

### **Tales from the Tower**

Christmas may have been very different this year, but for Tavistock one thing was the same as always - or nearly so.

For many months, on and off as lockdowns and tier systems have come and gone, the bells of St Eustachius' church have been either silent or rung for shorter periods of only 15 minutes on Sunday mornings. Even then, because of social distancing, only five of the ten bells could usually be rung. And for the last few weeks, ringing has been forbidden entirely.

But for Christmas Day, with the general easing of restrictions, ringing was allowed again for the main services - Midnight Mass in Christmas Eve, and for morning service on Christmas Day itself. Better still, because there were two family groups, six of the ten could be rung, giving a more musical effect. And because two heavier bells needed to be raised into ringing position beforehand, those bells were able to join the 'doorstep' ringing at 6pm.

When the bells will be rung again is anyone's guess, but with the expectation of vaccination making it possible for some of the older ringers to take part, and hopefully ease restrictions in the coming months, it should not be too long before Tavistock will once more hear the bells sound as a regular occurrence over the town.

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