



# Lawrence Nurses

Hospice care in your home

## Spring Newsletter

April 2025



### Our Vision

A community where everyone who needs it has access to free hospice care in their own home

[www.lawrencenurses.org](http://www.lawrencenurses.org)

Registered address: Chipping Norton Hospital, Russell Way, London Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 5FA.

Registered by the Care Quality Commission. Certificate No. H080000415.

Registered Charity number 1189565. Company number 12460725.

## What we do

Lawrence Nurses was established in 1999 to support the local community and in memory of Dr. Martin Lawrence, a Chipping Norton GP. Following the diagnosis of a terminal illness, home nursing enabled him to spend his final weeks at home with his family. It was his wish that anyone else who wanted to live their last days at home should be supported to do so. His wish was made a reality through the work of district nurse, Jane Phillips MBE.



At Lawrence Nurses, we provide palliative and end-of-life care completely free of charge to people living with life-limiting and non-curative illnesses. Our dedicated team of 18 registered nurses offers compassionate, high-quality care in the last months of life, ensuring comfort, dignity, and support for both patients and their families.

We care for patients across our catchment area, serving five GP practices in North and West Oxfordshire. Our nurses provide hands-on care and offer essential respite support to relieve carers, and provide bereavement care to families navigating loss.

With a deep commitment to compassionate nursing, we help people live well for as long as possible and support them and their loved ones every step of the way.



### A message from the Chair of Lawrence Nurses, Richard Greaves

Lawrence Nurses has provided over twenty-five years of high-quality palliative and end-of-life care for patients in their own homes. An achievement of which we are very proud.

Funding our services is increasingly challenging in these difficult economic times. It may come as a surprise to learn that we get less than 4% of our funding from the public purse. We make no charge whatsoever to our patients or their families for the services that we provide. And so, it is only thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses, and the hard work of our fundraiser and volunteers that we can continue to provide the wonderful service that we do.

Recent media focus on the hospice movement did result in a small one-off payment towards our capital costs but I believe it is time that the government recognised the invaluable work done by charities such as ours. They should consider the savings we achieve elsewhere by enabling the people we support to choose to be at home rather than in a hospital bed. We deserve better public funding and will continue to campaign for it.

Our wonderful nursing team is made up of exceptional people. I am full of admiration for their dedication, their professionalism, their flexibility and above all the care they extend to our patients and their families. This is borne out by the many messages of thanks we receive following their visits. Not every part of the country is as fortunate as we are in having a charity like Lawrence Nurses on their doorstep. We must all work together to ensure it is still available in twenty-five years' time.

Best wishes,  
Richard Greaves, Chair.

## Lawrence Nurses on ITV Meridian – Coming Soon!

We're delighted to share that Lawrence Nurses will feature in an upcoming ITV Meridian news segment, airing on 23rd or 24th April. The clip will also be available on our website from 24th April. Filming focused on our vital hospice at home service, the challenges of hospice funding and the importance of choice in end-of-life care. The piece includes a heartfelt interview with one of our patients and David Best, who shared his family's experience and spoke about his son's upcoming London Marathon fundraiser. Although only two and a half minutes long, this is a great opportunity to raise awareness of our work—please do tune in!





## An update from our Treasurer, Alan Mathers

I have had the pleasure of being the Treasurer or Chairman of the Finance Committee of Lawrence Nurses for the last 6 years and I am delighted to write this section for the newsletter. The charity has continued to go from strength to strength, with the numbers of patients we have nursed increasing along with the awareness of our free of cost service. I believe that every single person associated with the charity supports the wishes of the people whom we care for and their desire to have end-of-life care in their own home. I have personally seen the many benefits which palliative care offers the patient but also their family. The testimonials we receive from relatives about the care they have received continues to highlight the fantastic service our nurses provide every day and every night.

