

St Mary's Lytchett Matravers Bellringers Activities



2021

Bell Ringing Events - 2021

St Mary's Lytchett Matravers

Band Events

Date	Event	Location
7 th January	Ringling Room Practice	Zoom
8 th January	Band AGM	Zoom
15 th January	Ringling Room recording for Sunday Service	Zoom
30 th March	Outside Hand Bell Practice Cathy, Debbie, Viv and Ann	St Mary's
23 rd March	Ringling Room recording for Easter Day Service Cathy, Debbie and Ann	Zoom
4 th April	Hand bells rung after Easter Day service	Debbie, Cathy, Viv and Ann
4 th June	Started ringing at Lytchett Minster – Church electrics being upgraded !!!!!!!	
9 th July	Return to ringing at St Mary's	St Mary's
12 th July	Training in the Bell tower at St. Mary's started	Carol & Sue
17 th December	Band mulled wine and mince pies	St Mary's

Band Achievements

Date	Event	Location
28 th January	Ann rang her first Bob doubles which was posted on Bellboard	Ringling Room
14 th July	Helen rang her first Bob doubles	Ringling Room
21 st July	Ann rang her first Touch of Bob Doubles on Ringling Room	Ringling Room
24 th October	We rang 5 courses of Plain Hunt	St Mary's

Quarter Peals

27 th February	1 st Quarter Peal – Grandsire - online	Debbie
7 th March	Transatlantic Quarter Peal online -1288 Middlesex Bob Triples -67m North American Guild - King's Chapel	Debbie
28 th March	Quarter Peal online – 1260 Plain Bob Doubles – 49m Somerset	Debbie
10 th April	1 st Quarter Peal online – 1260 April Day Doubles. Plain Bob Doubles with a Grandsire Single – 49m. Rung to celebrate Debbie's birthday	Debbie
25 th April	1 st Quarter Peal for Ann and first of St. Simons for Debbie inside and Ann on cover - online	Debbie and Ann
6 th May	Bob Doubles – First for Alec on inside	Alec, Debbie, Ann
25 th May	Debbie rang her first Quarter Peal of 4 methods on an inside bell (Bell 2) in 50 minutes in Ringling Room	Debbie
25 th May	Ann Trebled for the first time to a Quarter Peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles in Ringling Room in 45m	Ann, Judy

	Judy covered for the first time	
--	---------------------------------	--

Branch and Guild Events

Date	Event	Attendees
2nd January	Branch Online practice – run by Debbie	Cathy, Ann, Helen, Gordon
9th January	Branch AGM	Cathy, Debbie, Ann, Alec
6th February	Branch Online practice – run by Debbie	Cathy, Ann, Helen, Alec & Debbie
6th March	Branch Online practice – run by Debbie	Cathy, Ann, Alec, Helen, Gordon, Judy, Carol and Sue
3rd April	Branch Online practice – run by Debbie	Cathy, Ann and Alec
1st May	Branch Online practice – run by Debbie	Alec, Helen, Mike and Ann
8th May	Guild Festival – Debbie organised ringing rooms and Ann sang in the virtual choir	Debbie, Ann and Cathy
3rd July	East Dorset – Quarterly Meeting	Debbie and Cathy
11 th September	Branch Practice – Tollard Royal	John and Viv
9 th October	Branch Quarterly Meeting at Lytchett Matravers	12 of the 30 attendees were Lytchett Matravers
13 th November	Half muffled Branch Practice – Bournemouth St John	Helen, Ann, Cathy and Debbie Debbie and Cathy trebled to methods on 8 bells
11 th December	Branch practice – Sturminster Marshal	Cathy, Debbie, Helen, Mike, Ann

Tower Jobs

29 th April	CCTV meeting	Debbie, Alan and Cathy
4 th May	Ventilation test and tower check	Gordon, Alec and Alan
15 th June	CCCTV discussion – equipment arrived	Debbie, Cathy, Alan
6 th July	New electrics completed in tower. Ringing chamber has new plug sockets, lighting and emergency lighting. Middle chamber has plug sockets, light switch and new light. Bell chamber has lights	
6 th July	Discussion about making box for video recorder	Geff Coakes, Debbie, Cathy
7 th July	Tower clean following electric works	Cathy, Debbie, Gordon, Mike
4 th August	Camera placed in the bell tower	Alan, Gordon and Debbie
9 th August	Camera set up completed	
24 th August	New ladders to roof installed and grab handles	
17 th December	Monthly, quarterly and yearly tower checks carried out culminating in a final tower check and check for bird droppings	Gordon, John, Mike

