



# RINGING ROUND DEVON

## GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 81: March 2011

### PROGRESS REPORT: ST MARGARET'S CHURCH STOODLEIGH.

In the September 2009 edition of Ringing Round Devon there was an article about the Stoodleigh Appeal for a new frame and fittings. The appeal progressed well and over £30,000 was raised for the bells by July 2010. That August they received a £44,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the conservation of the 15th century bosses and foliate "green man" wall plates and towards the bell fund. The bells and rotten frame were removed by Nicholson Engineering of Bridport in September 2010 and by the beginning of February 2011 the new frame was in place and the bells rehung having been tuned by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The tenor weighs 7-0-3 and the bells were rung for the first time on 5th February. Over the weeks of work in the church the bell hanger was helped by a rota of twelve volunteers from the village. Jennifer Rowlandson, the project manager and a bell ringer, also helped every day and has kept a full diary and photographic record of the work which is displayed in the church. The photographs in this article, which were taken by Jennifer, are from her record of work. The bells will be rededicated by the Bishop of Crediton at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 26th June after which any teams wishing to visit Stoodleigh and ring should contact Gerald Palfrey, the Tower Captain, on 01398 351271. All other enquiries to Jennifer Rowlandson, 01398 351402.

*Jennifer Rowlandson*



One of the rotten headstocks



Bells and fittings in the new frame



Some of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century roof bosses



One of the foliate 'Green Man' wall plates

## BELLRINGERS ROPED IN AT EARLY AGE

The following is adapted from an article appearing on the BBC Radio Devon Website\*, by Jemima Laing of BBC Devon, and from a subsequent BBC Spotlight TV programme in February. There are 14 towers within the SW Branch of the Guild of Devonshire ringers, and several have young ringers. In Plymouth alone, there are young ringers at St Budeaux, St Andrews, Emmanuel, and Stoke Damerel. Added to these are other young Association members who ring at Shaugh Prior, Bickleigh and Tamerton Foliot, hence the interest by BBC Spotlight. Sarah Peck is to be congratulated on capitalising on her rapport with BBC Devon, and with promising young ringers, to the benefit of the Guild.



Top Left to right - Joe, Matt, Sam, Phil  
Middle row - Benjamin, Toby.  
Bottom row - Charlotte.



Sam, Benjamin, Joe



Charlotte

All are from Emmanuel, except Phil who is a young ringer at St Andrews

Standing on a box in the bell tower at Emmanuel Church in Plymouth five-year-old Charlotte Peck is - with some help - making the treble bell sound.

"She loves it," says her mother Sarah. "But I think that's mainly because her two older brothers do it and she wants to do what they do."

It's one way of getting younger people interested in the art of campanology.

And Sarah is really keen to promote the pastime to people who may never have even thought bell ringing is for them.

She and her children are now part of the South West Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers but the family's fascination with ringing started with a chance remark.

"We started ringing about two years ago when my son Sam, who is now 10, heard the bells at Emmanuel and said 'I'd like to have a go at that'.

"So we spoke to Alena Wardle, the tower captain, and he had a go and his brother Joe said 'if he's doing it - I want to do it', so I got roped in too and it's just gone on from there.

"We're hoping to get Charlotte ringing before she's six - I think we're nearly there."

Joe has now rung at 39 churches across Devon and Cornwall while Sam has notched up 37 and they both regularly ring at weddings - getting paid £10 a time for their trouble. They already have 17 booked in this year.

"I don't know if the bride and groom know that there's children up there ringing for their wedding - but it's good that they don't, it shows how proficient they're getting." The boys have mastered plain bob doubles ringing, which is a method following a diagram which indicates when to ring.

"Joe and Sam picked it up so quickly, I think, because they have mathematical minds - I'm not quite as fast as them, it's more of a struggle for me."

So why should someone toying with starting to learn get involved? "Most of all it's fun. It's also really sociable and my children are getting to meet some really fascinating people. There are a few young ringers in Plymouth; at St Budeaux, St Andrew's and Stoke Damerel. And at Emmanuel there's also another family of ringers with three children ringing like us.

"But it's really important to get more young people interested so that they can take over when the older ringers stop." On 20 February there is a young ringers' event at Emmanuel and all ringers under the age of 30 who can ring call changes are welcome to attend.

And on 25 March Joe and Sam are off to London with six other young ringers from Devon to compete in the National Youth Bell Ringing Contest - this is part of the Ringing World's 100th birthday celebrations. The next rehearsal for this is on the 29th of February at the clock tower in Newton Abbott.

