

# St Mary's Lytchett Matravers Bellringers Activities 2022



<b>Ringling for the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II</b>	<b>The Proclamation of King Charles III</b>	<b>Funeral of the Queen</b>
<i>Friday 9th September</i>	<i>Saturday 10th September</i>	<i>Monday 19th September</i>
<i>Emma Rushbrooke</i>	<i>Debbie Phipps</i>	<i>Gillian Richards</i>
<i>Cathy Neyland</i>	<i>Cathy Neyland</i>	<i>John Marsh</i>
<i>Gillian Richards</i>	<i>Sarah Millar</i>	<i>Sarah Millar</i>
<i>Mike Kimber</i>	<i>Gordon Paterson</i>	<i>Helen Gorman</i>
<i>Ann Manning</i>	<i>Ann Manning</i>	<i>Cathy Neyland</i>
<i>Debbie Phipps</i>	<i>Viv Endecott</i>	<i>Kristine Knudsen</i>
<i>Sarah Millar</i>		<i>Gordon Paterson</i>
<i>Viv Endecott</i>		<i>Debbie Phipps</i>
<i>Gordon Paterson</i>		<i>Jennie Pease</i>
		<i>Viv Endecott</i>

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## Band Events

Date	Event	Location	Ringers
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	Band AGM – with Stephen	St Mary's	All except Annie, Emma and Nina
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	<a href="#">Band Meal</a>	St Mary's	All except Nina, Carol
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Ringing Master for 20 mins</a>	St Mary's	All attendees with Ann
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">ART 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party</a>	St Mary's	All except Emma and Nina
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Ringing Master for 20 mins</a>	St Mary's	All attendees with Helen
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Final regular Ringing room as now starting a tower practice on a Monday		
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Started a regular Monday practice		
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Ringing Master for 20 mins</a>	St Mary's	All attendees with Jennie
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Ringing Master for 20 mins</a>	St Mary's	All attendees with Viv
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Jubilee Ringing	St Mary's	Most of the band
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Presentation of certificates</a>	St Mary's	Helen, Alec, Jennie, Carol, Sue
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Ringing Master for 20 mins</a>	St Mary's	All attendees with Gordon
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Social Sunday</a>	St Mary's	Helen, Jennie, Cathy, Debbie, Mike, Kriss, Carol, John, Gordon, Viv, Jack and Phil
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Ringing master for 20 mins</a>	St Mary's	Mike's turn
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ringing for Death of the Queen	St Mary's	Debbie, Cathy, Sarah, Gordon, Viv, Mike, Ann, Gillian, Emma
September 25 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Kriss rang for her first Sunday service</a>	St Mary's	Kriss, Mike, Viv, Debbie, Cathy
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Ringing Master for 20 mins</a>	St Mary's	Sam and Harry
October 9 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Presentation of certificates</a>		Sam, Harry, Luke, Sue, Jennie, Sarah
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Lunch		
November	<a href="#">Ringing Master for 20 mins</a>	St Mary's	Kriss
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<a href="#">Ringing Master for 20 mins</a>	St Mary's	Sue
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Band Christmas Meal	St Mary's	
December	Various Christmas Ringing including New Year	St Mary's	

## ART Achievements

Date	Event	Location
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Level 3 Intro to Change Ringing	Sarah
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	Level 1 Bell Handling	Sue
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Level 1 Bell Handling	Carol
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Level 2 Foundation Skills	Helen
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Level 1 Bell Handling	Jennie
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Level 1 Bell Handling	Sam
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Level 1 Bell Handling	Harry
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Level 5 Change Ringer	Debbie
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Level 1 Bell Handling	Kriss
July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Level 1 Bell Handling	Luke
September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Level 2 Foundation Skills	Jennie
September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Level 2 Foundation Skills	Sue
November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Level 2 Foundation Skills	Harry
November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Level 2 Foundation Skills	Sam
November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Level 2 Foundation Skills	Kriss
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Level 3 Intro to Change Ringing	Alec

## Courses For Our Ringers

Date	Course	Ringers
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Doubles theory on Zoom - Debbie	Ann, Judy, Helen, Mike, Viv, Carol
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Minor at St Mary's	Debbie and Cathy
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bob Minor at St Mary's	Debbie and Cathy
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Plain Bob Minor and Grandsire at Shillingstone	Debbie and Cathy