Courses For Our ringers

11 th January	Plain Hunt – Debbie training online	Sue, Nina, Alec
19 th January	Bobs in Bob Doubles – Debbie training online	Gordon and Alec
11 th January	Plain Hunt – Debbie training online	Sue, Carol and Helen
25 th January	Call Changes – Debbie training online	Carol and Sue
26 th January	Bob Doubles – Debbie training online	Ann, Helen and Nina
2 nd February	Plain Hunt – Cathy training online	Mike
13 th February	Bob Doubles/Touch – Debbie online	Nina, Sarah, Gordon and Ann
21 st February	Talk about the Salisbury Guild & Art – Debbie training online	Sue Carol and Judy
29 th March	Bob Doubles & Touch – Debbie training online	Alec, Gordon and Ann
3 rd May	Bell parts & functions basic terminology – Cathy training online	Sue and Carol
29 th June	Changing speed – Debbie training online	Helen
30 th June	Bob Doubles Bobs – Debbie training online	Gordon and Ann
10 th July	Bob Doubles -Debbie training online	Carol, Helen and Sue
14 th August	Plain hunt training – Debbie training online	Gordon & Mike
25 th Sept	Lytchett Methods	Gordon, Viv, Cathy and Debbie
29 th Sept	Lytchett Plain Hunt	Gordon, Alec, Ann, Mike, Debbie, Cathy and Viv
23 rd October	Lytchett Methods	Debbie, Cathy, Sarah, Alec
27 th October	Lytchett Plain Hunt	Gordon, Alec, John, Cathy, Viv
20 th November	Lytchett Methods	Cathy, Alec, Viv
24 th November	Lytchett Plain Hunt	Alec, Gordon, Cathy
8 th December	Lytchett Plain Hunt	Debbie, Cathy, Ann, John, Alec

Outings

13 th March	Virtual Ringing outing to Broadfield Park & Hogwarts	Debbie, Cathy, Gordon, Alec, John, Viv, Sarah, Helen, Judy, Carol, Sue, Mike, Nina and Stephen	Online
11 th June	Annual visit to Brownsea Island	Debbie, Cathy, Nina, Viv, John, Sue, Carol, Helen, Chrissie & Ann	Brownsea
27 th July	Organised by Jack	Debbie and Helen	Milford-on-Sea
30 th August	Organised by Jack	Steph, Helen, Carol, Cathy, Debbie, Ann and Viv	Tollard Royal
31 st December	End of year practice organised by Jack	Debbie, Gordon, Cathy, Viv, John, Jennie, Helen, Mike, Sue	Cranborne

Outside Courses

Date	Course	
5 th January	Bellringing maths – Gresham College – Online	Debbie and Cathy
10 th January	Ringling Up and Down – Steve Coleman training online	Cathy, Debbie, Ann
25 th January	Coping with Call Changes – G & B Guild training online	Cathy, Debbie, Nina and Carol
26 th January	Acquiring ropesight and managing without it – Gloucester & Bristol Guild training online	Debbie and Cathy
27 th January	Ringling up in peal – Gloucester & Bristol Guild training online	Cathy
29 th January	A Start on Steadman Doubles – G & B Guild training online	Cathy
30 th January	Learning Methods – Gloucester & Bristol Guild training online	Cathy, Debbie
31 st January	Struggling with listening and Striking – Gloucester & Bristol Guild training online	Cathy, Debbie
1 st February	Online Belfry Maintenance training online	Cathy
27 th February	How will ringing in the Salisbury Guild recover from COVID training online	Debbie
2 nd March	Grandsire doubles theory session – Marlborough Branch training online	Debbie and Cathy
6 th March	ART Yearly Conference and awards Ceremony online	Debbie and Cathy
24 th April	ART – Teaching & Learning course online	Debbie and Cathy
9 th May	How to re-establish ringing in our village	Debbie, Cathy, Mike and Judy
10 th May	Managing Expectations – ART CCBR training online	Cathy and Debbie
3 rd June	Holding a Successful Practice – ART training online	Debbie
15 th Sept	Call changes – Shroton – Branch	Gordon and Viv helped
18 th Sept	Plain Hunt training – Canford – Branch	Gordon and Alec Cathy and Viv helped
11 th October	Branch Plain Hunt training - Bryanston	Ann, Gordon, Alec
13 th October	Safeguarding, Foundation - training online	Cathy
23 rd October	Branch Call Changes – Lytchett Matravers	Mike, Ann, Helen
21 st November	Doubles practice run by Jack at Cranborne	Cathy covered to plain hunt on 7 for first time