So does every bell ringer have a tower they really want to ring at?

"Well, for me I think it would be Westminster Abbey and for Joe it's the Hosanna bell at Buckfast Abbey," said Sarah. That is a seven and a half ton bell which takes at least four people to ring.

"That's his ambition - it might seem a strange one for a 12-year-old but that's just Joe!"

\* [http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/devon/hi/people\\_and\\_places/newsid\\_9394000/9394771.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/devon/hi/people_and_places/newsid_9394000/9394771.stm)  
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## MONDAY RINGERS

The first 'Monday Ringers' outing of the year is on 21st March.

9.55 Torbryan, 10.30 Denbury, 11.30 Abbotskerswell, 12.30 lunch at the Highweek Village Inn, 2.00 Highweek, and 3.15 Kingsteignton.

Mostly method ringing, for which a minimum of competent trebling or covering is advisable. New members always welcome.

[lynnephughes@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnephughes@hotmail.com)

## FOR SALE

8 metal rope guides and iron frame, formerly installed in Seaton church. Price: £100.

For further details please contact David Hurford on 01404 871228

## EXETER CATHEDRAL OPEN PRACTICES - NEW RINGING TIMES

From April onwards the Cathedral practices on the third Saturday every month will start at 17:30 and finish at 19:30. This arrangement is necessary to accommodate the large number of Saturday night concerts etc. in the Cathedral with a start time of 19:30.

*Ian Campbell*

## VICE PRESIDENTS CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Vice presidents Norman Mallett and Richard Bowden were early arrivals for the 12 bell competition at Crediton last June. They were caught on camera by Rod Pipe whilst seeking shelter from the hot sun.

## **CHARLES PEARSON (1831 - 1930): THE 'FORGOTTEN PRESIDENT'**

This article stems from an amicable discussion between Geoffrey Hill and me concerning the front page story of RRD No: 80 for December 2010 when it was stated that the Revd. E.S.Powell was the third President of the GDR - but I maintained that he was in fact the fourth. This came about because John Scott, in his booklet 'Devon Bellringing 1874 to 1975', overlooked the recorded fact that it was Charles Pearson who was elected as the second President of the Guild when Charles A.W.Troyte resigned at the annual Whit Monday meeting in May 1896 (Bell News 1896 page 57). Pearson's tenure of office was brief as he resigned in September 1896 for reasons not revealed and the Revd. Maitland Kelly took over as the Guild's third President, to be followed in due course by the Revd. E.S.Powell as the fourth President.

By my reckoning the list of Guild Presidents in John Scott's booklet should have read as follows:

- 1) C.A.W. Troyte ..... 1874 - 1896
  - 2) C.Pearson ..... May to September 1896
  - 3) Revd M.Kelly ..... Sept. 1896 - 1924
  - 4) Revd.E.S.Powell ..... 1924 - 1933
  - 5) Revd.E.V.Cox ..... 1934 - 1961
- etc.

I offer two speculative reasons for Pearson's short term in office: It could have been the recurrence of health problems from his days in India or it might have had something to do with the fact that he was only an honorary member of the Guild and not a performing member. There is no evidence that he learnt and took part in ringing.

### **Brief Biography.**

Charles Pearson was born in 1831 at the rectory of Castle Camps in Cambridgeshire and educated at Charterhouse School and Cambridge University. He was an assistant master at Charterhouse from 1855 to 1860 before joining the Education Service in India. His first appointment was principal at Agra College and afterwards principal at Lahore. Later he became Director of public Instruction in the Northwest Provinces. Charles retired in 1885 and returned to England to live at Whitestone rectory in Devon with his brother, the Revd. Dr. John Betteridge Pearson. (He was there at the time of the 1891 and 1910 censuses). Two new bells were cast for Whitestone in 1885 and Charles donated a new tenor bell in 1886. In 1888 Charles published a splendid little book entitled 'The Ringer's Guide to the Church Bells of Devon' which included much useful information and an update of some of H.T.Ellacombe's work.

In 1912 Charles moved to Bournemouth and by 1919 he was listed in the Guild report as a life member. His death was reported in 'The Times' of September 13th 1930 and the funeral service took place at the Church of St. Ambrose followed by interment at Lower Parkstone Cemetery. There was no mention in the obituary that Charles was the author of a significant book about bells and bellringing. However his 'Ringers Guide' was not forgotten and a supplement, which I have not seen, was issued in 1900. A second supplement was brought out by the Guild in 1927 with the updating done by Maitland Kelly, E.S.Powell, and Guild Secretary Thomas Laver, and a final update, (price 4d), was produced by the Guild Secretary Fred Smale in 1947.

