



# Lawrence Nurses

Hospice care in your home

## Spring Newsletter

April 2026



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

Registered address: Highlands, 73 Burford Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 5EE.  
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.



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

I write in recognition of our nurses. Recognition is one of those words in the English language that has developed two meanings. We recognise our nurses by their appearance but more importantly we recognise them because of the wonderful work they do.

Recognition, in terms of appreciation, is the act of acknowledging and valuing someone's efforts, contributions, or qualities in a way that shows genuine respect and gratitude. That flows in abundance from our patients and their families and friends.

While appreciation is the feeling of thankfulness, recognition is its expression, a concrete way of letting someone know their work or presence is seen and valued. Our local community sees and values Lawrence Nurses and supports us, for which we are so very grateful.

It is now time for local and national government to do the same. Only 3.5% of our running costs are covered by public funds, and even that is currently under threat. Yet our nurses provide a community service that is recognised as invaluable by all who benefit from it.

We do not ask for all our costs to be covered but simply enough to secure the future of the charity, enabling it to continue to provide specialist help and support when it is needed, and in recognition of that very special service.

Thank you to our nursing team and thank you to all our supporters.

**Richard Greaves**  
Chair

“The nurse that came was very nice. I wish I had heard of Lawrence Nurses sooner. You supported me as well as caring for my wife. Thank you.”



### An update from our Treasurer, Alan Mathers

I have had the pleasure of being the Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee of Lawrence Nurses for the last 7 years. Our finance function pays the wages of the nurses and support staff, pays the invoices, manages the cash flow and records of all the financial transactions of the charity. We have a tightly controlled process where we prepare monthly accounts and then publish the annual results following director approval at our AGM.

The finance team supports the provision of hospice care at home. The testimonials we receive from relatives about the care received continues to highlight the fantastic service our nurses provide every day and every night.

The demand for palliative care is increasing and we have now moved into our new offices at Highlands, Chipping Norton, to enable us to deliver the increased volume of care. Increased office space was the single biggest request from the team of nurses to the directors.

We are facing cost challenges. Last year we made a small operating loss where our income was less than our expenses. At the time of writing (early March) it is likely that we will have a small operating loss for this financial year as well.

When I assumed the role of Treasurer we had accumulated a surplus of funds. These funds were invested and the interest from this has been used to support our operational costs. Indeed, this interest continues to cover almost 20% of our expenses. There has been some capital growth in our investment although some of these funds have been sold to balance our current operating costs. We are trying to avoid selling investments as this provides a short-term cash boost but then impacts the interest we will receive for future years.

Having an investment portfolio can hamper our applications for grants and requests for other financial support, notwithstanding the fact that these funds are used to generate the interest towards our operational costs. Nevertheless, our fundraising manager has been successful in applying for grants this year which has been a great boost to our income. We receive a grant from the NHS although this has been declining in real terms year after year and now accounts for only 3.5% of our costs.

I would like to thank all our supporters. This includes the Patrons (who have generously committed to supporting the charity for 3 years or more), our event sponsors, our regular and one-off donors and our volunteers. These contributions allow us to continue to deliver the free service to our local community. The members of the finance committee commit to playing their full part in ensuring that we run the charity as efficiently as possible.

**Alan Mathers**  
**Chairman of Finance Committee**



“Without the help of Lawrence Nurses I am not sure it would have been possible for my husband to be at home the last days of his life.”

“Our sons and I would have continued caring for Graham had an oncologist not recommended Lawrence Nurses to us. Without exception the nurses were all ‘Totally Amazing’.”



### Nursing News from Registered Nurse Manager, Wendy Palfrey

Over the last 12 months Lawrence Nurses have continued to support people across the local area who have a life limiting condition or are end of life and wish to remain at home. At life's most tender moments, having the right support can make all the difference. Lawrence Nurses are dedicated to providing compassionate, dignified care that honours individual wishes while supporting families every step of the way.

Our dedicated nurses ensure patients receive individualised care, enabling them to have control over their last weeks, helping them and their families feel supported and valued. We work alongside local GP's and community teams to deliver person centered care in their own homes with our focus being on comfort, symptom management and emotional wellbeing, ensuring our patients feel safe, respected and heard.

We have been fortunate to move into a new office space at Highlands, Burford Road in February and are enjoying the ability to work together in a comfortable large space.

Our 'Walk and Talk' group which started in 2024 has gone from strength to strength. It is a friendly community group held at Highlands for bereaved relatives to meet up over refreshments and have a chat with each other and our nurses (a walk is optional). Thanks to Judi for coordinating this so efficiently each month.

