

# St Mary's Lytchett Matravers Bellingers Activities



2020

# Bell Ringing Events - 2020

## St Mary's Lytchett Matravers

### Band Events

Date	Event	Location
1 January	Ringing in the New Year	St Mary's Church
3 January	Band AGM	St Mary's Church
7 January	Measuring clappers for muffles	St Mary's Church
17 January	Band Christmas Party	Chequers Inn
26 January	Service of Rededication	St Mary's
29 February	Ringing and lunch for Jacks 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday	2 Lytchetts
10 March	Muffles Arrived	
<b>20 March</b>	<b>All Ringing Cancelled</b>	
12 April	Easter Day ringing on Live Feed 10am service	
10 April	Started preparing faculty for other bell jobs	
24 April	Second Band Zoom meeting had 7 of us catching up and chatting	
1 May	Zoom meeting	
8 May	VE day Zoom meeting and recorded Zoom meeting saying Happy Birthday to Stephen	
June	Debbie made an outfit for Bertie	
24 July	Picnic at Upton	Cathy, Nina, Viv, John, Gordon, Mike, Helen, Debbie
28 July	Viv has completed her DSB check – just need some youngsters now for her to help	
2 August	First ring back after Lockdown	St Mary's
4 August	Debbie had interview with Robert Wellen for Ringing World	
9 August	Alec rang	
15 August	Ann rang for VJ day	
16, 23,30 Aug	Sarah, Cathy, Mike rang	
21 August	Met at Chequers	Debbie, Cathy, Ann, Alec, Viv, Helen
September	Emma, Cathy, Alec, Ann, Nina Ann had a practice with Cathy	
October	Helen	
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Gordon and Debbie did a Tower Check.	Gordon rang
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	Met at Chequers	Debbie, Cathy, Alec, Helen
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	Collected QP boards from Alan	
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Debbie had first Handbell training	
October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Met at Chequers	Debbie, Cathy, Ann, Alec, Viv, Helen
1 Nov	Ringing for All souls	Gordon
3,10,17 Nov	Handbell ringing in garden	Cathy, Ann, Debbie, Viv
24 Nov and 2 Dec	Handbell Zoom meetings	Cathy, Ann, Debbie, Nina

Date	Event	Location
9 Dec	First handbill ringing of Carols in garden	Cathy, Ann, Debbie, Nina, Viv

## Branch and Guild Events

Date	Event	Attendees
11 January	Branch AGM - Wimborne	Debbie, Cathy, Viv, Don, Helen
15 February	Branch Meeting at Wareham	Debbie, Cathy
March	Devizes Branch Striking Competition	Debbie helped with judging

## Outings

14 January	Mini course Ringing on heavy bells	St Thomas - Salisbury	Debbie
15 January	Taunton Ringing	Organized by Jack for the 2 Lytchetts Learning to ring on higher numbers	Don, Gordon, Ann
25 Feb	Sherborne Ring	Organised by Jack	Debbie

## Quarter Peals

1 January	Debbie	Date Touch	St Mary's
10 February	Viv, Debbie	Bob Doubles	St Mary's
22 February	Sarah, Debbie	Southrepps Doubles	St Mary's
25 February	Cathy, Debbie	Kenington Doubles	St Mary's
3 March	Debbie	Reverse Canterbury	Henstridge
4 March	Cathy	Inside to Bob Doubles	Spetisbury

## Visiting Ringers

5 February	Sturminster Marshall had their practice at St Mary's. Some of our ringers joined them.
14 February	Sue Ludwig visited
21 February	Viv's nephews visited
28 February	Hampreston Quarter Peal Day

## Branch Membership Nominations

January	Nina
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## Weddings and Other Events

27 January	Ringling for service of thanksgiving for Mary D'Orton Gibson	St Mary's
1 February	Rang for a wedding – Alec, Cathy, Debbie, Gordon, Sarah, Viv	St Mary's
5 September	Debbie rang a solo	St Mary's

## Courses For Our ringers

21 January	Monthly extra practice concentrating on Call Changes	Helen, Viv, Debbie, Cathy, ??
11 February	Simulator Training at St Marys'	Gordon, Ann, Helen, John, Nina, Don, Alec, Viv, Debbie, Cathy
10 March	Ringling up and down and changing speed	Cathy, Debbie, Viv, Don, Helen, Ann, John, Alec
March	Training Session at Kingston	Debbie, Cathy, Helen
30 September	One to one Plain Hunt	Ann
October 12	One to one Plain Hunt	Helen