*Richard Bowden Feb. 2011.*

## **CONDUCTORS COURSE**

Laurie, John, Roger and I spent a recent Saturday in February with Tim Bayton (and helpers: Tom, Lynne, Jeff, Anne, Richard & Lesley) learning some of the basics about conducting and coursing orders.

We started the day at Coffinswell with each student calling a touch in a method we'd never called before. At that stage the basic requirements of calling "go next time", "bob" and "that's all" whilst keeping your bell right in the method didn't seem too hard. Fortified by cake made by the multi-talented Mr Bayton we then started on some paperwork. Terms such as "wrong" and "home" were explained (so far so good) and we moved onto identifying coursing orders and how they change when a bob is called at home. On paper this also didn't seem too complicated. We then spent the rest of the morning calling "homes" from the 6 and trying to predict (and see) the effect on the

coursing order. By lunchtime I was very glad for the break. Having spent a lot of years ringing by rope-sight with the order of the bells passing me by, I found it very hard making note of coursing orders let alone predicting how they'd change.

A working lunch at Stokeinteignhead with more paperwork followed and the calling notations in the Ringing World Diary were explained. Then our brains went into overload as we spent the afternoon calling wrongs from the 6; spotting coursing orders; and attempting to put right some crafty swaps performed by Messers Bayton and Hinks. Well done to Laurie who sailed through the conducting and rang his first blows in Little Bob too. As the day progressed, tiredness set in and concentration levels deteriorated. Despite this, the day was enjoyable, well organised and incredibly helpful, with lots to take away to think about and practice. A big thank you must go to Tim for his clear explanations and exceptional patience.

"Charlotte your turn to call 3 wrongs"

Yes I can certainly do it wrong, wrong, wrong, but with some practice maybe things will get easier....  
*Charlotte Boyce*



Briefing before ring at Coffinswell



Some of the students, tutors and helpers

## CONTACT FROM 'UP COUNTRY'

I have no idea why I keep reading the Devon Guild Newsletter, I live in North Yorkshire! Perhaps it is because it is so vibrant, so full of enthusiasm and interest. However, reading through the September 2010 issue I was transported back 50 years! The catalyst for this journey back in time was the account of the peal at St Michael, East Anstey.

As a fresh-faced school leaver and novice ringer, I arrived at the small boarding preparatory school called "Kestrels" in East Anstey, in 1959, to teach English & French. In those days anyone was allowed to teach in Independent schools and with "A" levels in the above subjects I landed the job for the princely sum of £90 per term, payable in arrears! I had no free periods and was on duty for 4 days a week, from 7.00 a.m. until 10.00 p.m.

I had special permission, though the headmaster did not like it, to walk to Dulverton on Saturdays to play cricket and also to leave school half an hour early on Sundays, to ring before the school took their places for the morning service. I well remember that the tower captain arrived from Oldways End on horseback and he tethered his horse by the lych gate. He wore a thorn proof tweed suit of the colour of bracken and brown leather gaiters covered his calves. These gaiters, and his boots, were always highly polished but the ringing room smelled strongly of moth balls when the ringers assembled. The ringing was, I believe, Devon Call Changes and we rang up and down in peal. The striking (apart from, possibly, my own), was exemplary. The ringers always made me very welcome and were kind and understanding.

I do not recall ever feeling upset by any criticism of my shortcomings. When I moved on, in 1960, I did not ring again for 32 years, due to career and family commitments, but I look back fondly on my ringing experiences at East Anstey. I wish I could tell them now how much I appreciated their encouragement and advice but I suspect that those who did not move away are now at rest in the churchyard. Perhaps I shall return one day and join in on practice night and re-live those happy hours in the ringing room.



Malcolm standing behind the headmaster of 'Kestrels', Dick Stapledon, and his black cat, 'Satan'. Summer 1960.

## CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL NZ

Those who have rung here and others familiar with the unusually fine ring at the Christchurch, New Zealand, cathedral, will be much saddened by the destruction of the bells and tower caused by the recent earthquake. The material devastation and loss of life reported is appalling. For me, there is a personal and particularly poignant connection in that as Archbishop of New Zealand and upon completion of the spire in 1904, my great grandfather was hoisted to the top to lay the capstone using a silver trowel. His work now lies in ruins.

