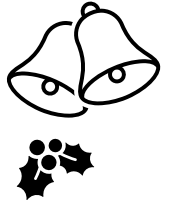


Tormarton Parish

Christmas Celebrations



Firstly, my apologies for this late notice. As I am sure you can imagine, with the constantly changing rules necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic, making the arrangement for this year's Christmas Celebrations has been difficult to say the least. However, I am now pleased to announce that, as always, the parish has pulled together and we now have details of a number of events taking place over the festive season to bring us together (socially distanced of course).

As you may have already spotted, a Christmas tree has now been erected next to the noticeboard at the Major's Retreat. The tree was kindly gifted to the village from the Badminton Estate by the Duke of Beaufort, who wanted to show his support for our determination to celebrate Christmas as a community in such difficult circumstances. Roy and Chris from the Major's Retreat have also shown their support for our celebrations by kindly organising the lighting of the tree over Christmas period for the residents. On the 15th December the children from Pumpkins Nursery will be making a trip along the High Street to help dress our tree with wooden ornaments that they have decorated during their classes at the Tormarton village hall. Thank you to Amanda and Laura for making it possible for the children to take part in our Parish's celebration of Christmas.

Although the tree is already up, and hopefully by the time you read this, the lights are already glowing, on **Saturday 19th December** we will be holding a special event to celebrate the lighting of the tree and the final countdown to Christmas. You will find details of timings and how we will be doing this on the following pages, along with a list of other events that will be taking place in Tormarton and West Littleton over the next couple of weeks.

Obviously, we are all hoping that the situation regarding Covid-19 will have improved, and that by the time the 19th arrives we will all be residing in a Tier 2 area, with a pub open to serve food inside and out, and the other benefits that come with a change in Tier. However, we have to consider the possibility that this may not be the case, and that other rules may apply. So please, whether you are watching, participating, or part of the celebrations, please respect the social distancing and Tier rules that will apply on the day!

So, what will be happening on the 19th December?

The plan is to emulate the successful format of our VE Day celebrations (possibly with the addition of scarves and woolly hats). Respecting the social distancing rules that prevail on the day, whilst giving residents something to smile about. Activities will be focused between the front of the Majors Retreat pub and the Village Pond between 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm, and village groups have been encouraged, regulations allowing, to participate with tabletop fundraising ideas.

What will be available from the pub in the way of food and drink will be dependent on the Tier number we find ourselves in on the day. This may be mulled wine, takeaway hotdogs, or a full menu with table service. Once Roy and Chris have confirmed what will be available on the day, we will then use social media and the village website to let everyone know.

4.00 pm - Proceedings will be kicked off by talented local singer Toby Brewer, who will be warming up the audience in readiness for our village choristers.

Although only 18 years of age, Toby has already made quite a name for himself in music, with a West End role in arguably the greatest musicals ever staged, 'Les Misérables', as well as 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang', and in the professional tour of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. A keen fundraiser Toby has performed in many charity concerts, and this year he will be lifting spirits in Care and Nursing Homes across the South West, with a series of 'Michael Bublé' inspired Socially Distanced Christmas concerts for their residents.



4.15 pm - The Tormarton Carol Singers will take the stage by the village pond to lead the village in festive song with renditions of some of our all-time favourite carols. As always, the group will be collecting for various excellent causes, with donation buckets available for any cash you would like to socially distance from!

4.45 pm - Toby will then return to sing a couple more of his all-time Christmas favourites, before leading the whole village in a group performance of the most recorded carol of them all 'Silent Night' to close proceedings. To help make sure that you are all well-rehearsed for the grand finale we have even included a copy of the lyrics for you to practice with on the final page.

...and if that wasn't enough there's lots more going on around the Parish this Christmas to keep us all smiling.

Saturday 19th December at 4.00 pm Christmas celebration in Tormarton, taking place in the High Street and at the Xmas tree outside the Major's Retreat pub.

Tuesday 22nd December at 7.00 pm a *Celebration of Christmas by Candlelight* will take place in St Mary Magdalene Church in Tormarton. With Gilly Wells and Ashleigh Stevens singing a mix of Christmas songs old and new, and some beautiful seasonal readings from George Gent and Joanna Bowman, it's sure to be a touching evening. Due to Covid-19 restrictions booking for this event will be essential so please call or email Janet Wells on 01454 218549 and drakehouse365@btinternet.com to reserve your place.

Wednesday 23rd December at 7.00 pm Due to high demand a second night has now been added for Tormarton's *Celebration of Christmas by Candlelight*.

Wednesday 23rd December at 4.00 pm a Carol Service will take place in the churchyard of St James's Church West Littleton, followed by mince pies and traditional mulled wine. The service will be taken by Sally Wheeler, with Christopher Bell playing the organ which will be relayed outside. The service will last approximately 30 minutes and will include 5 well-known carols and 3 lessons.

Friday 25th December at 10.30 pm will see St Mary Magdalene Church in Tormarton host a family friendly service to celebrate this special day. Again, due to Covid-19 restrictions booking for this event will be essential, and those wishing to attend should contact Janet Wells using the methods listed above.

As you can see there is something for everyone this year, with a busy schedule of events throughout the Parish. Thank you to all those who have given their time and effort, often remaining unmentioned, to put on these events to bring the villages together. Please, please, please, if at all possible, we would love you to attend. Its events like these that builds the community spirit necessary to sustain our villages' growth and secure their future.

If you have any questions regarding the **19th December** then please do give me a call on 07780 448922. I've already heard some great ideas from those want to get involved, including garden gate lanterns, personalised ornaments for the village tree, and even a couple of local elves that have promised to appear!

Wishing everyone a very merry, and especially safe, Christmas for 2020

Simon Stevens

Silent Night

by Gruber & Mohr (translated by John Young)

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace!

Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight!

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ the Saviour is born!

Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night! Holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!