

Village News

in Swindon Village

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

No. 469

December 2020/January 2021



Happy Christmas from the Editors

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE AND GROUP

Please join Swindon Parish Council's Facebook page and group for local information and discussion. If you do not have access to the internet you could ask a friend or relative to join on your behalf and share highlights with you.

- **Swindon Parish Council Facebook Page.** A public page for local information and news from the Council:
<https://www.facebook.com/swindonparish>
- **Swindon Parish Community Group.** A private group for discussion of local issues, sharing and requesting help:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/swindonparishcommunitygroup>
- **Swindon Parish Council website.** For full information from the Parish Council:
<https://www.swindonparish.org.uk/>

If you receive this newsletter then you are living in Swindon Parish.

"If you have concerns about anti-social behaviour do not hesitate to contact the police.

Ring 101 (you may be charged for this call)
or email 101@gloucestershire.police.uk

Get an incident number and let the parish council know about it. If the police are not made aware of a problem THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM".

(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.)

We delayed publication of this (December) issue so that we could report on the rules that would apply at the end of the second national lock down due to the pesky and persistent Coronavirus. The second national lock down has now come to an end and the people we have been supporting through our volunteer shoppers are now mostly self sufficient. Just to say, the Parish Council remains willing to do what it can to support those who need it. The phone number is below.

07395 906633

Alternatively, email

heretohelp@swindonparish.org.uk

Support is also available from a number of other sources. CCP (Caring for Communities and People) is a charity that supports vulnerable folk in a number of ways. They run a Community Wellbeing service that offers one-to-one support. Another of their initiatives is the Pantry Project. They collect fresh and long-life produce and distribute it to those who need it. A donation of £3.50 buys £15.00 worth of food. These are hard times for many people. Oxfam states that "36% of the UK population are just one heating bill or a broken washing machine away from hardship with 1 in 6 parents having to go without food themselves to afford to feed their families". A sobering thought.

Gloucestershire finds itself in Tier 2 and rules have been published for forming Christmas bubbles. That is a sentence I never thought I'd write. Many of us are struggling to understand the coronavirus "do"s and "don't"s. The full rules for Tier 2 and Christmas bubbles can be accessed from our website.

The Parish Council was delighted to welcome Lisa Whitaker to the November meeting. Lisa had expressed an interest in joining the Council and was duly welcomed into our ranks. At the moment Lisa has only seen us on a computer screen. She may decide not to continue when she sees us in real life.

Lisa was thrown in at the deep end, helping to craft the Parish Council's response to the M5 Junction 10 consultation. A working meeting was held via Zoom. You can view the result of our efforts on the website and on Facebook.

I have received a "heads up" from Network Rail that work is required on the level crossing in Brockhampton Lane. This is likely to involve closure of the road over two weekends in the spring. As soon as the dates are confirmed I will publicise them on the website.

Speaking of Brockhampton Lane, I had previously notified you of various reopening dates, the last one being 21st November. On the 20th November the date was changed to 23rd November. I was promised the lane would be open by 5:00pm on that day, but they may have had their fingers crossed behind their backs while they told me. It is not possible to react quickly to these changes in the News but we try to keep the website and our Facebook page current. All I can do is pass on what I am told, so no shooting of the messenger please.

I met with County Councillor Bernard Fisher and the Gloucestershire Highways Area Manager to discuss the footpath (or lack of one) outside the gym on Wymans Lane. Once the development of the industrial units on the old Vibixa site is complete it will make things even more difficult for pedestrians to navigate Wymans Lane. We recognise this is an important route for parents taking children to and from school. People are being encouraged to walk and cycle. It is vital that they can do this conveniently and in safety.

Last month I asked for your feedback on your broadband experience. Thank you to the eighteen households that responded. Some people enjoy a fast, reliable service while others have a service that is so poor it is hard to measure. We will see if, given the evidence, someone wants to take the matter forward. There is a more detailed look at the results elsewhere in this issue.