There was a time when I cursed "those wretched bells". This was back in the 'fifties when I spent very many hours at the organ in the cathedral and resented the intrusion of the clangorous racket upon my perfections of Buxtehude and Sweelinck. However, years later and following a Damascene epiphany, I now look back with some affection upon that which, sorrowfully, is no more. I took the first photograph in 2003; the second was lifted from the internet and shows not only the loss of the spire but also the disappearance of the top section of the tower itself - the bit that housed the frames and bells. Gone.

Being privileged to live in a county blessed with some 350 functioning bell chambers, we may find it difficult to appreciate the importance of this ring in a nation possessing only about a dozen full-circle towers. The loss of the Christchurch bells is a major tragedy; the task of reconstruction will be both extensive and costly. I hope that UK ringers may feel moved to contribute towards such an important restoration - one that might serve as a testament fitting to the memory of those who have perished.

*Dermot Elworthy.*



The tower in all its glory



After the February 2011 earthquake

## NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE AT BAMPTON

After a year's interregnum, Bampton again has a Priest in Charge, the new Vicar being the Rev Lynne Burgon. Her arrival was celebrated as shown on the two 'Peal Boards'.



## NE BRANCH OUTING

Wednesday, 9 March, celebrated the first of this year's midweek outings of the North East Branch. Joint organisers John Kape and Ken Wannell were faced with unexpected logistical difficulties as one of the churches to be visited had a last-minute funeral. This dictated a hasty change of schedule and things were further compounded by a fire the previous night at the pub where the lunch had been booked.

The morning ring was on the eight at Newton St Cyres where there is excellent car parking. The landlord in Newton St Cyres village provided a magnificent response to the very short warning of the invasion by some 20 hungry ringers. Gastronomic plans also had to be changed and thus I was obliged to substitute the Stilton Ploughman's ordered some weeks ago at The Beer Engine for Fish Cakes at the Crown and Sceptre - all very discomfiting but they did have an excellent beer called "Bob". I asked the pretty girl on the other side of the bar if the brewery did one called "Single". Strangely, this remarkably witty query was met with reaction little more than the raising of an uncomprehending eyebrow. Oh well, clearly a hint for some more ringing.

This time at the quite drafty but very well behaved six at Shobrooke. I think this was my favourite ring of the day but the similarly weighted eight at Pinhoe which followed was a very close second. Unusually for a Guild assembly, there were more call-change ringers present than methodologists so the standard fare of Grandsire, Plain Bob and Stedman was well sprinkled with call changes. Also a little unusual on this occasion was the midweek "wrinklies" being joined by a few who did not qualify for free bus passes. This is always both refreshing and encouraging. Grateful thanks to John and Ken for organising a very enjoyable day out. Some had to miss the Pinhoe ring due to other imperatives but those who stayed the course are pictured below.

*Dermot Elworthy.*



L to R: Terry Hargreaves, Ken Wannell, Alan Edwards, John Kape, Lynda Smith, Richard Johnston, David Smith, Glen Morgan, Tony Trigg, Martin Clough, Derek Norrish, James Kingdon.

### NE BRANCH AT EXETER CATHEDRAL

At the request of the Cathedral Dean and Chapter, made through the Deanery Lay Chairs, the North East Branch of the Guild was invited to ring for Saturday's Evensong on the 26th February at Exeter Cathedral. Invitations like this are not often extended, so the band assembled was conscious of participating in a special event. Regrettably, some members who usually would be included in the band were not available, so only eight ringers could be mustered. Fortuitously, Ian and Wendy Campbell "happened to be about", so an augmentation was possible.

The ringing programme comprised a touch of Stedman Triples, Call Changes on 10 and touches and courses of Grandsire Caters. Even making allowance for the teensiest possibility of judgmental bias on the part of the writer, it has to be acknowledged that the quality of ringing was high and unquestionably to "cathedral" standard. The Stedman - that most musically balanced of methods - was taken at a spot-on speed and the striking was exemplary. Branch members involved in the ringing were Les Boyce, Charlotte Boyce, Dermot Elworthy, John Kape, Richard Johnston, Terry Hargreaves, Sheila Scofield, Richard Shere and Matthew Weighell.

Grateful thanks are extended to Ian and Wendy Campbell for more than making up the numbers.

*Dermot Elworthy.*



The front 6 of the 10



and the back 4



## THE BOY DONE GOOD!

Congratulations go to Tom Waterson, who rang the tenor at Exeter Cathedral 'single handed' to a peal of Stedman Cinques, and in doing so became the youngest person (19yrs 8mths) yet to ring the 72cwt bell to a peal.