We face several headwinds in delivering this first-class service. Palliative and end-of-life care demand is growing strongly. Lawrence Nurses has expanded to meet this demand to such an extent that we will need to move from the office we have had in the hospital to larger premises. Increased office space was the single biggest request from the team of nurses to the Directors. This office space will come at a cost in addition to the pressure placed on us with inflation. We will present our financial results at the AGM, which is scheduled for the Autumn, but we will show an operating loss for the year ended 31 March 2025. Lawrence Nurses are fortunate to have accumulated a modest investment portfolio from bequests and donations over the first 25 years of operation. This has been a fundamental pillar for our finances as the interest has been one of the main sources of funds for the charity. However, we have also had to withdraw from this to cover the slight deficit we have faced this year.

Our Head of Fundraising, Verity Fifer, is supported by an excellent team of volunteers. We continue to explore new sources of income which includes grants from the government (which currently funds less than 4% of our service), grants from other sources and sponsorships from companies. We are planning a significant year of fundraising events so please look out for these as we would be delighted to see you at coffee mornings, garden visits and accompanied walks, etc, in addition to our larger and more formal events. Thanks to the volunteers for helping both organise and run these events for us. And thank you to the many people who have done sponsored events in aid of Lawrence Nurses.

We have received several anonymous donations throughout the year, and these have given a significant boost to our finances. We also have a relatively new category of supporter as "Patron". Patrons have committed funds for a minimum period of at least 3 years to Lawrence Nurses. At a time where there are financial challenges for many with higher interest rates, inflation and cost pressures on everyone, this commitment is proving invaluable in allowing us to deliver our free hospice care to your home.

My thanks also go to everyone associated in the running of the charity. This includes all of the nursing team led by Wendy Palfrey as Registered Nurse Manager, our back-office staff including Sam Dulley as our Operations Manager and Louise Blackler as our Finance Manager. We recognise that every single pound of charity money makes a positive difference for our patients and we run the charity as efficiently as possible.

Thank you for reading our newsletter and learning more about the work of Lawrence Nurses.

Alan Mathers  
Chairman of Finance Committee



“ I feel very privileged and fortunate to live in the catchment area for you. All of you made a huge difference to us in a very difficult time. I love you all. ”

“ Lawrence Nurses provided exceptional support at a time when we didn't know where to turn. The coordinator and nurses, both day and night, were exemplary. A recommendation from us would be first class, A1, superb! Thank you. ”



## Nursing News from Registered Nurse Manager, Wendy Palfrey

I joined Lawrence Nurses in August 2023 after working as a District Nurse and Service Manager within the NHS. I loved the idea of being able to give the right care at the right time to people. I have always thought what a great privilege it is to be able to go into a person's home – to be able to provide the end-of-life nursing care and support needed, to make a difference and ultimately ensure the last days of life are comfortable in their own home.

Being diagnosed with a life limiting condition can feel like your life has been turned upside down. Lawrence Nurses are Registered Nurses who have a wealth of experience in end-of-life care and are here to offer support to local people right from the beginning of their diagnosis with a life limiting illness to bereavement and beyond.

Our dedicated nursing team provide individualised holistic care that ensures comfort in the last days of life whilst enabling the patient to have a total sense of control. To enable our patients to live well and die well. From our first introduction to your home, we aim to create an environment where you are at the heart of all we do, where a smile counts for so much and a hand held provides a touch of comfort. Palliative care can be sad and emotional, but Lawrence Nurses know that what they do makes a difference: we are compassionate, and we listen.

We started a 'Walk and Talk' group in 2024 and welcome people who have been bereaved to come along and talk to our nurses and to each other. A walk is arranged for those who wish to take a wander, and refreshments are provided by our lovely band of volunteers, their home-made cakes are delicious!

And lastly thank you to everyone who has supported Lawrence Nurses over the years. Our success depends upon you.