I note that the 5G mobile phone equipment has been installed outside Evans Cycles on Wymans Lane. Perhaps this is the way forward in terms of broadband. The planning application stated that two of the three existing cabinets and the old antenna were to be removed prior to the installation of the new equipment, including a much taller antenna. That hasn't happened. I have passed the matter to the Cheltenham Borough Council planning enforcement folks as a Christmas present.

Gloucestershire County Council is conducting a survey on the experience people have of public transport in the County. They are interested in a spectrum of views, from those with mobility issues, youngsters and students, the elderly and those who live in more rural areas. Basically anyone and everyone, but I thought I would do a list to pad out the article! The survey can be accessed at the [GCC consultation website](#).

I share Barry Simon's view that, in times when stories are thin on the ground, a good one bears repeating. I know I have recounted this to you before, but it makes me laugh when I think of it to this day. It is an example of the wit and quick thinking of David Iliffe (valued former parish councillor). In the last Village News, Ben said that he thought the Village Hall had never previously had a sign. This may be true of the building itself, but a wooden sign used to stand on a post outside. I was in a Parish Council meeting early in my tenure when someone said "We used to have a sign. It was erected to celebrate the Royal Wedding. What happened to it?". They received the reply "It rotted away". Quick as a flash, David responded "No, it wasn't much of a marriage".

While you are admiring the new Village Hall sign please take a look at the horse trough outside the hall. Neil continues to maintain a fine display of plants for us, whatever the weather.



Some more end of year thanks, if I may. My role as parish clerk is a paid part-time job. Increasingly we have to depend on volunteers and I would like pay tribute to some of them here. To our excellent coronavirus volunteers who put themselves out to assist their neighbours, thank you. Thank you also to our Borough and County Councillors, who supported us throughout the year. To Ian, our volunteer allotment manager, thank you. And best wishes to John, our volunteer footpaths officer. I hope you are recovered from your operation and are back on patrol! Also, on your behalf, I would like to thank our Parish Councillors, again volunteers who do what they can to make life better for the rest of us. We still have vacancies by the way, and there is an article elsewhere in this issue in which Helen, one of our councillors, explains what we do and how you can help.

Finally, a massive thank you to Karen, our fantastic Village News editor. Karen has done an incredible job editing the News, and has contributed more than any of us had a right to expect. Karen is stepping down from the post that she has occupied with distinction for a long time. Most people seem to enjoy the Village News; we receive lots of positive comments about it. It is an important resource, especially when people are experiencing isolation. I had written an emotional “obituary” to the Village News but someone has ruined it by stepping forward at the eleventh hour to take it on! Seriously, I am delighted. The Village News has been a treasured parish institution for nearly 50 years. Yes, information will continue to be provided via our website and Facebook, but the good old News reaches everyone, including those for whom the internet remains an enigma. Yes, I can sense you clenching your teeth every time I mention “website” and “Facebook”.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Stay safe and well. The vaccine may be on its way.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

<https://swindonparish.org>

HOW'S YOUR BROADBAND?

Last month I asked for information about your broadband service. Eighteen households were kind enough to reply. The results were not at all consistent, a result which is interesting in itself. Some people receiving their service over BT copper cabling are getting over 50Mb/s, which is very good. Others are only seeing of the order of 1Mb/s. And while service over fibre optic cables delivers over 100Mb/s to some folk, others can't stream YouTube videos reliably.

Without further ado here are the "anonymised" results.