This was the local Cathedral band's peal attempt for this year, and a fine peal was rung to celebrate John Hill's 60 years membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Always one to duck out of the spotlight, Pauline Champion is also to be congratulated for ringing the 11th in fine style - amazingly, she now only needs to ring the sharp treble to have rung a peal on all 14 bells at the Cathedral.

In the weeks running up to the peal, Tom conquered St Buryan (the world's heaviest ring of 6 bells) in a rather brisk time, as an 18th birthday compliment to his brother Matt, and also Broadhembury (Devon's heaviest 6)! Maybe we'll have to start booking some more 'big bell' towers...

*Paul Pascoe*

### **Guild of Devonshire Ringers**

**Exeter**, Devon

Cathedral Church of St Peter

Saturday, 26 February 2011 in 4h 14 (72)

#### **5007 Stedman Cinques**

Composed: D F Morrison (No. 2742)

- 1 Paul J Pascoe (C)
- 2 Susan D Sparling
- 3 Ian V J Smith
- 4 Alison C Waterson
- 5 John Hill
- 6 Jonathan H Potter
- 7 John A Foster
- 8 Ian W Avery
- 9 Michael E C Mears
- 10 Geoffrey C Sparling
- 11 Pauline Champion
- 12 Thomas J Waterson

Congratulating John Hill on his 60 years membership of the ASCY from the Exeter Cathedral band; on the 58th Anniversary of his first peal on these bells.

Tom is the youngest person to ring the tenor 'single-handed' to a Peal - 19yr 8mths.

Our thoughts go out to the ringers of Christchurch, New Zealand for the loss of their tower and bells.

### **NEW GUILD AFFILIATES**

The towers of St Mary the Virgin, Abbotskerswell (6 bells, 10cwt) and St Mary Magdalene Upton, Torquay (8 bells, ~14.5 cwt) have become affiliated to the Guild, through the Mid-Devon Branch.

Congratulations and welcome!

*John Martin*



Abbotskerswell



Upton

## FACE TO FACE WITH THE PAST

The Rev Henry Thomas Ellacombe and John Henry Thomas Langabeer both have strong associations with local ringing. In January they came face to face at Clyst St George, rather fittingly, as captured in our photo. Although they must have had much in common, their conversation was judged to be mainly one-sided.

*James Kirkcaldy*



Mr Langabeer (left) and the Rev Ellacombe.



## GUILD FESTIVAL 2011

This year's festival and Annual General Meeting will be hosted on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June** by the Mid Devon Branch and will be based in Teignmouth on the South Devon coast.

Teignmouth, also known as the "Gem of south Devon" is easily accessible by public transport with both rail and bus links.

Teignmouth Baptist Church will serve as the main base for a number of activities throughout the day including the service and meeting.

A number of "drop by and try" sessions will be offered at the main venue:

- Change ringing on handbells
- Tune ringing on handbells, with the Estuary Ringers
- Take your turn to ring with the "perfect band" with the aid of a Saxilby dumb-bell and ringing simulator
- The Guild President will be answering your questions in an open session

- Have a ring on the “garage” mini-bells

Light refreshments will be available throughout the day at the main venue.

You will also be able to attend one of three specially focussed training and practice sessions, with experienced helpers and tutors:

- Doubles & Minor
- Triples & Major
- Surprise Major

One of the Teignmouth towers will also be made available for open ringing.

Advance tickets for the day and further details will be made available via Branch secretaries in May. In the meantime please address queries to John Martin (mdb.secretary@jesspuss.plus.com or phone 01626 889099)

**Note:** no ticket is required if you only wish to attend the service and meeting and it will be possible to pay cash per activity on the day. However you should be aware that paying on the day will be more expensive than buying an advance ticket.

Teignmouth Folk Festival is also taking place that weekend – why not come along and visit both events!

*John Martin, Mid Devon Branch secretary*

## **MID DEVON BRANCH QUIZ-NIGHT**

On a wet and windy night, 41 people making up 8 teams converged on St Michael's in Teignmouth. They came complete with food goodies for the interval. All were met by the quizmaster Alan Furse for a 12 round quiz with subjects as diverse as Geography to Mistresses, Sport to Formerly Known As, Music to Cryptic clues.

He had promised no bell ringing questions but the picture round was just a step to far for some. Naming the pictured bell tower and the putting the correct feature with it was rather tricky for all. (I am sure if you want to try your hand Alan may be able to send you the devilish clues.)

Then as if that wasn't enough we had the chance to play a joker (reminded some of *It's a Knockout!!!*) - the hardest decision being deciding which round you should play it on as it meant double points.

