

The Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Annual Report for the year 2020



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The Guild of Devonshire Ringers



Registered Charity 1002950

General Secretary's Report

At the start of 2020 we were looking forward to holding our Annual General Meeting at Sidmouth and visiting Aylesbeare branch for our annual striking contest. I was also looking forward to helping some of our members take some steps along the new Central Council Yellow Pathway to ring more advanced methods on 8 bells. As things turned out none of these events could take place physically and instead, we found ourselves meeting virtually using teleconferencing services and trying to master the art of virtual ringing using Ringingroom and the other virtual ringing platforms.

A small number of us tested the Zoom teleconferencing service during the week before the Prime Minister announced the first national lockdown in March 2020 and quickly realised the potential for keeping in contact with and offering support to our members. Since March we have hosted almost 70 events, including quizzes, talks and an entertainments evening as well as the Guild Annual General Meeting and the Devon Ringers Carol Service. In that time our members and invited guests have collectively used 242,773 minutes (168 days) of time on the platform. A considerable amount of planning goes on before each meeting and I am grateful to all those who have acted as host to one or more of these events.

As 2021 begins there is hope that we may begin to meet again in person but that may yet still be some way off. In the meantime I look forward to seeing many of you at one of our regular virtual gatherings.

Bells and Belfries Advisors

Due to the Covid restrictions the activities of the Guild Bell Advisors were very limited during 2020, and were restricted basically to responding to the occasional telephone call or email. No tower inspections were carried out during the year.

A steeplekeepers' day planned for the two Plympton towers in March had to be cancelled due to the lock-down, as were planned inspections at Walkhampton and Peter Tavy. (Although not a Guild tower the inspection at Peter Tavy was offered following the discovery that the second bell was going particularly badly during the SW Branch's centenary peal there in November 2019.) Hopefully these inspections will be carried out once the restrictions are lifted. Work completed by the professional bell hangers during the year has included the rehanging of the six bells at Holbeton, the replacement of a cracked side-frame at Bradford, the installation of electrically operated chiming hammers at Exeter Cathedral, and the repair and painting of the heavily corroded sub-frames at Ermington and Shaugh Prior. We understand that work is currently under way at Dunkeswell, Denbury and Milton Abbot, and will commence shortly at Axminster. As ever, may we emphasize that we are always happy to visit any Guild tower (current restrictions aside) to report on the condition of the bell installation and to offer advice on any maintenance or restoration issue. No charge is made for these visits.

Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (Charity Number 276490)

During 2020 the Fund has been actively involved with 14 towers at some stage in their restoration projects. In addition to these, seven further towers have requested a grant application form, though have not as yet completed and submitted them. Due to the Covid restrictions no quinquennial bell inspections were carried out during 2020, though two requests were received which will be attended to once restrictions are lifted.

Again, due to the restrictions, we were unable to hold our usual two face-to-face meetings. Instead, all urgent business for our April meeting was dealt with by exchanges of emails between 4th and 7th April. Our November meeting was held using the "Zoom" facility. Similarly, we have not had a face to face meeting with our financial advisors, though have kept in touch with them by letter. The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The aim of the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund remains to provide financial assistance to churches in the County of Devon and Diocese of Exeter for the purpose of restoring, maintaining and improving their bell installations, so as to ensure their continuing use both for religious purposes and for the ongoing development of the cultural art of English church bell ringing. Though bells are housed predominantly in premises of the Church of England the practice of church bell ringing is open to all regardless of age, creed or culture; and being a very public instrument may be heard by all. The bulk of our financial assets remain in the form of an investment portfolio purchased from the William Smale Bequest, and continue to be managed through the Discretionary Portfolio Service of Cathedral Financial Management Ltd of Exeter, the value of the portfolio as at 31st December 2020 standing at £345,567, some £16,466 below its value twelve months earlier, though still £12,858 higher than the original purchase price. The continuing benefit of the investment portfolio is in the dividends received which have amounted to £10,263 for the year. As was to be expected, this was significantly less (some 24.29%) than the previous year due to the effects of Covid, and we would anticipate that this is unlikely to recover in 2021.

A significant portion of our income normally comes as a result of the activities of the two Devon ringing societies. Clearly, on account of the Covid restrictions, this was anticipated to be much reduced during 2020. As the income generally relates to the activities of the previous year, we would therefore expect to see reduced income in both 2021 and 2022. The trustees have therefore taken initiatives to offset this. In addition to the usual articles and requests for donations placed in the newsletters of the two societies, PowerPoint presentations highlighting the work of the DCBRF were made at the Annual General Meeting of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers in June and also prior to the Devon Ringers' Carol Service in December. For these we are indebted to the work of one of our trustees, Janet. Members of the two societies have been encouraged to use AmazonSmile for their on-line purchases, nominating the DCBRF as their chosen charity. Also, the Fund is now registered with the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Donate service, links to which have been provided on both societies' web pages thanks to the respective society web-masters, Matthew for the Guild of Devonshire Ringers and James for the Devon Association of Ringers. We are indebted to our treasurer, Mary, for organising this.

At the beginning of 2020 the liquid assets of the Fund stood at £44,928. Since that time two grants totalling £7,750 have been paid. £6,000 went to Holbeton for turning, tuning and rehanging the six bells with mainly new fittings, also maintenance of the bell-frame and replacement of the supporting steels of the upper frame; and £1,750 went to Bradford towards replacing the cracked treble side-frame and some of the steels, and overhauling the bearings, clappers and pulleys.

Income during the year (excluding that from the investment portfolio) has amounted to £12,063, including £5,153 from the Guild and its Branches, £3,620 from the Devon Association, £2,875 from other donations and fundraising, and £415 from tax refunds and bank interest. Although income for the year would appear to be only slightly down on the previous year, in reality this is because the receipt of some £3,250 was delayed until after the previous year end. Had that sum been received when expected in 2019, the drop in income would have been almost £7,000. At present the liquid assets of the Fund stand at £59,479.

Grants agreed this year include £9,000 to Milton Abbot towards a complete rehang of the six bells in a new fabricated steel frame, £900 to Shaugh Prior towards cleaning down and repainting

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the bell-frame and sub-frame, dismantling and galvanising some of the steels, refurbishing the clappers and repairing a cracked bell-pad; £5,700 to East Anstey for a complete rehang of the six bells; £2,400 to Butterleigh for the conversion of the derelict ring of three bells into an electronically-operated chime; and £1,900 to Dunkeswell for repairs to, and the repainting of, the sub-frame and improving access to the ringing room. An application for financial help with installing external sound control at another tower was declined. Assuming that all of the agreed grants are taken up, the uncommitted liquid balance of the Fund stands at £18,479.

Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund Accounts for the Year 2020

(Registered charity no. 276490)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCOME	2020	2019
<i>DONATIONS</i>	£	£
Guild of Devonshire Ringers and its branches	5,153.10	3,476.00
Devon Association of Ringers	3,620.00	133.00
Other donations and fundraising	2,875.08	5,099.40
TOTAL DONATIONS	11,648.18	8,708.40
TAX REFUNDS: Gift Aid/income tax	220.05	239.80
BANK INTEREST: CBFCE deposit account	194.80	259.31
FROM THE SMALE BEQUEST		
CFM discretionary investment account	10,262.80	13,556.42
TOTAL INCOME	22,325.83	22,763.93
EXPENDITURE	2020	2019
<i>GRANTS TO BELL RESTORATION PROJECTS</i>	£	£
Holbeton	6,000.00	
Bradford	1,750.00	
TOTAL GRANTS	7,750.00	20,980.00
<i>ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</i>		
Auditor's honorarium	25.00	25.00
Meeting expenses	20.04	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	25.00	45.04
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,775.00	21,025.04
GAINS (LOSSES)	£	£
Income less expenditure	14,550.83	1,738.89
Increase (decrease) in value of investments	-16,465.47	25,763.08
NET GAIN (LOSS) AT YEAR END	-1,914.64	27,501.97
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	406,961.13	379,459.16
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	405,046.49	406,961.13
BALANCE SHEET		
ASSETS	2020	2019
<i>INVESTMENTS</i>	£	£
Value of investments at 31 December	345,567.22	362,032.69
<i>CASH ACCOUNTS</i>		
CBFCE (deposit account)	35,000.00	35,000.00
Lloyds bank (current account)	24,456.07	9,897.74
Debtors	48,205.70	
LIABILITIES		
Creditors	25,002.50	
NET CASH	59,479.27	44,928.44
TOTAL ASSETS	405,046.49	406,961.13

Denmisch Simulator Report

There were a few sessions held for the after-school club in January and February but nothing since then following the Covid-19 restrictions. Some work on the installation and computers will be necessary before sessions can restart.

Devon Ringers' Council Report

Due to the Covid pandemic and along with thousands of other events being cancelled up and down the country, neither the 10-bell call-change competition or the Carol Service were able to take place in 2020.

The DRC will be holding its first meeting for some years in February 2021. Much thought has been spent recently on its future role and purpose. One of the items on the agenda will be looking at how we could be made aware of future Church closures where bells are concerned and how to ensure satisfactory negotiations are in place to deal with such sad endings.

Education Officer

Before ringing was discontinued in March, the planned introduction to ringing on higher numbers took place at Withycombe Raleigh. This opportunity to ring basic Cinques and Maximus methods as very beneficial to those who attended, as little provision for this level of 12-bell ringing is available within the Guild area and attendees appreciated the distinction from a practice that focuses largely on Surprise methods. Theory sessions throughout the year have offered useful insights into method learning. A structural approach to such learning is very useful and could be applied from a much earlier stage in many cases. It would be useful to continue this as the standard approach to method theory teaching once tower bell ringing resumes.

Looking ahead, there is great scope to continue the use of online technology for teaching certain elements of the exercise. It is also clear that some recovery action will be needed: provision should be offered for newer ringers to regain bell handling skills and confidence, and recruitment efforts will be needed in the medium term, as some ringers may not return when tower-bell ringing resumes. The idea of a county-wide bellringing school has been discussed at various times and now might be a good time to implement this ambitious project.

Frank Mack Garage Ring

In normal times the bells are now well established as being a popular fund-raising attraction and for general recruiting of lapsed or new ringers. With thousands of events cancelled up and down the country during the Covid pandemic, the bells have not been used at any event during the 2020. As many of you know, the bells being so light often prove to be problematical initially even for experienced ringers but apart from the fun side of this ring, it proved to be of unmeasured success in getting potential learners into a tower near them. Long may this continue.

The lightness of the bells and therefore quite an unrealistic comparison with tower bells, does not appear to put people off having a go. Indeed, there is almost a greater sense of achievement having conquered something so tricky. A visual plus for potential learners is being able to see both the bell and ringer simultaneously and therefore perhaps grasping a speedier understanding of what one is attempting to achieve. If you would like to borrow them for an event, please use the on-line booking form or contact me direct. I hope 2021 will bring about a climate whereby the bells can once again cover many miles and events.

Guild Librarian

COVID-19 restrictions presented opportunities as well as problems for the Library. Library openings were suspended in March and the Librarian has only been able to make two maintenance checks on the stock since then. However, much work has been put into developing the Library's on-line presence and into a final sort and catalogue update for the remaining book stock in store at

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Tiverton. An updated edition of the author catalogue was launched in December along with the first of several new subject lists. It is hoped that these will make much easier the discovery of items in our rich collection of ringing heritage. Further subject lists will be issued in 2021. The Guild A.G.M. agreed a policy to dispose of duplicate copies of stock where there is no intrinsic reason to keep them and it is planned to offer these for sale as soon as an opportunity allows.

The Library On-line. Several new pages have been added to the library area of the Guild website. The Devon Ringing History Group page now has links to presentations on the history of Tiverton St. Peter and St. Leonard's Tower, Newton Abbot and on the restoration projects at Kingskerswell and Combe Raleigh together with a guide to biographical research. The new "Library Catalogues" page contains links to the author catalogue and subject lists; all of these contain links to on-line copies of the items where they exist. A new "Surveys of Devon Bells" was created to provide links to the newly acquired "Jerram Survey" and to the online version of Ellacombe's Church Bells of Devon.

Acquisitions and Usage. Notable new publications purchased this year include the late Christopher Dalton's Exploring England's Belfries and Change Ringing on Handbells (Vol.1) by Tina Stoecklin and Simon Gay. We are grateful to Nei, the former Salisbury Guild Librarian, for making a copy of the "Jerram Survey" available to us both on paper and as a pdf file; the latter is now available on the Surveys webpage. We are also grateful to members who have donated items, notably Glenis and Fr Lester. We continue to receive enquiries from a wide variety of people and places – on average once a month. This year we have assisted the Steward of the C.C. Rolls of Honour, the Ringing World and have supplied the Whiting Society with The Bell Hymn Book for their digitisation programme amongst others. Looking to the future the 150th anniversary of the Guild in 2024 is fast approaching and we should consider whether we wish to prepare a publication to mark this event.

Ringing Round Devon Newsletter

The March issue of RRD was produced as usual, but the Covid lockdown hit just as the printed copies were being distributed. All the branch copies have now been distributed but I am sure that many towers have still not received their copies as the bells have not been rung since then. Despite there being no ringing after March it was decided to produce an Internet-only version for June (18 pages) which was met with enthusiasm both within the Guild and outside, provoking a favourable comment from the president of the Central Council. A significant part of this version was encouraging members to take part in the Zoom AGM, and how to use the technology. Articles continued to roll in so it was thought worthwhile producing issues in September (15 pages) and December (18 pages). Substantial savings in the production cost have been achieved by not getting copies printed, while individuals are welcome to print their own copies where suitable computer printers are available. In fact the total cost of each issue is zero! It is thought that printed copies will be required once towers start ringing regularly again. Members who have taken out a subscription for printed copies will have their payment held over until then. I am very grateful to all those who continue to send in articles of various types. Special thanks go, as always, to John, who does the page layout and produces the final version.