## Courses

Date	Course	Location
18 January	Ring Something Simple – Cathy helped with	Milborne St Andrew
4 times Jan - March	Bob Doubles and beyond organised by Jane Pridmore – Debbie and Cathy	Winterborne Whitechurch
1 February	Ringling up and down course organised by Branch – Debbie, Cathy and Viv	Shapwick
4 March	Grandsire – Debbie and Viv	Corfe Mullen
October 10	ART M2V Ringling Room Workshop	Debbie and Cathy
Nov/Dec	Ding course	Cathy and Debbie

## ART Passes

21 February	Level 3	Viv
6 March	Level 4	Cathy

## 50 Ringing Things

3 Dec	Debbie	Silver 50 Virtual Ringing Things
31 Dec	Cathy	Bronze 50 Virtual RT

## Lytchett Onwards and Upwards

Date	Location	Attendees
25 January	Lytchett Matravers and Lytchett Minster	Debbie and Cathy
13 February	Lytchett Matravers and Lytchett Minster	Debbie, Cathy, ??
12 March	Lytchett Minster – some started All Saints	Debbie and Cathy and L Minster ringers

## Tower Jobs

20/26 February	Tower soundproofing	Gordon, Alec, John
13 March	Monthly tower check	Gordon, Cathy and Debbie
14 August	Painting clappers for muffles and new hatch	Gordon and Alec

# Events 2020

## Facebook Message

January 21<sup>st</sup>

Good to hear the church bells; one of the things that makes Lytchett Matravers feel like a proper village. They made my day!

## Rededication

January 28<sup>th</sup>

On a damp Sunday afternoon on January 26th we welcomed 108 adults and 6 children to our service to Rededicate our Bells. The Service was conducted by Rt. Reverend Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne. Reverend Stephen Partridge had put together a special service starting with Ding Dong Merrily on High which got the congregation in a celebratory frame of mind. The bells were formally handed over by Terry Streeter of Taylor's Bell Foundry to Stephen who then passed the rope to Bishop Karen for her blessing and to dedicate the bells to the 'Glory of God'. Bishop Karen then passed the rope to Matt Riddell the Church Warden and then Debbie Phipps the Tower Captain. Rounds were then rung by the Lytchett Band. Our visitors then enjoyed trying out our newly restored bells.

Thank you to Vicki Rowse who was our photographer for the day.



## Ringling and lunch for Jacks 21st birthday

29th February





## Quarter Peals

We have 3 ringers who are at the stage of being able to ring a Quarter Peal but not all at the same time! A Quarter Peal is rung in celebration, thanks, remembrance etc for special reasons and the ringing is for around 45 mins without stopping. We have therefore decided to ring 3 separate Quarter Peals throughout February to cover our thanks for the different groups who have enabled us to complete our Bell Restoration. We are giving you the times as you might like to listen out for the bells.

### Feb 11th

Viv Endecott, Debbie Phipps and 4 of our Branch supporters rang a Quarter Peal on Monday to thank the Grant bodies for helping us reach our final goal. Viv was pleased to have now passed a Bellringing Qualification at Level 3 after 45 years of ringing. Debbie achieved her first Quarter Peal Ringing 2 different methods on an inside bell. We hope those who might have heard us above the rain and hail enjoyed it.

### February 23rd

Congratulations to Sarah for ringing her first Quarter Peal on the tenor and for gaining her ART Level 3 Ringing Qualification. This Quarter Peal was to thank all those who made donations towards our Bell Restoration both small and large in the village and further afield. Thank you also to Christine Orridge for taking the video.

### February 27th

Rung with thanks to all those who supported our Bell Restoration in 2019 through donations, making items from the headstocks, helping at events, visiting events or supporting in many other ways. So many from the village gave support - Thank you. Thank you to Elizabeth our Church Warden for recording us.

## Homework Sessions Start

### March 17th

Started Homework sessions. Sadly, like many other towers we have had to cancel all ringing at St Mary's until further notice. However, we will be having regular email 'homework' sessions to take its place. Not quite the same but just so we keep it in the front of our mind.

