

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
November 2022

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Newsletter News

2022 has turned into a year of royal occasions in a way that we had not expected. After the celebration of HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, amid much ringing nationally, we found ourselves only three months later mourning the sad passing of her Majesty and scrabbling to find sets of muffles, while researching how to ring fully-muffled with a half-muffled tenor. Compared with the long build-up to the Jubilee, we had no time to prepare on this occasion, and the response of Guild ringers was impressive.

I am very grateful to the dedicated work of Branch Correspondents, official and stand-in, who make each edition possible. I know how much effort it takes to collect news stories and photos from the towers.

Please send any comments, complaints or contributions for future editions to me at newsletter@pdg.org.uk.

Jonathan

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President's Preamble

As I write this it seems that Autumn is here, as in the clocks have gone back and most of the leaves are off the trees – yet it is still unnaturally warm! However, it saves me some heating...

It is a while since I last wrote, and so much has happened. My personal highlights include:

Guild

- An AGM in person at last in Peterborough, it was good to see and ring with quite a few members from far and wide.
- 2nd Saturday ringing and training is really taking off – well done Simon and Cathy Dixon.
- Spring and Summer Festivals taking place: well done to all those who took part, and congratulations to the winners. Thank you especially to the Branches hosting these events.
- Well done to the band representing the Guild in the Ridgman Trophy Competition.

National

- Ringing for the Queen's Accession in February.
- Lots of ringing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June – nearly 700 ringers in 200 towers.
 - A new method "Platinum Place Doubles" named and rung.
 - Lots of Firsts scored – well done all.
 - And some notable milestones too - 1,000+ peals!
- Then, sadly, ringing for the Queen's Death and Funeral so soon afterwards.
 - I found it particularly moving to Toll the Tailors at Great Oxendon, the village certainly noticed and appreciated it.
 - This was the first time I had ever heard or rung fully muffled (tenor open at backstroke) as I'm too young for once. Very moving indeed – and our audience certainly noticed. Ok, so I got the tenor muffle on the wrong side first time – not the same side as when half-muffled is it?
- Well done Towcester for entering the National 12-bell striking competition.

People:

- I was pleased to be able to ring in memory of Cecil Swann who was born in Great Oxendon.
- Very pleased to see Geoff Pullin was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for Services to the Community in Badby, including bell ringing of course. Congratulations, Geoff, from all of us in the Guild. Thanks for all you do.

It was good to read in the last Newsletter about all the events and ringing now taking place across the Guild – well done all! I wish I had been able to get to more of them.

New Year:

Looking forward into 2023 there are opportunities for ringing to announce and celebrate further important events.

- “Ring for the King” - the Coronation of King Charles in May will be a chance for recruitment and to make an impact on the soundscape of the celebrations. There will be lots more on this as we approach the event.
- More locally, January sees the retirement of Bishop Donald as Bishop of Peterborough, having served the Diocese for 12 years.

Hope to meet more members at the Branch AGMs in the New Year, in the meantime:

Happy Christmas to you all.

Alistair Donaldson

Royal Ringing

The last edition of the Guild newsletter was one in which we were celebrating the tremendous achievement of the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II. However, by the time the copies were all distributed, we had passed through a period of national mourning for her death and had acknowledged the accession of her son as reigning monarch.

At the age of 96, it was unsurprising that the Queen had started to cancel some official engagements such as the state opening of parliament on 10th May 2022 where her son, then Prince Charles, took over her responsibility. However, the news on Thursday September 8th that the Queen was ill at Balmoral was certainly significant enough to merit the special news bulletins broadcast throughout that day. Her death was announced at 6:30 that evening and immediately Operation London Bridge came into action. Flags were lowered to half-mast; events were cancelled and people across the country sought more information. This included our nation’s bellringers who were anxious to ring church bells in an appropriate fashion.

Despite the complications of having to seek guidance about what to do from a variety of sources, both local and national, and of trying to find enough muffles, find someone to fit them, find enough ringers at short notice and so on, 190 ringing events in our Guild have been recorded on BellBoard, from 119 different towers. 121 pieces were rung either on Monday 19th September, the day of the state funeral, or the previous day when other memorial services were held.

(37 other towers reported ringing for the Queen but did not record the details on BellBoard).

The following were some of the very appropriate ways in which this very sombre but significant occasion was marked:

- 1) Bells were rung open in celebration, half-muffled or fully muffled with the tenor open at backstroke.
- 2) Bells were tolled 96 times, once for each year that the Queen lived.
- 3) Six tellers (or tollers or tailors) were rung. Tolling a bell in groups of three strokes is a way of marking a death – six for the passing of a female, nine for a male.
- 4) Bells were tolled for up to an hour preceding the funeral at Westminster Abbey.
- 5) Rounds were rung on muffled bells with each bell standing in turn (diminishing rounds).
- 6) 96 rows of call changes were rung.



In all 3 peals and 23 quarter peals have been recorded in a range of methods which included Queen Elizabeth II Doubles and Balmoral on Royal Deeside Triples.

In terms of ringing for the King, there have been 37 pieces of ringing recorded on BellBoard to date, including a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal at Towcester and a peal of Royal Bob Doubles at Ashley.

Whilst it is anticipated that there will be much more ringing for the new king next year around the time of the coronation, this ringing for the proclamation of the accession of King Charles III is testament to ringers' determination to mark significant events even with the added burden of removing and then replacing muffles that had been put on for the period of mourning for the late Queen.

Details of Royal Ringing performances in the Guild are listed on page 42.

Cathy Dixon pro@pdg.org.uk

Guild Summer Festival 2022

Last year (2021) we had an unusual format for the Guild 8-bell Striking Competition, drawing teams at random from those who attended the event at Thrapston. This was because many branches felt they could not put together a team because of COVID-19.

This year we returned to the usual format and had 5 branches, each entering a team, to compete for the Harry Wooding Trophy at Uppingham on Saturday September 24th (although it was great to see some members from the other branches as well).

Open ringing had been arranged by the Kettering Branch at Ashley as well as by the Rutland Branch at Belton-in-Rutland prior to the competition. An excellent tea was provided in the Church Hall at Uppingham by Rutland Branch members, produce was on

sale to raise extra funds, there was an opportunity to view images that had been entered in the Guild photo competition, and there was some very good ringing to listen to during the afternoon while the striking competition took place.

It has proved very difficult to find judges in recent years for this event as many of our neighbouring ringing associations were holding their own competitions on the same day. So, we had to compromise this year – the judging being done by James and Helena Thorpe of the Peterborough Branch. (The Peterborough Branch were not entering a team so we felt sure there would be no bias!)

The results were as follows:

- 1st Wellingborough Branch who rang fourth in the afternoon
- 2nd Daventry Branch who rang first
- 3rd Towcester Branch who rang second
- 4th Rutland Branch who rang fifth
- 5th Kettering Branch who rang third



Bands had rung either methods such as Grandsire Triples or Call Changes, all at different speeds. It was noticeable that on this occasion the bands that rang faster were ranked highest.

The trophy was presented by James to Tim Samson of the Wellingborough Branch team. Wellingborough had not won the competition since 2011.

A brief meeting was held in the church after the competitive ringing, including updates on the Central Council meeting, Guild training activities and the photo contest. The 100-club draw was made and a raffle, which raised £180 for the Bell Repair Fund.

In the evening, a number of members made their way to Seaton for some general ringing and a visit to the local pub.

Cathy Dixon pro@pdg.org.uk

Recruitment & Training News

Update on the Northampton Ringing Centre Project (Old Black Lion)

Chris FitzGerald represented the Guild on a progress call 7th September, between the Churches Conservation Trust, Central Council and PDG. The following are extracted from the call notes.

Heritage Fund have a meeting to approve the plans and to release the funds on 14 October. To maintain the pace of the projects, CCT must hit that meeting with a fully featured project plan.

Architects' plans have been developed for the new site incorporating the CCT Offices that are to be moved from London. Their London office lease terminates effectively at the end of September (they need 3 months to resolve dilapidations issues and hand back the building). They will be moving to temporary offices in Northampton following the closure.

An enabling contract has been completed through summer 2022 to demolish all extraneous elements of the buildings that are not to be incorporated into the new plans. As is usual with these enabling contracts, some issues have been identified that need to be resolved. They may need additional funding and that will be sought from the current funding bodies.

An operator has been selected for the Old Black Lion (remains secret at present for a big reveal at the appropriate time). It is intended to be a pub for all generations and linked to events in the church as well as to the training centre. The business plan needs to be tweaked for the operator's involvement and the final leases will be finalised with WNC for the building.

The final round of discussions for the main build contract will be finalised during September and October for presentation to the 14 October meeting. Should these deadlines be met, the December meeting of the CCT Board will confirm the contracts and building will commence in January 2023. It will be a 12-month contract and will hopefully be handed over in time to meet Christmas demand in 2023.

Discussions are to be held now with the Bellringers on:

- The shell definition
- Any contributions required for the wider project
- Discussions on commercial issues regarding the stable area including timing for contributions to the wider project. These should be governed by the memorandum of understanding signed between CCT and the Bellringers.

- Issues as to the siting of some of the CCCBR Library reference assets in the OBL or St Peters. Loughborough Bell Foundry may also offer some space for the additional archive material that does not need regular access

The various stakeholders will meet on a regular basis to work through the heritage, commercial and sharing aspects of the venture. CCT have appointed a Northampton-based person to be involved in this aspect.

A set of handbells has been offered to St Peters by the family of a deceased ringer. These could be available for the Ringing School.