During 2025 we recruited additional nurses and nurse coordinators to ensure that we always have an experienced team to care for patients and allow them to remain in their own homes.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Lawrence Nurses over the years. Our success depends on you.

## 2026 Nursing Statistics (year to date)



## 2025 Nursing Statistics



“The sensitive and perfect care my late husband (and all our family) received was so complete and so generously provided that we did not need to resort to any additional help or care. My family and I will be eternally grateful for all the help and support given to Roger. They enabled him to pass away peacefully and in his own home just as he wished in a dignified and tranquil way.”



### **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. I am especially grateful to our incredible team of volunteers, including our Duke of Edinburgh participants from Bloxham and Chipping Norton School, who play such an important role in organising fundraising events and activities. More recently, they have also helped support our nurse-led Walk and Talk bereavement group, extending care to families beyond our clinical service. Thanks also go to the many volunteers who diligently manage the collection boxes and tubs placed across our local community, your ongoing commitment makes a real difference.

My thanks also extend to our marketing colleague, Martin White, for his vital work in maintaining and developing our website and producing high-quality promotional materials, and to local printers Peter and Camilla Dunford, who have supported Lawrence Nurses from its inception.

We are deeply appreciative of the many local businesses who sell our Christmas cards, donate raffle prizes, and help raise awareness of our events. Your continued support strengthens our connection to the community we serve. I would also like to thank our valued charity partners and sponsors including The Midcounties Co-operative, Zurich Community Trust, Wheelers of Chipping Norton, Wise Investment, Savills, Nellie + Dove and Richard Spencer Builders, whose support not only enhances our events but also helps raise awareness of our work across the community.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our two Honorary Presidents, Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton and Graeme Garden OBE, for their ongoing support and advocacy.

In particular I would like to recognise the exceptional contribution of our Patrons' Club, our community of committed major donors. Your generosity and belief in our work provide a vital and sustainable source of funding, enabling us to plan with confidence and continue delivering compassionate care to families when they need it most.

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)

### **Join our mailing list**

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

## 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. 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](#).

## Future Plans

Our ability to continue to provide free, hospice at home nursing care and respite support, depends on securing sustainable funding to ensure the quality and continuity of care.

Our service now cares for palliative and end of life patients for longer periods, including those with non-curative illnesses, dementia and frailty, and provides a programme of bereavement support to their families and carers.

## How your donations help us



# £150

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



# £1,100

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



# £1,800

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



# £4,500

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



# £8,500

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



## Mary - A Patient's Story

In 2022 Lawrence Nurses became involved with the family whilst caring for Mary's husband Robin, and the relationships formed with the family at that time continued to strengthen due to the family valuing the advice and support being offered by the nursing team. Mary became a widow on 3rd January 2023.

Lawrence Nurses remained in touch with Mary's son Chris who looked after his mother following his father's death. After a period of stability in May 2024 she became increasingly ill. From that time onwards she received care from a wide range of health care professionals. Claire and all the coordinators at Lawrence Nurses were always a phone call away to support Chris and to provide clarity and insight during his mother's fluctuating symptoms.

Lawrence Nurses increased their support to the family from January 2025, when Mary was diagnosed with heart failure and frailty. Following an assessment by a Lawrence Nurse Coordinator, contact was maintained on a bi-monthly basis with Chris providing regular updates on Mary's health and general home life. Initially concerns centred around a persistent cough, and where appropriate the nursing team would signpost to Mary's GP whilst also contacting the surgery with their comments. Over the next few months a rapport with Mary's family developed, who clearly loved their Mum very much and were deeply committed to her care. During the summer months, the frequency of calls increased to weekly as Mary's frailty and confusion with her dementia deteriorated rapidly. By November concerns for Mary's wellbeing led to the Lawrence Nurses offering respite support, including a mixture of daytime hours and overnight care, thereby supporting Chris who was increasingly exhausted.

Around this time, Mary was awarded Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding, enabling the provision of a live-in carer. Mary developed cellulitis, and negatively reacted to antibiotics, so after discussion with the GP she commenced an end-of-life gold pathway in December 2025. During Mary's final week the Lawrence Nurses were able to provide night support almost every night, alongside daily telephone contact and close liaison with the GP and District Nursing team regarding her condition. Mary died peacefully at home on the 27th of December 2025.