## Outside Courses

January 25 <sup>th</sup>	G&B Ringing Down in Peal – very good	Debbie
January 27 <sup>th</sup>	G&B Starting Grandsire Doubles	Cathy
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	G&B Calling Call Changes	Cathy
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	G&B Acquiring Ropesight and Managing without it	Cathy
January 30 <sup>th</sup>	G&B Listen to it – very good	Cathy
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	ART Teaching Forum	Cathy
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	ART AGM	Cathy and Debbie
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	2022 Ringing Recovery	Cathy and Debbie
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Ringing up and Down in Peal at Canford	Cathy
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Grandsire	Cathy
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Plain Hunt	Alec and Helen
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Branch Ringing up and down	Alec
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Calling Bob Doubles	Cathy and Debbie
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ring Something Simple	Jennie, Sue and Helen joined this group. Once a month

## Tower Jobs

Date	Job	Helpers
<a href="#">January 10<sup>th</sup></a>	Ann learnt how to silence the bells	Ann Manning, Cathy, Debbie
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	David Pygott from Taylors came to give the post installation check. All Good	Gordon and Debbie
<a href="#">March 7<sup>th</sup></a>	Tower Spring Clean	Gordon, Alec, John, Mike, Ann, Sue, Viv, Debbie, Cathy
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Stay to bell 3 broken by visiting ringers	Alec replaced
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	End of year Tower Check Plus replacing a number of the stay nuts	Gordon and Alec

## Outings

Date	Outing	Ringers	Location
February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Jack's Birthday outing	Cathy	Winchester Cathedral
<a href="#">March 10<sup>th</sup></a>	Joined Lytchett Minster	Cathy, Ann, Alec, Sue, Viv	Swanage
<a href="#">March 26<sup>th</sup></a>	Spring Outing to Mid Devon	Jennie	Uffculme
<a href="#">April 28<sup>th</sup></a>	Ringing at Kingston with Lytchett Minster practice	Debbie, Cathy, Sue, John, Viv, Jennie	Kingston
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Annual Brownsea Outing</a>	Debbie, Cathy, Sue, John, Viv, Jennie, Carol, Mike, Helen	Brownsea island
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Practice for Bonanza	All band available	Shroton
August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<a href="#">Quiz night at the Chequers</a>	Mike, John, Viv, Jennie, Kris and husband David	Chequers

## Quarter Peals

Date	Name	Ringers
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Grandsire at Lytchett Matravers – first for both	Debbie and Cathy
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Doubles at Lytchett Minster – first on tower bells	Alec
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Grandsire at Winterborne Kingston – first on inside	Cathy
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Plain Bob Minor</a>	Debbie
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	<a href="#">Bob Doubles – first for Gordon at Lytchett Matravers</a>	Gordon and Debbie
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Mixture rung for Jennie's brother</a>	Debbie
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	<a href="#">Bob Doubles – First for Alec on treble</a>	Alec and Debbie
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Reverse Canterbury – Alec on tenor</a>	Alec

## Branch and Guild Events

Date	Event	Attendees
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Branch AGM – Viv voted onto the Branch Committee	Debbie, Cathy, Viv, Helen, Ann
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Branch Practice at Bryanston</a>	Cathy, Debbie, Ann, Helen, Sue
<a href="#">March 12<sup>th</sup></a>	Branch Practice Corfe Mullen	Cathy, Debbie, Viv, Helen
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Branch quarterly meeting at Spetisbury	Cathy, Debbie, Viv, Helen
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Branch practice Wimborne St Giles	Cathy, Debbie, Sue, Viv, Helen
<a href="#">July 30<sup>th</sup></a>	Ringing Bonanza Shroton	All available!
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Practice Canford	
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Branch Quarterly Meeting	Cathy, Debbie, Sue, Jennie, Viv, Helen