Bellringers will be ready to engage with the architects as soon as that can be arranged. The ultimate success of the training school will, in large part, be down to the quality of the space.

Should you have any questions arising from the above do not hesitate to contact myself (treasurer@pdq.org.uk) or John Beresford (steward@pdq.gov.uk) who are most involved with the project.

Chris FitzGerald

Second Saturday Sessions

The “Flying Squad” concept, which was set up as we emerged from the COVID pandemic to help bands that needed some support, has continued with 12 bell practices at the cathedral, teaching handling and visits to a few practices. However, most of the efforts have gone into the **Second Saturday Sessions**.

We have now run several training courses – “Basic Bell Maintenance” and “Beyond Plain Bob” have both been run twice because there have been so many people interested. “Intermediate Bell Maintenance” in October was aimed as a follow-up, hands-on session for those who have attended “Basic Bell Maintenance”, but also allowed a few people to cover the essentials from the Basic course. We have also run a course on “Understanding Call Changes”. For details of what was covered in each course, please refer to the last edition of the newsletter.

We have also run some focussed practice sessions. In addition to the 10-bell practices which have been running for many years, we have introduced a Surprise Major practice, an Intermediate 8-bell practice and a Plain Bob practice. All of these have proved successful and are likely to be organised again for next year.

Already planned for the next few months are the following:

“Ringing up and down in peal” in November for those ringers who are members of bands that regularly lower and raise their bells but do not have enough ringers who can do so

in peal. There has been a lot of interest in this topic so it will be repeated early next year as well.

Another “Bell Maintenance” session in December which will cover both the Basic and Intermediate course contents.

“Beyond Plain Bob” practise session in January, specifically for those who have attended an earlier training session to allow them another opportunity to practise the methods covered – St Clements, Single Oxford and Single Court Minor, but it will be open to all and if time permits could include other similar methods such as St Simons Doubles.

Generally speaking, we are advertising each course via the website and the Guild Facebook page as well as sending out the details to individual tower correspondents in the hope that the information will be passed onto as many ringers as possible. Once we have the names of those interested in the proposed courses, we organise a location to suit them and send them an invitation to attend, limiting the number of learners so that they get sufficient individual tuition.

We already have a list of ideas for sessions, such as “Leading Up and Down in Peal”, “Introduction to Stedman”, “How to get the most out of a practise night”. If you have any ideas to add, or wish to be informed directly about courses on offer, or are willing to be listed as a helper, please contact either Simon or Cathy Dixon.

Simon Dixon, master@pdq.org.uk

Ring for the King

This catchy slogan first appeared in an article on Saturday 22nd October in the Times newspaper, referring to recruiting ringers with a view to training them up in time to ring for the coronation next year. It seems a good idea to share to share the concept and get the ball rolling. There are now resources available at ringforthe king.org.



I hope that we can “Ring for the King” around the time of King Charles III’s coronation on 6th May next year, replicating the efforts made to ring for Queen Elizabeth II this year, when nearly every tower in the Guild was rung sometime over the Jubilee weekend. We will again collate details of all the ringing performances and report them in a special edition of the newsletter next summer. A special training session on how to submit information to BellBoard will be arranged for next year in preparation. But we will face the same problem as this year.

We know that we have a serious shortage of ringers across the Guild.

As a Guild, some efforts were put in to recruiting this summer using the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations as a focus. This included posters advertising our ringing efforts, articles for newsletters and even a couple of television appearances. We had

some success, and a number of people were recruited. They have now been trained up and are ringing with local bands. In addition, there have been some local initiatives that were as successful, if not more so.

So based on recent research and experiences, I would like to offer the following bits of advice.

- 1) Have a focus for your recruitment. Obviously preparing a band for the coronation is a great deadline but it seems that calling upon local community feeling is additionally effective.
- 2) Identify target groups (congregation, choir, sixth form college for example) and approach them directly. Alternatively, organise and advertise widely a tower open day with ringing demonstrations and maybe a chance to ring the backstroke or chime a bell. The Guild pop-up display banners are available for such occasions, and I can provide plenty of copies of the updated “Church Bell Ringing for YOU” leaflets.
- 3) Try to get a group all learning at the same time. They can provide mutual support and encouragement, and of course you will end up with more ringers at the end, even if a few recruits decide that ringing is not for them during the process. You may like to consider teaming up with another local tower to get the numbers up.
- 4) Have a plan for the initial training. Ideally a couple of 2-hour sessions a week at the beginning with two competent teachers involved – they can each give advice and pick up on potential problems before they develop into bad handling habits. If you have the facility to do this on silenced bells, this may keep the neighbours happy, but I think it is important to get the learners listening to their bell as well.
- 5) As soon as possible introduce them to ringing with a band. The use of a simulator is great for this, but I also think there is value in getting them to ring just one stroke in rounds so that they get used to listening to their bell’s position without panicking over handling.
- 6) Introduce the learners to other bells, in their own tower and at other towers (with the approval of the local band, of course). Whilst we all want to recruit ringers for our own band, I have seen multiple cases of learners of supporting other bands/practices and benefitting from the experience. A follow-on from this is to encourage your learners to attend Branch and Guild events for more experience.
- 7) Don’t forget the social side. Even if your band do not regularly go to the pub after ringing, how about arranging meeting up for a coffee or lunch?

Please note that these are my own personal views and offered in the hope of providing support. If you would like to discuss further, do get in touch pro@pdg.org.uk.

Obituaries

Michael Edred Haighton

(9.10.1952 – 18.8.2022)

Revd Michael Haighton died on August 18, 2022. In one of his round-robin health up-dates in July he reported that he was recovering from a fractured hip and had had a reasonable report from his oncologist.

Michael was drawn by the sound of bells when aged 12 and soon was ringing for two services on Sundays and weddings. He was encouraged to join a keen tower-grabber ringing in surrounding counties. He trained for the Ministry at Cliff College in Derbyshire.



Michael at Barby 2010

In 1980 he moved to a Pioneer Ministry in The Fens around Tydd Gote. Despite having the early onset of rheumatoid arthritis, he slowly grew a new band for a nearby tower.

He moved on to Kentisbeare, Devon in 1998. His ministry was at Sainthill Baptist Church and Plymtree URC, and he was welcomed by a quarter peal at Kentisbeare Cof E Church. While in Devon, Michael rang with the Devon style call change ringers and the change ringers.

He had a serious relapse of rheumatoid arthritis and was told at the age of 49 that he must retire, which he did to Ratby, Leics. Michael met Barbara in Devon and they both moved to Rugby and were married in 2016 at the Baptist Church within earshot of the 8 bells of Rugby Parish Church, rung by his many ringing friends.

Michael became a member of the Daventry Branch in 2003, ringing at Braunston and Barby. He often played the organ or led branch services or both.

Michael played the organ with gusto. He became a member of The Hymn Society and wrote several hymns for bell augmentations, and one for the Centenary of The Ladies Guild.

Rheumatoid arthritis, supplemented with diabetes and then cancer took over his life, but Michael still enjoyed preaching, swimming, reading, cooking and bellringing. He didn't keep records of his ringing but rang widely including the Channel Islands, Ireland and Australia. He rang in 11 peals in the early 1970s and several quarter peals. His last quarter was with the Daventry Branch at Clifton upon Dunsmore on May 16, 2019. It was of Kent Treble Bob and Spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor at his request.

When the Clerical Guild admitted Free Church clergy, he became a member and wrote over 30 articles for 'Thought for the Week' for The Ringing World often drawing on

recent activities in the Daventry Branch. He also wrote several autobiographical articles for The Ringing World in 2021 (p134-5 Learning to Ring; p182 Training a Band; pp254-5 Moving On and p369 Old Ways).

Michael had arranged his funeral in great detail to be in Rugby Baptist Church and Rainsbrook Crematorium. He was of course unaware that it would take place on the same day and time as that of The Queen, so plans for ringing the 8-bells again, had to be abandoned. Later at the Crematorium, Gwynneth and Jim White with Rebecca and Mark Banner from Ratby performed some magical handbell ringing ending in diminishing rounds.

Margaret Elizabeth Dean

(30.11.1928 – 27.9.2022)

Margaret Dean died on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 in Coventry & Warwick Hospital.

Margaret joined the Daventry Branch in 2000 as a member at Kilsby, having learned to ring at Braunston and Daventry for the Millennium as part of a keen ladies team. She took over as Kilsby tower correspondent in 2013. Margaret was a prime mover in getting the bell frame repaired after rainwater damage; having three bells rehung on ball bearings and having the rope guide installed. She was a keen supporter of the branch and Braunston Monday Club, making cakes and organising quizzes in the village. Only the previous Saturday her number was drawn for the first prize in the Guild 100-Club!



Margaret at her 80th in 2008

Margaret rang her only quarter peal on the treble to Plain Bob Doubles at Flore on 24 March 2007. Her last ringing was for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and at the branch meeting at Kilsby in July.

Margaret had been Mayor of Greenwich in her younger days and was proud of having usurped Ken Livingstone to give the order to fire the starting canon for the first London Marathon in 1981 from Greenwich Park.

Kilsby bells rang out on Friday 28th October to bid her farewell as the hearse and family cars paused and passed the church on the way to the crematorium. There were 14 ringers among the 80-90 congregation, who at the end of the service clapped along to her favourite Radetzky March.

Dorothy Mary Stopps

(12.09.1935 – 05.07.2022)

Dorothy had a memorial service with the interment of her ashes on 12th September 2022 at Cogenhoe. Ringing before and after the service was half muffled.