Street	Speed	Reliability	Download	Upload
Church Road	5	4	-	-
Stantons Drive	2.5	1.5	-	-
Swindon Lane	5	5	110.0	
Swindon Lane	5	5	110.0	
Sumner Court	5	5	70.0	-
Manor Road	5	5	55.9	18.4
Church Road	5	5	48.8	16.1
Riverview Way	5	4	37.3	9.3
Riveland's Road	4	3.5	18.4	9.3
Hyde Lane	1	2.5	4.2	0.6
Hyde Lane	1	1	4.1	0.1
Mandarin Way	3	3	3.2	0.7
Wymans Lane	-	-	2.2	0.3
Wymans Lane	2	5	1.8	0.4
Rectory Lane	1	1	1.7	0.4
Hyde Lane	1	1	1.2	0.3
Rectory Lane	1	5	1.2	-
Rectory Lane	-	-	1.0	0.4

So does this end here? That is rather up to the community. I will discuss the results with the person who raised the issue. We'll see if people feel strongly enough to take action and what action that might be. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any ideas.

Shaun Cullimore

Clerk to Swindon Parish Council

Interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?

We are a small non-political group with a passion about the place in which we live. We all have day jobs and come from all different areas of the Parish. We represent and support the needs of the whole Parish, not just the “Village” but also the Glynbridge Gardens / River Leys area, parts of Wymans Brook, the Kingsditch industrial estate and the Kingsditch and Gallagher retail parks.



We meet once per month for about 2 hours and then work on specific areas ourselves / in teams in the meantime. It really does not take that much time per month, say an extra couple of hours via email / the occasional meeting with other bodies. It depends on how much time people can spare.

We make comments on planning applications and the general state of play, from things as dull as pot holes to new mega housing developments and shops or policing. We've supported our vulnerable residents during the Covid pandemic by setting up a network of volunteer shoppers, and have established the new management committee for the village hall.

Some of the recent things we have done include:

- ◆ Securing Local Green Space around the huge proposed Elms Park development, working collaboratively with planners and developers on the whole plan over many years.
- ◆ Reviewing house building / planning applications and long term strategies, ensuring the government strategies work well for our community and our voice is heard.
- ◆ Collaborating with highways on the M5 motorway 4-way junction.
- ◆ Securing new play equipment in the playing field.
- ◆ Securing three new dog bins (two in Manor Road and one in Stantons Drive).
- ◆ Improving Dog Bark Lane.
- ◆ Getting traffic calming measures put in place in the industrial estate to deal with the cruisers / racers.
- ◆ Getting bollards on Manor Road to stop large vehicles blocking the pavement.
- ◆ Installing a memorial bench.
- ◆ Installing a defibrillator at the Village Hall.

In addition to these specific initiatives we continue to run a very successful and popular Allotment Garden.

It would be really great to have some new blood in the team to help continue the momentum of change and improvement. There are so many more things that we would like to work on but don't have enough manpower to do it. Some things take a long time in Local Government but, with determination and the right contacts, we really do make some real changes for the good of all our community.

We would be delighted to welcome new recruits with a positive approach, living or working in any area of our Parish so that we are always fully represented.

Helen Wells
(Parish Councillor)

Used cards and postage stamps

It is with much regret that, due to ill health, I will be unable to continue to collect used postage stamps and cards for charity.

I find it hard to believe that I have been doing this for over 30 years, since I was diagnosed with M.E. and started collecting for the M.E. Association.

Situations have changed over the years and different charities have benefitted. Currently it is the Cobalt Unit, Link and Age UK.

Thank you to all who have contributed year after year. Keep up the good work.

Moira Stoneman

*Thank you very much, Moira, for your efforts over so many years.
We wish you well.
The Editors.*

Save the Countryside – M5 Motorway J10 Improvements

Our team are reviewing the three proposals for the improvement to the motorway junction 10, combined with a junction improvement at Coombe Hill and a widening of part of Tewkesbury Road.

By the time you read this, the consultation will have closed but the documents can be found on <https://m5-junction-10-have-your-say.gloucestershire.gov.uk/site/homePage>

Option 2 (purple) Upgrade existing junction with grade separated roundabout centred on the existing junction.

Option 2A (orange) Upgrade existing junction with grade separated roundabout offset to the north.

Option 2B (blue) Upgrade existing junction with grade separated roundabout offset to the south.