## Branch Membership Nominations

Date	Nomination
October 2021	Helen
October 2022	Jennie and Sue

## Weddings and Other Events

Date	Event	Ringers
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Queens jubilee ringing</a>	Debbie, Cathy, Ann, Helen, Alec, Gordon, John, Mike, Sue,
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	<a href="#">Ringing for Phil Baker's Funeral – Half muffled</a>	Debbie, Cathy, Ann, Mike, Gordon and Alec
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Rang for Liz Lane's Service of Thanksgiving	Viv, Sarah, Ann
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Wedding	Debbie, Cathy, Alec, Viv, Sarah, Gordon
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Wedding	Debbie, Ann, Alec, Viv, Sarah, Gordon Ann's first ring for a wedding
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Rang muffled bells for the death of the Monarch</a>	Emma, Cathy, Gillian, Mike, Ann, Debbie, Kriss, Sarah, Viv, Gordon
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Rang open bells at the wedding to celebrate the Accession of the new Monarch	Debbie, Cathy, Gillian, Gordon, Ann, Viv
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">Ringing for Tony from a Poole Care Home</a>	Cathy, Debbie, Helen, Gillian, Viv
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Rang muffled bells for wedding	Debbie, Cathy, Sarah, Gordon, Alec, Viv
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	Rang for Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II	Debbie, Cathy, Kriss, Viv, Helen, Gordon, Sarah, Gillian, John, Jennie
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Wedding	Debbie, Cathy, Viv, Gordon Andy and Aaron from Corfe Mullen
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	Funeral – half muffled	Debbie, Gillian, Helen, Maureen, Viv and Alec



## Visiting Ringers

Date	Band
February 12th	Young Ringers - Five of them (2 from L Minster and 3 from Wimborne) had never rung away from their home tower before. So they did lots and lots of rounds, plus a bit of plain hunt and a touch of Bob Doubles. With Hilary Childs and Steff
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Rose and his band came to ring a Quarter Peal
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	DCA AGM – 26 for ringing, service, tea and meeting
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jim came to join us at our practice and astounded us at being able to ring 2 bells at the same time for Plain Hunt
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	David Warwick and family
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ring Something Simple. Course run by Jane Pridmore. Our learners were Sue, Jennie and Helen with Gordon helping. Used full simulator

## 50 Ringing Things

Helen achieved her Bronze in May and Jennie achieved Bronze in May and Silver in August. Congratulations to both of them.

## Simulator

We continue to have regular monthly simulator sessions. Most of our ringers have had an opportunity to join in by having some sessions in an evening or at a weekend. Sometimes we have specialised on covering or leading and some have had an opportunity to learn methods. Our thanks go to Cathy who coordinates these sessions.

## Lytchett Methods

We continued to have regular **Methods Saturdays** for Sarah, Gordon, Alec, Viv, Cathy and Debbie with ringers from Lytchett Minster. We thank our band of helpers who come when they can – Paul, Jack, Gillian, Sue and Richard.

After the summer Lytchett Minster stopped joining us apart from Chrissie and Maureen. In August Alec moved on to ring inside to Bob Doubles and later in the year Viv started this journey too.

From November we also started to run twice monthly Wednesday afternoon and once a month on a Saturday which will continue in the New Year on regular Wednesdays and Saturdays in the month. Sometimes Lytchett Minster have joined in these again.

## Monthly Plain Hunt

We continued regular monthly sessions for those learning Plain Hunt with our friends at Lytchett Minster. From August Lytchett Minster didn't have anyone who needed to join these sessions.

If we only had 5 ringers we learnt how to ring Plain Hunt on a fewer number of bells. In October we moved on to changing the order of the bells before calling Plain Hunt and everyone rose to the challenge.

## Bob Doubles and Beyond

Gordon, Alec and Debbie continue to attend these sessions organised by Jane Pridmore. In February Gordon moved on to have a go at Trebling to Bob Doubles. In August Alec started to ring inside to Bob Doubles. In September we started a Lytchett Bob Doubles on the alternate Wednesdays when we weren't ringing with Jane's group.

## Events

### Silencing The Bells

January 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

The sound of the village church bells are loved by many in the village especially as they were silent for so long during COVID lockdowns. However, we know that for those in close proximity to us they need to be silenced during some of our learner or even more advanced ringing practices. Cathy Neyland has been instigating the ability to simply stop the clapper from hitting the side of the bell and making a noise for our novices but also by using a simulator we are able to hear the reproduced sound of the bells through a computer for more advanced learning. A few of our ringers are able to go into the bell chamber and help Cathy tie the bells and we wanted to share the comments from our Church Warden and bellringer Ann Manning who helped last week. Debbie Phipps (Tower Captain)