## 2025 Nursing Statistics (so far)

 68

TOTAL PATIENTS NURSED

 1089

TOTAL NURSING HOURS

 284

TOTAL NURSE VISITS

## 2024 Nursing Statistics

 144

TOTAL PATIENTS NURSED IN 2024

 4525

TOTAL NURSING HOURS IN 2024

 1028

TOTAL NURSE VISITS IN 2024

“The care and attention given to our father towards the end of his life was fantastic and without fault. We were reassured by the high standards of the nurses, our father was superbly looked after and cared for. It has comforted us greatly to know that he was in the best of hands.”

“The care and support provided to my godmother was exceptional. This also extended to her husband and those of us helping to look after her. Lawrence Nurses were always available to speak to and did their utmost to provide as much support as possible. The whole team helped immensely in making an exceptionally painful time more bearable. As a family, we cannot ever thank the Lawrence Nurses enough.”



### **Bereavement Support Programme led by registered Nurse, Judi Houston**

At Lawrence Nurses, we understand that grief is a deeply personal journey, and everyone experiences it differently. Supporting families through their bereavement journey is a huge privilege. Leading the Bereavement Support Programme allows me to provide comfort, guidance, and a listening ear when it's needed most.

Our Bereavement Support Programme is here to offer compassionate guidance and a listening ear to those who have lost a loved one. We provide up to two bereavement support visits for families who need additional support following the death of a loved one in our care.

In addition to one-to-one support, we invite anyone in the community who has experienced loss to join our Walk and Talk bereavement support group. This welcoming walking group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in

Chipping Norton, providing an opportunity to meet others who understand, talk to our nursing team if you want to, and enjoy walking in the Cotswold countryside. Each walk is followed by coffee, home-made cake, and easy conversation in a relaxed setting.



If you would like to learn more or access our bereavement support services, please get in touch with me, Judi Houston, at: [office@lawrencenurses.org](mailto:office@lawrencenurses.org)



### **A message from Head of Fundraising, Verity Fifer**

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support Lawrence Nurses. A special thank you to our incredible team of volunteers, who help me with organising fundraising events, large and small. They are also responsible for managing the collection boxes and tubs you see in the community. I am deeply grateful to marketing colleagues; Martin White for his invaluable work on our website and the design of our promotional materials, and James Hayward for his support with social media and providing Customer Relationship Management assistance. Their expertise and commitment help us reach more people and spread awareness of our vital services.

To the local businesses who sell our Christmas cards, provide raffle prizes, and raise awareness of our events - thank you. We appreciate your ongoing generosity and community spirit. Our sincere thanks go to Chapman Robinson & Moore, Chadlington Quality Stores, Enstone Stores, Hall Personal Training, Worths Garage, Eagles in Deddington, Jaffe and Neale, Nicholsons Nurseries, The Red Lion

Long Compton, Wyatts Nursery, Wheelers Chipping Norton, Wise Investment, Savills, Rigg Construction, and Robert Johnston Associates. Your support ensures that we can continue providing compassionate care to those who need it most.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to our charity partners, The Midcounties Co-operative and Zurich Community Trust, whose collaboration and funding have been instrumental in sustaining our services. Additionally, we acknowledge the generosity of the many trusts and grant-making organisations that have supported us over the past 24 months, including Zurich Community Trust, The Midcounties Co-operative, The Albert Hunt Trust, the Glyme Hall Charitable Trust, the Oxfordshire Community Foundation, the Doris Field Charitable Trust, and Chipping Norton Town Council.

We also thank our two Honorary Presidents, Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton and Graeme Garden OBE for their support with our grant applications and fundraising events.

If you would like to support Lawrence Nurses, there are many ways to get involved. You can purchase thank you cards and Christmas cards, donate online, or support us when you shop online by selecting Lawrence Nurses as your chosen charity. Visit the donate page on our website to find out more about how you can make a difference.