Scheme Milestones

Preferred Route Announcement:	Spring 2021
Public Consultation on preferred route:	Autumn 2021
Planning application submitted:	Spring 2022
Work commences (if planning consent is granted):	2023
Work complete and open for traffic:	2024

We are reviewing and making comments to ensure that public rights of way, park-and-ride facilities and other adjacent road / infrastructure improvements are formally included as part of this work as they were included within the Joint Core Strategy transport plan from 2016 and cannot be omitted.

Helen Wells



QR Nativity Trail

A trainee vicar is trying to engage people in the nativity story this Christmas by embracing technology in the north Cheltenham area. Revd Tom is creating a QR Nativity Trail in the Wyman's Brook and St. Peters area. You stroll around looking for wooden silhouettes which are made to look like different parts of the Christmas story. When you find them you scan the QR code and you will be read to by some of the students from Gardners Lane Primary School.

Revd Tom says, "I want people to experience the joy of discovering more about the Christmas story, but not have to be limited to attending a service inside a church."

"We want to encourage families and friends to enjoy a festive walk because so many people won't be able to attend Nativity plays in the traditional way."

So if you want to take your family out on a Christmas walk then keep your eyes open as this trail goes up in early December.

* * * * *

Reverend Tom, who is part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry, is working with different people who want to show some Christmas love and joy to the area of Wyman's Brook, St. Peter's and the Moores.

There are going to be six stops on this QR Nativity Trail. These can be found at The Ridge pub in Wymans Brook, the Sue Ryder charity shop on the Tewkesbury Road, Gardners Lane Primary School, Gas Green Baptist Church in St. Peter's, St. Nicolas' Church in Wymans Brook, St. Lawrence's Church in Swindon Village.

These six stops are not in any particular order, so people are free to travel where they want in one day or over a few days.

When you scan the QR code you will be taken to a YouTube video where you will hear some students reading a specially written story where we follow the journey of a young Angel call Areal who is trying to understand the Christmas story. You will see artwork created by children from the area and a little thank you from some people in the community at the end of the story.

Find out more about what the curate gets up to by following on Instagram or Facebook @RevTomCook

tom.cook@northchelt.org.uk 07539 551 398

Christmas services at St. Lawrence's Church

Church is going to be very different this Christmas. We are planning to hold all our usual services but the Coronavirus restrictions will limit what we can do.

Some services will be held twice to try to accommodate our larger Christmas congregations; however, numbers will be severely limited and **admission to the services will be by ticket only.**

It pains us to have to do this but we have no choice.

You can book your tickets, which are free of course, online through Eventbrite:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/rev-tom-cook-30876610839

If this is not possible, please
e-mail Kate in the Team office **admin@northchelt.org.uk**
or phone Father Tom on **07539 551398**
or Kate in the team office on **01242 244877.**

Services for which tickets will be required are:

Sunday 20th December 2020

3.30pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
6.30pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 24th December 2020 (Christmas Eve)

4.00pm Crib service
9.00pm First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass)
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass)

Friday 25th December 2020 (Christmas Day)


9.15am Said Holy Communion

At the time of writing, congregational singing is not allowed in the building but we hope that the choir will be present at some of the services and will be able to sing for us.

A recorded service of **Nine Lessons and Carols**, filmed in one of the North Cheltenham Team churches, will be screened on **YouTube and Facebook on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm.**

Search for North Cheltenham Team Ministry.

During the pandemic, live-streamed and recorded services have been welcomed by many from our congregations who have been shielding at home. We are grateful to the technical team based at Prestbury for all the work they have put into this.



Come and sing carols outdoors

An open-air celebration of Christmas

Saturday 19th December at 2.00pm

All welcome!

As the Village News goes to print, details have not yet been finalised. Check on the church notice board for details of the venue.