“When Cathy suggested I might like to help her silence 2 of the bells in our tower I jumped at the opportunity, if I'm honest I didn't give it that much thought. I

remembered as a child watching my dad dodge about the bell tower at our local church in London, somehow thought no worries I can do that. All was not quite what I had in my head when I clambered up into the bell chamber, Cathy was like a young elf bobbing around the bells, I was still struggling to work out how to get across the hatch and at the same time forgetting my right foot from my left foot,

when Cathy shouted instructions, don't hang on to the wheel don't stand on the sensors and hold on!!!! By this time Debbie joined us, yet another nimble elf amongst the bells and on top of all this wanted a photo and a smile!!! Well eventually between Debbie & Cathy I managed to get down with the bells, wow, I felt quite a sense of achievement. Cathy then explained how we were going to silence the bells, had no idea so I was so impressed with Cathy's invention of ropes, rubber inner tubes and above all knowing what knots to use to attach to the clapper to silence them. Am not going to try and explain exactly how it all worked but worked it did. Maybe Cathy might let you all in on her invention??? I was so pleased with myself to see how it was all done and actually forgot all about trying to get back down, which proved much easier, perhaps I knew if I'd got up there I would be able to get back down somehow.



I hope I haven't put anyone off, take it from me it was a bit scary at first but so good to get up there and experience being next to the bells. I will be doing this again and I hope sometime to be able to nip around just like Debbie & Cathy.” **Ann Manning** (Bell Silencer in training!)

## Article in February Parish Magazine

*'On Christmas morning I went to feed my sheep. As they were standing around me the church bells rang out cheerful peal after cheerful peal, and I told my sheep the Holy story about the birth of Baby Jesus. The church bells were still ringing out as I walked back with the bucket empty and I stopped to listen properly. We are only one field away from the Church so I hear the bells often and usually take a time out to listen and appreciate. I think it must have been difficult to meet up during Covid to ring bells which, although not a contact sport, must involve some pretty close up work. Anyway, I would like to thank the church bellringers and especially those who turned out on Christmas morning. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by this resident.'* – Village Resident

## Band Meal

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January



On Friday 21st January the bell ringers of St Mary's in Lytchett Matravers finally celebrated Christmas with a meal in the church. It was well attended by members of the Tower band, invited guests and was an opportunity to thank many people who had supported the band over the previous year including the vicar, church wardens and bell ringers from other towers who had provided much needed guidance and support.

The evening went well with everyone helping out with a range of tasks - moving furniture, preparing table decorations, cooking and washing up. There were no cooking facilities in the church so the menu of a choice between chilli and chicken casserole with salad and jacket potatoes needed innovative planning, the meal was enjoyed by all. The dessert of fruit and chocolate helped round off the evening.

Thanks to **Ann** and **Helen** for co-ordinating the evening and to Helen for this write up.



## Ringling for the Queen's Jubilee

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February

We were delighted that 10 of our current 14 ringers were able to ring to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the accession to the throne of HM Queen Elizabeth II during which we rang the patterns 'Queens' and 'Kings' and also some rounds for our ringers who haven't yet moved on to Call Changes.

## Branch Practice at Bryanston

12th February 2022

On a changeable February afternoon, five Lytchett Matravers ringers joined thirty other branch ringers and the Ringing Master in the fine surroundings of Bryanston School, where a branch practice was held at St Martin's Church.

Bryanston are heavy bells compared to the lighter bells our ringers are used to, as well as being challenging to ring, so all of our ringers did brilliantly.



- **Sue** rang her heaviest bell yet, the 6th (10cwt) and only her second time ringing on eight bells too, managing to hold her own.
- **Ann** and **Helen** both rang rounds on eight three times, Ann proudly celebrating when she stood her bell first time!
- **Debbie** and **Cathy** rang inside to Plain Bob Triples for the first time, ringing the 2nd and 3rd respectively to a bob course; the first time either of them have come away from the treble on eight bells.

## Half Muffled ringing for Phil's Funeral

February 21<sup>st</sup>

Phil was one of our regular church goers and had taken on various jobs in the church from sides person to Church Warden.