Publicity Officer's Report

As we all know, since March 2020 there has been very little tower bell ringing and no chance to engage with the public through open days or county events. The return of limited Sunday ringing for a few months was an opportunity for local publicity on social media, as was the Christmas dispensation. Remember to let your town know about anything like this!

Internal communication has continued with the well-used Guild Facebook group, which now has 162 members. The Central Council and Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) have been working together to identify ways to make the return to ringing as successful as possible, pulling together

ideas and resources from round the country, and encouraging Ringing Recovery Champions in local areas. So when there is light at the end of the tunnel, there should be publicity material and ideas we can use.

Guild Striking Competitions

Unfortunately due to the pandemic we were unable to hold this years competitions, but hope to do so in 2021, all being well

Webmaster Report

During 2020 the website received an average of 41.5 (down from 74 in 2019) unique page views per day. The breakdown of page views is shown below for the 10 most visited pages:

Page	Page views	Unique page views	Av time on page
Home	5,443 (24.6%)	3,845 (25.4%)	00:01:34
/guild/newsletters	1,857 (8.4%)	1,397 (9.2%)	00:03:29
/towers	1,186 (5.4%)	680 (4.5%)	00:00:41
/news-events/news-gallery	709 (3.2%) 3	91 (2.6%)	00:00:30
/guild/guild-membership-subscription-form	658 (3.0%)	363 (2.4%)	00:03:09
/guild/agms	534 (2.4%)	289 (1.9%)	00:01:44
/contacts	511 (2.3%)	321 (2.1%)	00:01:06
/towers/practice-nights	449 (2.0%)	273 (1.8%)	00:00:57
/news-events	416 (1.9%)	283 (1.9%)	00:00:30
/news-events/events	407 (1.8%)	339 (2.2%)	00:01:39
TOTAL	22,084	15,167	00:01:21

Not surprisingly, the newsletters, gallery and news pages appear higher in this list than usual with the towers and practices pages receiving fewer views. The new online subscription has been launched and has gained a relatively high number of views in a short space of time. In February the Mid Devon branch email list was created followed in March with the Exeter branch and Exeter Branch Friends email lists. Aylesbeare and East Devon branches will be creating email lists this year using data gathered from the subscription forms. There is an issue sending emails to some domains hosted by Plusnet. I am working on this with our hosting provider.

A new ECG site is currently being designed using the Joomla content management system.

If anyone wants help or guidance with email lists, email addresses or the website then please get in touch.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund shows a surplus of £2,094.58 (2019: £1,728.91). Whilst we have had a significant drop in income from peal ringing, we have made savings due to reduced activities. In particular: no Central Council Rep Expenses as our reps attended online meetings; no striking competition costs; reduced library access costs and fewer Ringing World adverts.

The General Committee have recommended that the 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports be amalgamated, and the print run is limited to a copy for each affiliated tower and for those members who have requested a copy. The estimated cost of printing is £548, so half this cost has been recognised in the accounts.

The Guild library was open in the first quarter of 2020, we paid St Petrock's £60 for hire charges for three two-hour sessions. We had expected to pay £240 in the year for the monthly access to the library. The library remains housed in St Petrock's, and we felt it was appropriate to donate £50

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as a goodwill gesture. The Library Fund is making a transfer of £75 to the General Fund to cover these costs.

Our new cost this year is for a Zoom subscription which was taken out in March 2020. The cost per month is £14.39. We can host up to 100 attendees with no time limit. The Guild hosts a weekly meeting on Monday at 9pm, where we have held a variety of talks and ringing community events. The account has also been used in 2020 to host the Guild AGM, Branch AGMs; training sessions; Devon Ringers Carol Service and many other meetings for officers, towers, and Branches.

The Bell Restoration Fund shows a total of £4,358.60 (2019: £3,846.10) was raised for the DCBRF. This includes the transfer from the General Fund of £2,325 agreed at the June 2020 AGM. Whilst we did not ring quarter peals in Autumn 2020, a variety show and produce show were held in Zoom and members were invited to donate funds directly to DCBRF.

For our 2021 subscription process, members are invited to make a restricted donation to the DCBRF along with their subscription. These monies will be shown next year as income in the Bell Restoration Fund and paid on to the DCBRF. There have been a few donations already received by the Guild bank account which are analysed in the accounts. We request that 2021 subscriptions and optional donations are collected at Branch level and remitted to the Guild by the Branch treasurers in the spring.

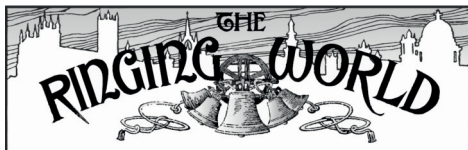
There has been no movement on the Instruction and Education Fund or the Denmisch Fund. The Library Fund collected £75 in subscriptions and donations.

Assets held by the Guild at 31 December 2020 were £8,977.85 (2019: £9,043.27).

It should be noted the Guild still has healthy liquid assets, I suggest we consider how we can use some of our reserves to improve the health of ringing once we emerge from the Covid 19 crisis.

In 2022 we will be hosting the National Youth Ringing Contest in Exeter. I would like to propose that we make monies available to support a youth band and young ringing activities of up to £500 and in addition make a donation to the DCBRF of £1,625.

Thank you to all Guild members for your help and support in achieving these results.



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BELLBOARD

RWNYC
Ringing World National Youth Contest

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1002950**GENERAL FUND****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
INCOME	£	£
Ringing members' subscriptions	2,838.50	2,803.80
Affiliation fees	612.00	600.00
Non Resident Life Members	6.00	24.00
Peal fees	157.80	958.80
Newsletter sales & advertising income	47.50	195.00
Interest	6.48	8.91
Badge sales	0.00	235.00
Cost of badges sold	0.00	-193.73
	3,668.28	4,631.78
EXPENDITURE		
Annual report	274.00	712.15
Printing reduced version for 5 members	42.46	0.00
Less advertising income	0.00	-136.00
	316.46	576.15
Newsletter expenses	175.21	708.34
Central Council subscription	160.00	160.00
Central Council representatives' expenses	0.00	459.68
Administration expenses	20.00	84.13
Meeting expenses	45.00	42.00
Guild website	90.00	86.00
Insurance	381.01	369.61
Striking competition expenses	0.00	76.20
Ringing World adverts	9.10	48.32
Library acquisitions and materials	112.23	109.94
Library venue costs	60.00	90.00
Library venue donation to St Petrock's Church	50.00	0.00
Write down the value of the Devon Ringers' Council loan	0.00	92.50
Zoom subscription	154.69	0.00
	1,573.70	2,902.87
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	2,094.58	1,728.91

INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION FUND**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
INCOME	£	£
Donations	0.00	0.00
EXPENDITURE		
ART assessor fees	0.00	90.25
	0.00	90.25
DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	0.00	-90.25

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DENMISCH FUND**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
INCOME	£	£
Donations	0.00	17.50
Peal fees	0.00	40.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>57.50</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Maintenance and equipment	0.00	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	0.00	57.50

LIBRARY FUND**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
INCOME	£	£
Library subscriptions	75.00	70.00
Net contributions received from opening event	0.00	88.20
	<u>75.00</u>	<u>158.20</u>
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	75.00	158.20

BELL RESTORATION FUND FUND**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
INCOME	£	£
Transfer from General Fund	2,235.00	2,100.00
Gift Aid tax repayment claim	253.20	260.00
Branches : Aylesbeare	55.00	380.00
East Devon	100.00	86.00
Exeter	150.00	150.00
Mid Devon	600.00	100.00
North East	36.50	81.90
North/North West	100.00	100.00
South West	525.00	125.00
St Brannock's Society	100.00	100.00
2019 quarter peal events	0.00	245.00
Committee meeting	25.00	46.40
Mini Ring	0.00	20.00
Newsletter subscriptions	0.00	30.00
Donated as part of the 2021 subscription process	98.00	0.00
Other donations	80.90	21.80
	<u>4,358.60</u>	<u>3,846.10</u>
Paid to Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund	<u>4,358.60</u>	<u>3,846.10</u>
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	0.00	0.00

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of Guild badges	461.67	461.67
Debtors and prepayments	1,283.76	1,455.46
Cash held	190.04	190.04
Building Society account	8,506.13	9,387.89
	<u>10,441.60</u>	<u>11,495.06</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors and accruals	-1,463.75	-2,451.79
	<u>8,977.85</u>	<u>9,043.27</u>
Financed by :-		
GENERAL FUND		
Balance at 1st January	8,375.28	8,982.17
Surplus for year	2,094.58	1,728.91
Transfer from Library Fund	75.00	90.00
Transfer to Education Fund	0.00	-325.80
Transfer to Bell Restoration Fund	-2,235.00	-2,100.00
	<u>8,309.86</u>	<u>8,375.28</u>
INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION FUND		
Balance at 1st January	409.75	174.20
Transfer from General Fund	0.00	325.80
Deficit for year	0.00	-90.25
	<u>409.75</u>	<u>409.75</u>
DENMISCH FUND		
Balance at 1st January	190.04	132.54
Surplus for year	0.00	57.50
	<u>190.04</u>	<u>190.04</u>
LIBRARY FUND		
Balance at 1st January	68.20	0.00
Surplus for year	75.00	158.20
Transfer to General Fund	-75.00	-90.00
	<u>68.20</u>	<u>68.20</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>8,977.85</u>	<u>9,043.27</u>

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Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers (Registered Charity No. 1002950) Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

I report on the accounts of the Guild for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out in this report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed,

It is my responsibility to:

- (a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (b) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (c) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Timothy M Payne,
7 May, 2021



Guild of Devonshire Ringers Summary of Branch Accounts 2020

Branch	Aylesbeare	East Devon	Exeter	Mid Devon	North East	North & West	South West
Year End	Sept	Dec	Oct	Nov	Oct	Nov	Dec
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME							
Subs and fees	348.00	942.00	708.00	696.00	756.00	426.00	747.00
Other income	79.93	81.72	0.00	76.94	467.00	0.00	658.39
	<u>427.93</u>	<u>1,023.72</u>	<u>708.00</u>	<u>772.94</u>	<u>1,223.00</u>	<u>426.00</u>	<u>1,405.39</u>
EXPENDITURE							
Subs paid to Guild	261.60	697.20	520.80	510.60	563.40	304.00	561.30
Paid to DCBRF/Ed Fund	16.80	100.00	150.00	0.00	37.00	100.00	525.00
Other expenses	208.00	39.34	2.33	30.00	860.78	6.13	795.40
	<u>486.40</u>	<u>836.54</u>	<u>673.13</u>	<u>540.60</u>	<u>1,461.18</u>	<u>410.13</u>	<u>1,881.70</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	<u>-58.47</u>	<u>187.18</u>	<u>34.87</u>	<u>232.34</u>	<u>-238.18</u>	<u>15.87</u>	<u>-476.31</u>
FUNDS AT YEAR END	<u>414.32</u>	<u>1,227.61</u>	<u>427.90</u>	<u>1,710.12</u>	<u>2,197.34</u>	<u>310.92</u>	<u>1,623.05</u>

Guild of Devonshire Ringers Summary of Members Paying Subscriptions by Branch

	Aylesbeare	East Devon	Exeter	Mid Devon	North East	North & West	South West	Total
Members paying by subscription								
2020	51	138	108	104	109	64	110	684
2019	46	135	108	91	111	65	105	661
Towers								
2020	10	21	14	13	19	6	18	101
2019	10	21	14	12	19	7	17	100

Guild Ringing Festival 2021

This is scheduled to take place between Friday 23rd October and Sunday 7th November (inclusive).

All proceeds will be forwarded to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. If you would like to take part in a quarter peal, require help in organising a quarter peal or require any further information please contact James Kirkcaldy (contact details at front of the report).

A donation of £1 per ringer per performance is requested, if possible please Gift Aid this. Gift Aid forms are available from the useful documents page on the Guild website (<http://devonringers.org.uk/guild/useful-docs>).

Please forward all donations (and Gift Aid forms) to James by 30th November. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Guild of Devonshire Ringers'.

Please publish all performances through the online media linking them to the event 'Guild of Devonshire Ringers - Ringing Festival' which has been set up on Bellboard.

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Aylesbeare Deanery Branch

2020 started as normal with all sorts of plans, including an outing to Taunton, training days and branch practices all mapped out. We had an excellent practice at Aylesbeare in March but this was the last time we met face to face. Some of our towers were able to resume ringing in a small way between July and October but others were not so lucky. We held our AGM on Zoom which worked out well, following the way it was done for the Guild AGM, keeping it simple and as quick as possible. Thanks to all the tower captains for helping to keep all their ringers in touch with each other and the wider Guild during the pandemic. May we soon get back to normal.

AYLESBEARE Blessed Virgin Mary, 6 bells, tenor 12cwt, grid ref. SY038919.

No ringing has taken place at Aylesbeare for a while. We were, however, asked by the Church Warden to toll a bell for a short time on 11th November for Armistice Day and a few people associated with the military came to listen and were most appreciative. We have kept in touch with local ringers from time to time but haven't taken part in any zoom meetings.

BROADCLYST St. John the Baptist. 8 bells, tenor 20cwt, grid ref. SX982973.

Sundays: 09:15 (4th). Practice: (3rd) Friday at 19:30 (door locked from 19:45).

Two peals and one quarter peal were rung, the quarter peal being prior to a christening. Sunday ringing, of four bells, restarted in July, on the normal 4th Sunday. Thanks to those who were able to assist in this.

CLYST HONITON St Michael & All Angels, 8 bells, tenor 19cwt, grid ref. SX989935.

Sunday: 9.30am (2nd) Ringing by arrangement.