Services and Events in December

13	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		6.30pm	Evensong
16	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
20	Sunday	9.15am	Holy Communion
		3.30pm	Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
		.6.30pm	Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
23	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
24	Thursday	Christmas Eve	
		4.00pm	Crib service
		9.00pm	First Communion of Christmas
		11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas
25	Friday	Christmas Day	
		9.15am	Holy Communion
27	Sunday	No services today	
30	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer

Admission will be by ticket only to services listed in **bold**.
See previous page.

Services and Events in January

3	Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion
6	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
10	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Evensong
13	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
17	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
20	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
24	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
27	Wednesday	10.00am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer
31	Sunday	9.15am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Songs of Praise (to be confirmed)

A pattern of Sunday services has resumed as listed above. However, these are subject to cancellation if Coronavirus restrictions are tightened.

Please wear a mask and use the hand gel provided. You will be asked for your contact details for the Track and Trace records.



Video Killed the Radio Star

Every parent of young children up and down the country knows that it is sacrilege to forget 'the batteries' for the electronic gifts on Christmas Day. It's not so much of a problem as it once was because shops tend to be open all year round but, in my youth, woe betide Mum and Dad if they ever forgot that essential form of power. Note to parents.....**Batteries are never included!!**

More and more modern forms of technology increasingly drive us. The i-generation of consumer has all but given every other Christmas gift option a run for its money. But as Christians we know that there is still a look-in for the real star of the show.

Thinking about God in an age of technology can be challenging. Christmas has always provided the perfect opportunity for companies to make money. Post-Christmas sales has now lent itself to pre-Christmas sales and the question, '*where is baby Jesus in all this?*' is asked the more frequently. Just like technology, our believing and understanding of God in the modern world should also be progressive. Technology is not just a cultural fact, it permeates the way we understand ourselves, our world and our place in it, and we should accept this. I actually think we seek to be ever nearer to God as we try to transform and construct ourselves through the advancement of technology.

Bruce Woolley and the Camera Club back in 1979 explored the advancement of technology in the song '*Video Killed the Radio Star*'. The song recognised both advancement and what is also left behind by it. However, to the contrary, I believe the '*Radio Star*' continues to live on through ever new forms of technology...simply because the *Radio Star* will always be foundational; the firm platform upon which everything else stands.

The enduringness of the Christmas story testifies to its foundational qualities. We continue to recognise within that story the importance of human relationships and what it means to love and be loved. Technology will never be in a position to replace that story all wrapped up in swaddling bands...it will remain timeless.

It was a star that was recognised by the magi, and they followed it all the way to Bethlehem. We too will always have that guiding star which will always lead us unceasingly towards the truth of human living in the form of the Christ-child. Video will never be in a position to eradicate it.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Rev George



The crib in St. Lawrence's Church

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 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**

Well, the best I can do this month are a few nature notes. The Wildlife Trust has completed their survey of hedgehog populations and I can confirm that we are quite well blessed with the little beasts. While their numbers are diminishing quite steadily throughout the UK, Swindon Village does appear to be fairly well populated. We had a youngster arrive at our front gate only this week which created a bit of mad dash to find a little something for our guest. They enjoy gammon strips in spite of their name.

Here are a couple of oddballs from slightly further afield. I am part of a walking group based around Norton villages on the A38. Within the week there have been reports from some members of otters in the River Chelt. As far as we can make out this is new but how nice to know that they are active within ten miles of here.

A friend has also reported at least three kingfishers operating quite happily around the lake in Pittville Park. For kingfishers, which to me are no more than an occasional flash of blue, these appear relatively cool and prepared to pose for a portrait. So if you are in the park keep your eyes open.

And now to Charlton Kings open space. I was taking the walking group on a ten mile, eleven park amble across Cheltenham just before the second lockdown when we stopped by the old mill pond over there. There were the usual ducks and moorhens but then we saw a small creature swimming. There was great excitement when we identified it as a water vole. Then there was a second one. They were living on the small island in the middle of the pond. However, the excitement abated when we realised that they were in fact common rats. However, what surprised me was what strong and contented swimmers they were. They seemed to be swimming for the pure enjoyment of it rather than with any great purpose in mind. I know that most folks reading this will be going “ugh, rats”. However, give them a chance. They are only squirrels with a rather less scenic tail and really bad PR. What they need to do is hire one of the ex-government PR geeks, who have just become available ex-Downing Street, to improve their image. It wasn't rats that spread the plague, it was fleas.