"I just wanted to say thank you so much to you and the ringers for ringing at Phil's funeral on Monday. I couldn't believe it when I arrived in the churchyard and heard the bells - I was just so touched that you had made the time and taken the trouble to half-muffle the bells as well. Phil would have been so touched, too, and it really made it a "proper" funeral - thank you once again." **Pam Baker**



# Ringling Master for 20 Minutes - February

25th February

As our numbers have slowly increased this year and our practices taking more time to plan I started the idea of sharing our Ringing Master role to give everyone the experience. Whilst remaining as Tower Captain I started by alternating the Ringing Master every 3 months with Cathy Neyland – one of our other ART trainers and experienced ringer. As ringers started helping each other I thought that maybe some of them might like to run part of a practice – after all this is one of the ‘Things’ to do for the ART 50 Ringing Things.



I was surprised that they all seemed very keen and I didn't have to 'Ask' someone to start the ball rolling. **Ann Manning jumped in first for our February** "Ringing Master for 20 minutes' session. This is what Ann said:

"When Debbie threw out the idea that she wanted each of our bell ringers to have a go at running a practice for 20 minutes, I initially started to panic wondering what I could do, as I still feel I am a newbie. However, I had a cunning plan that if I came up with an idea quickly before anyone else, I could do what I wanted first and no one nick my idea. So I was the first to kick it off. No pressure says she!!!

My idea was based on the fact that I have always had a favourite bell and am sure most ringers are of a similar mind. We are encouraged to ring different bells, now and again Debbie does an exercise where we move around the tower doing a couple of pulls, standing then moving on. I will add we're lucky in our tower that our bells are not as heavy as some with our heaviest being just over 7cwt.

I felt that as we have all progressed recently this would be a good exercise to return to. So after much shouting and getting everyone in order. I placed each ringer on their bell and after a few moans everyone rang every bell and worked around the tower doing 3 blows then standing. It was surprisingly very successful though I might add that a few ringers did forget how to count and thought they'd do a solo ring but generally it was a fun exercise. I then called the ringers into Queens which could have been a disaster but thanks to Cathy she put me right. I was calling down the tower instead of up so learnt something for myself here.

I am now full of admiration for our Captain Debbie and her assistant Cathy as I realise it's quite a challenge keeping everyone in order without getting too bossy and trying to keep it fun as well. I did make one observation, do all bell ringers fiddle & flaff about, don't answer that one. However I did enjoy being bossy for a while, not sure the band did? **Ann Manning** (Ringing Master in Training!)"

My comment to Ann after she sent this great report was that she did an excellent job with everyone thoroughly enjoying her time as Ringing Master. I thanked her for being brave enough to take this on to start with and we now have a flurry of our least experienced ringers wanting to have their 'go' having been encouraged by her experience.

## ART's 10th Birthday Party

What fun our band of 15 had last night during our party to celebrate ART's 10th Birthday. I put together a medley of ART inspired exercises some of which we had never done before but ones I had wanted to try and not had the time or courage to do so.

The cake is not a work of 'ART' but it does have some ARTistic element to it. Spot the 'deliberate' mistake!! I would say it is easier to RING it rather than ICE but I'm not sure about that either however we did manage our new Kaleidoscope exercise The Lytchett Wave extremely well.

See Bellboard for our Medley. Having rung two different Lotteries we felt like we'd won the Jackpot!



<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1499185>

We also appeared in Ringing World – see next page.





*The 'walking through Plain Hunt' exercise from the ART website:  
(l-r) Viv Endecott, Cathy Neyland, Sarah Millar, Sue Ludwig, Alec  
Cannings, Gordon Paterson, John Marsh, Ann Manning, Helen  
Gorman, Mike Kimber and Debbie Phipps*

## Resources for a Dorset village band

What is the first question in the ART Ringers Personal Progress Logbook? "What is your Learning Style?" And with a band of sixteen novice ringers in our Dorset village, who have all learnt through the ART schemes, this is so important to remember, and needless to say, we have a great mixture of all types.

When two of us from our tower attended the ART Module 1 day course in 2016 we felt we could share the job, with Annie teaching the bell handling, whilst I would produce the handouts for moving on. Having written many manuals on how to use the different Microsoft Office programs I thought I could manage this task but first of all I had to learn how Plain Hunt worked and not just which bell I had to follow when ringing bell 2!