Thanks to the entrance fee and the raffle prizes so generously donated, a grand total of £135 was raised for branch funds.

Thanks must be given to Alan and Gill Furse for compiling and presenting the quiz, to Martin Dodd and Ann Roper who helped on the night.

As to the results!! They came, they competed but they couldn't match the Teignmouth team of Erica, Rachel, Scott, Ian and Anny.

*Margot Le Vesconte*

## **STOKE DAMEREL LINKS WITH UNIVERSITY OF LONDON SOCIETY**

Hellen Richardson, of the Stoke Damerel band in Plymouth, has rung her first Quarter and first Peal. The Quarter was of Plain Bob Doubles at - appropriately - St Helen's, Lundy two years ago, and the Peal of Yorkshire Major at St Olave's, Hart Street, London, on 12th February. Both were rung for the University of London Society, so at Stoke we can't claim any credit for these successes, but Hellen did learn to ring with us and frequently comes back home to ring with the band where it all started.

*John Steere*

## THE JOHN SCOTT 10-BELL COMPETITION

The 2<sup>nd</sup> John Scott 10-bell call change competition took place on 19<sup>th</sup> February at St Mark's, Exeter. Organised by the Devon Ringers' Council, this competition brings together ringers of both call change and method traditions.

The previous entry of five teams was increased to eight this year. The draw took place at 10.30 and the ringing proceeding promptly thereafter, with refreshments served throughout. Handbells made an appearance at the far end of the church, bringing together several who hadn't rung together before, while others listened to the ringing outside.

Mary Mears and Mervyn Way kindly judged for us again. Traffic noise proved a bit of a problem at the location but nevertheless the judges did a professional job, and presented the results as follows (faults in brackets):

- 1st The Quarter Pealers (26)
- 2nd Exeter Cathedral (27.5)
- 3rd Wednesday Night Ringers Band 1 (30.5)
- 4th Wednesday Night Ringers Band 2 (38.5)
- 5th Tavistock (41)
- 6th St Mark's Exeter (52)
- 7th North East Branch (59)
- 8th Exeter Colleges Guild (65)

The competition looks to have a strong future, with two offers of towers for next year already.

*Lynne Hughes.*



Ian Avery and the two judges



Janet receiving her winning certificate

## LISTENING SKILLS DAY

Five students braved the cold on 29<sup>th</sup> January for the Guild 'Listening Skills' day held at Honiton. After a quick coffee in church, Derek Ballard led the first activity, involving listening to tracks on a CD to identify different numbers of bells and whether the tenor was turned in. The 14-bell track proved a step too far (!) but 6 and 8 were found easier. Next was diagnosing computer generated striking errors, down to a surprisingly close 15% error.

Then it was time to get active... well with one finger anyway, using a computer keyboard to strike a bell in rounds or plain hunt. At this point a second practice station was set up by Martin Mansley on the church balcony, and this also had the facility of sensors simulating handbells, which were tried by some. Students moved on to ringing a real tied bell to rounds without visual cues, the computer putting in the other bell notes.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Red Cow in Honiton. The afternoon built on the morning's success, the tied bell being moved through call changes, and the balcony computer also in use again. Finally there was more listening: to excerpts of ringing with a difference, such as half muffled.

The day seemed to be very useful to students with comments such as "I never realised that" or "I understand that now", and hopefully all will have new skills to take back to their towers.

*Lynne Hughes*



Margot, Derek and Dermot



Pam on the balcony computer

## 1<sup>st</sup> SATURDAY QUARTER-PEAL BAND

As part of our regular 1st Saturday Quarter-Peal Band planning for this year, I was delegated to make the arrangements for Saturday 5th February. I had however mentioned a couple of times in passing that I thought I was getting a bit old for winter days out in freezing church towers across Devon, so hit upon the idea of staying in one place all day and keeping warm at the same time! Living as I do in Kingsteignton, the Frank Mack Mini Ring in Ian Avery's garage, half a mile down the road seemed like a good idea. Ian readily agreed not only to make the bells available, but also to ring. With the rest of the band already booked, the next thing was to plan what and how many quarters to ring. We have rung the Cambridge 6 several times in a day in the past, but never all on the same bells with 6 different conductors and all circling the bells in the process. Everyone was up for the challenge and it was suggested finishing with a quarter of 6 Spliced to round it all off. The methods were allocated to each conductor and so the scene was set.

