



# Chivelstone Twelfth Night Celebrations

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020

St Sylvester's Church

5pm

## Programme

- Twelfth Night Traditions
  - Wassail!
- Chivelstone Mummers Play
  - Drink and be Merry!



# Twelfth Night

## Introduction

Twelfth Night is the eve or night before Epiphany and the last and twelfth day of the Christmas festivities. In Medieval and Tudor England, the Twelfth Night marked the end of a winter festival that started on All Hallows Eve — now more commonly known as Halloween. The Yule Log would be kept burning throughout the festival until Twelfth Night.

## • **Talk Twelfth Night Traditions**

### **Song (All)                      Sing a Song of sixpence**

Sing a song of sixpence a pocket full of rye  
Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie  
When the pie was opened the birds began to sing  
Wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the King?  
The King was in his counting house counting out his money  
The Queen was in the parlour eating bread and honey  
The Maid was in the garden hanging out the clothes  
When down came a blackbird and pecked off her nose!

## • **Choosing the King of Misrule**

### **A Wassailing Carol (All)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1.    Here we come a-wassailing<br>Among the leaves so green,<br>Here we come a-wassailing,<br>So fair to be seen. | 2.    Call up the butler of this house<br>Put on his golden ring<br>Let him bring a glass of beer<br>And better we shall sing |
|--|---|

#### **Chorus:**

Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail too,  
And God bless you and send you,  
A Happy New Year,  
And God send you  
A Happy New Year.

#### **Chorus**

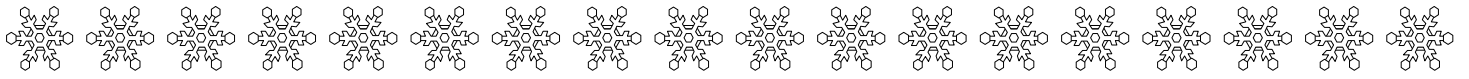
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|---|
| 3.    God bless the master of this house<br>Likewise the mistress too<br>And all the little children<br>That round the table go |
|---|

#### **Chorus**

## • **Talk – Wassail!    At the end of the talk audience please respond to “Wassail” by shouting “Drink Hail”**

## • **Gloucestershire Wassail Carol (Choir)**

## • **The Twelve Days of Christmas Poem (alternative version!)**



• **Carol – The Twelve Days of Christmas (All)**

1. On the first day of Christmas  
My true love gave to me  
A partridge in a pear tree

**On the second etc!!**

2nd. Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree

3rd. Three French hens  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree

4th. Four calling birds  
Three French hens  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree

5th. Five gold rings  
Four calling birds  
Three French hens  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree

6th. Six geese a laying  
Five gold rings  
Four calling birds  
Three French hens  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree

7th. Seven swans a swimming  
Six geese a laying  
Five gold rings  
Four calling birds  
Three French hens  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree

8th. Eight maids a milking  
Seven swans a swimming  
Six geese a laying  
Five gold rings  
Four calling birds  
Three French hens  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree

9th. Nine ladies dancing  
Eight maids a milking  
Seven swans a swimming  
Six geese a laying  
Five gold rings,  
Four calling birds  
Three French hens  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree

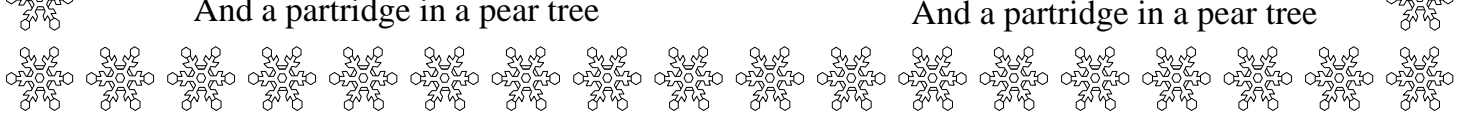
10th. Ten lords a leaping  
Nine ladies dancing  
Eight maids a milking  
Seven swans a swimming  
Six geese a laying  
Five gold rings,  
Four calling birds  
Three French hens  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree

11th. Eleven pipers piping  
Ten lords a leaping  
Nine ladies dancing  
Eight maids a milking  
Seven swans a swimming  
Six geese a laying  
Five gold rings,  
Four calling birds  
Three French hens  
Two turtle doves  
And a partridge in a pear tree

12th. On the twelfth day of Christmas  
My true love gave to me  
12 drummers drumming  
Eleven pipers piping  
Ten lords a leaping  
Nine ladies dancing  
Eight maids a milking  
Seven swans a swimming  
Six geese a laying  
Five gold rings,  
Four calling birds  
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# The Mummers Play

Mummers' Plays are one of the oldest surviving features of the traditional English Christmas. Mumming in England goes back for over a thousand years. They are short dramas with rhyming text. The name derives from the Greek word "Mommo" meaning mask as many of the performers wore masks in 14<sup>th</sup> Century plays.

Mumming is best described as early pantomime. The plays are based loosely on the legend of St. George and the Dragon and are intended to show the struggle between good and evil. They were traditionally played by an all male cast hence the Maiden being traditionally performed by a young man, a tradition we have followed tonight although we do have some female players too!

Mummers plays were often performed on Twelfth Night and the form varies between counties but there are recurring themes. Half a dozen heavily disguised characters perform the play. The characters vary from play to play, although the hero is always St George, who fights with the power of evil traditionally represented by the Turkish Knight (boo hiss!) or a Dragon or both. Other characters include a Doctor, Johnny Jack or Poor Jill, the King and or Father Christmas and sometimes Beezlebub (the Devil). Poor Jill's job was to appear at the end of the play to ask for money. The costume was usually hung with a number of rag dolls to represent her many children and to appeal to the rich for charity at Christmas time. Please donate!

We hope you enjoy the first Chivelstone Mummers Play!

**Cast** (in order of appearance)

<b>King Henry VIII</b>	Tim Johnson
<b>St Sylvester</b>	Johnie Parry
<b>Henchmen</b>	Lorna Lawford Rupert Prince
<b>Fair Maiden</b>	Tom McMahon
<b>St George</b>	Joss Webber
<b>The Dragon</b>	Julian Brazil
<b>Turkish Knight</b>	Laurent Genet
<b>Poor Jill</b>	Ann Potts
<b>The Doctor</b>	Sarah Bunn



With huge thanks to all the cast for their time and enthusiasm, Roger Odell and Kath Cordy for production help and costumes and Ali Lennon for prompting.

**Alison Odell**

**Please join us for traditional "Wassail" cup, nibbles and Twelfth Night Cakes after the performance**