Searching online for extra resources back then might just have brought up the Fortran resources but now **ringingteachers.org** is high on the list, and once you start delving into this huge bank of resources you won't need to search any further. Over the six years of researching and providing theory for my ringers, more resources have been put on the ART website ([www.ringingteachers.org](http://www.ringingteachers.org)). These ART resources are clear, understandable and consistent. However, not all learning styles are satisfied by reading information so we also use their quizzes and games. And there's more – I'm sure many teachers have demonstrated by 'Walking through Plain Hunt' in person along a line (row) and if not, there's an explanation on the ART website. I've also explored new ways of explaining things – one of the challenges in the 'In My Tower' section of 50 Ringing Things encouraged me to produce short videos to explain methods such as Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles.

A few years ago, finding the resources on the website was tricky but they are now clearly labelled in the Teaching Toolbox section. There are resources for all skills from Foundation to Stedman Doubles! For other learning styles I refer my ringers to the excellent ART YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/ringingteachers](http://www.youtube.com/ringingteachers)).

Useful training aids and ideas can also be found on the Ringing Teachers and the 50 Ringing Things Facebook groups. Only recently someone put up an excellent Plain Bob Doubles quiz. What a great team of ringing teachers ART has produced. Keep up the good work.

To sum up: Why invent the wheel – use the ART website, Facebook groups or YouTube channel. Look into 50 Ringing Things and see what you could do and share with others.

DEBBIE PHIPPS



## Tower Spring Clean

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Gordon's email about our Spring Clean - "The Boss" has asked me to organise stuff for Monday Spring Clean! I'd suggest for the belfry we try to minimise stirring up the dust (plays havoc with my hair) so I will bring a Henry to augment the dear old reprobate in the tower to vac rather than brush the dust. Some brushing will inevitably be necessary for difficult to reach areas so soft brushes and dustpan required. The intermediate chamber is a straight forward vac. Whilst this is going on Cathy could demonstrate her skills with a "fid" by shortening the ropes on bells 2 and 4 (or if you are counting your place 2nd and 4th). I struggle to think this should take much more than an hour not including the coffee break for which any diet busting contributions are always well received. " **Gordon**

Thank you to Elizabeth for the cakes and Ruth for making the refreshments. We were actually there for over an hour and a half.

We now have a 'spotless' tower with thanks to 9 of our ringers. A plan to 'block out' the sun from the window when it is blinding is in progress – thank you Viv. Bill is organising to change the angle of one of the lights. Having finished the tower some of our ringers helped Ann with some of the cleaning for the rest of the church.



## Swanage Outing

10th March 2022

Five ringers each from Lytchett Matravers and Lytchett Minster met with the Ringing Master on the fine bells at Swanage Parish Church for an evening of fun and learning. Swanage's church, a large and imposing building, houses a ring of eight, the tenor weighing some 22cwt, much bigger than either of the tenor bells at Matravers or Minster and thus a good venue for developing skills on eight bells and larger bells at the same time.

The bells, though heavier than many of the band were used to, were noted by many to be lovely and smooth to ring, plus the advantage of a bright, spacious and well ventilated ringing chamber was a bonus in the tricky times of the pandemic.

Ringing included rounds and called changes on 6 and 8, Plain Hunt on the back six, Jump called changes from rounds to Queens and Tittums on 6 and 8 and finishing with diminishing rounds as a tribute to the awful war in Ukraine.

Lots of the band managed firsts, including for Sue who rang both the 5th and the 6th to called changes on six and eight bells; Alec, who rang up his heaviest bell yet with the 7th (15cwt); Ann rang jump called changes for the first time; and for the whole band, their first time firing on eight bells. Many of the band hadn't rung these bells before, and quite a few commented on how lovely the bells were to ring. **Jack**



## Branch Practice Corfe Mullen

Saturday 12th February 2022

The third branch practice of the year was held at Corfe Mullen, where we found the bells half-muffled in memory of Roy Lench, TC until his sad passing in December 2021. Roy had been very good to our band over the years, including letting us ring there for several months whilst our own bells were being restored in Loughborough, so it was a great privilege to ring in his memory.

Four members of our band, Debbie, Cathy, Helen, and Viv attended the practice. Supported by the many experienced ringers present, we got up to lots! Debbie called a touch of Plain Bob Doubles, trebled to Grandsire, rang inside to Plain Bob Minor and covered to Plain Hunt. Cathy rang a touch of Grandsire Doubles inside and covered for the first time to Stedman Doubles. Helen rang Plain Hunt on 5 on a tower bell for the first time ever (well done Helen!), and Viv was her usual reliable self, trebling to various Doubles methods.