### Chris

*"Lawrence Nurses have been my safety net for three years. Thank you to Claire especially, who remained our consistent contact over the three years, for being so down to earth and accepting every question as valuable, I always felt safer after talking to her. The Lawrence Nurses team is unique, each one a shining light of kindness in dark times. Mum and Dad both wanted to die at home, and they were so grateful to be able to, thank you."*

### Katie

*"The support provided by the Lawrence Nurses team has been the cornerstone that Chris and I came to depend on; whenever we wavered with how best to support Mum depending on the symptoms she was displaying, it was to the Lawrence Nurses that we turned knowing they would answer the phone, listen and hear our concerns then answer them honestly and rationally providing us with sensible solutions. My gratitude to the team can never be overstated; they are, quite simply, superb and without them I believe Mum's journey would have been very different (as would ours)."*

Following her death, the Nurse Coordinators; Helen and Claire, visited and telephoned Chris as part of the bereavement support follow-up. The family kindly invited the Lawrence Nurses team to Mary's funeral service, and the team received a beautiful floral tribute display along with donations in her memory.

## Monica Deakin

We are deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of a truly remarkable volunteer, Monica, whose unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on our charity and the community we serve.

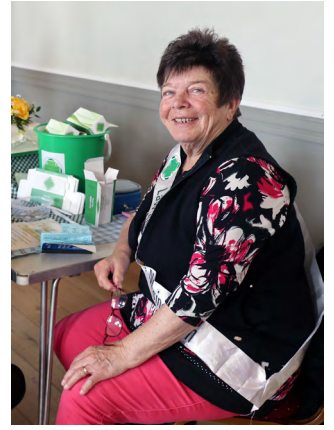
For many years, Monica was the driving force behind our collecting tubs across the catchment area, managing them single-handedly with quiet determination and care. Her commitment was steadfast, and her impact immeasurable.

A familiar and much-loved presence on our street collection days in Chipping Norton, she was a true stalwart, battling the wind and whatever inclement weather came her way, always with resolve and good humour, ensuring that every opportunity to raise vital funds was seized.

Her energy and creativity shone through in the many quiz nights and race nights she organised in local pubs, bringing people together in support of our cause. At our Golf Days in memory of her friend and our nurse, Jane Phillips MBE, she became something of a legend, an absolute wizard at the raffle, with a unique talent for encouraging generosity from just about everyone she met. Few could resist her charm and determination when it came to supporting Lawrence Nurses.

Beyond her fundraising, she was a passionate advocate for our nursing team, proudly promoting their work to all who would listen. Her belief in the importance of our services helped raise awareness far and wide, and she played a key role in helping to secure grants from local charitable trusts, further strengthening our ability to care for those who need us most.

Her dedication, warmth, and formidable spirit will be greatly missed by everyone at the charity. We are incredibly grateful for all she gave, her time, her energy, and her wholehearted commitment. Monica leaves behind a lasting legacy, and we will remember her with immense affection and respect.



## Donate to Lawrence Nurses

Name:	
Address:	
Post code:	
Telephone:	Email:
I would like to make a donation to Lawrence Home Nursing Team of £	



### Other ways to donate

- Scan the QR code above
- Make a one-off donation (form, left)
- Set up a monthly standing order or direct debit
- Pay a tribute to your loved one **here**
- Leave a legacy in your will
- Charitable trusts & foundations
- Organise a fundraising event
- Sponsor a fundraising event
- Sell Christmas or thank you cards
- Online shopping:

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

**Give as you Live**  
**Online**

*giftaid it*

### Gift Aid Declaration

Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, we get an extra 25 pence from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further, and it doesn't cost you a thing.

I declare that I am a taxpayer and I want the Charity to treat my donation of £ [ ] which I made on the [ ] / [ ] / [ ] and any future donations I make as Gift Aid donations.

I understand the requirement is that I must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax deemed to have been deducted from this donation.

I would like Lawrence Home Nursing Team to claim the tax back on this donation.

## 2026 Fundraising Events

### London Marathon 2026

We are incredibly proud of our dedicated runners taking on the iconic London Marathon on Sunday, 26th April in support of Lawrence Nurses.

Danny Phillips and brothers Archie and Johnnie Parker recently shared their inspiring stories on BBC Radio Oxford, speaking about the personal motivations behind their challenge and the impact of Lawrence Nurses on their families.

Our runners are taking part in memory of loved ones who were cared for by Lawrence Nurses. Danny is running in memory of family friend, Jock Hutchinson, as well as his mother Jane Phillips MBE who founded the service. Harry and Archie Parker are running in memory of their Dad and Tom Parker is running in memory of his brother, Nick Parker.



We wish them the very best of luck on race day and thank them for their extraordinary commitment.

Please support our Lawrence Nurses marathon runners. Every donation helps us continue to be there for families when they need us most.

Here is a link to the [London Marathon donate page](#).