We are also looking for volunteers to join our friendly team and help spread awareness of Lawrence Nurses in your community. If you are interested, please get in touch. For those taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, we offer volunteering opportunities that can contribute to your award. If you would like to volunteer for us, display one of our collecting tubs, organise or sponsor an event please contact: [fundraiser@lawrencenurses.org](mailto:fundraiser@lawrencenurses.org)

## How your donations help us

**£150**

covers the cost of a 3 hour visit from one of our nurses

**£500**

provides 24 hours of day and night care for a patient + one night's respite for an exhausted carer

**£1,000**

covers the cost of 5 nights of hands-on care from one of our nurses

**£3,000**

covers the wages of a full-time week day nurse for the period of one month

**£5,000**

covers the wages of a full-time nursing co-ordinator for one month + 7 nights of hands on care from one of our nurses



## In Memoriam Tribute

Pay tribute to a loved one and say 'thank you' for the care given by Lawrence Nurses at:

[www.lawrencenurses.org/tribute](http://www.lawrencenurses.org/tribute)

We only receive a small NHS grant and rely on donations to maintain this vital community service. When making your tribute please consider donating to Lawrence Nurses. Your support will help more people to stay at home close to their loved ones and fulfil their end of life wishes.

“ Without the support, expertise and compassion of Lawrence Nurses, many families would not be able to manage the death of their loved one at home ”

Dr Jonathan Williams  
Bloxham & Hook Norton Surgery

## Join our mailing list

We would love to keep in touch with you and if you don't currently receive our newsletters or details of forthcoming events and would like to, please join our mailing list by scrolling down to the subscribe box on our home page [here](#).

## Volunteer for Lawrence Nurses

- Join our friendly team and meet new people
- Volunteer for us and attend a wide range of exciting events
- Enhance your emotional and physical wellbeing
- Become an Ambassador and help spread awareness of Lawrence Nurses in your community

Contact Verity Fifer,  
Head of Fundraising  
Phone: 01608 641549  
Email: [fundraiser@lawrencenurses.org](mailto:fundraiser@lawrencenurses.org)



Scan to support us by donating and buying cards or pins!



## Leave a Legacy

When planning your future by making or changing your will please consider helping us to plan ours. It costs approximately £500 to care for a patient in their home overnight.

Leaving a legacy to Lawrence Nurses, however large or small, will go a long way towards allowing those who wish to die at home to do so with dignity. It will make a significant difference to our ability to meet the needs of our community.

A legacy pack is available to download from our [website](#).

“ Mum was cared for by your team, or as my Dad calls them, angels. Her wishes were met with the utmost dignity by your dedicated team. The respect she was shown and the way you supported us in our darkest hour makes me believe we did her proud. Thank you for being the light in the dark. ”

## A Night of Laughs for Lawrence Nurses at the Oxford Playhouse - Thursday, 17th July

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of comedy in support of Lawrence Nurses. Featuring a stellar lineup including Arthur Smith, Adam Kay, Lucy Porter, and friends, this special event promises sharp wit, big laughs, and a fantastic atmosphere—all for a great cause. Proudly supported by Savills, Wise Investments, and Wheelers Chipping Norton, this comedy night will not only entertain but also help raise vital funds for our service. To book tickets online please [this link](#).



## London Marathon 2025, Sunday, 27th April - Support Sam Best's Fundraising Journey

Running 26.2 miles is no small feat, but Sam Best, the son of one of our volunteers, is taking on the London Marathon, in memory of his Mum and to raise essential funds for Lawrence Nurses.

Every donation to his fundraising page will help ensure that patients and their families receive the care and support they need during life's most challenging moments.

Join us in cheering Sam on as he takes on this incredible challenge. You can follow his journey and contribute to his fundraising effort by visiting Sam's [fundraising page here](#).



## Car Treasure Hunt Saturday, 5th July - A Day of Adventure and Fun

Join us for a unique fundraising event that blends adventure, exploration, and community spirit! The Car Treasure Hunt at Rousham is an exciting puzzle-solving journey that will guide participants through picturesque locations within the Lawrence Nurses' catchment area. Whether you're a classic car enthusiast, a family looking for a fun day out, or a group of friends eager for a challenge, this event promises an unforgettable experience. Along the way, enjoy discounted lunches at partnering pubs and take part in a raffle featuring fantastic prizes from local businesses.