Simulator

1 st October	Simulator Setup completed	Alan and Cathy
8 th Nov	Simulator Monthly sessions begin	St Mary's
13 th December	Simulator Monthly session	Cathy, Debbie, Alan, Mike, John, Helen

Visiting Ringers

15 th April	RR Visit from Sturminster Marshall ringers
6 th August	Phipps Grandchildren
21 st September	14 ringers from North Yorks, Leics, Birmingham, Cheshire, Sussex and New Milton.
23 rd October	Pat brought our latest order of Guild Clothing and she and her husband enjoyed ringing with us
6 th November	Wyke Regis (in the Dorchester branch)
27 th November	Robert Newton (Puddletown and Hilton)

Branch Membership Nominations

9 th October	Helen nominated at the Branch Meeting
-------------------------	---------------------------------------

Weddings and Other Events

23 rd January	Transatlantic Ringing for Debbie	Zoom
27 th February	Half muffled bells rang in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore 02/02/2021 Debbie and Guild Branch members	Zoom
23 rd March	National Day of Reflection for Marie Curie – Cathy	St Mary's
10 th April	99 Half muffled toiling of bell 4, in memory of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh – Viv	St. Mary's
17 th April	Half muffled tenor and bell 4 tolled for an hour before the funeral service of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh – Debbie, Cathy and Alec	St. Mary's
8 th September	Letting the Lytchett Matravers WI Join In	Village Hall
9 th October	Ringling for Maurice Andrews - Debbie, Cathy, Viv, Mike, Ann and Alec	St. Mary's

50 Ringing Things

20 th January	Debbie	Gold 50 Virtual Ringing Things
--------------------------	--------	--------------------------------

Events

Virtual Ringing for a Virtual Service

15th January 2021

On Friday 15th January, a recording was made of 7 members of our band ringing, especially for our Sunday services which are going out online. This was all done with the aid of Zoom and 'Ringing Room'. We all managed to ring a few rounds and rang Plain Hunt, which was a great achievement for a few of us who have yet to do this method in the bell tower. Our Vicar Stephen joined us too, and even had a go, he could become our latest recruit! The 'Ringing Room' is proving to be a great source of concentration, fun and a very good learning tool for many whilst we cannot ring in our church. Many thanks to Debbie, our TC, for keeping it all going.

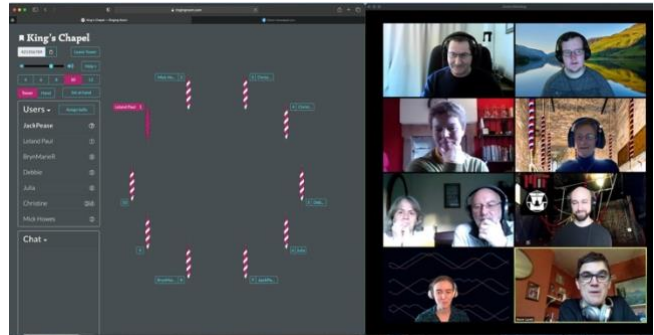
At the end of the service on Sunday 17th January, Stephen explained that he had joined us for our practice and then the following video was shown.



Transatlantic Ringing

23rd January 2021

Debbie was thrown into something she had never done before when invited to ring, by Jack, with a group of ringers one Saturday afternoon. Having never rung Plain Bob Major it was an experience. Having got into the Zoom meeting it turned out to be with the two ringers who created Ringing Room from America and another 3 of the best ringers in the country. The band represented five different guilds. Debbie felt very privileged to have been invited.



