and £14 for a couple or a family. It is so useful to be able to say that we represent a good selection of the village when we wish to protest about some of the more silly proposals by developers. Even if you are not particularly interested in the talks there is always our annual garden party in August when you get a free glass or two of lukewarm fizzy.

Barry Simon

Swindon Village Art and Craft Club

Back for another term - come and join us we would welcome some new faces it's a good social evening as well as painting. Hope to see you soon.

Helen

07817 581223

Swindon Village Early Years

We had a fabulous autumn term with many opportunities for the children in the lead-up to Christmas. We enjoyed the community by walking with the children up to join the Chatterbox group on a Tuesday morning. Father George kindly met us at the church one Monday afternoon where he read the children the Christmas story. It was a lovely start to our Christmas celebrations and we were proud of how well the children sat and listened.

The children and staff were also lucky enough to be invited to the school to watch the Reception children perform their nativity. The pre-school children at playgroup also held their own nativity where the parents were invited back to watch the performance - the children were amazing. We believe that unless they are offered these opportunities and challenge their own confidence they will not know their capabilities.

The staff cooked Christmas dinner for 22 of the pre-school children and we were impressed at how they all ate and/or tried the food.

As you can imagine, it was like a glitter wonderland and we had great fun with stories and activities, with songs and dance. Most of all though, remembering the real reasons behind the celebrations.

We are in to our spring term now and looking at pantomimes, winter, Chinese New Year and also diurnal and nocturnal animals.

If you would like any information about playgroup or placing your child's name on our waiting list, please do not hesitate to contact us during playgroup hours on 01242 690479.

Regards.

Sally and Debbie

The long winter nights have been with us for what seems like forever but, with the winter solstice behind us, the days will warm and stretch as spring blossoms. With the changing of the year and the decade (yes, it's a new decade!) it's a good time to look to the future and start making some plans. We decided to relax a little towards the end of last year as things had gone at a hectic pace as regular readers will know, but now we can start thinking of what we can do to improve our Village Hall.

We'd love to host some more community social events this year and that was kicked off in great style by Hugh and his "local to global" quiz (who knew that the world Badminton headquarters was once in the parish and that the first US state you hit when travelling west (or east) is Alaska?). The bar room was packed to the rafters and a great night was had. Hugh's done his quiz for the year so it's time for someone else to run the next one - if anyone fancies a go at being the next Magnus Magnusson, Chris Tarrant or Bradley Walsh (a nice spread of references there!) then get in touch and you can have your own Friday quiz night.

The Christmas party was a tremendous night and we're planning another community party night on **Friday 3rd April** as the Easter holidays start - a disco for the kids and young at heart, some nibbles, and the bar will be open from 6pm.

Friday 8th May is VE Day - 75 years since the end of hostilities in Europe (VJ Day to signify the end of the Pacific campaign will be in August). VE Day has been designated as the early May bank holiday so keep an eye on our Facebook page for what's on but as a minimum the bar will be open as usual.

On **Saturday 16th May**, the Eurovision extravaganza hits our eyes and ears and the whole experience will be shown in the bar. As the great Terry Wogan once quipped, "every year I expect it to get less foolish and every year it is more so." Another year of *nul points* for the UK perhaps or an unlikely victory in the year that we leave the EU?

Other ideas have been flowing nicely and it's been great to get both acknowledgement of our achievements so far and a flurry of ideas from the community for what we could do in the future. I try to keep these monthly musings of mine to what has actually happened but current ideas for the future involve sound systems, doors, toilets and heating. Who knows what's going to be achieved but I like to think that our record is a good one

of making steady improvements to our hall. As ever, your ideas are very welcome and, given that current committee members are employed elsewhere full-time, any assistance will be welcomed with open arms!

Ben, Chair.

Swindon Village Winemakers



Swindon Village Wine Club members enjoyed a lovely Christmas Lunch at The New Dawn, Norton on Friday 6th December.

The event was organised by our Secretary, Roy Harper, and a good time was had by all who attended.

At our February meeting Mr Clive Boyd will give a talk on America and the Second World War.

New members are always welcome.

Mandy Jilbert

Wednesday Club

Hoping everyone had a lovely Christmas and wishing you a very Happy New Year.

The Wednesday Club Christmas Party went well; most of the members attended and our sales table did very well.

The committee went for a Christmas Lunch at The New Dawn in December. The food was lovely. Sadly Rose was missing because she was ill.