The event will culminate with a relaxing afternoon tea at the stunning Rousham Gardens, where participants can celebrate their achievements in beautiful surroundings. With an entry fee of £50 per car, you and your team can set off on an engaging treasure hunt, solving clues and discovering hidden gems across Oxfordshire. If you prefer to simply soak up the atmosphere, non-adventurers can join for just £10, gaining access to the gardens and tea. Secure your spot now and be part of [this special event](#) in support of Lawrence Nurses by visiting [this link](#).



## South Newington Gardens - Open all year around in aid of Lawrence Nurses

Open in 2025 two varied gardens in South Newington, each of which offers at least 30 minutes of interest. They are situated opposite one another and are opened by appointment Monday-Saturday. Groups are welcomed as well as individuals and families.

Opening time: 9am-3.30pm but other times are possible, subject to availability. Bespoke packages for groups can also be arranged, including early evenings.

Please call Claire Swan to make an appointment to visit one or both gardens: 07711 720135 or email Claire [here](#).



## Join Lawrence Nurses as a Bank Nurse

Are you looking for the opportunity to develop your skills and offer holistic, patient-centred palliative and end of life care within a supportive environment?

The Bank Nurse plays a vital role within Lawrence Nurses. Guided by the patients' needs and wishes, a Lawrence Nurse offers tailored care that's right for the individual.

For more information please contact Sam Dullely, Operations Manager on 01608 641549 or email her [here](#).

## 'Thank You' notelets - designed by Pip Carter in aid of Lawrence Nurses

We are selling thank you notelets designed by artist, Pip Carter.

£5 per pack of 8 cards (same design) with envelopes.

To purchase, please contact [fundraiser@lawrencenurses.org](mailto:fundraiser@lawrencenurses.org)



## Lawrence 'Two Trees' enamel pin badges - Proceeds to Lawrence Nurses

Show your support for Lawrence Nurses by wearing our pin badge with pride. Available for just £3 each (+£1.50 p/p).

**Buy online** when you donate to Lawrence Nurses.  
Just scan the QR code in this Newsletter.





## 2025 Calendar of Events

### Easter Afternoon Tea

Drystone Hill House, Enstone, OX7 4HT  
Monday, 21st April 2025 at 3:30 pm



### WI Quiz Night

Great Rollright Village Hall, OX7 5RH  
Saturday, 10th May 2025 at 7 pm



### Adventure Treasure Hunt

Starting at a GP surgery in our catchment area  
Saturday, 5th July 2025 from 10 am



### Information Fayre with Dementia Oxfordshire

Glyme Hall, Burford Road  
Chipping Norton, OX7 5DZ  
Tuesday, 15th July 2025 from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm



### STAND UP!

A Night of Laughs for Lawrence Nurses  
with Adam Kay, Lucy Porter, Arthur Smith & friends  
Oxford Playhouse, 11-12 Beaumont Street  
Oxford, OX1 2LW  
Thursday, 17th July 2025 at 7.30 pm



### Golf Day at the Cotswold Club

Cotswolds Hotel & Spa, Southcombe  
Chipping Norton, OX7 5QH  
Thursday, 21st August 2025



### John Barrows Memorial Cricket Day

Sandford St Martin Cricket Club  
Chipping Norton, OX7 7AH  
Sunday, 7th September 2025