Ringing in Memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore 1260 Grandsire Doubles

Saturday, 27 February 2021

Rang Half Muffled, on the day of his funeral, to the memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore who died 2nd February 2021. Rest in Peace Sir, we salute you.

'Tomorrow will be a good day'

First Quarter Peal of Grandsire Doubles for 3. This performance was rung using simulated sound. Performed on a virtual ringing platform.



Bellringers Virtual Outing and Ringers Tea

Saturday 13th March 2021

Who said you couldn't have a Ringers Outing during Lockdown? With Ringing Room and Zoom anything is possible and so quick to travel between the towers.

Over the last year our band has met on several occasions either socially distanced or on Zoom but we hadn't had a whole afternoon together. Encouraged by two of the things to do for **Tail Ends** in **50 Virtual Ringing** things I decided to plan an outing.



It started off quite simply to ring at two or three towers and have tea in the middle and drinks at the end as you would for a real outing, but it sort of snowballed. I was worried that people might get bored of sitting by the computer all afternoon, so we decided on two towers and those chosen were the towers of two ringers who support our online band here in Lytchett Matravers. Our first tower was at Broadfield Park in Somerset with Mick Howes followed by Hogwarts Castle in Scotland with Jack Pease. It started to come together when we received a delightful O.W.L. letter from Professor McGonagall accepting our request to ring at Hogwarts.

Towers sorted, now to think about tea. In our last Guild Face to Face magazine there were 4 cake recipes from members of the Guild to try, getting us ready for returning to ringing. Between our ringers, we made 2 Pat's perfect Parkins, 5 Gran's Victoria Sponges, 3 Chewy Cakes and 3 Dark Side cakes with a few variations on some of the recipes. These were then delivered around the village or to neighbours if outside the village, so everyone had a taste. More plans were then prepared to entertain during the afternoon.

On the day, we were delighted that all our band, less one who was sadly unwell, were able to join in so that was 14 of us, and also Steph from the 'other' Lytchett. We were supported by our trusty helpers Jack, Mick and Jane Pridmore and were delighted to welcome Stephen our vicar, Robert Wellen, our Guild Master, and Vicki Rowse who kindly lent us her Zoom account so we didn't have to keep going in and out of Zoom every 40 minutes.

Our first tower was all the way over in Somerset at their heavy 12 bell tower and organised by Mick where we rang lots of things from Call Changes to Grandsire and the finale was to ring rounds on their heavy 16. We were delighted that Mick's wife Karen came to join us for Rounds. I'm not sure if Mick got any supper that night as he put her on the heaviest bell – she must have been exhausted. We then broke up into groups for tea at **'The Rope Retreat'**, **'Sally's Social Space'** or **'The Stay at Home Café'**. Robert was able to join us at 'The Stay at Home Café' and had the opportunity to chat to some of our ringers. One of the reasons we split into 3 rooms was that we have gained 3 new ringers during lockdown and it gave them the opportunity to chat to our ringers in smaller groups as there is not so much opportunity to chat in Ringing Room on practice nights.

Our **Head Baker**, Ann Manning had organised us to making cakes. Our reviews of the cakes were:

Victoria Sponge: Well risen, light, nice soft texture, filling and tasty. Easy recipe, ideal for first timer.

Chewy Cake: Cross between a flapjack and tray bake. Super simple to make. Slightly on the sweet side.

Parkin: Easy to make as everything goes in one bowl. Great with butter spread on the top. Very substantial.

Chocolate Cake: Super scrumptious with just the right amount of sweetness. Easy to make. Variations on the icing were a lighter fudge icing or a ganache.