### Stand Up! A Night of Laughs for Lawrence Nurses

Join us for a night of laughter at our upcoming Stand-Up Comedy Night at the New Theatre Oxford on Wednesday 9th September at 7:30pm. Featuring a fantastic line-up of comedians including Rory Bremner, Sara Pascoe, Arthur Smith, Debra Stephenson and Nabil Abdulrashid, it promises to be a brilliant evening.

Tickets will be available from mid-April—visit our website at [www.lawrencenurses.org](http://www.lawrencenurses.org) for more details.

Events like this are not only a fantastic night out, but also play a vital role in raising funds to support our nurses and the families we care for across our community.



Sara Pascoe



Rory Bremner



Arthur Smith

If you'd like to organise your own fundraising event, please get in touch at [fundraiser@lawrencenurses.org](mailto:fundraiser@lawrencenurses.org).

We would be delighted to support you by promoting your event and providing marketing materials.

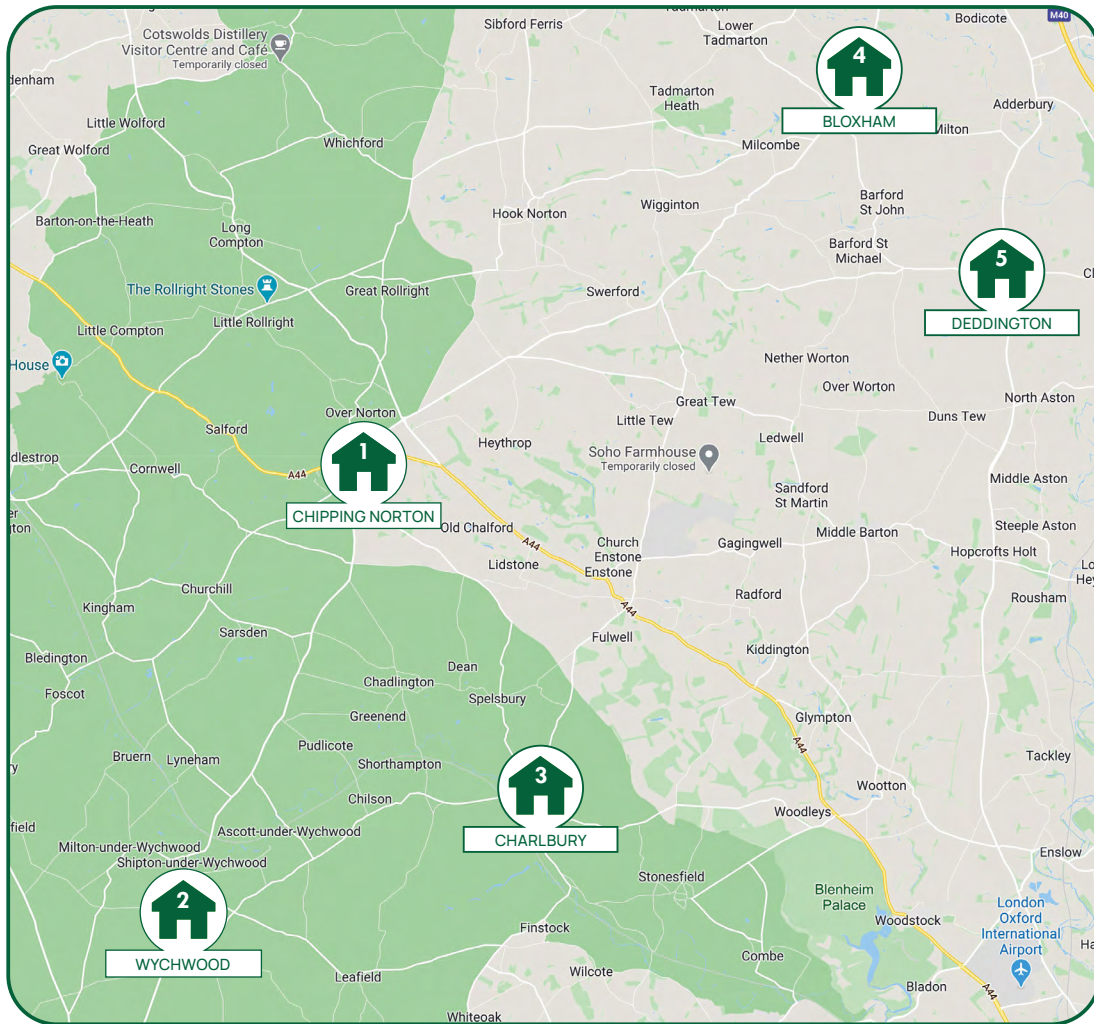


Debra Stephenson



Nabil Abdulrashid





**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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