There were no services in the church after lockdown so ringing didn't start again. I've kept in touch with the ringers who help out here on a regular basis and expect ringing to start again once services resume.

CLYST ST GEORGE St George, 6 bells, tenor 10cwt, grid ref. SX984889.

Sunday: Alternate Months (starting February) 4th Sunday only 10.00 am. Practice by arrangement

It was decided that we couldn't successfully socially distance so ringing didn't start again after lockdown. However, I do contact the ringers who help out here on a regular basis and expect ringing to start again once we are allowed and services resume.

LITTLEHAM St Margaret, 8 bells, tenor 7cwt, grid ref. SY029813.

Sunday: 9.30am Practice: Monday 7.30pm

We rang until 15th March and then after an inspection of the bells, and note to the neighbours, ringing commenced on 14 July with 3 ringers. We continued until only a single bell was allowed and then did that at a fast tolling pace. We rang 3 bells on Christmas morning. The 2019 'improvers' were the mainstay of this ringing. Some of us have enjoyed the Monday evening Internet Arms sessions provided by the Guild.

LYMPSTONE Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 6 bells, tenor 12cwt, grid ref. SX993842.

Sunday: 9:30am. Practice: Wednesday 7:30pm.

We were able to ring four bells for services (1,2,4 & 5) socially distanced, although call changes on 3 with a tenor cover is hardly interesting! Our learners, of course, haven't had any instruction during lockdown but thankfully remain keen to restart when possible. We did ring for one small wedding.

On a brighter note the ringers were asked to make an illuminated star and put it at the top of the tower as part of the Lymptone Living Advent Calendar to compliment the life size nativity in the churchyard. A star shaped metal frame about 5 feet in diameter with LED lights, it was covered it

with willow and four of us hauled it to the top of the tower to secure it. The star became a local landmark with the lights visible in parts of Exmouth. It was left on until 2 February and will still be on the tower until lockdown allows us to remove it.

SOWTON St Michael & All Angels, 8 bells, tenor 9cwt, grid ref. SX97692.

Sunday: 6.00pm (2nd and 4th).

Due to the close proximity of the ropes in the tower, and no services, ringing has yet to restart.

TOPSHAM St Margaret, 6 bells, tenor 10cwt, grid ref. SX965880.

Sunday: 9.30am. Practice: Thursday 7.30pm.

2020 started well at Topsham with our annual dinner, followed by a couple of quarter peals, including a first for Vicky. Following a tower clean up in March, national events inevitably took over and throughout the first lockdown, the band kept in touch via email and zoom calls. Ringing of sorts returned in May with individuals chiming on a Sunday using the Ellacombe chimes which had fortunately been kept in good order. In July, after careful assessment and following the government guidelines, it was decided with the church that the tower could be partitioned into three sections to allow for safe ringing. Having a couple of families that ring meant we were able to ring four bells on Sundays during the summer despite church services remaining online and we had many comments of how much the sound of the bells meant to the local residents.

In addition to Sunday ringing, the band met for a socially distanced walk in July and in August we were able to support the town's commemoration of VE/VJ day. In October, we had the sad duty of ringing for Roy's funeral. Roy was tower Captain: here for over sixty years. The bells were rung before and after the service, and a proper ringing celebration is planned for the future. Shortly before Remembrance Day, the bells ceased again, though the Ellacombe chimes were rung for November 11th and this proved to be the last ringing in 2020. During the year, when circumstances have allowed, work on our simulator has continued and this will prove invaluable when we are able to return to ringing in earnest. My thanks to all the band for their support and enthusiasm and for keeping the tower community going during a difficult year.

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH St John the Evangelist, 12 bells, tenor 17cwt, grid ref. SY008818.

Sunday: 9.30am. Practice: Monday 7.30pm.

Between January and March, as well as normal Sundays and practice nights, 2 quarter peals were rung, including one to celebrate a 60th birthday, the other being a first on 12 as conductor. Also 2 peals were rung containing firsts of spliced maximus and a first of Maximus. It's great to see young ringers from across the county making excellent use of our bells to advance their 12 bell ringing. One of our own also called his first quarter peal at Woodbury. Much to the delight of all our ringers, we were able to ring for all Sunday services that took place between mid-July and the end of October. We also had a lapsed ringer return to the fold in time for the recommencement of ringing during the summer.

WOODBURY St Swithin, 8 bells, tenor 23cwt, grid ref. SY009872.

Sunday: 10.15-11.15am. (Generally no ringing on the 5th Sunday in any month).

When limited ringing became possible later in 2020 all members of the band were invited to ring on a rota system. Our first piece of ringing was 1,2,3,4 + 6, for the installation of the new vicar of the White Cross Mission. Bishop Robert was officiating and was very complimentary. With helpful advice from the Guild and CCCBR we established that we could ring every other bell and over the ensuing weeks we were able to ring for Sunday services, generally opting for bells 1,3,5, & 7. Everyone who was happy to ring had plenty of opportunity and some very useful ringing up and down practice.

East Devon Branch

Deaneries of Honiton and Ottery

Unfortunately, only one meeting was possible during the 2020 year – the AGM at Sidmouth in February. We thank them for their hospitality. Little did we know what the year would bring! Some limited ringing has been possible at some towers during the year. Some have taken advantage of on-line ringing and hopefully that will keep our minds, if not our bodies, in trim for when we can ring fully again.

All the organisation the Branch Committee had done to hold the Guild Festival in June came to nothing, as it was cancelled. What Branch and Guild activities will be possible in 2021 remains to be seen. Our current branch membership for 2021 is well below the 139 members in 2020. We will all need to work hard to encourage the return to ringing and membership of those who may have drifted away during this most difficult time.

AWLISCOMBE St Michael & All Angels, 6 bells, tenor 19 cwt, grid ref. ST133018.

Sunday: 9.00-9.30am (1st and 3rd). Practice: Tuesday 7.30pm (alternate with Buckerell).

We all hope it won't be too long before we are all up in the tower again. It seems to have been so very long since we have all got together, let's hope there is some light at the end of the tunnel and we can ring out the bells again.

AXMINSTER St Mary, 10 bells, tenor 23 cwt, grid ref. SY296984.

Sunday: 10.15 am -11.00am. Practice: Wednesday 7.30pm – alternating with Kilmington (none in January or August).

2020 started off well. Open tower days and some social media activity had inspired a couple of lapsed ringers to rekindle their interest and join our regular call change band. The monthly evensong service was providing a focus for regular quarter peal attempts, supported by ringers from neighbouring towers. Throughout the disruption we rang for Sunday services in accordance with the restrictions in force at the time. Remarkably though our activities were restricted our band grew by three when experienced ringers moved into the area. With funds in place to carry out an overhaul of the bell bearings we are in a strong position to swing back into action as soon as we are permitted.

BUCKERELL SS Mary & Giles, 6 bells, tenor 8 cwt, grid ref. ST123003.

Practice: Alternate Tuesdays 7.30pm (with Awliscombe and Offwell).

2020 was a terrible year from the ringing point of view. We didn't even manage to host any visiting bands before the first lockdown! We did very much enjoy a ringers Spring Dinner at a local hostelry. Little did we know this would be the highlight of the ringing year. Looking forward with optimism, our Tuesday practices alternate with the neighbouring parishes of Awliscombe and Offwell and are lively and well attended.

Visiting bands will be welcome (eventually!) and our thanks go to all who support us in so many ways. When we can do so, on the second Friday of each month Buckerell hopes to continue hosting a Surprise Minor practice. This would be open to all who would like to learn or advance their skills in these methods.

COMBE RALEIGH St Nicholas, 6 bells, tenor 6 cwt, grid ref. ST158023.

Sunday: 10.45-11.15am (1st and 3rd Sundays). Practice: Mondays 3.00pm.

Of necessity ringing was very much curtailed during 2020. We did manage to ring a limited number of bells for Remembrance Sunday and again on Christmas Day. During the various lockdowns the Friday Group kept in touch with a virtual coffee morning each Friday by courtesy of Zoom, often with a quiz to go with the chat. A smaller group have enjoyed a virtual afternoon tea, another small group met regularly in Ringing Room and we have generally all kept in touch. Trevor and Lisa put

together an illustrated talk on our bell project, which was presented to members of the Guild at the Internet Arms in December.

COTLEIGH St Michael, 6 bells, tenor 7 cwt, grid ref. ST206022.

Practice: Irregular.

Until lockdown in March, with help from neighbouring towers, we rang for Sunday service on the second Sunday of the month, since then all ringing has been suspended.

DUNKESWELL St. Nicholas, 6 bells, tenor 6 cwt, grid ref. ST141077.

Practice: Thursday 7.00-8.30pm.

Tower members have kept in touch sporadically as we were all notified of the messages from the Guild and the guidelines from the Central Council, together with the Exeter Diocese regards ringing in the tower.

When possible, we rang 3 bells for Sunday services and also for one wedding and Remembrance Sunday. This year a lot of hard work and effort has been undertaken to ensure our tower refurbishment can go ahead in 2021. We are looking forward to an open tower event as and when we can socialise again.

FARWAY St Michael & All Angels, 6 bells, tenor 11 cwt, grid ref. SY173964.

Sunday: 10.45-11.15am (not 1st Sunday). Practice: Thursdays 7.30pm (please ring to confirm).

The bells have only been rung on two occasions since the original lockdown, firstly for the Harvest Festival service and more recently the Christmas Carol service. The congregation were seated outside and enjoyed our rendition of 'Three Blind Mice'. A number of new families have moved into the village and some have shown an interest in having a go at ringing, so, fingers crossed, we might be increasing our numbers once we can resume ringing.

FENITON St Andrew, 6 bells, tenor 9 cwt, grid ref. SY109994.

Sunday: No regular service ringing at present. Practice: Friday evening from 7pm to 8.30pm.

As with all other towers we have had little chance to practice or ring for services due to Covid restrictions. We were only able to ring three bells on a very few occasions and to toll one bell on Remembrance Sunday. It has been very disappointing for as we have been trying so hard to reform the band. She is extremely grateful for all the help she has received from nearby towers and Tim Bayton, who has helped with training.

The belfry was cleaned earlier in the year and the netting checked. Later the Swift Boxes were installed in one slit window in the tower. It is hoped that young Swifts who located the boxes in 2020 will return to nest in 2021, Swifts were once prolific in the area, but are now on the endangered list and we hope our new boxes will aid their recovery. Apparently the sound of bells does not worry them, so if they come when we are ringing there will be no conflict. We welcome any ringers, or potential ringers, who would like to join us.

GITTISHAM St Michael & All Angels, 5 bells, tenor 12 cwt, grid ref. ST133984.

Following Government regulations Gittisham Tower has been closed throughout the year 2020 and remains closed until further notice. The bell-ringers were saddened that all weddings were postponed, although one couple bravely attempted two alternative dates, only to be thwarted by lock-down restrictions and Coronavirus.

We were able to ring three bells for the outdoor Harvest Festival service and one bell was tolled just before 11.00 am on 11th November on Armistice Day. As is the tradition in Gittisham a team of three rang for Midnight Mass on 24th December and the same team rang again for the open air Christmas Morning service. These are difficult times, but we remain hopeful that all five bells will be heard ringing out once more in the not too distant future.

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HONITON St Michael, 6 bells (unringable), tenor 21 cwt, grid ref. SY167999.

HONITON St Paul, 8 bells, tenor 12 cwt, grid ref. ST163007.

Sunday: 9.00-9.30 am. Practice: Wednesday 7.30pm.

We had a new Tower Captain elected in February 2020 and on 17th March we were sent into a covid-19 lockdown and ringing stopped completely for 6 months. One of our band has retired from ringing sadly during this lockdown.

In August we had approval to ring again, for 15 minutes only on a Sunday. Chris our Steeple Keeper came and checked the safety of the bells, On Sunday 30th August we rang bells 1, 3, 5 & 7 and did simple plain hunt and call changes at 10.45-11.00am. Ringing 4 bells stopped again in Mid-October. Ali rang the Half Muffled Tenor on the 8th and 11th November, finally, the last time we rang 4 bells in 2020 was on Christmas Day, at 10.45 until 11am.

KILMINGTON St Giles, 6 bells, tenor 10 cwt, grid ref. SY273980.

Sunday: Times vary. Practice: 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday 7.30-9.00pm.

Well, everything was going swimmingly until March! We did ring three bells from September to the November lockdown for the few services that took place. Luckily, we still have an Ellacombe system, so for the Christmas services this was utilised ensuring everyone's safety and adhering to the 'no mixing of households' rule. The village particularly enjoyed hearing the bells even though the chimed bells don't carry as far. Three of the band cleaned the tower in August and three new tail ends were fitted and the other rope ends given a bath too.

LUPPITT St Mary's, 8 bells, tenor 11 cwt, grid ref. ST169068.

Sunday: 10.30am. Practice: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 7.30pm.

With no ringing for the majority of the year we have nothing to comment on.

NORTHLEIGH St Giles, 4 bells, tenor 9 cwt, grid ref. SY195959.

Sunday: 10.45-11.15am (1st Sunday).

Before lockdown in March we were enjoying our regular Monday morning practises perfecting our three bells methods! Also using the simulator on a weekly basis. Bells were rung on the first Sunday before the morning service. Since March a bell was tolled for an outdoor funeral and our Vicar chimes a bell most Fridays before evening prayer. During one of these sessions the Tenor rope broke. This gave me a chance to try rope splicing before it was mended properly by David Hurford.

OFFWELL St Mary, 6 bells, tenor 8 cwt, grid ref. SY194995.

Sunday: 9.00-9.30am (1st Sunday).

In 2020 whenever ringing was permitted Paul supervised the ringing of three bells before services. As an 80 year old the captain thought it was best to isolate, but on Christmas morning welcomed visitors with the Ellacombe Chimes. The chimes had been renovated in the autumn with the help of parishioner Clive. It was apparent that some fine adjustments are needed to ensure good striking. All the ropes and hammers now run freely. We are all looking forward to the day when we can once again ring all six bells full circle.