## Ringling for Virtual Services

### April 12th

No physical ringing for this service but our bells still rang. Vicar Stephen has done a great job recording services to be shown Live on YouTube. We found a reasonable piece of ringing from one of the QP's which is now played before and after the service. It's lovely to hear him say to his wife Carrie (online service technician) at the end of the service "Pop on the bells". No-one entered the church or touched a rope!

## Virtual Ringing

Like many other towers instead of ringing during Lockdown we have been meeting on Zoom. Generally, between 5 and 9 of us have met up to chat or try out our skills in Ringing Room. If nothing else it gives us a bit of a laugh as we are still struggling to get the connection of the internet to allow us to even ring rounds in tune! If our ringers aren't on Zoom we manage to email or phone for a chat to make sure they are well.

## Happy Birthday Stephen

Our vicar turned 50 during the pandemic so he was only able to celebrate with his family but his bellringers managed to record a Zoom meeting with 8 of us wishing him a Happy Birthday.



## Ringling for VE Day

May 8th



Under normal circumstances we would have been ringing St Mary's bells in celebration at 7pm this evening but this was obviously not allowed. So Debbie rang a recording of one of our Quarter Peals for our neighbours to hear. Note the 6 very small bells on the window ledge which were made from one of our old headstocks. Sorry we couldn't ring for the whole village to hear.

## SMLM Bell Ringers and a Covid-restricted Birthday

July 24th

It was that of attaining my allotted three score years plus ten, and hence worthy of commemoration. Alas, although July was not in one of our 'lockdown' periods, gatherings were limited and distanced. In the continued absence of a practice session on that Friday, an event at the same time was thought feasible for some of the band, and the attractive grounds of Upton House a convenient location. Alas again, for even a picnic was not deemed legal, with the necessity to share and generally commune in an inappropriate manner. So it was that eight of us converged from the many approaches possible, to partake of cake and a drink of whatever we had brought for ourselves. I am grateful for the good wishes of the band and trust that we will all be ringing again before my next birthday.

*John*

## Bertie

July-September

Debbie made an outfit for Bertie, the mascot for the Guild Young Ringers



# The Lone Ringer!

August 2<sup>nd</sup>

There was a strange sound in the village of Lytchett Matravers on Sunday August 2nd which only lasted for 15 mins but villagers might have heard it if the wind was blowing in their direction.

After our successful Bell Restoration, we were only able to enjoy ringing our bells for 4 months before the COVID lockdown for another 4 months. With the return of our services on the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> August and as our tower is such a small space we were only able to ring one bell. Our oldest bell (4) had the opportunity to welcome back our congregation and send forth its sound to the rest of the village. Those who heard the bell might have noticed there was no clashing!! Social distancing was observed as well as hand cleansing and use of mask. It will take 15 weeks for our 15 ringers to have a go.

## Another Lone Ringer

August 9th

We used to think our little cosy tower was friendly, warm and welcoming....until this year! With no window, little ventilation, little space between ringers and open to the rest of the congregation we have sadly only been able to ring one bell when we could ring at all. This didn't stop us though – all those who could have a ring had a go and surprised themselves that they hadn't forgotten how to!

August 8<sup>th</sup> was Alec's turn. Not much socialising taking place for this ring but plenty of Social Distancing! Thank you, Alec.



## VJ Day

August 15th

Due to the restrictions in place at the time, we were unable to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day in May. However, as our tower is now able to hold restricted ringing we were able to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Japan on 15th August to commemorate the final end of the Second World War.

Our Lone Ringer on this occasion was Ann Manning who, after standing for the 2-minute silence at 11am today was able to ring for a further 10 minutes. Having not rung for over 6 months Ann was remarkable and rang the best ringing I think she has ever done. She went home feeling very proud of herself and having represented our church and village in marking this occasion.



## All Souls Service

November 1st

We had a chance to ring one of our bells half muffled today at our All Souls service thanks to Steeple Keeper Gordon.

# Handbell Practice

December 9th

As we got closer to Christmas the thought of just one bell ringing out at Christmas didn't really appeal. You can't stop the Lytchett Matravers band though, so we put our heads together, found a group of keen ringers, located the Branch Handbells and decided to give it a go. We have never rung handbells before so Debbie had a couple of lessons from Alan and Kathy Bentley and got as far as trying out a few patterns such as Queens, Kings etc and even progressed to ringing the first and last pairs for Plain Hunt. These skills now had to be urgently passed on to the rest of the Lytchett ringers. Our first meet was a chilly afternoon though dry in Debbie's garden.