As we arrived at Vicarage Hill there was a keen sense of anticipation, though we were under no illusions that this was going to be somewhat of a challenge. Those of you who have rung on these mini bells will know they are not the easiest of mini rings to strike and the physical strain on ringing mini bells for any length of time takes quite a toll on legs, back and shoulders.

Cambridge was first and Ian rose to the challenge of calling his 1st quarter of Surprise Minor as conductor without a hitch. The quarters progressed steadily throughout the day with several other '1st in method as conductor' footnotes along the way. We took tea at 3.30pm with 2 quarters still to go and although aches were beginning to take their toll, there was an underlying determination that the job was not yet finished. The penultimate quarter, Norfolk, was rung in fine style and we had

achieved the main objective of the day - 6 quarters in 6 methods with 6 different conductors on 6 different bells.

Finally, the quarter of 6 Spliced, which produced our best ringing of the day. An excellent effort all round and a worthwhile challenge which was a bit out of the ordinary. Special thanks must go to Ian for joining us and for keeping us well supplied with tea and coffee throughout the day. Details of the quarters are as follows.

*Nigel Birt*

### **Saturday 5th February 2011**

#### **Frank Mack Garage Ring, Vigarage Hill, Kingsteignton, Devon**

1320 Cambridge S Minor in 35mins. Sue Sawyer (SS) 1, Janet Coles (JC) 2, Lynne Hughes (LH) 3, Nigel Birt (NB) 4, Tim Bayton (TB) 5, Ian Avery (IA), (Cond) 6. 1st surprise minor as cond.

1272 Primrose S Minor in 30mins. TB 1, SS 2, JC 3, LH 4, IA 5, NB (C) 6. 1st in method as cond.

1272 Ipswich S Minor in 31mins. NB 1, TB 2, IA 3, JC 4, LH 5, SS (C) 6. 1st in method as cond.

1296 Bourne S Minor in 31mins. LH 1, IA 2, SS 3, TB 4, NB 5, JC 6 (C).

1272 Hull S Minor in 30mins. JC 1, LH 2, NB 3, IA 4, SS 5, TB 6 (C)

1296 Norfolk S Minor in 33mins. IA 1, NB 2, TB 3, SS 4, JC 5, LH (C) 6. 1st in method as cond.

1272 Spliced S Minor (6m) in 29mins. IA 1, SS 2, LH 3, JC 4, NB 5, TB (C) 6.



Back row - Tim Bayton, Ian Avery, Nigel Birt  
Front row - Sue Sawyer, Lynne Hughes, Janet Coles

### **FENITON CHURCH RE-OPENED**

On March 4th to 6th, St. Andrew's Feniton was re-opened after the Great Flood of October 2008. We had a children's day with our School on Friday (approx 300 people and children in Church for the Service) followed by a funeral which was a happier occasion than it might have been because of being in the mourner's own Church. On Saturday we had a Grand Parade when many people came with banners and in period costume (another approx 300 people). As soon as the

Parade came in sight we rang out the bells for almost the first time since the Flood! On Sunday we had the official re-opening Service with Bishop Bob and about 200 people. It was a memorable and joyful service with many well deserved thanks to people like David Lanning and Roger White our Churchwardens, who have worked tirelessly over the closed period and to their wives who have put up with so much. We rang in the Service and made a merry noise even though we are badly out of practice. This was followed by a Christening in the afternoon and a Praise Service in the evening with a Band and laser lighting. All these events were accompanied by cakes and sandwiches - I think we fed the 5000 again!

The bell ropes were damaged by the damp and consequent mould during the closed period and we could not ring for almost two years. The new bell ropes were delivered only days before the re-opening and on the very same day as we were having the bells serviced so they were fitted quickly and we managed to get in one practice before the great day. We have lost some ringers during the years and others were unfortunately away so we were very grateful to two ringers from Payhembury who made up the numbers on Saturday and to two more from Buckerell who joined us on Sunday. Without their help we should not have made such a 'merry noise'.

*Jo Chown - Tower Captain*

## **THE BELLS OF ST. PETROCK, EXETER.**

In 1961, when living and ringing in Exeter I visited St. Petrock's church to explore the possibility of re-instating ringing, knowing that the bells had not been rung since well before the commencement of World War 2. The ropes were still on the bells. The 90 year old incumbent, the Rev. Goundry, invited me to inspect the bells.

To my surprise the bells had suffered no damage resulting from the blitz and they appeared to be in reasonable condition. One bell, however, could not be swung because a louvre had collapsed into the bell pit.