The following were read at the service by her fellow ringers:

From the early 1960's Dorothy was a stalwart of Cogenhoe's band of bell ringers, ringing for Sunday services, practice nights, weddings and funerals and ringing in quarter peals and peals for special occasions. She had been our tower captain for many years.

She was a member of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers Northampton Branch for over 50 years and during that time she served as press correspondent, secretary, treasurer, Guild management committee member and ringing master. She was always supportive of other towers in the branch.

She taught many to ring over the years at Cogenhoe, especially encouraging young people to ring. She is sadly missed in Cogenhoe tower and the Northampton Branch.

Charlotte Eley

Dorothy was a gentle soul, who could be very determined and persuasive, but always in a kind encouraging way. She was also a good friend; a friend in Dorothy was a friend for life. An example of this could be (speaking from personal experience), if one was going through somewhat of a bad time, there may be a knock at the door or a phone call from Dorothy, with just 3 little word "How are you"? That meant a lot.

Now, to my return to ringing for which Dorothy played a big part. Some 20-25 years ago I was learning to ring at Little Houghton. Sadly, the group had to disband when Colin Stanton, the Tower Captain had an accident and was no longer able to ring. I thought about it a lot over the years that I would like to pick up my ringing but, didn't pursue it. I talked to Dorothy about it on several occasions and about 3 years ago Dorothy started to become more serious about my return to the bells but, she realised over time I had lost my nerve. Then our uninvited guest called COVID arrived in all our lives, and as you are aware ringing stopped for some time.

Once ringing re-started Dorothy commented to me "I have not forgotten you know"; "Oh dear" I replied! I think she realised I had been making every excuse possible to put it off. Towards the end of 2021, I was invited by Dorothy that after Christmas I must come to lunch so we can discuss the matter. I duly reported at the agreed date and time, when I suddenly realised that I was now fully in the grasp of Dorothy's very own exclusive method of "gentle persuasion" from which I would not be allowed to escape, no turning

back and no more excuses. The following Monday evening I nervously reported to the Cogenhoe tower at 7.30 to begin my retraining.

Sadly after a few weeks Dorothy suffered her stroke, from which she never returned to ringing or to live in Cogenhoe. Thankfully my training continued with the help of fellow Branch and Guild ringers.

I was honoured to visit Dorothy on a number of occasions both in hospital and then the care home, to sit with her and chat. There were difficulties communicating however, on one occasion when talking about bells, I was telling her how I was getting on with ringing and who was teaching us: I said to her "I really am trying Dorothy, I will get there I promise", to which she raised her left hand, waved finger at me, as if to say "You better"!!

So, finally, on her birthday, Happy Birthday Dorothy and Thank you.

Jenny Monk

News from the Branches

Culworth Branch

Before we Belonged

Two old minute books have recently been unearthed and passed to Martin Rowling, our chairman. They date back to 1923 when the Brackley Deanery Bell Ringing Association held an annual festival at Woodford Halse. At this meeting accounts showing a balance of £10-3-8 were presented and it was proposed that a minute book be purchased. This implies that the Association predates 1923. Seven tower teams took part in ringing from 2.0 till 4.30 when ringers adjourned for tea, after which the rural dean presided at a meeting. Not much changes! It was proposed that a challenge cup should be purchased for a competition at the annual festival. "This was defeated by a large majority". Funds appear to have been used to help ringers who were ill.

In November 1923 there was a specially convened meeting to consider the rules of the proposed Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers, and whether the Brackley Association should join. "After reading the proposed rules, and after a full discussion" a resolution was passed which stated "The Brackley and Deanery Bell Ringers Association, although recognising the high ideals of the Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers, feel that they are so isolated and remote from any large town in the diocese, that they are unable to join the proposed Guild"

In 1924 in the meeting at the end of May it was proposed that in future the annual festival should always be held on the first Saturday in May "so that it might not interfere with the cricket". However successive meetings appear to have been at the end of April.

In 1926 the chairman noted how glad he was to see so many old faces, and doubly glad to see so many new and young faces amongst them. He asked the older members to be

“always ready to encourage and help any young men who were anxious to take up bell ringing.

The secretary had received a letter from their president, Sir Arthur Dryden, who regretted that he was not well and unable to attend. The secretary noted that unfortunately Sir A Dryden had not sent his usual subscription.

In 1928 a grant of £5 was made towards the rehanging and recasting of the Sulgrave bells. Culworth didn't do so well in 1931. There was a proposal for a grant of £1 for the rehanging of their bells. This was amended to two guineas.

1930. The chairman reminded the gathering that the enthusiasm of the late Rev R H Woodcock had resulted in the formation of the association and said it had been one of his desires that there might one day be a team of lady ringers. This desire had not yet been realised. There was more discussion about joining the PDGCBR. After several people had expressed opinions it was decided that “we cannot see our way to joining”.

1932 The secretary regretted the absence of ringers from Woodford and Eydon. He had received a postcard that morning from the latter tower regretting that they could not be present. They could not afford the cost of a conveyance. The secretary said that it made things very difficult especially for the caterers when people failed to let him know whether or not they would be attending. It was decided to write to the Eydon and Woodford teams on the subject of attendance. There was discussion on the possibility of grants towards repairs to the Wappenham tower, and towards the expenses of a conveyance, but those at the meeting felt that neither was possible.

The festival for 1933 to be held at Boddington if the Woodford bells are still unfit to ring. This proved to be the case. It was agreed to liaise with the secretary of the South Northants Cricket Club to make sure future festivals would not clash with the opening of the cricket season. It was noted that the bells at Thorpe (Mandeville) had been rehung, and dedicated the previous week. They had rung on the previous Sunday after a silence of 20 years.

In 1934 the Sulgrave ringers were unable to attend as one of the band was getting married that day so they were ringing in his honour. There was some talk of holding the next festival in a tower with bells but no ringers. The Rector of Byfield had expressed his willingness for the festival to be held there, and this was agreed. There was discussion about a paid instructor to go to various belfries, but the general opinion was that those who might need instruction would prefer to have it from one or more of their own senior, (and capable) members. It was noted that there was “an excellent little manual of instruction” available and it was agreed to purchase two of these for each belfry.

1935 the meeting welcomed the vicar of Staverton, especially as he was also a ringer. He spoke of the importance of all the Associations in the Diocese belonging to the Diocesan Guild, but the secretary explained that the matter had already been debated and decided against, owing to our villages being so far away from the diocesan centre. A warm

welcome was given to Mrs Powell who had that afternoon helped to ring a peal, the first time the Association had been honoured by a lady taking part, (obviously not 5040 changes).

The following year it was noted that several belfries were not represented and all present were urged to do all they could to ensure better representation at future festivals. The chairman said that he hoped a parish would be bold enough to start a team of lady ringers

In 1937 the Association was congratulated on its healthy position - £4.8.6, but again the chairman was despondent about the gradual falling-off of membership. However, it was noted that Moreton Pinkney had some young ringers learning.

By the following year the accounts stood at £6.19.3 and a grant of two guineas was made towards the cost of repair to one of the Chipping Warden bells. In 1939 it was agreed to purchase handbooks on the art of change ringing, these were to be distributed to any member who applied for a copy. There is a note of "Handbook for bell ringers, Standard Methods" Miss Margaret Snowdon, Cartmel, Lancs.

Ringing then ceased for the duration of the Second World War. (Watch out for the next instalment)

Sara Chapple

Ringling for the Queen at Greatworth

Here is an article that was written by Jen Griffith, Greatworth ringer, for the local village newsletter explaining what was going on in the tower and beyond.

On the eve of Thursday 8th September, after a day of trepidation, an announcement was made that brought the country to a standstill: HRH Queen Elizabeth II, our queen for the last 70 years, with whom we had celebrated not more than 3 months earlier, her Platinum Jubilee, had sadly died at the age of 96 years old. The country stopped and we were officially in mourning for the next 10 days - there is an official protocol in place in the event of the death of Her Majesty, known as 'Operation London Bridge' which covers bell ringing activities for each day from when the Royal death is announced; as the official announcement came after 4 o'clock in the afternoon, church bells up and down the country, rang to announce the death of our monarch at 12 noon the following day. Muffles were fitted on bells (these are leather pads fitted to a bell's clapper to reduce the volume - they attenuate the bell's strike note whilst retaining the hum); the 5th and the tenor bells in Greatworth were 'tolled' fully muffled, 96 times, each to represent a year of Her Majesty's age. Flags were flown at half mast, until after the funeral, The Green was identified as a local outdoor area for village floral tributes and a book of condolence was made available at Greatworth Post Office. Even though Charles automatically assumed the role of King Charles III, on his mother's death, the Palace officially proclaims the new Monarch with the Privy Council the day after the Monarch's death (Saturday in this case): flags were raised to full height for just one day and

traditionally the proclamation of our new monarch at parish level occurs the next day (takes time for the horseman to get all the way here from London, to announce this!) Our bells were rung again, at 3 o'clock on Sunday, open (unmuffled) in joyful celebration of King Charles's accession to the throne.