OTTERY ST MARY St Mary the Virgin, King Edward Confessor & All Saints, 8 bells, tenor 18cwt, grid ref. SY098956.

Sunday: 9.00-9.30am, 6.00-6.30pm. Practice: Monday 7.30-9.00pm.

It was a very quiet time this year, of course. We rang for one wedding, four bells several times on Sunday mornings, and once at Christmas. Unfortunately, we have probably lost one ringer, but gained two teenage girls, so we will be all ready to go when circumstances allow.

PAYHEMBURY St Mary the Virgin. 6 bells, tenor 16 cwt in E.

Sundays: 10.30 am for 11.00 am services (usually one a month). Practice: Thursdays: 8.00-9.00pm.

Until March we had regular practises and our three new recruits were coming on well: then came lockdown and we kept in touch in other ways.

The four weddings booked for the summer were all cancelled, which was very sad. We restarted ringing in September, observing strict rules including hand sanitizing, spacing and mask wearing. Each week we tried to alternate beginners with the more experienced ringers to maintain their interest and keep them progressing. Then came further lockdowns and we were unable to ring for Remembrance Day, Christmas or the New Year.

SHUTE St Michael, 6 bells, tenor 6 cwt, grid ref. SY252974.

Sunday service varies each month, please use tower email contact for times.

No Practice night at present.

St Michael's regular Sunday Service have been suspended since the National Lockdown of March 2020, accordingly our bells have remained silent.

SIDBURY SS Peter & Giles, 8 bells, tenor 16 cwt, grid ref. SY140918.

Please contact tower captain for information on Service and Practice ringing times and dates.

In February two ringers joined the band having moved to the area from Great Stanmore, North London. We were able to ring until the first lockdown during which time our tower captain decided to step down and a tower captain appointed.

We welcomed two new learners to the band and have another potential new recruit in our sights. We rang for services, held practices and rang for one wedding when permitted. We look forward to resuming a full programme of ringing when allowed.

SIDMOUTH St Nicholas & St Giles, 10 bells, tenor 18 cwt, grid ref. SY125873.

Sunday: 9.30am. Practice: Tuesday 7.30pm.

When lockdown started in March 2020 we had no idea how long we'd be banned from ringing. Following an inspection report, the tower was spring cleaned and a local bellhanger did some of the more urgent maintenance work.

Ringers have kept in touch by phone, email and newsletters and, of course, Ringing Room. Some socially distanced ringing took place last autumn (4 bells) and at Christmas (6 bells). So, as long as we keep exercising our minds and bodies we should be up and ready to ring when someone says 'GO'.

TALATON St James the Great, 6 bells, tenor 12 cwt, grid ref. SY067997.

Sunday: 9am (1st Sunday of the month). Practice: none at present.

We managed some three bell ringing in between lockdowns.

UPOTTERY St Mary the Virgin, 6 bells, tenor 17 cwt, grid ref. ST202706.

Sunday: 10.00am.

A blank year with nothing to report..

Exeter Branch

Deaneries of Cadbury, Christianity, Okehampton and part of Kenn with Pinhoe

With the unprecedented challenges we have all faced with the coronavirus this year we have not managed much ringing or any of the planned social events. We had one branch practice in Heavitree in February where we worked on Double Norwich.

We had a branch zoom catch up towards the start of lockdown, on 30th April – it was exceptionally good weather for the time of year and several members even made use of their impressive Wi-Fi signals by joining the meeting from their gardens! Branch members regularly joined in on the weekly Guild Zoom sessions which has been a good way of keeping in touch with everyone. We also welcome Bondleigh who have joined the branch as a new tower. The AGM was held on zoom, where our ringing master stepped down after recently starting university.

BONDLEIGH St.James the Apostle, 4 bells, tenor 9cwt, grid ref. SS651048, postcode EX20 2AN
Sunday: By arrangement. Practice: Saturday 10.00-11.45am.

BRAMPFORD SPEKE St Peter, 6 bells, tenor 6cwt, grid ref. SX927982.
All ringing by arrangement. Please phone to confirm.

CREDITON Holy Cross, 12 bells, tenor 26cwt, grid ref. SS836002.
SHOBROOKE St Swithin, 6 bells, tenor 12cwt, grid ref. SS862011.
Crediton: Sunday: 8.45am and 5.30pm (1st). Practice: Tuesday 7.30pm.
Shobrooke: Sunday: 10.30am (2nd and 4th). Practice: Thursday 7.30pm (not January or February).

EXETER Cathedral of St Peter, 12 bells, tenor 72cwt, grid ref. SX920925.
Sunday following 3rd Saturday: 2.30pm (quarter peals by arrangement on other Sundays).
Practice: 1st, 2nd and last Mondays 7.00pm (alternate 2nd Mondays usually at Withycombe Raleigh at 7.30pm). Sunday ringing and Monday practices for experienced 12 bell ringers only.
Open practice: 3rd Saturday 6:00pm (visitors welcome, although you must have a minimum experience of one year if you wish to ring).

2020 started in fine style following on from our highly successful previous year and during the first three months nine quarter peals were rung on the Cathedral bells and a further one by the band at Withycombe Raleigh. A local band peal of Cambridge Maximus was also rung in February and at the same time five members of the band rang a peal at Dunedin whilst on a tour of New Zealand.

This sadly all came to an end with the arrival of Covid 19 and the first lockdown in mid-March. Following the reopening of the Cathedral in July we were able to ring for services on an extremely limited basis but only after suitable training in the Covid 19 risk assessments. A handbell quarter peal was rung outside the West Front for the 'Not the Exeter Nativity' and six bells were rung for the Grandisson service on Christmas Eve and again on Christmas morning.

Fortunately we have been able to meet regularly as a band socially on Zoom while some members have also had regular on line practices on both Handbell Stadium and Ringing Room but all other activities such as our annual dinner, proposed outing to York and participation in the Twelve Bell Competition were cancelled. During October, the Ellacombe chiming system was replaced with computer operated electromagnetic hammers which now automatically ringing Stedman Cinques and Bristol Maximus on a Sunday morning!

At our recent A.G.M. our Secretary stepped down and we thank her for all the sterling work she has carried out over the past four years especially for her efforts in ensuring that the National Twelve Bell Competition in 2019 was such a success and we now look forward to 2021 bringing the arrival of a vaccine and hope that we can return to something like more normal ringing in the near future.

EXETER St Michael and All Angels, Church Street, 8 bells, tenor 26cwt, grid ref. SX937922, postcode EX2 5EH
 Sunday: 9.45am (5th Sunday usually 9.15am, but please check first). Practice: Thursday 7.30pm.
 Living vacant

2020 started off well, with a quarter peal in January, but following the Covid-19 lockdown in March all ringing was suspended. We thought we would be able to celebrate the vicar's retirement and ring the bells prior to his final service at the start of July, but in the event this pleasant duty was snatched away from us at the last minute when the lifting of the ban on ringing was postponed. In September we started ringing four bells (1,4,6,8) for fifteen minutes on a Sunday morning and also rang the same bells for a wedding in October before all ringing was suspended again in November. A brief relaxation in the rules enabled us to ring for Christmas Day. We look forward to a time when we can restart ringing properly but this is likely to be some time away.

EXETER St David, Hele Road, 8 bells, tenor 12cwt, grid ref. SX915931.
 Sunday: 8.45am. Practice: Wednesday 7.30pm.

On the 15th March, just before the world was turned upside down, we managed to ring a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor to celebrate the birth of Matthew. Thanks are due to Steph for organising the service ringing, between Lockdowns, of socially distanced minimus, alternating fortnightly with solo performances on the Ellacombe chimes. After Lockdown 2.0, chiming was the order of the day. As a Lockdown diversion, a search was conducted on over 100 years of online copies of Church Bells, Bell News and Ringing World for items about the St David's bells. The results have been added to our Quarter Peal Books and put on BellBoard, along with other performances including those of the Exeter Ringers' Cycling Club Branch.

EXETER St Mark, Pinhoe Road, 10 bells, tenor 12cwt, grid ref. SX935934.
 Sunday: 8.45am. Practice: Wednesday: 7.30pm (6 bell practice from 7.00pm by arrangement).

At our AGM, nearly all our officers were re-elected along with a new Deputy Tower Captain. Due to virus restrictions very little of our normal activities have been able to take place. Limited Service ringing on 6 bells was reintroduced when the first lockdown was eased and then again over the Christmas period in line with guidance. The opportunity has been taken to do a little maintenance. The 8th clapper was removed during the summer for refurbishment and reinstalled. As far as one can tell only being able to ring 6 bells, it is much improved on before and has a quicker strike time. 2 ropes were taken to Mendip ropes for new spliced in tail ends. We all hope that 2021 sees us returning to normal ringing again and we can get back to 10 bell ringing which we all so miss.

EXETER St Thomas, Cowick Street, 8 bells, tenor 14cwt, grid ref. SX912918.
 Sunday: 2nd and 4th Sundays in each month. 9.15-9.55am (Service has moved to 10.30am).
 Practice: Thursday 7pm. Please phone to check all ringing times.

Our tower captain has announced his total retirement from the captaincy and ringing and this is a sad loss to us at St Thomas He has been a good reliable stalwart for many years, always there when needed and his food on practice nights will be missed as well!

HATHERLEIGH St John the Baptist, 8 bells, tenor 13cwt, grid ref. SS541046.
 Sunday: 10.30am. Please phone to check first. Practice: Thursday 7.30pm.

After an exciting start to the year, with positive steps towards the launch of our rehang project there is little to report this year. When restrictions allowed, and helped by having several members from the same family in our band, we did manage to ring for a few Sunday services along with a wedding. Hopefully the coming year will see a return to ringing for all towers and we look forward to kick starting our project properly.

LAPFORD St Thomas of Canterbury, 6 bells, tenor 13cwt, grid ref. SS731082.
 Sunday: 9.00am. Practice: Friday 10.00am.

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NEWTON ST CYRES SS Cyr and Julitta, 8 bells, tenor 13cwt, grid ref. SX879980
Sunday: 9:00am (4th). Practice by arrangement

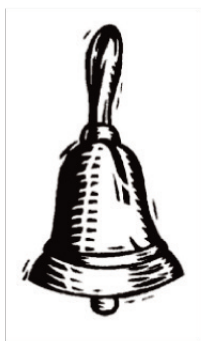
PINHOE St Michael and All Angels, 8 bells, tenor 10cwt, grid ref. SX955949.
Sunday: 1st and 3rd Sunday's 10.00-10:30am visitor's welcome. Practice: Tuesday 7:30-9.00pm.

There has been no ringing at Pinhoe since the start of the first lockdown, in June, July time we reattached the chiming hammers and replaced chiming ropes - they have been used for when there has been a communion service.

STOKE CANON St Mary Magdalene, 6 bells, tenor 10cwt, grid ref. SX939980.
Practice: Monday 7.00pm (except Bank holidays). No ringing during school hours or after 8.30pm.

There has been no ringing at Stoke Canon since the first lockdown in March. However we did manage to organise an outing on 25th January 2020 to 4 churches, Clyst Hydon, Talaton, Kentisbeare & Plymtree. Finished at The Merry Harriers, Westcott, for tea & warmth.

THORVERTON St Thomas of Canterbury, 10 bells, tenor 15cwt, grid ref. SS924021.
Sunday: 9.30am. Practice: Please contact tower captain to check.



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Mid-Devon Branch

Deaneries of Moreton, Newton Abbot & Ipplepen, Torbay and Totnes, and part of Kenn

With little to report this year, I can however confirm the branch AGM was held in November as usual. Unfortunately, we were not able to visit the newly re-hung and augmented 8 at Kingskerswell but held the meeting on Zoom instead. The meeting was well attended by branch members and all business was quickly and efficiently dispatched. All reports had been circulated in advance and were approved. There were two changes to the Branch Committee.

Many of our Branch members have enjoyed the Internet Arms meetings on Monday evenings and we are grateful to the Guild Secretary for all his hard work in keeping them running throughout lockdown. These have been in addition to our own online meetings on Thursday evenings which also proved popular. However, the duration of lockdown has continued to make it a challenge to keep the branch in touch so thanks are due to the Branch Ringing Master for his ongoing efforts in publishing our monthly online newsletter Tower Talk, which he has managed to keep full of interesting material.

Several towers have kept in touch via Zoom using RingingRoom for their weekly practices and continue to enjoy the experience as a way of improving their theoretical ringing skills, as well as a chance for a good natter!

ABBOTSKERSWELL The Blessed Virgin Mary, 6 bells, tenor 10cwt, grid ref. SX856687.
Sunday: 9.30am. Practice: Thursday 7.00pm-8.00pm.

BERRY POMEROY St Mary, 8 bells, tenor 14cwt, grid ref. SX828610.
Sunday: 4th Sundays 10.30-11.15. Other services by arrangement. Practice: Monday 7.30-9.00pm.

BOVEY TRACEY St Peter, Paul and Thomas of Canterbury, 8 bells, tenor 14-2-26, grid ref. SX820786.
Sunday: Contact for arrangements. Practice: Monday 7.30pm.

BRIXHAM Blessed Virgin Mary, 10 bells, tenor 17-0-4, grid ref. SX921551.
Sunday: 10.30am-11.00am. Practice: Thursday 7.30pm.

COFFINSWELL St Bartholomew, 6 bells, tenor 11cwt, grid ref. SX891684.

KINGSKERSWELL St Mary, 8 bells, tenor 7cwt, grid ref. SX875678.

Coffinswell: Sunday: 8.30am. Practice: 1st Wednesday 7.30pm.