Oh, and by the way, I reckon there are about twenty parks in Cheltenham.

Finally to Dumbleton hill where this week I saw a red kite where Sarah and I first saw one some eight or nine years ago. It was beautiful to watch and such a pleasure to know that they have become normal to Gloucestershire.

So that is that. My many thanks go to Karen for keeping the magazine going for so long. Do remember that the Swindon Village Society still exists and once we get a handle on the cursed virus there will be a resurrection. Think of sending me an e-mail if you want to join our e-mail group. No need to part with actual money until we are able to get together and then we will be very happy to see you and put our hands out.

I hope to see you all again soon.

Barry Simon



Barry laid a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of The Swindon Village Society



My final newsletter article of the year and there seems to be good news on the horizon to end this, the longest year that I can remember. Three Covid-19 vaccines have recently announced their Stage III trial results and they seem to be indicating an effectiveness of approximately 90%. As of October 2020, there were 321 vaccines in development, 15 of which in Stage II/III trials that cover a range of approaches and are funded by all manner of organisations from national governments, World Health Organisation and the United Nations to Bill & Melinda Gates and Dolly Parton (yes, really!). Some of the vaccines involve mRNA which is a new approach and requires extremely cold storage (-80c or -112f or even 193K), the Oxford vaccine uses a modified coronavirus as I described earlier (and most importantly can be stored at regular refrigerated temperatures) and others use the more familiar denatured virus material.

Much of this has its roots in the local area with Dr Edward Jenner who, in 1796, demonstrated that an infection with the milder cowpox virus conferred immunity against the deadly smallpox virus. Since then, the smallpox vaccine was developed further and the virus itself was declared eradicated in 1980 following the last naturally occurring case in 1977. Dr Jenner, the father of immunology, was born in Berkeley in 1749, schooled in Wotton-Under-Edge and Cirencester, apprenticed to a surgeon in Chipping Sodbury and, following university, he formed the Fleece Medical Society who met at the Fleece Inn, Rodborough. He lived to the ripe age of 73.

In the present, there are still challenges of course involving manufacture, distribution, counterfeiting, misinformation and vaccination uptake so there will still be a need to maintain those habits that have almost become second nature but need refreshing from time to time. Namely, hand washing, distancing, face masks (covering nose *and* mouth), isolation for those required (and support which is still sadly lacking for many). However, there is light at the end of the tunnel and for now it doesn't appear to be a train steaming towards us!

The latest restrictions have again curtailed events at the Hall so there isn't much to report, I'm afraid. All groups except for the Early Years nursery have had to cease their functions until the lockdown is eased but the New Year period should bring some relief as long as cases are brought back under control. I'm definitely a glass half full character and my eyes are constantly glancing upwards to the metaphorical horizon. Yes, things have been dark and we're still in the gloom but there is definitely light around us and making plans for the future can be tremendously therapeutic.

Keep looking after yourselves; we endeavour to provide space at the Hall for anyone that needs it and, once we're able, we'll be opening again to once again be a pillar of our community. If this period of isolation and restriction has left you wanting to become more involved in your local community, then there are plenty of ideas that the SVH committee have that could benefit from your help - I can be reached via the usual methods if you have any free time or brain power (or both!).

Best wishes and I wish you a safe, happy and fulfilling festive period and New Year.

Ben

The True Light of CHRISTmas - Deborah Ann Belka.

The true light of the season
isn't wrapped around our trees,
the true light of the season
isn't hanging from our eaves.

The true light of the season
isn't put up only once a year,
the true light of the season
isn't part of our Christmas gear.