The previous week our **Travel Agent**, Helen, had sent us a special O.W.L delivery ticket including a password letter to enable us to catch the train from Platform 9¾ up to Hogwarts. Though a little late we were allowed in to ring and thanks to Professor McGonagall (AKA Jack Pease) for running that ringing session. We had to type our password into the **Chat in Ringing Room** before we were allowed to ring (This was to encourage people to use the chat which it transpired some didn't know existed) The letters were all magicked together to form an anagram of two words – one a bellringing word and another a 'Harry Potter' word. Thank goodness Sarah got the first word **GRYFFINDOR** so she received the first key to unlock the door to get us out of the tower and Sue got the second word **GUDGEON** to get the second key as the door was double locked. (Special congratulations to Sue who is one of our new recruits and only once rang a bell at an Open Day over a year ago – she had clearly done her homework the previous week when they did some work on naming the parts of a bell) When we left, the keys remained in the door, but Sarah and Sue received the keyrings which were made from the old Headstocks following our Bell Restoration in 2019. At Hogwarts, we rang things like Rounds to Reverse Rounds, Plain Bob Doubles and Rounds on 14. The speciality for Hogwarts, which some of us had learnt, was Transfiguration Place Doubles which we rang twice. We had been advised that the conductor at Hogwarts would be making his calls in parseltongue when we were ringing **Transfiguration Place Doubles**. Go and Stop were Lumos and Nox, Wand-lighting and wand-extinguishing charms respectively.

Following ringing at Hogwarts Castle, **Professor McGonagall** consulted with the '**sorting hat**' to decide which Hogwarts house we would be joining for our second refreshment break. These were one of Hufflepuff, Slytherin or Gryffindor. Ravenclaw was being used by the Hogwarts senior students for their N.E.W.T exams so we had to move quietly to our selected Tea Room. We were also joined here by our vicar Stephen who had magicked himself into the main hall at Hogwarts while we were ringing. Luckily Viv and John had joined us here and were able to put a spell on us to be whisked off to the houses where we had the opportunity to talk to a different group of ringers and friends and drink more tea or Hobgoblin beer.

"And now about the cauldron sing, Live elves and fairies in a ring, Enchanting all that you put in."

I think we all thought 3 hours in front of the computer would get VERY dull and I was concerned people would drift away during the second tea break, but we all re-joined the main room for a final chat and farewell and were surprised how quickly the afternoon had passed. I was even asked when the next Outing would be!

National Day of Reflection

Tuesday, 23rd March 2021

On this day, The Church of England partnered with **Marie Curie** to make it A National Day of Reflection to remember all those who sadly lost their lives to COVID-19.

SMLM was open for quiet prayer from 11 am – 11.45 am, then the Vicar lead 15 minutes of prayer and concluded by reading out the names of those who died locally in the last year. This was followed by a one minute silence from 12.00 noon. Cathy Neyland then tolled the tenor bell for 13 minutes to represent the 13 months since the first UK death from Coronavirus.

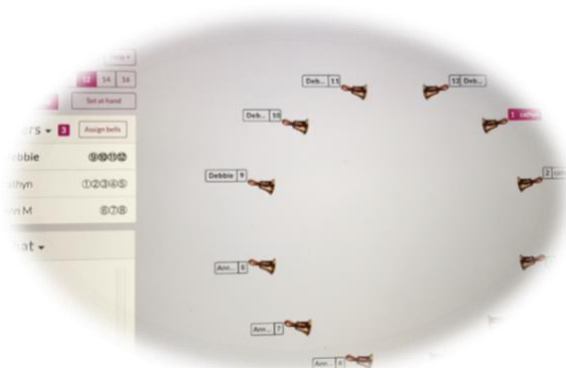


3 in 1 on Easter Day at Lytchett Matravers

Sunday, 4th April 2021

3 in 1 Bells today to celebrate Easter at St. Mary's, Lytchett Matravers. We had a Live service in the church which was also sent out on a live feed through U-Tube. Not knowing what we would be able to ring on Easter Day, our Virtual Handbell group made a recording of 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today'. Because there were only three of us we had several bells each but, as we now know, this is quite possible in Ringing Room. Our vicar used this recording at the beginning of the service while the notices

were being displayed on the screen. We are also back to being able to ring one tower bell which Ann Manning rang for us. Still in possession of the Branch handbells we dashed outside as people left the church to ring 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today'. We had only had one chance to practice together for this when the restrictions were lifted to be able to meet outside in groups of six. Following our ringing the whole congregation actually sang the last hymn 'Thine be the Glory' outside. A very special Easter Day.