For the week ahead, the rest of the world was avidly looking upon us as we entered our period of mourning again, whilst trying to continue with our daily business and arrange one of the most important funerals in the world. The Queen's coffin was by now on its way from Balmoral (where she died) back to London, to Lie in State, until the day of her funeral. Thousands of people were descending upon the capital to pay their last respects: whether it was to visit Buckingham Palace or Green Park to lay floral tributes; to line the streets to see the procession of her coffin to Westminster Hall or to join (by now synonymous with being very typically British) The Queue!! My sister in law and myself, at the last minute, made the decision to join 'The Queue' and Saturday throughout the night, joining the camaraderie of our newly met 'Queue Family', we slowly wound our way through narrow Dockland streets, towards Tower Bridge, along the Thames Embankment, past 7 more bridges, seeing daybreak over Westminster, to cross Lambeth Bridge to the final coiling laps we nicknamed 'The Snake'! Just over 12 hours later, tired but reverently, we filed into Westminster Hall, to reflect and pay our own personal respects and bow to our late Monarch - we shall never ever forget that moment . . . In the hour prior to the State Funeral, again Greatworth tenor bell tolled, fully muffled, as a mark of respect; walking home afterwards through the empty Greatworth streets, I reflected upon the piece of history we had just lived through in the past 10 days and then to watch one of the most unique, iconic pieces of ceremony and pageantry, that no other country can even begin to replicate.

With grateful thanks to those bell ringers who supported me over those 10 days, at Greatworth, keeping the protocols and traditions in place for such an important piece of history: Ibby Marshall, Cath Morse, Clare and Stephen Jakeman (and to Stuart for scrambling up a vertical ladder to apply the muffles!).

Jen Griffiths

Branch Dinner

The question was "Shall we have a branch dinner again?" An email was sent around to members to gauge what the reaction would be as our last one had been in 2019, some were still wary about committing but others were very positive, so the cogs were put into action, venue booked, caterers booked, menu sorted, invitations sent out and fingers crossed that covid didn't upset the apple cart again! Replies came in and 46 ringers and partners booked, two had to drop out because covid struck their household and two dropped out for other reasons. Two nearly didn't attend because they had the wrong month in their diary, but after a quick phone call they arrived just about in the nick of time.

It was interesting to see that out of the 42 who attended 10 were from people who hadn't been before, 5 new ringers and their partners. Sadly, some of our older members didn't feel able to come. Well done to Graham White who cycled all the way from Charwelton to Weston and back again! (even though he was offered a lift). It was good to meet up as a group again and see people we hadn't seen for a couple of years. Our raffle, which raised £197, has been used to support Ukraine. The food was good, company good and Ian Chapple gave some history to the branch and our Chairman, Martin Rowling shared the article that appeared in The Times that morning about recruiting ringers for the King. We all wonder what he would have said had 'The Times' not dropped fortuitously on his doormat that morning!

Thank you to Julian Partis and Dave Kirkham for helping me set up and for your serviette folding skills! Thank you also to Annie's Pantry, Wappenham, for some good home cooked food. A good evening was had by all, roll on next year.

Joy Kirkham

Daventry Branch

BRANCH MEETINGS

July

Well into the constantly hot and sunny period and a couple of days before the temperature reached 38C, 22 turned out to ring on July 16. We were met by Margaret Dean at Kilsby. Rhubarb Hybrid Minimus was on the programme and well worth a try! Afterwards at Barby, the local band was busy putting the finishing touches to tea and another three joined in ringing.

The traditional service was taken in a very engaging fashion by the Revd Kit Jarman. It featured a super-short sermon comparing beer advertising slogans with Christianity such as 'A Double Diamond works wonders', 'Guinness is good for you', 'Heineken refreshes the parts that others cannot reach' and 'Carlsberg - probably the best in the world'. Then a bit of congregational voting was needed to decide which of the two remaining hymns would come next, causing the organist some confusion.

Jane chaired the meeting and explained that the last meeting decided that this would be the first quarterly business meeting, but the next two gatherings will be ringing, service and tea only, plus an evening tower.

August

On August 20 twenty rang on the bells of character at Badby including Colin, Zoë, Simon and Adam Lee from Adderbury. It was good to see youngsters ringing: 9-year-old Simon happily ringing the 5th or tenor; Adam on the treble and Freya on the second. Justin kept things in order with the striking better than average for meeting ringing! Carole was busy doing teas and getting used, like me, to learning on Thursday that we had a grand-daughter, Nell, a few weeks earlier than expected.

With the Vicar on holiday, I found myself leading the service. My first sad task was to report that, having sent his apologies a couple of weeks ago for not being fit enough to take our service today, Revd. Michael Houghton had died on Thursday – we remembered him in our prayers. Graham White, who was lined up to lead the service instead, had sent apologies from his hospital bed in Oxford where a suspected burst gastric ulcer eventually kept him in for four weeks and out of ringing for two months. Afterwards, there was a good turn-out at Staverton with ringing up to London Surprise Minor.

September

In September twenty rang at Nether Heyford including four visitors from afar. Justin had asked Ian Willgress to run the ringing. With the bells half-muffled for the mourning of The Queen, some nice ringing ensued. Rural Dean Stephen Burrow took our service with prayers prior to the funerals of The Queen and the Revd Michael Houghton, both on Monday at 11am. Ian and David Foster were later revealed as needing extra thanks for removing the muffles from Heyford bells and fitting them to Flore bells and vice versa so that fifteen could ring there after tea.

Three of our visitors and me then made their ways to Eydon to join the half-muffled Culworth Branch practice, while others refreshed at The Old Sun in Heyford.

October



The October outing at Newbold on Avon.

The second branch morning outing this year organised by Alison Buck was held on Saturday October 1. Nineteen turned up to ring on the light six at Shawell giving several an opportunity to ring in Leicestershire. Then on to Warwickshire to the fine heavy eight at Monks Kirby where the good rise in peal set the standard. Then to the light ten at Newbold on Avon with a small ringing room but we could all just pack in. After lowering the ten in peal we gathered for a photo before ambling across the road to the Barley Mow pub alongside the canal for pre-ordered lunch before dispersing our various ways. We were pleased to have the support of the Guild Master and PRO.

Willoughby church looked like an industrial site when we arrived on Saturday, October 15. The 4m high corrugated iron sheeting demanded by insurers surrounded the scaffolding for a £270,000 replacement of roofing and installation of toilet and kitchenette. Twenty-four rang and five didn't. Matt Allcott was presented with his first quarter peal certificate by the Branch Ringing Master and the conductor.



Matt Allcott receives his First QP Cert (photo J

We happily elected as new branch members seven of the Whilton Jubilee ringers: Catherine, Nigel, Grace and Matt Allcott (Norton) and Becky Burbage, Kerry Dunkley and Bijal Ruparelia (Brington). We also re-elected Richard Hobbs as a member for Nether Heyford after his return to the village from London.

Justin urged us to carry out similar campaigns for new ringers to mark the Coronation of King Charles in May 2023.

Jim Grennan advised us that Byfield practices will be returning to Friday evenings from Thursdays. They now have a regular six ringers and would like to expand.

Ian reported that Taylors are due to carry out post installation checks and a trial ring on the new bell installation at Church Stowe that week. The bells have been ready in the tower since February 2021 awaiting the disputed work to the tower to be resolved.

Ringling until September 8

During the Summer, things remained strange – not only could you go out without a pullover or a mac, but we needed to search out the churches that are notoriously cold!

Unpredictability was also rife with COVID Omicron keeping a succession of people at home but feeling well.

The weather was ideal for a practice at Norton on Thursday July 28 when a good turn out of Jubilee ringers and helpers saw the churchyard full of picnicking or waiting ringers. The tenor clapper went up right-way after application of oil to the clapper bush. A similar cheery event followed a week later at Great Brington.

Platinum Jubilee celebrations continued: July 15 a quarter peal at Staverton – Christine's first wearing a leg/knee-cap support; August 4th at Bugbrooke, a quarter peal was conducted from the bell cast in Queen Elizabeth I's reign.

The Guild held an Intermediate 8-Bell session on August 13 at Whilton which was well attended. The next day the tower hosted the "July" branch 8-bell quarter peal of Yorkshire.

Ringling after September 8

After all the celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee, the mood changed with The Queen's sudden death at the age of 96 on September 8th. Operation London Bridge had been circulated to all towers the previous autumn. It still came as a shock but the inclusion of un-muffled ringing for the announcement of Accession of Charles III was a bit much for most to work around, although Whilton met the criteria. The extent of tolling and ringing is well documented elsewhere.

The Guild ten-bell practice took place as scheduled on September 10th at Daventry with 19 ringing on the half-muffled bells.

On the next Saturday, Daventry tower was open to the public as part of a Heritage weekend. With a lot of people admiring the veteran buses and queueing for free rides out to the villages, the occasional demonstration to visitors in the bell chamber of the 7th bell tolling half-muffled attracted a steady stream to the event. However, none signed up to learn to ring but hopefully a seed or two was planted!



Matt's 1st QP Band (Photo J Baker)

Matt Allcott was the first of the Whilton Jubilee ringers to ring a quarter peal. He rang the 6th as the second tenor for Bob Doubles with three tenors, conducted by Jim White on Monday September 19 at Whilton on the day of The Queen's Funeral.

With the official national mourning ended the September branch 8-bell quarter peal was still sad as it was rung in memoriam of Rev Michael Haighton - Grandsire Triples conducted by Ian

Willgress at Weedon on September 24.

The same band rang the same bells and method that afternoon in the Summer Festival at Uppingham and came 2nd out of five entries. During the Guild Festival, the eight who rang for a wedding at Daventry included two lads who had not touched a bell rope seven months ago – well done Matt and Kaiden! The next day the Daventry quarter peal in celebration of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II was an appropriate 1,296 changes of Plain Bob Major, conducted by Jim White. The October branch quarter peal of Cambridge S Major at Whilton on October 16 remembered Margaret Dean and was conducted by Ian Willgress.

