



Tormarton Newsletter

April
2020

TORMARTON AND WEST LITTLETON NEWS

Diary – All meetings and events have been cancelled or postponed – see below for more details.

Recyclable & Refuse Collection:

South Glos Council has advised that from Monday 30th March:

- All garden waste collections will be stopped
- Recycling and food waste will be collected fortnightly with the black bin

The collection days in the coming month are:

Tormarton – Monday 6 & 20 April, 4 May **B4465 towards Codrington** – Friday 3 & 16 April, 1 May
West Littleton – Mondays or Tuesdays (depending on location in the village) 13/14 April & 27/28 April

For further details on this, the recycling service, and subscriptions for the garden waste go to:
<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling-changes-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19/>

Support available in Tormarton & West Littleton during the Coronavirus pandemic

Information from Noreen Finnamore – 07836 370728 / 01454 218236 / noreen@thefinnamores.com

You will be aware from the special bulletin posted to every household in the village last week that we have started to create a simple system of volunteer support for Tormarton and West Littleton. I have had a number of very kind offers from people willing to undertake a variety of jobs; shopping for essential items, picking up prescriptions, having a telephone chat to those living alone, etc.

As yet, we have not had any requests for help, but as the lockdown takes full effect in the coming weeks, I am expecting that to change. We are fortunate in Tormarton and West Littleton that neighbours do know and look out for each other and this will be particularly important during these next few weeks. However, if you find at any point that you cannot go out even for essentials and/or your current support network is unable to help because of illness, **please do contact me on 07836 370728 or 01454 218236** and we will be happy to help in any way we can. Equally, if you are concerned about anyone who may not be well networked in with neighbours, please let me know. We want to make sure that everyone has the support they need at this very difficult time.

In order to facilitate easy and swift communication around the village, without necessarily venturing out, it would be helpful if we had a complete list of everyone's e-mail address and telephone numbers. These details, should you wish to send them, will not be used for any other purpose than to keep you in the loop with information or requests relevant to our villages. Please send to helene@thefinnamores.com as soon as possible.

If you think we should be doing anything else at this stage, please let me know. Also, if you would like to volunteer to help and have not already done so, please just email me at noreen@thefinnamores.com with your name and contact details.

CHURCH SERVICES – information in the Cotswold Edge

Prayer resources will be placed in the church porches, which everyone is very welcome to take.

A Message from Rev. Sally Wheeler – 01225 892180

You will have heard that all church services are suspended except for funerals with close family members only allowed.

These are unexpected times for us all when many of the comforts we look to are currently removed and many anticipated life events unable to go ahead. We have seen three weddings postponed in Tormarton alone.

As a church, the ministry team would like to connect with, and support as many people as we can through a phone ministry and through email. If anyone is anxious for themselves, or for loved ones and would like prayer, please do contact the Vicar, the Rev. Sally Wheeler 01225 892180,

or any other member of the Team in the Benefice:

Rev. Lynne Godfrey (Associate Minister) 01249 446734; Mike Strathdee 01225 891001;
Aurea Hart 01225 891453; Andrew Gammie 01225 892392; Charles Keen 01225 892446.

I am moved by all the efforts of our village communities to ensure those who are self-isolating and vulnerable can have essentials delivered and have seen remarkable care and thoughtfulness in developing ways to help others. Jesus called us 'to love our neighbours as ourselves', and this is something being put into practice around the Benefice.

I am praying regularly for you all, and for all in authority, in healthcare and key work, as well as those who are anxious, or ill as this health emergency unfolds. May God grant us patience, protection and healing.

Sally

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

In these difficult times it is great to see the parishioners of our two villages pulling together to make sure that their most vulnerable residents have the support they need to help them through the weeks ahead. The Parish Council will be making every effort to support these 'good citizens' both practically and financially where necessary, and have already pledged to help cover their out of pocket expenses where possible.

We would especially like to extend our appreciation to Noreen Fynamore who has stepped in to coordinate volunteers and act as a point of contact for those needing support.

Following instructions to local government organisations all future meetings, including the scheduled Annual Parish Council Meeting that would usually take place in April, have been cancelled until further notice. We are hoping that there will soon be a change in the law that will allow these meeting to take place online, with public participation then possible in virtual form. Details of how this proceeds will be posted on the Parish Council website www.tormarton-pc.gov.uk and on the noticeboards in both villages.

We understand that there have been questions regarding how the parish council came to the decision on the amount for the 2020/21 Precept (Parish Council proportion of the council tax). An explanation of how this figure was arrived at will be added to the Parish Council website (noted above) in the next few days. As always we welcome and encourage parishioners to attend our council meetings (virtual or otherwise), and would like to remind you that we still have a vacancy on the council. So if you would like to be part of the decision making processes that will help shape life in Tormarton and West Littleton in the future then please get in touch.

The Major's Retreat, Tormarton, 01454 218263 is offering a take-away service. A leaflet giving information on this has been delivered to local households.

March Events:

The Madrigals in West Littleton Church due to take place on 13th March was cancelled.

The Mothering Sunday services did not take place on 22nd March.

The Tormarton Churchyard Spring clean up scheduled for Saturday 28th March has been postponed. We will rearrange once the current restrictions have been lifted. In the meantime, if anyone would like to help (and take some exercise), it would be great if individuals could spend an hour or so strimming around the headstones where the mower can't go! Whilst we don't expect crowds (!), please observe government policy and social distancing. Thank you.

Future Events:

The Lent Lunch due to take place on 1st April has been cancelled.

The Annual Parochial Church Meetings are postponed until the current restrictions have eased, with a new Diocesan deadline of 31st October.

The Sisters of the Church are themselves within the vulnerable group so have had to suspend their support so their main ministry now is praying for the nation and those they usually care for. They are also happy to receive prayer requests from anyone, which can be passed on to them via:

Rev. Sally Wheeler marshfield.benfica@gmail.com

When the Loaves and Fishes Project reopens they will need extra supplies as many people will have faced hardship and be struggling to make ends meet. Financial gifts to buy the extra food needed for them can be sent to:

Community of the Sisters of the Church, 82 Ashley Road St. Paul's Bristol BS6 5NT in the form of cheques payable to 'Sisters of the Church', or by online donations bank a/c no. 65075960, sort code: 08-92-99

VE Day Celebration – following government advice, this event due to take place on 8th May has sadly been cancelled.

West Littleton Gardens: Sadly we have decided to cancel our gardens open weekend scheduled for 13th and 14th June.

100 Club: The final draw of the 2019/20 season due to be held at The Major's Retreat on Monday 20th April has been postponed. This may be held at the same time as the next draw.

Pilates – sessions cancelled until further notice.

Rota Volunteers, Tormarton Church

No flowers or cleaning while the church is closed.

Mowing Rota: Robin Berry & Tom Harrison

This issue kindly sponsored by Heather & George Gent. Edited and copied by the Elliotts. Items for the next issue to be given to Diana Elliott, St. Mary's House, Tel: 01454 218364, or email: diana.elliott@hotmail.co.uk, not later than 26th April please.