### Salomon Brass & String Ensemble

St Kenelm's Church, Enstone, OX7 4NN  
Sunday, 14th December 2025 from 3pm

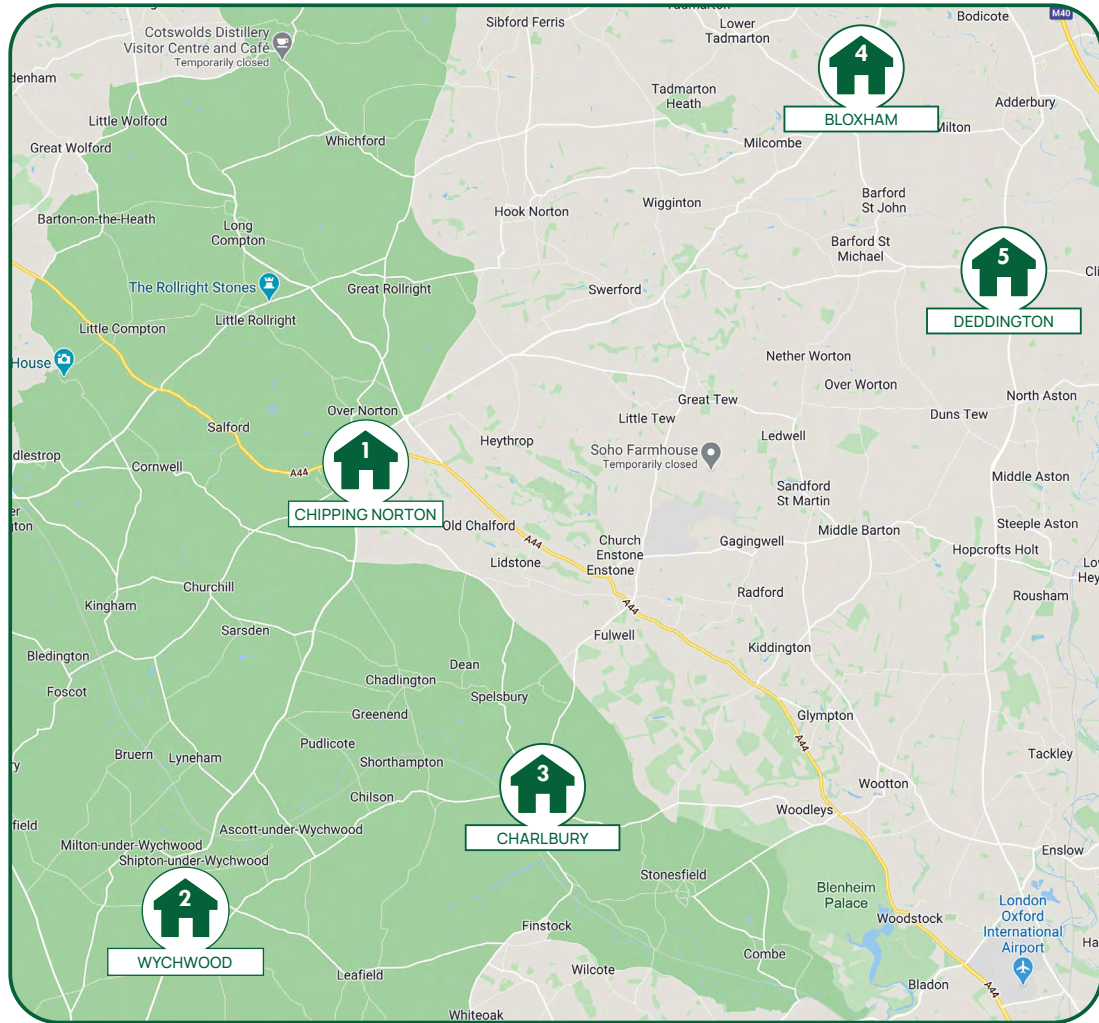


### Carols & Candles of Remembrance Service

Chipping Norton Town Hall, Chipping Norton, OX7 5NA  
Friday, 19th December 2025 at 7pm



## Our catchment area



**1** Chipping Norton Medical Centre  
01608 642742

**2** Wychwood Surgery  
01993 831061

**3** The Charlbury Medical Centre  
01608 811680

**4** Bloxham/Hook Norton Surgery  
01295 722788

**5** Deddington Health Centre  
01869 338611

## Donate

Barclays Bank – BACS Payments  
Sort Code: 20-03-84  
Account No: 23142930  
Ref: Your Name  
Gift Aid Ref – ZD09469



Scan me  
to donate!



## Contact us

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