Kingskerswell: Sunday: 9.15am. Practice: Wednesday 7.30pm (except 1st Wed and in August).

We started the year still getting used to our new bells. Our new vicar was instituted on 24th February and the 1st quarter on the new bells was rung prior to the service and included 4 local ringers. The 1st peal was rung on the 8th March, again Grandsire Triples. This included 2 local ringers with one ringing his 1st peal, and was also rung as a welcome to the new vicar. We were sorry to lose one of our band who was unable to come back to ringing when our bells returned. We were also disappointed that the Kulkarni did not return. We were able to ring 4 bells for services during the summer at both Kingskerswell and Coffinswell, and we had 9 ringers who were prepared to do this. We did not have any activities while we were unable to ring, but we kept in touch by email.

DAWLISH St Gregory, 8 bells, tenor 11-2-21, grid ref. SX953766.
Sunday: 9.15am. Practice: Wednesday 7.30pm.

We rang two quarter peals early in early 2020, especially for the centenary of the branch, and being First Quarters for three of our band. After March, we kept in touch with a new WhatsApp group, and weekly Zoom get-togethers. At first these were just social, but in October we started including Ringing Room. A lot of method understanding, and fun, has ensued, and it's a pity only about half the band have taken up this opportunity. We had limited Sunday ringing in September and October, ringing bells 2,4,6 and 8. About half our ringers were happy to take part. We were also able to ring on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

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ST MARYCHURCH St Mary, Fore Street, 10 bells, tenor 17cwt, grid ref. SX18660.

Sunday: 9.30-10.00am. Practice: Tuesday 7.30pm.

Our very loyal band of ringers has continued to be very supportive and our returning ringer has made great progress. It means that our goal of 10 bell ringing each Sunday was often achieved. Our ringers are keen supporters of the Mid Devon Branch and we are delighted to say that we were awarded the Eddon Clapper Trophy for progress at the Branch AGM. A module 1 ART course was held at our tower in August 2019 and two of our ringers are hoping to find recruits to enable them to gain experience of teaching. Most weeks a Thursday morning "Clinic" was held in the tower when several bells were tied, and much useful work has been done. Participants come from several local towers and the emphasis is on a relaxed and supportive environment to work on any aspect of ringing from improving style to method theory. We also have a mini simulator which can be used as well. Apart from the short time when we were allowed to ring again during the first relaxation of lockdown, we have concentrated on Zoom calls and WhatsApp groups to keep in touch. Several of our ringers have found on-line ringing has been useful in adding methods to the repertoire and all are keen to get back in the tower ASAP! Using couples allowed us to use 6 bells out of our 10 when allowed.

STOKEINTEIGNHEAD St Andrew, 6 bells, tenor 10cwt, grid ref. SX915704.

Sunday: 10.30am. Practice: Monday 7.30pm.

During 2019, our newer members of the band continued to make very good progress. Nicola achieving her first quarter peal. Unfortunately, progress has been stalled by the prevention of ringing during the pandemic. We continue to have very good support from ringers from local towers, such as Dawlish and St Marychurch on practice night, for which we are very grateful. This has helped the Stoke ringers to progress and advance in their ringing, Surprise Minor has been a regular feature. During the restrictions, we have used Ringing Room and Zoom for our weekly practices, and some members have made good progress with this. Prior to the restrictions, ringing has been maintained on most Sundays, although this has been a little challenging at times due to illness, holidays and work commitments.

TEIGNMOUTH St James, 8 bells, tenor 12cwt, grid ref. SX939731.

TEIGNMOUTH St Michael the Archangel, 8 bells, tenor 22cwt, grid ref. SX944730.

St James - Sunday: 10.00am. Practice: 7.00pm last Tuesday of the month.

St Michael - Sunday: 9.30am. Practice: Tuesday 7.30pm except last Tuesday of the month.

UPTON St Mary Magdalene, 8 bells, tenor 14cwt, grid ref. SX 913644.

Sunday: by arrangement. Practice: Thursday 7.00pm.

WOLBOROUGH St Mary, 8 bells, tenor 16cwt, grid ref. SX855704.

Sunday: 8.45-9.15am (2nd and 4th of month) & by arrangement. Practice: Friday 7.30pm.

North East Branch

Deaneries of Cullompton and Tiverton

Covid-19. Something we thought would not affect us here in the UK. The pandemic all but scuppered ringing for the year 2020 as it swept through, restricting lives to a great extent and with few intermissions allowing limited ringing for Church Services to be undertaken.

A year has almost passed and whilst there are glimmers of hope that we may be emerging from the virus now with the vaccination programme rolling out, I anticipate programmed ringing not taking place until 2022, thereby affording towers and bands the necessary time to regroup and undertake much needed time to build up stamina to be in a position to perform for longer durations. I do hope that we are able to meet up in the near future for some social events, something I'm sure we have all missed and look forward to ringing with you once more when the time is right. Stay safe everyone!

THE TROYTE RINGING CENTRE (Registered Charity 1179374)

The Troyte Ringing Centre (TRC) became a registered charity on 01 August 2018 and is responsible for ringing the tower bells at Bampton and at Huntsham within the terms of written agreements between TRC and each Parochial Church Council. The TRC trustees are Richard, Leslie, Mandy, Jenny, Michael, Pat and Sheila.

BAMPTON St. Michael and All Angels, 6 bells, tenor 14 cwt with practice bell and simulator, grid ref. SS957222, postcode EX16 9QJ
Sundays: 10.15am (except 2nd and 5th) and 5.50pm (1st and 4th)
General ringing: Thursdays 7.00-9.00pm.

HUNTSHAM All saints, 8 bells, tenor 8cwt, grid ref. ST001204, Postcode EX16 7NA.
Sundays 08.45am (2nd only). General ringing Mondays 7.30-9.00pm.

Only one event, Raising and Lowering in Peal, was held before ringing was suspended. We are unlikely to offer Extended Practices before the start of 2021 but are ready in the meantime to assist towers returning to ringing with training needs where we can.

BICKLEIGH St Mary the Virgin, 6 bells, tenor 8cwt, grid ref. SS942071, postcode EX16 8RD.
Sunday: 10.30 every 3rd Sunday.

BURLESCOMBE St. Mary's, 6 Bells, Tenor 17cwt, grid ref. ST075166, postcode EX16 7JP.
Sampford Peverell Team Ministry Rev. Glyn Lewry.
We have not rung the bells since lock-down began.

CADBURY St Michael & All Angels, 6 bells, tenor 11.75cwt, grid ref. SS911049, postcode EX5 5LA.
Sunday 9.30am (3rd) Practice Tuesday 7.30pm.

Our Church is the only one in our group of ten that is now holding services which are every week. We are managing to at least one bell at every service. Before the lockdown we had one new villager join our band as a learner who is still keen to continue once we get back to normal.

We are still working towards our goal of refurbishing our bells and are at present working on our second stage application for a Viridor grant. Fund raising events have virtually stopped at this time, so we are spending most of our time applying for grants. I would like to thank the guild for their support in contacting people who have gone through the job of refurbishing bells.

CADELEIGH S Bartholomew, 6 bells, tenor 10cwt, postcode EX16 8HP.

Bells have been rung in accordance with COVID regulations when permitted with just one or just three ringers at a time with face coverings".

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CHERITON FITZPAINE St Matthew, 6 bells, tenor 13cwt, grid ref. SS86750 06163, postcode EX17 4JB.

Sundays: ad hoc & Church Festival services.

There are no activities planned until lockdown the current lockdown restrictions are lifted.

CRUWYS MORCHARD Holy Cross, 6 bells, tenor 12-0-24, grid ref. SS87312, postcode EX16 8LD.

Sunday: Variable. Practice: Mondays 7.30pm.

We have rung once for a Sunday service between the first and second lockdowns with just three bells. We use Zoom as a means of weekly communication on our Monday practice night. We gather and have a chat, about absolutely anything. We also usually have a 10-question quiz. We are usually joined happily by our old tower captain, who phones in from the Isle of Mull.

CULLOMPTON St Andrew, 10 bells, tenor 19cwt, grid ref. SS022072, postcode EX15 1JU.

Sundays: 8.50am. Practice: Monday 7.30pm Learners from 7pm. With additional sessions as required.

We managed to ring 4 bells (subject to COVID guidance) September and October, before the main Sunday service at Cullompton and then rang the Ellacombe Chimes as restrictions changed. We hosted a socially distanced AGM on 3rd October 2020, where 3 Cullompton ringers were elected to join the Branch Ellacombe Chimes were also rung for some Christmas services.

CULMSTOCK All Saints, 8 bells, tenor 18cwt, grid ref. ST102135, postcode EX15 3JD.

Sunday: 9.15am on 1st, 8.45am on 3rd Sunday. Practice: By arrangement.

Since restrictions began, we have rung briefly for Harvest Festival and Remembrance.

HALBERTON St Andrew, 6 bells, tenor 17 cwt, grid ref. ST005128, postcode EX16 7AR.

Sunday: 9:30am (1st and 2nd). Practice: Wednesday 7:30pm.

We have 2 teenagers wanting to learn after COVID. Our plan to fundraise hit a Covid wall, we can't even ring one bell due to a broken clock. The clock people leaned the parts against the tower wall.

HEMYOCK St Marys, 6 bells, tenor 17-3-12 in E, grid ref. ST 136 133, postcode EX15 3RA.

Sunday: 1st Sunday: 9.45am. 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays: 10.30am. 5th Sunday: On a rota with Clayhidon, Culmstock and Culm Day. Patronal festivals may also change the rota so it is advisable to phone and check. The same applies to practice night which is usually Thursday at 7.45pm.

We started much as usual, ringing the year in, and teaching another local teenager, whose Mum we discovered could handle a bell even if she hadn't touched a rope for about 30 years (two for the joy of one).

When Covid 19 turned our world upside down we found we could at least ring 4 bells within the guidelines, even if the congregation were in the churchyard as was the case with our one wedding of the year the Sunday before Christmas. The main event of our year took place in a Parochial Church Council meeting when the council agreed to a range of projects in the tower including investigating whether our treble frame is rusting away after being tucked away in the wall for 110 years; so please note we will be after your money.

HOLCOMBE ROGUS All Saints Church, 6 bells, tenor 13 cwt, grid ref. ST056190, postcode TA21 0PE.

Practice: Wednesday at 7.30pm.

We rang in the New Year as usual and were supported by the villagers who were at the Church Door to welcome us when we came out. We rang for services in January and February but not since, and the bells have remained silent.

OAKFORD St Peter, 6 bells, tenor 12cwt 1qtr 11lbs, grid ref. SS91016 21346, postcode EX16 9ES.
 Sunday: We ring some Sundays for the 6.30pm service and occasionally for a morning service.
 Bells are rung for practice most Mondays at 7.00pm.

The Oakford bell ringers presented Bun (one of our ringers) on his 85th birthday, October 21st 2020 with a plaque to commemorate 70 years of ringing bells at St Peters Church Oakford.

RACKENFORD All Saints, 6 bells, tenor 14-2-8, grid ref. SS850182, postcode EX19 8DT.
 Sunday: Bells are rung when requested. Practice: Occasional Wednesdays 7pm.

No ringing has taken place but band members have kept in contact throughout the year.

SILVERTON St Mary's, 8 bells, tenor 16 cwt, grid ref. SS956028, postcode EX5 4HS.
 Sunday: 9.00 for 9.30am (4th Sunday 9.30 for 10.00) Practice: Thursdays 7.45pm.

The year began with a celebratory lunch for those ringers who had completed a Plain Bob Doubles course run by the Branch in late 2019. Regular ringing was possible only until March when Coronavirus restrictions limited when and for how long the bells could be rung. Consequently, there has been little opportunity – if any in some instances, for tower members to maintain and practice their ringing skills, the restrictions have also meant missing the social contact which is the glue to help maintain a happy band!

STOODLEIGH St Margaret, 6 bells, tenor 7cwt, grid ref. SS922188, postcode EX16 9PH.
 Sundays: As part of the Exe Valley Group of Churches with 9 parishes, the service pattern does get amended, but we try to ring when there is a Sunday Service, usually two but sometimes three times a month. Practice Thursdays 7.30pm.

Due to Covid restrictions we are unable to ring and there are no services.

TIVERTON St Paul, 6 bells, tenor 8cwt, grid ref. SS951125, postcode EX16 5HZ.
 Sunday: 10:00am, and 1st & 3rd 5:15-6:30pm call changes, Practice Friday 7:30pm.

Our Tower Captain has decided to retire from ringing during 2020 and we are all very grateful for her kind and generous leadership over the years. Also, one of our group has moved to Chawleigh and feels the distance is too great to be a regular member at St. Paul's. We hope Chawleigh might benefit.

TIVERTON St Peter, 8 bells, tenor 25cwt, grid ref. SS95412.
 Sundays: 9:30am (weekly) and 17:15pm (normally 3rd Sunday only). Practice: Tuesday (Muffled 6:30pm-7:15pm); open: 7:15pm-9pm.

We began the year by challenging ourselves to ring the Red Pathway. By the end of the year, we were pleased to ring 6 bells for Christmas Eve and were investigating the use of Ringing Room. The Peal Board for the Peal rung on 24th November 2018 was dedicated at the morning service on March 1st.

UFFCULME St Mary the Virgin, 8 bells, tenor 21 cwt, grid ref. ST068127, postcode EX15 3AX.
 Sunday: 10.30am except 5th Sunday in the month. Practice: Second Monday evening in the month with Cullompton Tower at Uffculme.

There has been no general ringing at St Mary's. One bell was tolled for Remembrance Day Service.

North/North West Branch

Deaneries of Barnstaple, Hartland, Holsworthy, Shirwell, South Molton and Torrington.