At the time of my visit builders were working on the roof of the adjacent Nat West Bank. After consultation with Rev. Goundry, I approached the bank to enquire if they would kindly assist in rebuilding the louvre because it was at the same level and a short distance from the Bank's roof, which was under repair. The Bank agreed to their builders doing the work, free of charge to the Church. Later I cleared out the bell chamber, lubricated the bells and tightened bolts on the wheels and frame.

The bells were tested by the Heavitree ringers and found to be suitable for ringing to commence. A service of re-dedication was arranged, conducted by the Archdeacon of Exeter on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1962 and a peal of Minor in 4 methods was completed two days later.

I did not realise that no previous peals had been rung in the tower until recent years, when Michael Mears informed me to this effect. Therefore the 1962 peal was the first on the bells.

Dates on the bells are as follows: Treble (1742), 2(1693), 3 (no date), 4 and 5 (1677), and Tenor recast 1576. All the bells were rehung in 1877 and repaired by Doble in 1923.

*Norman Mallett February 2011.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL 2011

Fri	1	Branch Listening practice: Honiton St Pauls (19:30)	East
Sat	2	Branch practice: Dunkeswell (10:00)	East
Sat	2	Branch practice: Totnes (19:00)	Mid
Sat	2	Branch meeting: Hemyock (15:00)	NE
Sat	2	Branch practice: (19:00)	NNW
Wed	6	Advanced 10 bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Fri	8	Branch practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Fri	8	Branch Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Sat	9	<a href="#">Training: Discover Kaleidoscope Ringing</a> : Wolborough/Highweek	Guild
Thur	14	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Sat	16	Branch practice: Crediton (10:30) & pm Brampford Speke	Exeter
Mon	18	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
TBC		Branch Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Tue	26	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East
Wed	27	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE

### MAY 2011

Mon	2	Train Outing	Exeter
Wed	4	Advanced 10 bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Fri	6	Branch Listening practice: Honiton St Pauls (19:30)	East
Sat	7	Branch outing	SW
Sat	7	Branch practice: (19:00)	NNW
Thur	12	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	13	Branch practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Fri	13	Branch Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Sat	14	Branch meeting: Honiton St Paul (15:00)	East
Sat	14	Branch meeting	Mid
Sat	14	Branch training - Plain Bob Doubles: Huntsham (10:00)	NE
Sat	14	Young Ringers' Spring Event	Guild
Mon	16	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Mon	16	Branch practice: Teignmouth St James (19:00)	Mid
Sat	21	Branch outing	NE
Mon	23	Branch Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Mon	23	Branch practice: Topsham (19:30)	Exeter
Wed	25	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE
Fri	27	Branch novice 12 bell practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Tue	31	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

### JUNE 2011

Wed	1	Advanced 10 bell practice: Exeter St Mark (19:30)	Exeter
Fri	3	Branch Listening practice: Honiton St Pauls (19:30)	East
Fri	3	Branch striking competition: Silvertown (evening)	NE
Sat	4	Branch striking competition	Mid
Sat	4	Branch practice: (19:00)	NNW
Thur	9	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Sidbury (19:30)	East
Fri	10	Branch practice: Clyst St George (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Fri	10	Branch Surprise Minor practice: Buckerell (19:30) *	East
Tue	14	Branch Practice: Luppitt (19:30)	East
Sat	18	<a href="#">Guild Festival: Mid Branch</a>	Guild
Mon	20	Branch Plain Hunt practice: Axminster (19:30)	East
Wed	22	Branch practice: Huntsham (19:30)	NE
Fri	24	Branch novice 12 bell practice: Withycombe Raleigh (19:30)	Aylesbeare
Mon	27	Branch Doubles for all: Offwell (19:30)	East
Mon	27	Branch practice: Newton St Cyres (19:30)	Exeter
Tue	28	Branch practice: Sidmouth (19:30)	East

\* Please ring Derek Ballard to confirm if practice is running



## STOKE CANON JOINS GUILD

At a branch meeting a request from Stoke Canon tower to join the Guild and be affiliated to the Exeter Branch was discussed. All agreed. The bells and frame have been removed from the tower (see below) and once funding has been obtained they will be refurbished. It is expected that the work will be completed in 2012.

John Woods, tower captain, who has become a member, rings regularly at nearby Brampford Speke along with several others from Stoke Canon. There are a number of youngsters keen to learn to ring and members of the branch have offered to help John with training in nearby towers. Once the bells are in place, Stoke Canon will have a full band ready to ring out the bells once again in the village.

*Heather Somerwill*



Waiting for the bus.....



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