Braunston bells rang when the Revd Kathryn Evans was licensed as the Rector of Braunston on Sunday 23 October. When a curate, Kathryn preached at our service at Great Brington in March - on 'Blessed are the Noise Makers'!

People

Since I last wrote, the Revd. Michael Highton, Barby and Margaret Dean Kilsby have died. (See Obituaries.)

Val and Richard Hartley have moved to Towcester. Nicole Rolph has moved to Northampton and Patsy Groom back to Kent.

In July we had a message from Ed Mortimer who has stopped wandering and settled in rural Alberta, Canada, some four hours from the nearest peal of change ringing bells in Calgary. He was seeking advice on how to start a change ringing group by converting the tune hand-bell ringers at his local Lutheran Church.



*Helen Camp's First splice
(Photo: L Martin)*

Other

A rope repair workshop took place at Daventry in the morning of our October meeting resulting in five new short-splicers and lots of bits of rope all over the carpet. Some of the old practice rope frayed alarmingly making it difficult to identify strands! Leanne's group seemed to romp ahead – must have had better rope!

The Monday morning practice at Staverton on August 8 was graced by two venerable travel machines: James Alexander's 1928 Rolls Royce and Richard Hartley's prizewinning 1947 Triumph Roadster.



Photo Geoff Pullin

Geoff Pullin

Guilsborough Branch

The branch has been very quiet lately. Tolling for the death and funeral of the queen took place in various towers and the Secretary reports on these elsewhere. No ringing has taken place for the King at the towers I am involved in. We have just had notification of the death of one member – an obituary should be available for the next edition.

Anthea Hiams

Kettering Branch

Since the previous edition of the Newsletter there has been much activity, a lot centring around the death and funeral of the late Queen Elizabeth II and subsequent

Proclamation of King Charles III. Much of this activity has been publicised already on Bell Board and in up-dates from the Guild Secretary. I am including the noteworthy details in new from the Towers.

The Kettering Branch activity has continued with a Joint meeting with the Thrapston Branch on 23rd July at Tywell, St. Nicholas. The meeting was attended by visitors from the Rutland Branch and the ringing organised by members of the Branch Committee. Ringing was followed by a Treasure Hunt organised by Jane Marsh, starting in the Churchyard, and taking participants up and down the village street with a few steps toing and froing ending up at the Old Friar PH for a welcome drink awaiting the results. The winners were Andy Bimson and Christian Harford from Stoke Albany.

During the summer the Branch has hosted some of the Guild workshops including a repeat of the Beginners Bell Maintenance Course at Great Oakley, St. Michael led by John Beresford. At the end of the course those present rang the bells open in celebration of the proclamation of King Charles III earlier on Saturday 10th September. The first Intermediate Bell Maintenance course was held at Rothwell, Holy Trinity led by Nick Churchman supported by Tim Samson & Jim Bence.

As has become the branch routine we have break from meetings in August resuming with the Guild Summer Festival and 8 Bell Striking Competition on 24th September. It was decided to give ringers who had not had the opportunity to ring in a competitive situation previously with representation from towers across the Branch and of widely varying experience, Jessica Pearce the youngest member of the team being 14 years of age. The Branch arranged for ringing at Ashley, All Saints enroute to Uppingham.

The Kettering Branch team came 5th in the competition and in announcing the results James Thorpe said that he would be happy to pay good money for ringing of this standard for a wedding.

Our October Branch meeting took place on 22nd and was a joint meeting with the Thrapston Branch, ringing first at Stanion, St. Peter, then moving to Geddington, St. Mary Magdalene. Members from Kettering and Thrapston were joined by visitors from the Rutland and Wellingborough Branches plus an elusive ringer who said he was from Lincoln, rang and disappeared into thin air. The ringing was led by the Kettering Branch Secretary, Nick Watts supported by other members of the Branch Committee. Refreshments were provided at Geddington.

Ringing following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and prior to the State Funeral, took place at various towers across the Branch including Ashley, where the bells were rung fully-muffled, Arthingworth, Barton Seagrave, Cottingham, Desborough, Great Cransley, Kettering, Pytchley, Rothwell, Stoke Albany and Wilbarston. Of note were 3

young ringers at Desborough who only started to ring on 8th August; Daniel Counsell (10) Jessica Cosby (14) and Kirsty Pearce (10). A peal of Grandsire Caters was rung at Rothwell, Holy Trinity in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II on 16th September 2022.

David Dainty

Northampton Branch

Death of Queen Elizabeth II and the new King.

Similar to every tower around the World, the Northampton Branch came out in force to toll bells and ring for our late Queen Elizabeth II and for our new King Charles III. Towers in the Northampton Branch who tolled or rang for the Queen are included on page 42.

Cecil Swann

In the July 2022 newsletter there was an obituary for Cecil. Since then, there were two notable ringing events held at Duston:

Wednesday, 21 September 2022 in 2h 37

5040 Treble Dodging Minor (7m)

1 extent each Stirling D, Carlisle S, Wath D, London Scholars' Pleasure TB, Knutsford D, Hexham S, Braintree D

1 Helena M Thorpe	4 Paul M Mason
2 Simon J Dixon	5 James F Thorpe
3 Nicholas R Wilson	6 Richard I Allton (C)

Rung in thanksgiving for the life of Cecil Swann, tower captain of this tower for over 50 years, who passed away in March this year.

Tuesday, 18 October 2022 in 47m

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Elizabeth Leaman	4 Giles Willson
2 Jane Bloomfield	5 Alistair Donaldson (C)
3 Martin Bull	6 Geoffrey Brown

Rung for St Luke's Patronal Festival. In memory of Cecil Swann, tower captain at St Luke's 1975 – 2021 and father of treble ringer, who died 12th March 2022. Nick Swann, Liz Moore and St Luke's ringers would like to be associated with this performance.



The Quarter Peal Band

New Ringers.

Hardingstone Church is unfortunately one of the Northampton Branch towers with no ringers. Following an initiative by the Rev Julie Scott, we now have a group of learners attending the Northampton Ringing school on a Saturday morning with the aim to have a band back at Hardingstone in the future.

Colin Stanton

Colin who was the Tower Captain at Little Houghton for many years will be 90 on Tuesday 13th December 2022. A Quarter Peal is being organised to be rung on his Birthday at Little Houghton by the Branch.

We all wish Colin a very Happy 90th Birthday!!

Giles Willson

Peterborough Branch

Ringling and Cream Tea

This has become an annual event with ringling at about 3 local-ish towers followed by a Cream Tea somewhere nearby.

This year the bellringing, organised by Diana Street, took place at Yaxley (6), Stanground (GF6) and Fletton (GF5) followed by cream tea at the Willow Cafe in Peterborough's Central Park. A good number of bellringers (some far or well-travelled) joined the towers; more at the ground floor rings as they are more accessible. We rang many different things from Rounds and Call Changes through to Kent and Cambridge. Then we headed to the cafe's function room as there were 38 of us who had pre-ordered varieties of their scones or cakes or the full-blown cream teas. (I had been on a taster run so knew they were good and the food plentiful). We were well looked after and can definitely recommend a visit to The Willow Cafe for good home-cooked food to meet all tastes

with the bonus of weekend free parking in Park Crescent (on the opposite side of The Park to town). Everyone said they had enjoyed it, so it was well worth the organisation logistics of the event.

Nassington

We continue to hold busy and interesting practices on Monday evenings and Friday mornings. As the band has become more experienced, we can ring beyond Bob Doubles, including St Simons and Reverse Canterbury Doubles, and Minor methods, such as Bob Minor and St Clements. In August, we had a number of ringers from other Towers join our Monday practice, so Double and Single Oxford and Cambridge were rung as well.

Learners from Wittering, Barnack and Ufford continue to join our practices, and they are all progressing from rounds to Plain Hunt and now Bob Doubles. Our own learners continue to progress, too, so the practices allow for everyone at all stages of their bell ringing. Once a month, we visit other towers for our Friday morning practices, allowing everyone a chance to ring different bells. Recently we have rung at Barnack, Bulwick, Cotterstock, Wansford and Thornhaugh.

The after-school club for the youngsters is held on Monday and Thursday afternoons in term time, and generally once a week in school holidays. Although one or two have decided it is not for them, we have 4 who have achieved LtR level one. Two are ringing regularly for service and joining the main practice on a Monday night, moving on from rounds. As it has been successful, other youngsters have joined, so we now have 9 regularly attending the handling sessions. One parent and one grandparent decided they may as well join in, so they are having handling lessons, too!

In addition to ringing for Sunday service at Nassington each week, the band continues to ring before the service at the other towers in the Benefice; fortnightly at Yarwell, and occasionally at Wansford and Thornhaugh. We have rung for weddings at Wansford, Nassington and Yarwell, and for funerals at Nassington and Yarwell.

We welcomed a number of visiting bands over the period, and in July, we had our own outing. Around 15 ringers visited 5 towers in Lincolnshire, including ringing at Baston, an anti-clockwise tower. After ringing, they were joined by partners and friends for a meal at a local pub. We've held two very successful ringing up and down in peal workshops, one at Wittering and the other at Cotterstock.

At the end of August, the church hosted a Multi Activity Day inviting all the children and young people in the village to attend. As part of this, the ringers demonstrated bell ringing and gave those interested a try. There was a steady queue of children who wished to go up the tower to have a look at the bells, with a diverse age range from about four up to early-mid teenagers, all who no signs of fear of just how high they were climbing.