For obvious reasons there is very little to report on 2020. The year started off with our usual activities but they of course have been held in abeyance since last March. Looking forward to 2021 hopefully we will be back ringing in the second half of the year. We will all need to dust away the cobwebs probably and get the rusty brains working and hope that all the “blue lines” have not disappeared from our memories. It is anticipated that we will restart our regular practice nights at Shirwell and with luck one or two mini-tours before the end of the year.

REGULAR PRACTICES

Bridgerule Area: Method on 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7.00pm; call changes on Tuesdays at 7.30pm October to March – both at Bridgerule.

Barnstaple area: The St Brannock’s Society meet on Tuesdays at 7.00 pm usually at Braunton 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. N/NW Branch practices are held on Monday 7.30-9.00pm at Shirwell.

Chulmleigh area: Tuesdays at 7.30pm at East Worlington.

TOWERS AND MEMBERSHIP

BLACK TORRINGTON St Mary, 6 bells, tenor 9cwt, grid ref. SS465057.

Sunday: 10.45am on 3rd Sunday.

We have dual affiliation, to the Guild and the Association, with an established call change practice.

BRATTON FLEMING St. Peter, 6 bells, tenor 14cwt, grid ref. SS643378.

Sunday: Meet at 8.45am (but check as service might be elsewhere). Practice: Friday 7.30pm.

BRAUNTON St. Brannock 8 bells, tenor 16cwt, grid ref SS489371.

Sunday: Meet at 9.05am to ring for the 9.45am Parish Communion Service. Practices: See St. Brannock’s Society under Barnstaple area above. Usually the St. Brannock’s practices are held at Braunton the first and third Tuesdays of the month starting at 7.00pm. Practices for less advanced ringers are held by arrangement on Monday evenings at 7.30pm.

BRIDGERULE St. Bridget, 8 bells, tenor 10cwt, grid ref. SS281031

Sunday and practices, please check (see “regular practices” above)

COMBE MARTIN St Peter ad Vincula, 8 bells, tenor 11cwt, grid ref. SS586483.

Sunday: 8.45am. Practice: Thursday 7.30pm Please check in advance.

Unfortunately, in March we closed for ringing as did the majority of other towers but in general, our quality of ringing was still continuing to improve, and our Sunday ringing and practice nights were well attended. Our band also consists of two regular and enthusiastic members from our sister church at St Philip & St James Ilfracombe who are a great asset with our Sunday ringing.

FREMINGTON St Peter, 6 bells, tenor 9cwt, grid ref. SS513326.

Sunday: 10.30am ring for 11.00am service. Practice generally 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursdays at 7.30pm with a practice held at Westleigh on 1st Thursday each month at 7.00pm We do occasionally ring at other towers, especially in summer so please check venue.

We started the year with our usual Sunday ringing with Practice nights, though, obviously we haven’t rung in 12 months and are really looking forward to showing off our skills to our new vicar!

SHIRWELL St Peter, 6 bells. Tenor 12cwt Grid ref SS597374.

Sunday: Meet at 9.00am. Practice: Monday 7.00pm.

South West Branch

Deaneries of Plymouth Devonport, Plymouth Moorside, Plymouth Sutton, Tavistock and Woodleigh

Along with the rest of the World, 2020 has been a very unusual year for the South West Branch with only a limited amount of Tower ringing throughout the year. For the first eleven weeks of the year, ringing practices and Sunday Service ringing continued as usual. On 16th March the Branch cancelled all Branch meetings and activities until further notice, and advised all Tower Captains to heed the Government's advice to stop all non-essential social contact. This was followed a week later by the first national lockdown. All ringing was suspended for the next five months or so, and Sunday service ringing did not resume until late August, or early September, after tower captains had duly carried out Risk Assessment for the resumption of ringing, with attention particularly being made to social distancing in the ringing rooms. This meant that only half of the bells in most towers would be rung and then only for a maximum of 15 minutes per session. Sunday Service ringing was curtailed again in early November due to COVID-19 restrictions again, and only resumed in some towers for Christmas Service ringing, allowed on four days around Christmas Day, but even then the advice was to keep the ringing to only the essential Services.

All Branch practices planned throughout the year had to be cancelled along with the Spring and Autumn Branch outings. Fortunately, members have been able to continue to practice on-line by using Ringing Room during the year, and good progress has been made by those regularly attending the Ringing Room practice sessions. The Branch practices scheduled in the calendar were transferred to Ringing Room and were well supported. A number of Ringing Room practices are now taking place across the Branch throughout each week, with many thanks from me to those who organise and run these practices, keeping the art of method ringing alive, albeit whilst everyone is sat at a computer!

The Branch welcomed the addition of Bere Ferrers tower to the Guild at the AGM in January, and the Branch will continue to promote and support ringing at Bere Ferrers, as it does with all the existing Branch towers.

The AGM was hosted by St Mary the Virgin, Walkhampton on Saturday 25th January, and attended by 32 Branch members and 2 Guild guests. The day started with open ringing, counting & listening exercises, and an introduction to the Pathways for 2020, led by the Ringing Master. Many thanks to Phil for organising the session. This was followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

The first Branch practice of the year, a Kaleidoscope practice, was held at Laira on 7th March, one week before restrictions were introduced, and was well attended by 26 members, one of the largest numbers attending at Branch practice. Little did we know at the time, that this would be the last ringing for many months!

The annual Joint Branch Practice with Mid-Devon Branch was held on-line in August. It was well attended by members of both Branches, and a full range of 6, 8 and 10 bell methods were rung. My thanks particularly go to the officers of the Mid Devon Branch who helped to organise this event.

In normal circumstances the Branch would hold its Annual Service and Dinner on the second Saturday in November. Due to the pandemic and social distancing restrictions, this changed this year, but events were still held on-line on Saturday 14th November. The day began with a well-attended open ringing session for Branch members on Ringing Room in the morning. A short Annual Service was held on Zoom in the evening, conducted by Preb Robert of St Mary's Church, Plympton. This was followed by an online General Knowledge Quiz, which was well attended by 34 people in six teams. Donations to DCBRF were invited during the evening, and a total of £400 was raised for the Fund. Many thanks to those who organised and led the day's various activities.

My thanks go to all the Branch Officers and members for showing their support for the Branch this year and to those who have taken part in these activities throughout this trying year. Plans are being made at the moment, at Branch, Guild and National levels to help members return to ringing in Towers, both safely and with confidence.

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BERE FERRERS St Andrew, 6 bells, tenor 7-3-24, grid ref. .

Sunday: 10.30am (exc 3rd Sunday). Practice: 1st, 3rd, 5th Monday 7.30-9.00pm.

On 4th January 2020, we held a very successful Open Tower event. Many people from the village came to see what goes on in the tower and we were lucky enough to recruit four new (and very keen!) ringers.

As a tower, we had not held regular practices since 2017, so we decided to hold a full practice on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays and a beginners' practice on the 2nd and 4th. With help from towers such as Sampford Spiney and Sydenham Damerel, our rather small ringing chamber was often full to the brim! As a result, good progress was made by both the new recruits and some existing members making their first strides in method ringing.

In common with all towers across the country, we ceased ringing with the national Lockdown. Unfortunately, we were unable to ring for the funeral of our previous Tower Captain, when he passed away in March.

With the easing of restrictions, we resumed Sunday service ringing (on three bells only) from July until October. Hopefully, we will be able to get back to the tower at some point in 2021 and pick up where we left off last March.

BRIDESTOWE St. Bridget, 6 bells, 13 cwt, grid ref. SX513894.

Practice: Friday 19:30-21:00.

In a tower where social distancing from other ringers is impossible unless in the same "bubble", opportunities were severely limited and only two occasions were marked, during the period when lockdown restrictions were relaxed. A wedding and Christmas Eve at least, heard some of the bells make a joyful sound for a few minutes thanks to family members, not all of whom are Bridestowe ringers, who agreed to help.

All other ringing occasions during the year were limited to a single, chimed bell which at least let our neighbours know that we were carrying on in spite of the challenging circumstances.

If the ringing has not provided any news of successes for this report, the same cannot be said of Zoom. Almost a year ago at the beginning of lockdown, one of our ringers suggested a fortnightly meeting to coincide with our normal practice, just to socialise and to keep in touch. These evenings were quick to adopt the name "Virtual White Hart"; the real White Hart being the pub to which we all race once a ringing practice finishes! They have been a great success in keeping our community of ringers from Bridestowe and Brentor in touch until such time that we can meet in person, and once again ring on real bells and chat in a real pub!

BRENTOR St Michael de Rupe, 5 bells, 5cwt, grid ref. SX470804.

Sunday: 5.30pm (Easter-Sept). Practice: Alternate Saturdays 10.00-11.30 am Winter only. NB All ringing is weather permitting. It is essential to check first.

We had limited ringing on 1-2 bells for services at St Michaels throughout September and on Christmas Day. We also joined in with the Christmas Eve Jingle.

CHARLETON St Mary, 6 bells, 9cwt, grid ref. SX749426, Postcode TQ7 2BR.

Following the closure of the church it is currently not clear whether, post lockdown, we will be able to continue with method ringing practice nights on the first Tuesday of the month and call change ringing and bell handling practices on the fourth Thursday of the month or be able to welcome visiting bands. Please call to check if we have been able to get permission to continue with practice nights and open the tower to visiting bands.

GALMPTON Holy Trinity, 6 bells, tenor 6cwt, grid ref. SX686404.

Sunday: 10.30am (1st & 3rd).

Sadly, with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, ringing was suspended at the start of the first lockdown, and we await the "All Clear".

KELLY St Mary, 6 bells, tenor 8cwt, grid ref. SX395814.
 Sunday: 10.30am (2nd). Practice: Wednesday 7.30pm.

This was a very quiet year for us, still in an interregnum at the start of the year, followed by Covid restrictions, very few services and no visiting teams, the bells remained silent all year.

LAIRA St Mary the Virgin, 8 bells, tenor 11cwt, grid ref. SX504560.
 All by arrangement.

St Marys has been holding socially distanced services throughout the pandemic. We look forward to hosting events and welcoming visitors over the coming 12 months when government guidance allows.

LIFTON St Mary, 8 bells, tenor 21 cwt, grid ref. SX386850.
 Sunday: 9.00am. Practice: Monday 7.30pm.

At the beginning of January 2020, our new Rector for the benefice, was licenced as Priest-in-charge at Lifton and the bells were rung before and after the Service. Since then, very little ringing has taken place this year, although there was some socially distanced ringing between the first and second lockdown. We rang muffled bells at the funeral of the Church treasurer, who died in September.

PLYMOUTH The Minster church of St Andrews, Plymouth, Royal Parade, 10 bells, tenor 30cwt.
 Sunday: 9.00am. Practice: Tuesday 7.30pm.

The year started as normal with Sunday service & practice night ringing. Elena called her first quarter of Plain Bob Minor in February. Since then, we have been able to ring alternate bells for Sunday services and over the Christmas period, when restrictions allowed. In the periods when we have been unable to ring the carillon was put in operation & Abide With Me sounded across the city daily to much acclaim from the public. Hand bells were used to ring for services in the Autumn on the forecourt, which was appreciated by the congregation.

The tower has undergone various external repairs during the summer months and is now resplendent once again. Practices have been maintained using the ringing room virtually, which along with WhatsApp, has enable us to keep in contact with each other and make progress with method learning. We look forward to return to the tower.

Plymouth Emmanuel, Mannamead Road, 8 bells, tenor 19 cwt, grid ref. SX487564.
 Sunday: 10.00am and by arrangement 6.00pm. Practice: Thursday 7.00pm-9.00pm.

What a year! Since March we have painted the ringing chamber walls and have managed to ring for a few services towards the end of the summer and rang a single bell for Remembrance. We have still been meeting on a Thursday, via Zoom, for a catch up and chat and have been doing our ringing on Ringing Room through the rest of the week, with the rest of the Plymouth ringers, where we have made great strides in our method learning.

PLYMOUTH St Budeaux, The Green, Crownhill Road, 6 bells, tenor 12 cwt, grid ref. SX454593.
 Sunday: 10.00am. Practice: Monday 7.30pm.

As with most towers ringing in 2020 was very restricted, we did manage to have a few practices before the 1st lockdown in March. During August 2020, a full risk assessment of the bells was carried out so that we could start ringing again. Since that date I have been regularly chiming a bell either for Services or when the church is open for Private Prayer on Wednesday mornings

No teams rose to my challenge to ring a peal containing the method 'Sir Francis Drake St Budeaux Delight Minor' during 2019, maybe in the future when we are able to ring again. I would especially want to thank those who help teach ringers at our church and the many members of the local towers who come to our practice nights.

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Sunday: 9.30am. Practice: Friday 7.30pm.

There's not really a lot to be said about ringing in Salcombe in 2020! No wedding ringing, no special service ringing, no practices, no new learners, no annual Deanery Competition! Some ringers have found other hobbies and activities! However, as soon as some restrictions were lifted around June 2020 Salcombe was one of the few towers in the Deanery to resume ringing for Sunday services and teams of three or four suitably masked and socially distanced ringers continued to ring every Sunday and for the Christmas services and Christmas Day - after that ringing was once again shut down! We are now looking forward to starting to ring again in May 2021!

SAMPFORD SPINEY St. Mary, 6 bells, tenor 6cwt, grid ref. SX534724.

1st Sunday: 2.30pm. Practice: Wednesday 7.30pm.

As I expect is general with most towers in the area, we have done very little ringing in the last twelve months apart from tolling the tenor for the occasional funeral. Everyone is very much looking forward to starting up again and praying that we haven't forgotten everything that we had previously achieved. I expect that our trainer is also thinking the same!

STOKE DAMEREL St Andrew & St Luke, Paradise Road, 8 bells, tenor 4.5 cwt, grid ref. SX463550.

Sunday: 9.30am. Practice: Wednesday 7.15-8.45pm.