We were now beyond the first Lockdown and managed to get 4 ringers in the garden to learn the technique of ringing hand and back and then one more session with a different 4 still putting together a medley of ringing patterns. Then the second lockdown came...thank goodness for Ringing Room where some of us were able to have a couple of practices but then it was mentioned that it might be nice to ring some carols. Well that's all well and good – we found some music but though we have a lovely set of 13 bells the majority of them are sharps and we know we could only ring one bell at a time and not cords as we didn't have the skill or time to practice. No point checking our music on



Ringing Room as the notes there are different to our bells so a fair amount of time was spent checking the tunes, trying to ring the bells with one person as we were all locked down and eventually we collected together 5 carols which didn't sound too bad though one of them has a very strange note. Hurray, lockdown lifted and we managed 2 more practices but this time with all of us and having to learn a new skill in ringing tunes as it sounds better if you don't do the hand and backstroke – something we learned after we studied the ringing of the brilliant Clapper Chaos.

We were motivated and we were keen to be able to ring for the Christmas services. Five of us DID ring before the Carol Service on 20th December and four of us rang for the Christmas Day service. You can hear some of these on the Guild and East Dorset Branch websites and you MIGHT even recognise a carol or two....or you might not. Whatever you hear it will at least be more than one tower bell and we have had such fun and so many laughs along the way.

Who said, "The bells wouldn't ring out for Christmas?"  
In December we rang more bells than we've rung all year!

## Carol Service

December 21st

We have the bells, we have the ringers, we have the enthusiasm! Last year we had the brilliant Clapper Chaos with us - this year we have chaotic clappers.

## Christmas Day

25<sup>th</sup> December

Again 4 of us were able to ring outside for this service along with our snowman mascot.



## Ringling In The New Year

December 31st

We rang in the Cambodian New Year. This was at 6pm our time but New Year in Cambodia! Most of us were in bed by 12 last night! Our last Ringing Room of the year thanks to our helpers. We rang diminishing rounds, then the Big Ben chimes then tenor rang 12 times. Before that we rang the Cambodian Wave (Lytchett version). Actually, it was a tsunami. Similar to a Mexican Wave, we had the first 4 bells making paces, the middle 4 bells dodging and the last 4 bells making places.

Let's hope we can all meet up in person this year to ring the tower bells and welcome our two new ringers to the real thing. Happy 2021



# Online Ringing 2020

When we were unable to ring in church and as a Tower Captain I started to be concerned that some of our ringers might lose interest and not return – none of us are well established ringers so I spent some time considering **Ringling Room** which is an online virtual ringing platform. I set up a virtual tower and took a look.

I joined the **Ringling Room Take Hold Lounge** on Facebook which is a lovely group from around the world, both experienced ringers and less experienced who were all embracing the virtual world. I found a group on a Saturday morning where there was definitely ringing at my level which I could join in. What a great group of people ringers are as there are people who come along just to help us less experienced ringers and they are all greatly appreciated. I started to become enthused about my ringing again and decided I needed to pass this on to our band of 15 of whom only 3 are Facebook users. It took a while to get our band interested mainly because the technology caused problems. After several one-to-one sessions on how to tile windows, see everyone on Zoom, find the ropes when suddenly some of them have overlapped or hidden completely we did eventually get 7 ringers interested. However, of these 7 we had 3 who could Plain Hunt in the tower and the other 4 were able to ring Call Changes. We muddled around for a few weeks, lost interest as none of us could set people right if they'd gone wrong but then one week I spied a friend from further afield on the Saturday ring and he said he would join our band on a Thursday evening. We started to move on leaps and bounds when Mick Howes joined then Alan Bentley became available and Jack Pease so some of those ringers who could only do Call Changes a few months ago have moved on to Bob Doubles. I have even recruited friends and relations who have never rung before have begun to understand and ring Plain Hunt. From these new recruits, I have two ringers who will be taking up ringing when we get back into the tower.

Recently I have agreed to organise Branch Ringing Practices once a month providing the opportunity to get back together with local ringers who we used to see more frequently. Our first two practices were a success with 13/14 ringers joining us and as some experienced ringers were new to ringing online we managed to ring anything from Plain Hunt to Bob Minor.