The true light of the season
never burns out or blows a fuse,
the true light of the season
isn't part of the holiday ruse.

The true light of the season
cannot be put away or stored,
for, the true light of the season
is the Babe, the Christ, our Lord.

Jesus is the world's light,
all darkness, He came to diffuse,
and love, hope, peace and joy
in your life, He wants to infuse!

“

Being listened to lifted a huge weight off my shoulders.

Samaritans caller

”

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day or night, 365 days a year.

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We're here to listen**



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a tough time, you don't
have to face it alone.

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We're here for you

Whoever you are,
whatever you're
going through,
we're here to listen.



I just wanted to talk to someone who would listen – without judging me, telling me what to do or worrying about me.

It helped me to be able to say anything that was on my mind.

Samaritans caller



Maybe your problems have built up over time. Perhaps you've hit an unexpected crisis. Or you just can't pinpoint what's wrong. Don't wait until it feels too much. You don't have to face it alone.



What happens when you get in touch?

A volunteer will answer

We are trained volunteers, ready to listen.

No judgement

You can talk to us about anything, whoever you are, whatever life's thrown at you.

No pressure

We'll just ask what's going on for you and help you talk it through.

Let it all out

If you get upset and find it hard to talk it's OK, we'll stay until you're ready.

It's your call

We won't make decisions for you, we'll give you space to find your own way through it.

New editor for Village News

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Karren Parsons and her daughter Katie will be taking over as editors and compilers of Village News.

I am so glad that the magazine will continue and I wish them well in their new venture. I can now sit back and look forward to the magazine dropping through my letterbox.

Karren (with 2 “r”s) and Katie are at 29 Dark Lane.

The email address will remain the same - it’s hosted by the Parish Council and will be transferred to Karren.

I joined the editorial team in 2003, before we went electronic. All the submissions came in on paper, most of them hand-written, and we simply marked up the mistakes and took all the bits of paper to the printers, Langsbury’s in Tivoli, to be typed and printed.

As a result of doing the free IT lessons organised by the “tech”, I felt confident enough to have a go at producing the magazine in-house. Now almost everything comes in electronically, and when I’ve complied it all I send it electronically to the printers who are in Cirencester. Progress! (But I’m still only a two-fingered typist!)

Thank you for all the support you have given me over the last 17 years and a special thank you to my co-editor in recent years, Stuart. I’ve enjoyed my time on the Village News and the way it’s brought me into contact with so many people - I’ll miss you!

The distributors haven’t seen the last of me because Hugh and I are staying on to organise the distribution of the magazine.

This has been a peculiar year for all of us and the Village News has been rather thin lately. We look forward to better times ahead. Meanwhile I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe Christmas with your families.

Karen (with 1 “r”) Evans





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Quarter page £9

Contact the Editors

**Village News is delivered to
900 homes in Swindon Village**

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths	John Heathcott	527753
Acting Scout Leader & GSL	Stephen Smith (Sos)	693107
Cub Scout Leader	Rachel Smith (Chil)	693107
Beaver Leader		
Rainbow Guider	Hannah Butler	07464 784155
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
Play Group	(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 February issue of Village News is the 16th of January.
Please send contributions to the editors via
Karren Parsons at 29 Dark Lane
or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Cllr. Peter Allen	692933
	Cllr. Helen Wells	220875 or 07770 986078
	Cllr. Yvonne Pirso	515095
	Cllr. James Cornish	07950 196709
	Cllr. Lisa Whitaker	07715 470842
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Clerk to the Council	Mr Shaun Cullimore	07833 089435
		parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
Cheltenham Borough Councillors	Cllr. Flo Clucas	255844
	Cllr. Bernard Fisher	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'S 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	Hugh Evans	241678
	May Shurmer	241033
Tower Captain	Hugh Evans	241678
Organist	John Collins	511950
North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office St. Nicolas' Church, Swindon Lane, 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