Hatches, Matches and Despatches. Most of our activity has had to take place outside the tower this year. One happy couple were married, and one couple have been blessed with the birth of a baby daughter. The sad completion of this trio of events is our fond farewell to our vicar. After retiring as Rector of Calstock and moving to Plymouth, he settled at Stoke Damerel where he became a member of the congregation and a faithful member of the band from 2006. He had planned – and deserved – a big funeral, sadly prevented by the Covid-19 restrictions, but compensated for by “three requiems and a funeral”.

We rang for all four services, spread over two days. As public services, numbers attending the requiems were limited only by the space for social distancing, and extended by live streaming, amounting to 95 attending in person and 410 YouTube hits. Ringers were able to take part in the funeral through the open windows of the ringing chamber. Between lockdowns we were allowed to ring alternate bells – 1,3,5 and 7 – in a minor key as appropriate to the times. We have many events to celebrate and commemorate when we are able to enjoy to the full ringing all our bells in happier times.

SYDENHAM DAMEREL St Mary, 6 bells, tenor 9 cwt, grid ref. SX409760.

Sunday: 10.00am (2nd Sunday) 6.30pm (4th Sunday). Practice: Monday 8.00-9.00pm.

A very difficult year for our enthusiastic small team but we made the most of it and we even manages a few socially distanced reduced numbers practices. Sadly, our development towards initial method ringing techniques has had to be put on hold temporarily but we look forward to resuming later this year. We did commemorate some key events last year like VE and VJ 75 celebrations, Remembrance and of course the sad death of Captain Tom with the ringing of a single tenor bell. Our bells may be largely silent but the appreciation and support of the villagers remains strong and heart-warming.

TAVISTOCK St Eustachius, 10 bells, tenor 24 cwt, grid ref. SX481744.

Sunday: 9.00am and 5.30pm. Practice: Tuesday 7.30pm.

Tavistock ringers were busy throughout 2020 with weekly Zoom meetings and Ringing Room practices, organised by our Vice Captain, which have kept all the ringers in contact and been of great benefit to our newer ringers. We rang for services when permitted, mostly through the summer, managing 5 bells and occasionally, when we had a family group, 6. We also rang for three weddings, for VJ Day and Remembrance Sunday, and Christmas.

Our AGM was held by Zoom and we intend to return to whatever ringing is allowed at the earliest possibly moment, and are planning an outing in the autumn if permitted.

WALKHAMPTON, St. Mary V, 6 bells, tenor 7cwt-3-12 in G, grid ref. SX536701 postcode PL20 6LW.
1st Sunday 09:00. Practice: Wednesday 19:30.

At the beginning of 2020, our mostly-local band was settling down to regular Wednesday evening practices and some service ringing. This was a welcome resumption of ringing after the closure of the tower for almost a year following repointing. Ben, one of our young ringers, had learnt to handle a bell and ring for services as part of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. David, one of our mature learners, moved out of the area to the South Hams but we gained Alex, who is progressing well. Then came Covid-19 and, writing this in February 2021, we look back on another year of disruption, with no practice possible for our novice ringers. We managed to ring three bells on several occasions when services resumed in August, the chief interest being whether we rang bells 1,3,5 or 2,4,6, but the church has again been closed since New Year.

Prior to the outbreak of Covid-19, however, we hosted a very enjoyable Branch AGM in January 2020, with ringing before and afterwards. We had been booked to host a branch practice in June 2020, which inevitably had to be cancelled, but we hope for a rebooking once restrictions have been lifted as Walkhampton church is an ideal location for a summer practice followed by a picnic outside.

Progress for the time being is happening on line, courtesy of Zoom and the Walkhampton Ringing Room but our main concern has reverted to the state of the ringing platform, as the repointing has not stopped copious volumes of water finding their way through the south wall of the tower.

WHITCHURCH St Andrew, 6 bells, tenor 11 cwt, grid ref. SX492726.

Sundays: (except the 1st Sunday) 9.40am, 1st Sunday 6.00pm. Practice: Friday 7.30pm.

We started 2020 continuing to improve in Grandsire with a bit of Bob Doubles at times. Then all ringing ceased. We swiftly set up a weekly zoom meeting instead on practice nights to stay in touch and pass on any ringing information I had received. We did try Ringing Room but delays caused by temperamental internet connections made this difficult, so we gave up. Like many towers, the ropes are too close for social distancing but we do have three ringers from the same household. So when ringing was allowed again and risk assessments completed, the bells were rung for Sunday services and Christmas.

THE MODERN SOCIETY OF PLYMOUTH YOUTHS

Plymouth City Centre – A society for young ringers in the area aged 30 or under.

Practice: 3rd Sundays of the month 5:30-6:30pm. Date and time subject to change: email in advance.

We started 2020 with excitement and momentum. With 2020 being the 10th Anniversary of the society we had some special events planned including the 10th Annual Weekend Away. Our year began with a first practice and AGM, during which we filled two vacancies for the society. Unfortunately, our practices came to a standstill early in the year and our exciting plans and remaining practices were sadly cancelled.

PY's members and associates have continued to socialise online and have joined in on social events and Ringing Room practices organised by the branch, though we regrettably did not manage to organise our own Plymouth Youths online practice during 2020. Although we could not do what we had hoped in 2020, I am confident that the plans for our big celebration have only been placed to one side temporarily. We are hopeful that as soon as ringing can return, we will spring into action!

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Peal Secretary's Report

The Guild rang 36 peals in 2020, which is a decrease of 181 on 2019. There were 8 handbell peals, a decrease of 23 on the 2019 total. It was the lowest Guild total since 1976 and at the end of 2020 the Guild total stood at 7348. Kings-Ting-Tong was the leading tower followed by Thorverton and Wobbly Bobs Campanile. Thorverton's Guild total now stands at 991 and in the current circumstances I will make no prediction when the 1000th will be reached. The first peal was rung on the restored and augmented bells at Kingskerswell, allowing John Rees, who masterminded the project, to ring his first peal (the only one for the Guild in 2020).

I haven't included a leading method as there were no more than two in any one method and there were ten of those. Details can be supplied if anyone is interested. Peals of note included the Cambridge S Major at Teignmouth St Michael to mark the centenary of the Mid Devon Branch, the peal Kingskerswell mentioned above and the peal of Yorkshire S Major at Dunedin, the first for the Guild in the Southern Hemisphere. One thing I would like to mention is that with so few peals and therefore peal fees, there will be significant reduction in income for the Guild, which will have a knock-on effect in the amount the Guild transfers to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund. If anyone would like to donate some of the money they have saved on peal fees to the Bell Restoration Fund, I can assure that the treasurer would be very happy to receive your offering, however small.

Leading towers 2020

Thorverton	991
Withycombe Raleigh	316
Exeter St Mark	274
Pinhoe	199
Bishops-Ting-Tong	189
Buckfastleigh	126
Newton St Cyres	118
Broadclyst	117
Kingsteignton	107
Wolborough	107
Brampford Speke	103

Peals rung in 2020

- 7313 BRAMPFORD SPEKE**, St Peter, Wed Jan 1, 2h 38, 5040 Spliced S Minor
(14m: (1) Chester, Munden (2) London, Wells (3) Lightfoot, Wearmouth (4) Westminster, Allendale (5) York, Durham (6) Cambridge, Ipswich (7) Beverley, Surfleet)
- 7314 HIGHWEEK**, All Saints, Wed Jan 1, 2h 46, 5088 Bournville S Major
- 7315 THORVERTON**, St Thomas of Canterbury, Thurs Jan 2, 2h 53, 5040 Swindon S Royal
- 7316 EXETER**, St Mark, Sat Jan 4, 2h 51, 5040 Yorkshire S Royal
- 7317 ST BURYAN**, Cornwall, St Buriana, Sat Jan 4, 3h 55, 5040 Spliced S Minor
(19m: (1) London, Wells, Cunecastre (2) Northumberland, Carlisle, Sandiacre (3) Chester, Munden (4) Westminster, Allendale (5) York, Durham (6) Surfleet, Beverley, Berwick, Hexham (7) Ipswich, Bourne, Cambridge)
- 7318 TEIGNMOUTH**, St Michael, Mon Jan 6, 2h 59, 5024 Cambridge S Major
- 7319 WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH**, St John the Evangelist, Thurs Jan 9, 3h 26, 5136 Spliced S Maximus
(4m: 1344 Lincolnshire; 1296 Cambridge, Yorkshire; 1200 Bristol: 16 com, atw)
- 7320 EXETER**, 49 Widecombe Way, Sun Jan 12, 2h 39, 5040 Yorkshire S Royal
- 7321 EXETER**, 49 Widecombe Way, Wed Jan 15, 2h 20, 5024 Wembley S Major
- 7322 WOLBOROUGH**, St Mary, Thurs Jan 16, 2h 58, 5024 Gainsborough S Major
- 7323 NEWTON ST CYRES**, St Cyr and St Julitta, Sat Jan 18, 2h 51, 5056 Lincolnshire S Major
- 7324 BOVEY TRACEY**, Wobbly Bob's Campanile, Tues Jan 21, 1h 54, 5152 Doubtful Sound S Major

- 7325 THORVERTON**, St Thomas of Canterbury, Thurs Jan 23, 2h 55, 5040 Cambridge S Royal
- 7326 KINGSTEIGNTON**, Kings-Ting-Tong, Tues Jan 28, 1h 50, 5040 Spliced D Minor
(35m: Tintern, Glastonbury, Fountains, Tewkesbury, Evesham, Sherborne, Melrose, Combermere, Canterbury, Abbeyville, Southwark, Vale Royal, Crowland, St Werburgh, Bedford, Old Oxford, Braintree, Humber, College Bob IV, Taxal, Merton, Newdigate, Marple, Neasden, St Albans, Charlwood, Wragby, Willesden, Clarence, Kirkstall, Elston, Burnaby, Waltham, Burslem, London Victory)
- 7327 SEAVINGTON ST MARY**, Somerset, St Mary, Fri Jan 31, 2h 37, 5040 Spliced S Minor
(14: (1) London, Wells (2) Chester, Munden (3) Lightfoot, Wearmouth (4) Westminster, Allendale (5) York, Durham (6) Beverley, Surfleet (7) Cambridge, Ipswich)
- 7328 KINGSTEIGNTON**, Kings-Ting-Tong, Tues Feb 4, 1h 49, 5040 Spliced S Minor
(15m: (1) London, Wells (2) Chester, Munden (3) Lightfoot, Wearmouth (4) Westminster, Allendale (5) York, Durham (6) Beverley, Surfleet (7) Bourne, Cambridge, Ipswich)
- 7329 EXETER**, Cathedral of St Peter, Sat Feb 8, 4h 5, 5042 Cambridge S Maximus
- 7330 PINHOE**, St Michael and All Angels, Thurs Feb 13, 2h 55, 5184 Turramurra S Major
- 7331 BOVEY TRACEY**, Wobbly Bob's Campanile, Tues Feb 18, 1h 55, 5152 Lessness S Major
- 7332 DUNEDIN**, New Zealand, First Church of Otago, Wed Feb 19, 2h 43, 5024 Yorkshire S Major
- 7333 EXETER**, 49 Widecombe Way, Wed Feb 19, 2h 23, 5088 Double Dublin S Major
- 7334 BROADCLYST**, St John the Baptist, Thurs Feb 20, 3h 16, 5152 Wildebeest S Major
- 7335 KINGSTEIGNTON**, Kings-Ting-Tong, Tues Feb 25, 1h 44, 5040 Surprise Minor (7m)
(1) Westminster (2) Norwich (3) York (4) Bourne (5) Beverly (6) Surfleet (7) Cambridge)
- 7336 BISHOPSTEIGNTON**, St John the Baptist, Sat Feb 29, 2h 42, 5040 Surprise Minor (7m)
(1) Netherseale, (2) Westminster, (3) Norwich (4). Carlisle (5) Beverly (6) Bourne (7) Cambridge)
- 7337 THORVERTON**, St Thomas of Canterbury, Thurs Mar 5, 3h 4, 5040 Lincolnshire S Royal
- 7338 BLOCKLEY**, Gloucestershire, St Peter and St Paul, Sat Mar 7, 3h 7, 5040 Swindon S Royal
- 7339 MICKLETON**, Gloucestershire, St Lawrence, Sat Mar 7, 3h 6, 5120 Cambridge S Major
- 7340 KINGSKERSWELL**, St Mary, Sun Mar 8, 2h 45, 5040 Grandsire Triples
- 7341 KINGSTEIGNTON**, Kings-Ting-Tong, Tues Mar 10, 1h 51, 5040 Surprise Minor
(10m: (1) Westminster, Allendale (2) Norwich (3) York, Durham (4) Bourne (5) Cambridge, Ipswich (6) Beverley, Surfleet (7) Cambridge)
- 7342 WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH**, St John the Evangelist, Thurs Mar 12, 3h 18, 5042 Cambridge S Maximus
- 7343 EXETER**, 49 Widecombe Way, Sun Mar 15, 2h 19, 5088 Lessness S Major
- 7344 BOVEY TRACEY**, Wobbly Bob's Campanile, Tues Mar 17, 1h 46, 5040 Spliced S Minor
(17m: (1) London, Wells (2) Chester, Munden (3) Cambridge, Ipswich, Norfolk, Primrose (4) Berwick, Beverley, Hexham, Surfleet (5) Bourne, Cambridge, Ipswich (6) York Durham (7) Westminster, Allendale)
- 7345 WHIMPLE**, 17 Bramley Gardens, Sat July 25, 2h 21, 5088 Kent Treble Bob Major
- 7346 EXETER**, 3 Hoopern Avenue, Sun Aug 23, 2h 16, 5184 Kent Treble Bob Major
- 7347 WHIMPLE**, 17 Bramley Gardens, Sun Aug 30, 2h 22, 5088 Yorkshire S Major
- 7348 BOVEY TRACEY**, Sorrento, Sat Oct 24, 2h 9, 5040 Spliced S Minor #
(41m) Coldstream, Lincoln, London, Kelso, Cunecastre, Wells, Morpeth, Canterbury, Carlisle, Northumberland, Sandiacre, Newcastle, Alnwick, Chester, Munden, Whitley, Wooler, Cambridge, Durham, York, Ipswich, Hull, Primrose, Bourne, Norfolk, Beverley, Berwick, Hexham, Surfleet, Norwich, Bacup, Stamford, Rossendale, Bamborough, Netherseale, Lightfoot, Wearmouth, Westminster, Allendale, Warkworth, Annable's London

Quarter Peal Secretary Report

The report records a total of 203 performances; 24 rung outside the county by Guild bands. Unsurprisingly, over half (106) were rung before the March lockdown and there were no tower bell performances after that date. The report includes on-line performances rung on two platforms (Ringing Room and Handbell Stadium) with Guild bands; some of these performances, indicated with 'CC', were rung completely with motion controllers. Performances were rung at 87 separate locations involving 247 individual ringers and 53 conductors.