Two of the Wittering ringers have rung their first QPs, one at Nassington to celebrate their wedding with the band including his parents, and the other at Barnack in memory of Cecil Swann. We also rang a QP to celebrate Terry Wright's 60th birthday in October.

When The Queen died, we rang the bells fully muffled at Nassington on the Friday as requested, and the School kindly allowed the youngsters to join us in their lunch break. We tolled the tenor at the other towers in the Benefice. Over the weekend we rang open for the accession, then fully muffled again for the following week. We were joined by the youngsters to ring for the funeral on Monday 19th, and once again, we rang or tolled at all the Towers in the Benefice.

Hilary Hardie



The proud youngsters after ringing to mark the Queen's passing.

Ringling at Warmington 2022

Warmington has been a busy place this year. The bells are regularly rung for services both at Warmington and at Cotterstock, our neighbouring village and part of the Warmington Benefice. Friday night practices are well supported and this year we set ourselves the task of learning and ringing a method of the month and of having an extended ringing session once a month, giving members of the band in turn a chance for intensive practice of their chosen method. Sometimes these sessions have resulted in a quarter-peal, but all have given us an invaluable learning opportunity and we are very grateful to the experienced ringers who have come along to make these sessions possible.

During the pandemic, when towers were closed to us, we took up handbell ringing, meeting outside, and we still continue with the handbells, as we enjoyed the challenge. Progress has not been speedy, to say the least, but the group have been ringing PB6. The best thing about handbells seems to be that they make tower ringing seem easy by comparison! We were invited to ring handbells for a wedding at Folksworth where we lined the path as the wedding party left the church.

We have taken part in some local special occasions, mostly weddings but also we were pleased to ring for the opening and closing of the delightful Exhibition of Childhood at Cotterstock, and for a Historical Society meeting there too, where visitors could learn a little about bell ringing and watch the bells on the close circuit TV as they were rung.

Royal events have played a major part in our activities; ringing at both churches for the Platinum Jubilee was a highlight which was followed by a sunny picnic. Then we found ourselves sadly ringing at the death of Queen Elizabeth II and cheerfully for the Proclamation of King Charles III. It was muffles on, muffles off, muffles on ... All very hectic, but something none of us will ever forget.

Our big ringing adventure was our weekend long visit to South Worcestershire in June where we enjoyed visiting some lovely, ancient, churches and pretty villages as we toured around Bredon Hill. We experienced some very quirky, challenging bells, some beautiful bells, the longest draught most of us had ever seen and a whole range of hazardous stairs, towers and doorways. The culmination was ringing for a special service at Bredon.



Warmington Band at Kemerton

It was stunning. Our thanks go to Alex Dyer for organising this fantastic weekend and to the skilled friends who joined us to ensure our ringing was of a good standard.

Our latest venture has been to move into 8 bell ringing during a four week course for which St Mary's Peterborough kindly allowed us to use their bells. Over the course of the four sessions, we were supported by so many ringers who came to help us in our efforts to master PB8. Many thanks to each and every one of them and to Yvette Halewood for coming up with the idea and to John Riley for organising the evenings. This has been a very instructive and enjoyable experience for us all.

Cathedral News

The cathedral band has been making great progress over the last year. We established a monthly dedicated 12 bell practice with the support of ringers from Towcester. However, it was still a challenge to ring all 12 as the acoustics in the ringing room meant that the front 6 bells were considerably quieter than the back 6 which made striking well extremely difficult. We asked Taylors to do an acoustic assessment and come up with a plan to improve this situation. At the end of May, just in time for the Jubilee, Andrew Mills, with the help of Nick Elks, spent a very busy day installing sound tubes from the bell chamber to the ceiling of the ringing room. This has greatly improved the acoustics, with it actually now being possible to hear the little bells when ringing all 12. We rang our first QP on 12 since the project was completed on the 16th Oct Little Bob Maximus to wish Will Bosworth farewell and good luck on his move to Dublin. The cost of the project has been met through a grant from Peterborough branch, a donation from the cathedral and fund raising from the band, it is hoped to recoup most of the costs, with the balance coming out of cathedral company funds.

Other notable ringing events was a peal of Cambridge Royal for the Queen's Jubilee and of course ringing on the announcement of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth. The cathedral band played its full role in marking this historic occasion. The bells were rung

fully muffled with the tenor open at backstroke on the day of the announcement and then open for the Proclamation of King Charles III the following day. On the Sunday the cathedral held its civic service for the Queen, for which we rang half muffled grandsire Caters. On the day of the funeral a team of ringers tolled the tenor for the hour before the state funeral. It was a very busy time and I thank all those involved with the ringing for their support.

Branch practices

Our monthly branch eight bell practice at Castor continues to be well supported and is a great example of cross border cooperation. Drawing support from Lincolnshire ringers as well as our branch and providing learning opportunities to Rutland ringers we have rung a selection of surprise major including the core methods Cornwall and Lessness, as well as some old classics in the form of Double Norwich and Stedman. This month 19 people attended the practice after a successful campaign by Warmington to introduce their developing band to eight bell ringing. Progress made at the branch practice (and elsewhere) has led to Mark Webb ringing his first QP of surprise major at the Cathedral for evensong. The practice membership has even provided roadside puncture repair support to the visiting Guild Secretary! Visitors from other branches, guilds and planets are always very welcome to the practice.

The branch striking workshops continue to be popular. In October we hosted a rearranged workshop at Cottestock, following cancellation earlier in the year due to Covid. Four of our ringers were put through their paces by experienced branch supporters and I hope they all went away with specific learning points to improve their ringing.

James Thorpe, Ringing Master

Rutland Branch

After the joyful celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee the next few months took on a more sombre feel with the passing and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. Bells tolled in sixteen of our towers in Rutland, with eight achieving ringing for the Proclamation of the new King. A Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung at Oakham, in memoriam and celebration of the Queen's life and service to the United Kingdom and Commonwealth of Nations. On the day of the funeral bells were tolled or rung in nine towers, with another Quarter Peal performed at Brooke.

We also saw the passing of four of our older and respected ringers. David Thorne, former Tower Captain of Seaton, died in June after a long illness. In July, Tony Clark of Wing died aged 99. A Quarter Peal is planned for January when he would have reached his 100th birthday.

John Nicholls was the long serving Tower Captain and Churchwarden of St John the Evangelist, Caldecott. More recently David Wilson, a respected member of the band at Gt Casterton also passed.

For more joyful news, in June the church of St Peter at Brooke, held a celebratory service marking the thirtieth anniversary of their bells being restored and augmented to a ring of 6. There was ringing before and after the service where ringers old and new gathered.



St Peter, Brooke

In September the Rutland Branch were hosts for the Guild Summer Festival and 8 bell striking competition. This was held at Uppingham, with open ringing at Belton before-hand and Seaton hosting the ringing after. Five teams entered with Rutland being placed fourth. Congratulations to the winning team from Wellingborough.

Tinwell is a 4- bell tower, currently listed as being un-ringable. That is, until the Tower Captain Simon Forster was contacted by Tim Jackson of Dove's Guide who wanted to update the Tinwell entry. The bells of Tinwell are quite difficult on plain bearings and old pulleys. When Simon wanted to ring them in 2018 for the WW1 centenary, they hadn't been rung for over 10 years. With the help of Ted Phillips, the Rutland Steward, and more recently John Beresford, it was concluded that the heavy number 4 bell needed significant attention: the pins resting on the bearings were thought to be out of line.

When Tim Jackson arrived, knowing the history of the recent work to bring the bells back into use, he examined the bells very carefully, with a very knowledgeable young



All Saints

assistant, Lewis Benfield. Their view, after ringing the tenor, was that a noticeable gap at the base of the wooden headstock, occurring during the heat of the summer, could have allowed the headstock to shift a fraction. They recommended a set of small oak wedges hammered in and sawn flush. There were recommendations for a few other minor pieces of work but were happy with the general state of the bells and mechanisms. A few perfect cycles of Bob Minimus seemed to support their view.

Tim took a recording of each bell to update Dove's Guide with the notes of each bell. When the recommended work has been completed, the Tinwell entry will be amended

to being ringable, but restricted to experienced ringers, mainly due to the close proximity of the bell ropes.

Sue Webster

Thrapston Branch.

To Muffle or not to Muffle?

At a Branch Committee meeting in the early summer 'Operation London Bridge' came up in further discussions. When we were busy planning ringing events for the Jubilee Weekend, the consensus of opinion was, "we don't need to think about that now". How wrong we were. A few short week later we heard the news, that although we knew this was going to happen one day, was still very unexpected Phone calls and text messages flew around, the burning questions being – Where were the muffles? When can we put them on? When do we take them off? When can we ring?

With sage advice from The Ringing World and Diocesan Advisors a plan of action slowly evolved. The first task was to find the muffles. Some were hanging up on the appropriate Belfry Hook in one of 'Big Wilf's' beautifully embroidered bags. At another tower they were eventually found in a carrier bag behind the Clock case. Others were



not to be found at all – we know they must be there somewhere? Next task – who's going to put the muffles on? Some were easy others not. As our Branch Membership is small and we're all getting older and not quite so sprightly this was not an easy task especially climbing very dodgy ladders and crawling under and into the bell pits. However, all was eventually achieved, and our bells were tolled in memoriam, rang out for the Proclamation of the new King and tolled again for Her Majesty's funeral followed by hauntingly good half – muffled ringing. All the local towers and ringers, no matter how small a part they played, felt very proud to honour Her Majesty in this way and to receive the commemorative certificates. We now look forward to preparations for His Majesty's Coronation.