HRH The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Saturday, 10th^h April 2021

Salisbury Diocesan Guild

Lytchett Matravers, Dorset

St Mary the Virgin

Saturday, 10 April 2021 (7–3–14 in Bb)

99 Half Muffled Tolling

4Viv Endecott

To honour the service and life of HRH The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

May he rest in peace.

This performance was rung in memoriam — [*In memoriam* — HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh](#) .

Viv has written an article for the church magazine telling how she had done her Duke of Edinburgh's Award for bell ringing and was proud to be wearing her badge that day. Also, reflecting on how often our oldest bell, dating back to 1440, had been rung for such occasions.



How to Re-establish Ringing in a Village Band

Sunday, 9th May

Debbie was asked to give a presentation by the joint CCCBR and ART. It was quite a task and even though I thought I could base it on a presentation given for ART 2 years ago it turned out that a lot more was expected. It described how we would plan our sessions on our return to ringing after COVID and the hurdles that village bands might face. It then was followed by some ideas for recruitment and retention which have worked well for our band. 140 people were booked on the course with 114 attending and several contacts made afterwards which Debbie continues to support. It was deemed to be a useful presentation with people taking away a few ideas for their bands.



Lockdown Learners at Lytchett Matravers

We have 3 new Lockdown Learners who joined us during the year in Ringing Room. They have come on in leaps and bounds with the theory of Plain Hunt, Mexican Wave, Dodging and much more. They have benefitted from Zoom training on how a bell works and the parts of a bell using Share Screen or by watching videos of ringing. We were delighted eventually to welcome two of them into St Mary's to see the bells and have a go at chiming and doing the hand ring exercise – basically anything they could do with good social distancing. We then had to vacate our church as we are having new electrics and other exciting things put in during June but we did manage to have another session at neighbouring Lytchett Minster. The bells here were easier to access for one of our ringers so two of them have already got lots of ticks in their ART logbook and done a bit more than pressing a key on a keyboard.



Our third Lockdown learner is Debbie's sister from North Yorkshire, and would you believe it that her planned visit, once we were allowed to travel, was the day the scaffolding went up. However, Lytchett Minster to the rescue and they kindly let us visit for Judy to see the bells and have a pull on a rope which she thoroughly enjoyed. At least the seed has now been sown and who knows what might follow.

Photo of Judy looking at the bells at Lytchett Minster.

Preparing the video cameras

Friday 15th June 2021

On 15th June, we started to prepare the equipment for the cameras in the belfry which will be recording one of our bells as it is being rung and displaying the image on the new monitors within the body of the church. During June, the church is being rewired and having new lighting and recording equipment installed; when it is open again, we will be able to install the cameras and hope that this will become a useful tool when training our ringers and to be of interest to the general public.



Lytchett Matravers Annual Brownsea Visit 2021

Friday 11th June 2021

Having missed our annual visit to Brownsea Island in 2020 we were delighted to enjoy a day out with our ringing friends this year. Unfortunately, we weren't able to ring the bells as the tower hasn't been inspected but we enjoyed a guided walk from Cathy followed by our own picnics. It was made more special because we were able to get to know our two new ringers Carol and Sue who joined us in Ringing Room during Lockdown. The day was followed by ringing on 5 of the bells at Lytchett Minster (2 more than any of us have rung on for over a year). We are still not able to ring at our own tower while the electric work is being carried out.



A First Quarter Peal for Debbie

Tuesday, 25 May 2021

On Tuesday, 25 May Debbie rang her first Quarter Peal of 4 methods on an inside bell (Bell 2) in 50 minutes in Ringing Room. The Quarter Peal was 1260 Doubles (4m) and the methods were 420 St Simon's Bob; 360 St Martin's Bob; 240 each of St Osmund Bob, Eynesbury Bob. Other ringers were Jane Pridmore, Barbara Murray, Julia Cater, Andrew Smith and Jack R Pease conducting. Mick Howes was also associated with this quarter peal as he introduced Debbie to the St Simon's group during lockdown.

First Quarter Peal on Treble for Ann

Tuesday, 25 May 2021

On Tuesday, 25 May Ann trebled for the first time to a Quarter Peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles in Ringing Room in 45m. Judy also covered having never rung a physical bell. Other ringers were Mick Howes, Jane Pridmore and Debbie with Jack Pease conducting.