Leading Towers: Exeter, Mount Pleasant Road (HB) 29; Kingsteignton, Long Barton (HB) 21; Bovey Tracey, Sorrento (HB) 12; Exeter Cathedral 9.

Kingskerswell recorded the first on the augmented bells.

Quarter Peals rung in 2020

Abbreviations used to denote handbell locations: Bovey Tracey S – Sorrento; Combe Martin NP – Newberry Park; Dawlish ECR – East Cliff Road; Exeter CWF – Cathedral West Front, HA – Hoopern Avenue, MPR – Mount Pleasant Road, SJCH – St James Church Hall, TV – The Villa, WVR – Whipton Village Road; Kilminster CH – Cranberries Hideaway; Kingsteignton LB – Long Barton; Landscope OE – Orchard End; Lundy BC – Benjamin's Chair, CKS – Castle Keep South, MH – Millcombe House, OHS – Old House South; North Bovey PC – Piglet Cottage; Paignton WA – Winsu Avenue; Plymouth MR – Milehouse Road; Torquay B – Bartcombe; West Raddon RC – Rose Cottage; Whimble BG – Bramley Gardens. Quarter peals shown in *italics* were rung by visiting bands.

January

1	Exeter Cathedral	1260	Stedman Triples
4	Compton Gifford	1260	Grandsire Doubles
5	Exeter Cathedral	1250	Lincolnshire S Major
		1287	<i>Stedman Cinques</i>
6	Exeter S Petrock	1440	Aaliyah D Minor
7	Black Torrington	1296	Cambridge S Minor
	Clyst Honiton	1280	Cambridge S Major
9	Pinhoe	1280	Spliced S Major (5m)
	Salcombe	1260	Plain Bob Minor
10	Exeter MPR HB	1280	Spliced S Major (8m)
12	Withycombe Raleigh	1346	Cambridge S Maximus
14	<i>Clayhidon</i>	1296	<i>TB Minor (2m)</i>
	<i>Hemyock</i>	1296	<i>Spliced S Minor (3m)</i>
	Thorverton	1282	Cairngorm S Royal
19	Dawlish	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
	Exeter Cathedral	1346	Cambridge S Maximus
	Exeter S Mark	1260	Plain Bob Minor
20	Exeter MPR HB	1282	Cambridge S Royal
21	<i>Heavitree</i>	1312	<i>Bristol S Major</i>
	Kings-Ting-Tong	1272	Wiggenhall D Minor
		1320	Stirling D Minor
22	<i>Stoke Canon</i>	1260	<i>Spliced Plain Minor (3m)</i>
24	Topsham	1320	Surfleet S Minor
25	Combe Raleigh	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
	Halberton	1260	Doubles (5m)
26	Exeter Cathedral	1344	Bristol S Maximus
	Woodbury	1260	Grandsire Doubles
31	Exeter MPR HB	1282	Cambridge S Royal

February

1	Exeter MPR HB	1272	Norwich S Minor
		1280	Rutland S Major
		1250	Lincolnshire S Major
		1296	Little Bob Major
		1260	St Clement's CB Minor
		1312	Kent TB Major
2	Axminster	1260	Plain Bob Triples
	<i>Buckfast Abbey</i>	1288	<i>Grandsire Triples</i>
	Exeter Cathedral	1282	Cambridge S Royal
	Tavistock	1260	Grandsire Doubles
3	Exeter S Petrock	1296	Beverley S Minor
4	East Budleigh	1280	Rutland S Major
	St Marychurch	1260	Plain Bob Triples
6	<i>Huntsham</i>	1344	<i>Watford S Major</i>
7	Exeter MPR HB	1280	Double Norwich CB Major
9	Withycombe Raleigh	1346	Cambridge S Maximus
11	<i>Culmstock</i>	1260	<i>Grandsire Triples</i>
	<i>Luppitt</i>	1312	<i>Plain Bob Major</i>
	Thorverton	1282	Exodus S Royal
12	Bridgerule	1250	Yorkshire S Major
	Exeter MPR HB	1260	Stedman Triples
15	Combe Raleigh	1296	Cambridge S Minor
16	Broadclyst	1260	Grandsire Triples
	Exeter Cathedral	1313	Stedman Cinques
18	Exeter MPR HB	1282	Spliced S Royal (3m)
	Kings-Ting-Tong	1320	Belvoir D Minor
		1320	Dover D Minor
	<i>Lundy</i>	1296	<i>Norwich S Minor</i>
	Tiverton S Paul	1260	Plain Bob Minor
	Withycombe Raleigh	1320	60th Birthday TP Minor
19	Huntsham	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
	<i>Lundy OHS HB</i>	1344	<i>Bristol S Maximus</i>
	Torquay B HB	1260	Plain Bob Minor
20	<i>Lundy</i>	1295	<i>Grandsire Caters</i>
	<i>Lundy BC HB</i>	1260	<i>Plain Bob Minor</i>
21	Huntsham	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
		1260	Plain Bob Doubles
	<i>Lundy</i>	1282	<i>Superlative S Major</i>
22	Sydenham Damerel	1260	Grandsire Doubles
23	Cruwys Morchard	1260	Plain Bob Minor
	Exeter Cathedral	1362	Spliced S Maximus (4m)
	Plymouth Minster	1260	Plain Bob Minor
24	Kingskerswell	1260	Grandsire Triples
27	Pinhoe	1280	Spliced S Major (6m)

March

1	Dawlish	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
2	Exeter S Petrock	1320	Norwich S Minor
4	Huntsham	1320	Kent TB Minor
10	Sidbury	1344	Rutland S Major
	Thorverton	1282	Yucca S Royal
12	Topsham	1260	Doubles (2m)

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13	Huntsham	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
15	Exeter Cathedral	1362	Spliced S Maximus (5m)
	Exeter S David	1320	Cambridge S Minor
16	Exeter MPR HB	1280	Superlative S Major
29	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Plain Bob Minimus

April

11	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Reverse Bob Minimus
12	Bovey Tracey S HB	1320	Minimus (11m)
16	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Double Bob Minimus
18	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Minimus (3m)
21	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Minimus (4m)
25	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Reverse Canterbury Place Minimus
27	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Canterbury Place Minimus
29	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Double Canterbury Place Minimus

May

2	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Single Court Place Minimus
4	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Reverse Court Place Minimus
5	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Double Court Place Minimus
6	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	St Nicholas Bob Minimus
8	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Minimus (5m)
13	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Minimus (8m)
21	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Minimus (3m)
23	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Minimus (11m)
27	Ringing Room HB	1272	Spliced S Minor (6m)
29	Ringing Room HB CC	1260	Plain Bob Minor
31	Ringing Room	1260	Plain Bob Doubles

June

1	West Raddon RC HB	1260	Plain Bob Minor
5	Ringing Room	1296	Cambridge S Minor
7	Bovey Tracey S HB	1320	Spliced S Minor (6m)
9	HB Stadium HB CC	1296	Cambridge S Minor
	Kingsteignton LB HB	1296	Minimus (6m)
13	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Minimus (7m)
17	Bovey Tracey S HB	1272	Spliced S Minor (3m)
21	Bovey Tracey S HB	1272	Spliced S Minor (6m)
23	Bovey Tracey S HB	1296	Spliced S Minor (12m)
	HB Stadium HB CC	1280	Yorkshire S Major
24	Exeter TV HB	1260	Plain Bob Minor
27	Exeter MPR HB	1280	Yorkshire S Major
		1280	Kent TB Major
28	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Minimus (5m)

July

1	Bovey Tracey S HB	1440	Spliced S Minor (23m)
	Ringing Room	1280	Cambridge S Major
6	Exeter HA HB	1296	Plain Bob Major
11	<i>Combe Martin NP HB</i>	1272	<i>Oxford TB Minor</i>
	Exeter MPR HB	1440	Norwich S Royal
12	Exeter HA HB	1296	Plain Bob Major
	North Bovey PC HB	1320	Spliced S Minor (3m)

14	Dawlish ECR HB	1260	Plain Bob Minor
15	Ringing Room	1312	Bristol S Major
18	West Raddon RC HB	1312	Kent TB Major
29	North Bovey PC HB	2160	Spliced S Minor (16m)

August

1	Exeter MPR HB	1280	Kent TB Major
		1296	Little Bob Royal
3	Kingsteignton LB HB	1272	Minimus (2m)
4	Kingsteignton LB HB	1260	Plain Bob Minor
8	Exeter MPR HB	1280	Kent TB Major
16	Whimble BG HB	2048	Kent TB Major
23	Exeter MPR HB	1280	Lincolnshire S Major
		1280	Rutland S Major
26	Bovey Tracey S HB	1440	Spliced S Minor (2m)

September

4	Exeter HA HB	1280	Kent TB Major
		1280	Plain Bob Major
5	<i>Kilminster CH HB</i>	1260	<i>Plain Bob Minor</i>
6	Exeter MPR HB	1280	Cambridge S Major
		1280	Spliced S Major (4m)
9	Landscope OE HB	1260	Plain Bob Minor
12	Exeter MPR HB	1282	Pudsey S Major
	Exeter WVR HB	1280	Kent TB Major
		1312	Kent TB Major
13	Exeter MPR HB	1400	Kent TB Royal
		1296	Little Bob Royal
16	Paignton WA HB	1260	Plain Bob Minor
17	Exeter HA HB	1328	St Clement's CB Major
26	Bovey Tracey S HB	1272	Spliced S Minor (6m)
	Ringing Room	1260	Plain Bob Doubles
27	Exeter MPR HB	1280	Superlative S Major
		1280	Spliced S Major (6m)

October

3	Bovey Tracey S HB	1440	Spliced S Minor (23m)
	Exeter MPR HB	1280	St Clement's CB Major
15	Paignton WA HB	1260	Plain Minor (2m)
18	Exeter SJCH HB	1280	Lessness S Major
		1280	Spliced S Major (7m)
21	Bovey Tracey S HB	2160	Spliced S Minor (16m)
28	Bovey Tracey S HB	1440	Spliced S Minor (2m)
	<i>Lundy CKS HB</i>	1280	<i>Yorkshire S Major</i>
29	<i>Lundy CKS HB</i>	1344	<i>Bristol S Major</i>
	Plymouth MR HB	1260	Plain Bob Minor
30	<i>Lundy HD MH</i>	1260	<i>Plain Bob Minor</i>

November

3	Torquay B HB	1260	Plain Bob Minor
18	North Bovey PC HB	1320	Spliced D Minor (12m)
25	HB Stadium HB CC	1260	Plain Bob Minor

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17	Exeter HA HB	1280	Kent TB Major
18	Ringing Room HB	1280	Kent TB Royal
20	Exeter CWF HB	1280	Yorkshire S Major
	Exeter SJCH HB	1280	Lincolnshire S Major
		1280	Spliced S Major (3m)
24	Exeter HA HB	1280	Kent TB Major
29	Ringing Room HB	1312	Kent TB Major
30	Exeter SJCH HB	1280	Cambridge S Major
		1280	Kent TB Major
		1344	Yorkshire S Major
		1280	Lessness S Major
31	Bovey Tracey S HB	1440	Spliced D Minor (21m)

Quarters rung outside the county by predominantly resident in Devon in 2020**January**

25	Nynehead	1260	Ananias Bob Minor
	West Buckland (Som)	1260	Hanney Bob Minor

February

8	Hamilton Waikato	1280	Cambridge S Major
15	Wellington John David 1250		Yorkshire S Major
16	Wellington Cathedral	1346	Yorkshire S Maximus
17	Eyrewell Forest	1250	Lincolnshire S Major

March

7	Coleorton	1280	Quarry Hill S Major
	Hugglescote	1288	Grandsire Triples
	Oaks in Charnwood	1250	Ashworth S Major
	Shepshed	1250	Xenonosocomiophobia S Major
	Whitwick	1280	Hurricane D Major
8	Etwell	1296	Cambridge S Minor
	Marchington	1272	Ipswich S Minor
	Sudbury (Derby)	1296	Llaregyb S Minor
	Sutton on the Hill	1260	Grandsire Doubles
9	Barwell	1250	Spliced S Major (4m)
	Earl Shilton	1280	Swine S Major
	Market Bosworth	1250	Ventongimps S Major
	Overseal	1280	Knackers Knowle S Major
	Stoney Stanton	1250	Southwell S Major
13	Awre	1260	Crewe Electric Bob Minor
	Elmore	1260	Capel Bangor Bob Minor
	Frampton on Severn	1296	Bacup S Minor
	Huntley	1296	Northumberland S Minor

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TELEPHONE: 01308 422264 FAX: 01308 427172
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