Hopefully we may see a surge of new ringers coming forward, as some of our very rural towers are struggling for regular ringers. From the many compliments we received from the wider public including local town and parish councils, the bells are much needed and welcome so hopefully we can welcome a new generation to the Ringing World.

We have recently been able to share some of our Branch Meetings with the Kettering Branch, ringing at Towers that lie on the borderlands between ourselves and Kettering. Thanks to Nick Watts and Jane for liaising with us. As our Branch Membership remains small this is an ideal arrangement to help both Branches.

Dennis Thrift

Towcester Branch

Since writing our last newsletter sadly we have lost our beloved Queen Elizabeth II, who had said on April 21st 1947, *"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service..."* She died peacefully on September 8th 2022 at the age of 96 in her beloved Balmoral with her eldest son and daughter beside her. She gave us decades of unstinting service, influenced diplomatic relations with countries such as America and was a dedicated leader of the 56-nation Commonwealth. I think that our Queen will always be remembered for her great sense of humour, and for two iconic moments; parachuting with James Bond into the 2012 Olympics and her Platinum Jubilee sketch (2022) with Paddington Bear! Queen Elizabeth's passing was marked throughout the Branch in many towers by the tolling and ringing of muffled and half muffled bells. For many a sombre and significant event. Bells again throughout the branch were rung in honour of our new king, King Charles III.

Our regular training events at St Luke, Cold Higham on Saturday mornings, run by Margaret Bulleid, are continuing to build ringers' skill levels. Just recently a record 18 ringers attended, but I suspect the draw of delicious cakes and sausage rolls at the coffee morning immediately after the session in the church was a contributory factor.

On 23rd July, North Bucks and Towcester branches met for their annual striking contest, this year at Newport Pagnell. Towcester bands, with a broad representation of members, won all three elements.

Richard Allton organised a very enjoyable and well-attended August morning outing to Eydon, Culworth and Sulgrave, with lunch at The Star Inn, Sulgrave.

29th October - Quiz Supper

The evening started with an opportunity to ring the 12 at St. Lawrence, Towcester, followed by the meeting, quiz and fish & chip supper in the Chapter House.



At the meeting preceding the quiz and supper, we welcomed a new member to the branch, Charlie Newnham, who is probably our youngest current recruit.

Many thanks to Ian Henson, question master, who kept us on our toes and wracked (or was it wrecked) our brains. Seven teams took part. Our congratulations go to the winning team:- Simon Dixon, Brenda Dixon, Alan Marks, Richard Allton and Helen Allton. And our thanks go to Chris and Margaret Bulleid for organising the food.

Personally, I was thrilled to ring a quarter peal for our late Queen, a momentous occasion. I'm sure that many of you within the branch have the same sentiments.

Jill Cooke

Pattishall Bells

It's been a busy and exciting summer for the Pattishall bellringers as we have seen the project to rehang and augment our bells moving into the 'action' phase!

The first excitement came in early July, when a small group of us travelled to Asten in the Netherlands to see our two new bells being cast at the Royal Eijsbouts Bell Foundry. It was fascinating to see the various stages of the casting process and to feel the heat as the red-hot liquid metal was so carefully poured into the moulds for our very own bells.

The hard work began in late August – it was time to dismantle and remove our existing bells, fittings and frame for transport to the works of Nicholson Engineering, Bridport. In



dismantling the bell frame, we came to respect Gillett and Johnston who installed the bells in 1908. Putting it another way, dismantling it was seriously hard graft! (Ask Nigel Williams!)

Following our last ring on the bells at practice on Monday 22nd August, a small team of volunteers worked for two days to unbolt and remove the clappers, wheels, pulley blocks

and various parts of the bell frame. The heavy work of removing and lowering the bells and the cast iron bell frame would wait for the arrival of Ian Hasman from Nicholson's a week later. Ian would be ably assisted by four volunteers each day, and the five-man team worked well into the evenings to get everything down, ready to be loaded onto a lorry on Friday.

Day 1 started with partial removal of the floors in the belfry and clock chamber and setting up an electric hoist and various chain hoists. By the end of the day, we had lowered 5 bells, which were lined up in the main aisle, plus various parts of the bell frame and the Sanctus bell together with its ancient wooden frame. Fantastic progress – well beyond expectations!

Day 2 saw the tenor bell (~600 kg) being lowered together with the rest of the frame (except for one RSJ). I gloss over the detail concerning the fact that the tenor did not fit through the hole in the clock chamber floor! This required a certain amount of lateral thinking ... The removal of the bell frame was tough work. Each of the nine RSJs was cemented into the tower walls to a depth of ~15" and would need to be broken out before they could be removed.

Day 3 started with one task to be completed: to lower the one remaining RSJ. We would need to cut this in half. Four hours later and it was being lowered to the floor below. We were by now in a celebratory mood!



Day 4 began with everything being moved out into the churchyard. What a site to see the six bells lined up down the church path – the first time the bells had been out of the tower since 1908! The lorry arrived at 10 am and, soon after, local farmer Richard Burt rolled down the road from Manor Farm in a forklift truck! Unknown to us, the haulage company had arranged for Richard to load the bells onto the lorry. By lunchtime the task was completed, and the lorry set off on its journey to the works in Bridport.

A new frame is to be manufactured and constructed at Bridport. Wheels and fittings will be refurbished, and the two new bells tuned to match the existing bells. In the meantime, building works will be undertaken to prepare the tower for the installation of the new bell frame, and the sound level control system will be fitted behind the louvres. It had been planned that the bells, frame and fittings will be returned to Pattishall in time for Christmas. However, the queue of major projects at Nicholson's means that March 2023 is now looking likely.

Thanks to Ian Hasman of Nicholson's Engineering and local volunteers Nigel Emson, Andy Blackwell, Jonathan Stuart, Chris Bulleid, Nigel Williams, Chris Aslett & Geoff White. We gelled to form a fantastic team, achieving the near-impossible in the time. Thanks also to Richard Burt, for expertly loading everything onto the lorry, and friendly lorry driver John. Special thanks to Libby and Adrian Covington for generously providing B&B for Ian the bellhanger; Margaret Bulleid for plying the crew with tea and cakes; Julie Bunker and Wendy Watts for helping to clean up all the mess!



If you are interested to learn more, head over to:

<https://www.pattishallbells.uk/journals/removing-the-bells>

where you can watch several short videos of the work in progress and read about the work in more detail.

Chris Bulleid chris@bulleid.co.uk 07934 589686

Wellingborough Branch

Irchester

The bells were tolled at Irchester 96 times on the Friday after the death of Her Majesty. Wollaston ringers joined in ringing the eight half-muffled bells for Sunday Service. On the day of the funeral three ringers helped to toll the bells for 1 hour between 10 and 11 am.

Ecton

David Dicks tolled 96 for the Queen on news of her death, and then tolled briefly on the morning of the Funeral. Also, the tower rang in the afternoon after the funeral half muffled.

Earls Barton

As per Operation London Bridge, we followed it to the letter and tolled a bell for an hour at the agreed time. We rang five open for the start of the reign of King Charles III and we rang all eight for one hour fully-muffled at the agreed time. The picture below shows all the ringers after the one hour of ringing for the state funeral. The band included two of our beginners, who both rang with the band for the first time. Two others of our ringers were unable to be there due to covid restrictions.

Wollaston

The news of the Queen's death broke as some Wollaston ringers were at St Katherine's Irchester for their practice night. The bells were rung down and practice was cancelled as seemed appropriate to the occasion. On the Friday morning, 9th September 2022, I tolled the double-muffled number 5 bell for an hour to mark the passing of the longest serving Queen in history. Unfortunately, as our first four ropes had gone to Ellis for refurbishment, we were not able to ring to mark the accession to the throne of King Charles III, having only bells 5 and 6 still ringable.



Earls Barton band, ringing for State Funeral

On the day of the Queen's funeral, Monday 19th September 2022, many of our ringers wished to mark the occasion by tolling the fifth, although some could not manage the weight of the 5, and so were associated to the tolling on Bellboard. We tolled from 11am, as requested, until midday. The order was Thomas Mullett, Enya Waples, Mel Willie, Martin Tanner, Jack Brown and Jean Rose. Associated with this ring were Kate Inchley, Julie Rogers and Ben Brown.

We were all honoured to ring to mark the passing of a great Queen, for most of us the only Sovereign of the United Kingdom we had ever known.

Bozeat and Easton Maudit

A busy period for the ringers following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth. Operation London bridge swung into action, and we prepared the bells for the official funeral arrangements for the Queen and for the declaration of the King.

Bozeat bells were duly muffled and rung to mark the death of the Queen at the appointed hour.

Easton Maudit were left un-muffled at this stage which afforded us the opportunity to ring "open" (no muffles) to mark the accession of the King to the throne. This coincided with the reading of the declaration by the tree opposite the church. Easton Maudit bells were then muffled using the old muffles from Kempston in Bedfordshire (a 10-bell tower so, very handily, giving us 2 muffles per bell (5 bells at Easton Maudit).

Both towers (Bozeat and Easton Maudit) were rung, muffled, for the Queen's funeral.

We are approaching Christmas and New Year, another busy period of ringing for us and we look forward to the King's Coronation in May next year. That is the target for some of our more recent learners to achieve their first quarter-peal.

At Great Doddington the tenor was tolled on the day after HM Queen Elizabeth's death and on the day of the funeral as requested. As we have no band in Great Doddington or Wilby, there was no other chiming or ringing of bells between the announcement of the Queen's death and the day after the funeral at either.