This was rung to celebrate a successful return to ringing by the Lytchett Matravers band. This quarter peal was rung by the Lytchett Matravers band and friends who have all rung together in Ringing Room during the pandemic.

Camera Setup

August 9th

We were delighted today to have the cameras fitted in the Bell Chamber so you can see the bells ringing on a monitor next to the Ringing Chamber. Thank you so much to Alan Bentley and Cathy for setting it up.



Practice at Tollard Royal

Friday, 30th August 2021

A small practice was organised by the Branch Ringing Master Jack Pease for Lytchett Matravers and Lytchett Minster ringers, hosted on the pleasant modern six at Tollard Royal, in the fine settings of the Cranborne Chase. Eight Lytchett ringers took the opportunity to go, and much progress was made. We had two new tenor ringers, Ann and Helen, who both enjoyed the chance to cover, two goes at Switcheroo, and rang Plain Bob Doubles on the back five. Several sets of called changes were rung, including Morden called changes. Another session will be organised soon.



Letting the Lytchett Matravers WI Join In

Wednesday, 8th September 2021

When I was asked to give a short half hour presentation to the village WI, I wondered if I could adapt a previous presentation to half the length but still make it enjoyable. It was decided not to have the visual help of a presentation. I HAD to make it interesting, and I knew that just me talking for half hour would send them all to sleep!

I started by timing myself using a previously prepared presentation with most of the slides taken away. I dragged out the attic and dusted down a slightly warped model bell which I had made for a presentation to the school 2 years ago. It would be interesting demonstrating how a bell is rung up and how the stay and slider work. Next, I just needed some of my band to come and demonstrate the clapper and rope simultaneously. Three of our ringers are also in the WI but they were all away so 2 other ringers kindly gave up their afternoon to come and help. Helen demonstrated the rope and Viv the clapper. Well, that was the plan anyway! At the school demonstration, our vicar Stephen swung an historic clapper backwards and forwards with ease so I thought Viv could manage that too. However, the clapper we brought out of the church was a more modern one with extra bits attached and it was too cumbersome! Instead Viv and I went to church the day before to get the other slightly smaller one. When we got it down we decided it was rather heavy and not suitable – Health and Safety considered. Viv decided to improvise with my brolly. Most of the WI know Viv who has lived in the village for most of her life, so when I turned to Viv and said “and Viv is going to demonstrate the clapper.....Viv you have been ringing in our tower for as many years as the rest of us put together, surely you know the difference between a clapper and an umbrella!” it was met with great laughter.



I talked a little bit about the history of the tower and the weights of the bells and what we did when the bells were out of the tower in 2019 during the restoration process and then LOCKDOWN. I explained how we used Ringing Room and were only able to ring one bell when we got back into the tower and how we also had some handbell sessions. This made me think about a bit of audience participation to explain how bellringing is a mental activity as well as a physical one. I wasn't sure how long it would take to persuade 3 WI members to come and join in, but no sooner had I asked they were there! A brief explanation on how to ring a hand and backstroke on a handbell and then to avoid them getting very bored just following the previous bell, so I called them into Queens. Well, there was great laughter and lots of cameras came out to take photos.



All in all, a very different presentation to the others I have given but much improved with it being the interactive session. How I fitted that into half an hour I'm not quite sure.

My thanks go to Helen and Viv and the 3 WI ladies who joined in.

Debbie Phipps.

Tower Captain Lytchett Matravers.

Ringling For Maurice Andrews

Saturday, 9th October

At 12noon on Saturday 9th October six village ringers rang for 15 minutes at St. Mary's, Lytchett Matravers to celebrate the life of Maurice Andrews MBE who died on 15th July.

The ringing coincided with a celebration at the local Apple Orchard where Maurice used to entertain his friends by playing his guitar or ukulele and singing in the choir at the annual wassailing.