On the 2nd January, nineteen of us went to the Gupshill Manor for our annual meal. The staff were very helpful and the meal was really good. I for one will be going there again.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5th February and it will be our AGM. Please do come along and join us this year; our speakers are very good and often amusing as well. The members take it in turns to provide supper each month which we all enjoy with a cup of tea or coffee.

If you wish to come along as a visitor it will be £3 per person and that will include supper.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Pauline Wright

Now that we are well into the New Year our December meeting seems a long time ago. The speaker at our meeting that month was Matthew Gacek who took a refreshing look at the meaning of Christmas and the different traditions and ways that we celebrate the festival. Jayne organised a special raffle and there were plenty of festive nibbles on offer with our tea and coffee. The Carol Concerts in the Town Hall were much enjoyed and Wendy organised the raffle there with some great prizes. The Christmas meal at the Langton was such a success that we have already booked the venue for our Birthday Party next November. There is nothing like thinking well ahead! When we asked for 'stars' to decorate our tree at the Swindon Village Christmas Tree Festival we were inundated with contributions. Our tree was certainly well dressed and sparkled with many starry lights.

Into the New Year. Versha Patel arrived at our January meeting and demonstrated how to make samosas. She then had us all supplied with the necessary ingredients and we all had much fun making some for ourselves. After cooking them at home I can assure you that they were very tasty. Keeping to the Indian theme, our monthly meal-out was at Voojan's. Still keeping to the food theme, several members enjoyed a cookery demonstration at Waitrose.

The County-organised holidays this year are to the Isle of Wight in April and then to Lake Garda, with visits to Venice and Verona, in September. The Walking Netball is an on-going activity and we have been very successful playing in 'social' matches, as opposed to League matches. Members join in many of the County-organised walks. A Lampshade Making workshop and training days for Institute officers are on the calendar for February, as are the usual Book and Craft Club afternoons.

We have Virginia and David Adsett as the speakers on Monday February 3rd. They will entertain us with 'Those Were the Days'. Visitors are welcome to join us for the evening at St Nicolas' Hall, Swindon Lane, at 7.30pm.

Sara Jefferies



Gloucestershire



Hedgehog Highways

DO YOU WANT TO HELP HEDGEHOGS?

HEDGEHOGS NEED TO MOVE BETWEEN A VARIETY OF HABITATS TO FIND FOOD, MATES AND TO NEST. HOLES AND ACCESS POINTS IN GARDEN FENCE CAN HELP HEDGEHOGS SURVIVE AND THRIVE.

PLEASE MAKE A HOLE IN YOUR FENCE FOR A HEDGEHOG THIS WINTER AND RECORD NEW AND OLD HOLES ON OUR MAPS SO WE CAN SEE WHERE HEDGEHOG HIGHWAYS EXIST.

WWW.MAPWORT.COM/HEDGEHOGWAY/HOLES.HTML



IF YOU NEED HELP MAKING A HOLE PLEASE CONTACT US

For more details email
nicola.simpson@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk



British Hedgehog Preservation Society

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VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

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 706020
Rainbow Guider	Jackie Bailey	07871 169308
Village Hall Chair	Ben Williams	07971 608177 swindonvillagehall@gmail.com
Village Hall Booking Secretary	Jana Bridger	www.svhall.co.uk 07514 594351
Wednesday Club	Pauline Wright	693112
Early Years playgroup	(Playgroup hours)	690479
Winemakers' Secretary	Roy Harper	662861
School Headteacher	Geraint Mills	690016
Friends of the School	Caroline Williams Sarah Martin	chairfosvps@gmail.com
Art & Crafts Club	Lynne	07515 461876
Swindon Village Society	Barry Simon	521723
Mary Godwin Under 5s	(Playgroup hours)	263746
Marle Hill W.I.	Sara Jefferies	692500
Save The Countryside	Helen Wells	07770 986078

Please inform the editors of any changes to the contact details for village organisations.

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th of this month.
Please send contributions to the editors via
Karen Evans at 5 Manor Road
or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

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SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Vice Chairman	Cllr. John Conmee	572060
	Cllr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
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	Ian Brown	528683

Swindon Parish and Community Website: <https://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. George Davis	fr.georgedavis@hotmail.com 702890
Churchwardens	Tony Jilbert	693639
	May Shurmer	241033
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, Cheltenham GL50 4PA		244373 admin@northchelt.org.uk

The office is open on Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon. Outside these hours please leave a message on the answer phone.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors or the Parish Council