I took part in ringing to mark the accession at Finedon.

John Holmes

Yardley Hastings

Our ringing for the funeral of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth started some 18 months ago when and I can't remember where or how, I heard a report that either the Winchester or Salisbury Guild had suggested that their towers should check their muffles. This set me thinking that whilst we had a brand-new set of Wilf's muffles, our very old, square and only just serviceable set of 12 could not be attached to Wilf's. However, I had seen pictures of Wilf's double set and could see that creating a double set was only a matter of threading the Velcro straps through leather loops at the top and bottom of his beautifully cup shaped muffle.

An idea sprang forth. Cut off the corners of 6 of our old muffles, attach a leather loop to the top and bottom of cut muffle. Thread Wilf's Velcro strap through the loops and, Bob's your uncle, a double set of muffles very similar to new bought ones and recycling what we already had. We used rivets to fasten the new leather loops to the old muffles and the leather we used for the loops came from a well-known Northampton shoemaker and all that happened a month ago.



And so it was that at about 5.30 pm on the 8th September I thought it best to be prepared and went up the tower to check and put our set of double muffles together for the first time. I returned to see the news that the Queen had died. Next reaction was to talk to our steward. Yes, he could get to the tower, bring a helper and by 6.30 all 6 bells were double muffled, possibly for the first time. We have a WhatsApp ringers' group in the village and, prior to attaching the muffles, I sent out a request asking for ringers that evening, knowing that it would be easier to get all our ringers together on a Monday evening rather than the following day. And indeed, all eleven responded positively and so it was we gathered rather sombrely, shortly after 8 pm.

We rang for an hour, rang again on Friday, but we decided that there were insufficient numbers to ring for the Proclamation. Sunday service was rung fully muffled and a quarter of plain bob doubles was rung on Monday 12th; thank you to Christina Downey



The Band on the evening of 8th September

from Bozeat and Phil Haslam from Emberton. A practice was rung fully muffled along with another Sunday service and of course we rang for the State Funeral. Additionally, we had rung our peace bell for Ukraine every day fully muffled of course. We won't get any medals for ringing special methods, but we did our bit and hopefully a bit more.

Our reward came from an email sent to a church warden, which went something like this, "I don't know who to send this to, but I have just returned from walking over the fields and heard this remarkable sound. I've heard the bells many times out walking but never like this. It must be to do with the Queen's death but what a wonderful sound. Please tell the Bellringers it was so special."

A fitting end to our ringing for HM Queen Elizabeth.

Tony Finke

100 Club

The recent winners are:

MONTH	Subscribers	1 st	Prize	2 nd	Prize	3 rd	Prize
July	150	67We	£49.50	17Ru	£18.00	168We	£12.00
August	154	74Cu	£50.82	88Da	£18.48	75Th	£12.32
September	157	119Da	£51.81	9Pe	£18.84	44Th	£12.56
October	155	18Ke	£51.15	37Ke	£18.60	58To	£12.40

So, with at least 150 paid up members, all these winners have won enough to pay for at least one more year's subscription! All the profits go to the Bell Fund.

There is no limit on subscriber numbers, so do get in touch if you want to join.

Look out on the Guild website and Facebook page for details of monthly winners.

My thanks go to all the Branch representatives who have helped recruit new members, collect subs and pass on information.

Cathy Dixon 100_club@pdq.org.uk

Royal Jubilee and Accession Ringing

Towers from the Diocese of Peterborough that rang in commemoration and celebration

Apethorpe, St Leonard	Easton Maudit, St Peter and St Paul
Arthingworth, St Andrew	Easton Neston, St Mary
Ashley, St Mary the Virgin	Easton on the Hill, All Saints
Ashton, St Michael and All Angels	Ecton, St Mary Magdalene
Aynho, St Michael	Edith Weston, St Mary
Badby, St Mary	Evenley, St George
Barby, St Mary	Finedon, St Mary the Virgin
Barnack, St John the Baptist	Flore, All Saints
Barton Seagrave, St Botolph	Gayton, St Mary
Blisworth, St John the Baptist	Geddington, St Mary Magdalene
Boughton, St John the Baptist	Glington, St Benedict
Bozeat, St Mary	Great Brington, St Mary
Brackley, St Peter	Great Casterton, St Peter and St Paul
Bradden, St Michael	Great Cransley, St Andrew
Brafield in the Green, St Lawrence	Great Doddington, St Nicholas
Braunston, All Saints	Great Oakley, St Michael
Brigstock, St Andrew	Great Oxendon, St Helen
Brooke, St Peter	Greatworth, St Peter
Bugbrooke, St Michael and All Angels	Greens Norton, St Bartholomew
Bulwick, St Nicholas	Grendon, St Mary
Byfield, Holy Cross	Gretton, St James the Great
Castor, St Kyneburgha	Hambleton, St Andrew
Chacombe, St Peter and St Paul	Hargrave, All Hallows
Charwelton, Holy Trinity	Harlestone, St Andrew
Clipston, All Saints	Harpole, All Saints
Cogenhoe, St Peter	Harringworth, St John the Baptist
Cold Ashby, St Denys	Haselbech, St Michael
Cold Higham, St Luke	Hellidon, St John the Baptist
Corby, St John the Baptist	Helmdon, St Mary Magdalene
Cosgrove, St Peter and St Paul	Higham Ferrers, St Mary the Virgin
Cotterstock, St Andrew	Higham Ferrers, St Mary the Virgin
Cottingham, St Mary Magdalene	Irchester, St Katharine
Courteenhall, St Peter and St Paul	Irthlingborough, St Peter
Crick, St Margaret	Kettering, St Peter and St Paul
Croughton, All Saints	Ketton, St Mary the Virgin
Culworth, St Mary the Virgin	King's Cliffe, All Saints
Daventry, Holy Cross	King's Sutton, St Peter and St Paul
Desborough, St Giles	Kislingbury, St Luke
Draughton, St Catherine	Langham, St Peter and St Paul
Duston, St Luke	Lilbourne, All Saints
Earls Barton, All Saints	Litchborough, St Martin

<p>Lois Weedon, St Mary the Virgin and St Peter Long Buckby, St Lawrence Lyddington, St Andrew Maidwell, St Mary Marston St Lawrence, St Lawrence Mears Ashby, All Saints Moreton Pinkney, St Mary the Virgin Moulton, St Peter and St Paul Naseby, All Saints Nassington, St Mary the Virgin and All Saints Nether Heyford, St Peter and St Paul Newnham, St Michael and All Angels North Luffenham, St John the Baptist Northampton, All Saints Northampton, Holy Sepulchre Northampton, St Benedict, West Hunsbury Northampton, St Giles Northampton, St John the Baptist, Kingsthorpe Northampton, St Peter Northampton, St Peter and St Paul, Abington Norton, All Saints Oakham, All Saints Orlingbury, St Mary Oundle, St Peter Paulerspury, St James Peterborough, Cathedral Church of St Peter, St Paul, and St Andrew Peterborough, St John the Baptist Peterborough, St Mary Piddington, St John the Baptist Preston Capes, St Peter and St Paul Pytchley, All Saints Raunds, St Peter Ringstead, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roade, St Mary the Virgin Rothersthorpe, St Peter and St Paul Rothwell, Holy Trinity Rushden, St Mary Rushton, All Saints</p>	<p>Scaldwell, St Peter and St Paul Seaton, All Hallows Stanion, St Peter Stanwick, St Laurence Staverton, St Mary the Virgin Stoke Albany, St Botolph Sudborough, All Saints Syresham, St James Sywell, St Peter and St Paul Thornhaugh, St Andrew Thrapston, St James Thurcaston, All Saints Tiffield, St John the Baptist Towcester, St Lawrence Ufford, St Andrew Uppingham, St Peter and St Paul Walgrave, St Peter Wansford, St Mary the Virgin Wappenham, St Mary Warkton, St Edmund Warmington, St Mary the Blessed Virgin Watford, St Peter and St Paul Weedon Bec, St Peter and St Paul Weldon, St Mary Wellingborough, All Hallows West Haddon, All Saints Whilton, St Andrew Whitfield, St John the Evangelist Whittlebury, St Mary Wicken, St John the Evangelist Wilbarston, All Saints Winwick, St Michael and All Angels Wittering, All Saints Wollaston, St Mary Woodford, St Mary the Virgin Wootton, St George Martyr Yardley Hastings, St Andrew Yarwell, St Mary Magdalene Yelvertoft, All Saints</p>
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GUILD EVENTS 2022 - 2023

Please watch out for announcements about future Guild Events, broadcast through the usual channels, including the Guild website www.pdg.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/PDGCBR.

January 14th, 2023

10 Bell Practice, Northampton St Giles, 10:30

Practice "Beyond Plain Bob", Cransley, 14:30

February 11th, 2023

Training Course "Ringing Up and Down in Peal", Ashley, 14:30

Surprise Major Practice, Long Buckby, 18:30

March 11th, 2023

10 Bell Practice, Peterborough Cathedral, 10:30

Training Course "Introduction to Stedman Triples", location tbc, 14:30

April 8th, 2023

Training Course "Beyond Plain Bob", Northampton SS Peter & Paul, 10:30

Training Course "Ringing Up and Down in Peal", Ashley, 14:30

Submitting on Bellboard, Zoom, 18:30

April 22nd, 2023

Wellingborough Branch - Spring Festival and 6-bell Striking Contest

June 10th, 2023

Culworth Branch – Guild AGM

September 9th, 2023

Towcester Branch - Summer Festival and 8-Bell Striking competition