First 'Live' East Dorset Branch Practice since Lockdown

Saturday, 9th October 2021

This was held on a sunny afternoon on 9th October at Lytchett Matravers. Of the 30 attendees,

12 were from Lytchett Matravers. Branch chairman Ben ran the ringing from rounds to Bob Doubles and Bob Minor. This was followed by a service led by Rev Stephen Partridge. Stephen's talk was based on the reading from 1 Corinthians chapter 1 vv 12-27 - titled, One Body Many Parts. He related this to how we need all our body parts to work together, if one fails this can have an effect on the whole body. As with our bells if one of the parts is not working the bells will not ring properly – referring to the clapper, wheel and headstock. So as with our bodies the bells depend on all parts working together as one.

Stephen stayed on to enjoy a delicious tea

made by all the Lytchett Matravers ringers and organised by Ann Manning and Helen Gorman. The Young ringers' mascot Bertie enjoyed the tea as much as the rest of us. Helen then featured during the meeting as she was welcomed as a new full member of the Branch.



New Guild Clothing

Friday 22nd October

On Friday 22nd October, we were delighted to welcome Pat and Ian Davidson to our practice. Pat brought along our fifth order for Guild clothing. Our two new ringers were particularly keen to receive their tops to match the rest of the band and some of the band also had replacement tops or additional ones. We have a variety of short sleeve polo tops, long sleeve polo tops, gilets and fleeces. We are also pleased to be able to support the LEBRF as every item purchased enables a donation to LEBRF to be made. As we are usually wearing a combination of any of these, there are always plenty of red tops lying around the church on a practice night so Pat was able to pick one up to join our band for the photo. Can you spot her?



Experienced Band Ring for Sunday Service

Sunday 24th October

For the first time since any of us have been ringing we had a band experienced enough to ring 5 courses of Plain Hunt for our Sunday service this morning. Viv, Sarah, Cathy, Gordon, Alec and Debbie.



Simulator Sessions Begin

Monday 8th November

Alan and Cathy sorted out some exercises for our first session. Present also were Helen, Mike, Debbie and Emma



Lytchett 'Ring Out The Old' at Cranborne

31st December 2021

On a wet and gloomy New Years' Eve, thirteen Lytchett ringers from both towers assembled at the large medieval church of St Mary and St Bartholomew at Cranborne, accompanied by Jane and Nigel Pridmore from the Dorchester Branch and our Branch Ringing Master, Jack Pease.

As is tradition, the bells were half muffled to ring out the old year; especially poignant on this occasion because of the number of deaths from coronavirus throughout 2021. The bells were rung up by two local ringers and Gordon then helped to muffle them.



The tower at Cranborne is both lofty and spacious, built in 1440 at the expense of Richard, Duke of York when Cranborne was a monastery of considerable wealth; being easily able to seat 20 people in the ringing chamber; a far cry from the cozy ringing chambers at our own towers!

Ringing began shortly after 10am, and included various goes at rounds to begin with. Cranborne bells are not by the standards difficult to ring but they are much bigger and slower than our bells! Several ringers rang their heaviest bells, including Sarah and Cathy on the 7th and tenor bells respectively.

There is also the added challenge at Cranborne (compared to our own bells) of an unguided drop, which required us to practice our straight pulls! Everyone did well however, and by the end of the first hour, everyone was much more relaxed and confident. For two ringers, Sue and Jennie, it was also their first ring on more than six bells and both did well at adapting to the slower speed of eight bells.

A short break was held at the halfway point where we had some delicious festive-flavoured brownies courtesy of the Ringing Master, biscuits made by Debbie and chocolates brought by Sue. Ringing resumed with some touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles for our more experienced ringers. Debbie called a touch of Bob Doubles without aid for the first time. Sarah and Viv trebled to these methods superbly despite a recent lack of practice.

We also rang a variant of "Whole pull and stand", whereby this is done repeatedly except for the tenor, which carries on. This was particularly effective on these heavier half muffled bells. This was a great success, as all ringers present stood their bell every single time, no dropped handstrokes! This included some of our less experienced ringers such as Helen, who despite being on heavier and unknown bells, managed it flawlessly.

To finish off with, a touch of Plain Bob Doubles was rung on the 'minor' six, achieved by using bells 2-7. Rather than being in a traditional major scale, ringing bells 2-7 puts the bells into what is known as a "Dorian" scale, and it is particularly somber when half muffled; a fitting end to a difficult and at times upsetting year for many.

Thanks to Jack for organising and running the practice

Here's to more ringing in 2022!