The Corfe Mullen ringers very kindly laid on quite a spread of cake, biscuits and refreshments for everyone, which was appreciated by all.

## Spring Outing to Mid Devon

Saturday 26th March 2022

On a glorious late March day, 12 members of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild and Guild of Devonshire Ringers met up at Uffculme in Mid Devon for a morning of ringing. Amongst them were two Lytchett ringers, Steph from Lytchett Minster and Jennie from Matravers, and several more regular supporters of Lytchett including Jane and Nigel from Puddletown, Mick from Middlezoy and Jack, the Branch Ringing Master.

Under Jack's watchful eye, ringing started shortly after 10am, and the beautiful tone of these bells was immediately apparent. Cast in 1927 by Taylor's, and with a tenor of 22cwt, they lived up to their reputation as one of the finest eights in the West Country. Sadly, these glorious bells have not been rung prior to our visit for 18 months due to dwindling numbers: there are now only three members of the local band remaining. However, the villagers are clearly very fond of their bells, because over our two hour visit, countless numbers of them came down to watch and express their delight.

Numbers were a little low due to covid cases and very high petrol prices but nevertheless, some good ringing was achieved on these fantastic bells. Steph rang a touch of Stedman Doubles on the back six, something of a rarity these days in East Dorset, and Jennie rang both strokes together on eight bells for the first time, as well as her first ever go at called changes. Well done both!

Some of the comments from villagers included:

*"It's been a long time since I've heard the bells, and with windows wide open in the sun, it was a true delight. At first, I thought it was a wedding, but it soon became clear that it was something more. Thank you so very much, it was beautiful!"*

**Jack**

# Ringin Master for 20mins March

8<sup>th</sup> March

The next ringer to jump in straight away was **Helen Gorman** for our March practice and this is what Helen said:

“Our Tower Captain has asked each member of the tower to run a 20 minute training session, yesterday it was my turn. I decided to call Mexican Wave thinking it was comparatively straight forward and reasonably easy for me to follow. I carefully worked out which people to ask to ring on our 6 bells but they didn't all turn up at the same time so some re-organising was needed. Everyone was very co-operative and seemed to listen carefully when I explained the activity and then we started. I knew to give my instruction

on the handstroke before the exercise began. It went reasonably well and most of the time I was able to follow but when I called **Stand**, I learnt afterwards that it was too early. This was something new that I learnt this evening as I had never called ‘Stand’ before. A second group then rang and again everyone was co-operative, I was pleased that I realized that bells 5 and 6 didn't change places but then learned it was because I had not given the specific instruction for them to do so as very often we allow tenor to stay at the back. I also called Stand in the correct place this time. It was an interesting experience and one where I learned far more than the other ringers which shows what a valuable activity it was for me.”

**Helen.**

Thank you Helen – they all certainly look very happy and concentration on what you are saying.



# Lytchett Ringers visit Kingston

Thursday 28th April 2022

On a slightly chilly April evening, thirteen members of the Matravers and Minster bands met in the glorious surroundings of Kingston for an evening on 6, 8 and 10 bells. Only the second time the bands have joined forces to ring on ten bells without significant outside help, the evening promised to be special.

The first hour of the evening began on the tuneful front six, where all were able to get the feel of these fine bells. Ringing in the first hour included several sets of called changes, Plain Hunt on 5 and touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

Ringing in the second hour focused on ringing the heavier back bells, renowned in Dorset and beyond for being of particularly fine tone. When it is remembered that the tenor at Matravers is just under 8cwt, and the tenor at Minster just under 10cwt, high levels of skill are needed to ring bells as large as Kingston, where the two largest bells are 20cwt and 27cwt respectively.

The second hour included rounds and called changes on the back six and back eight, Grandsire Doubles and Plain Hunt Minor. Everyone present enjoyed the chance to ring much larger bells than is normally possible and many showed themselves to be skilled enough to do Kingston justice.

go up to the belfry with ear defenders and watch these large bells swing mere feet away.

Ringing concluded with a game devised by the Ringing Master. All grabbed hold of their chosen bell, and were told to ring one whole pull and stand. Those who did not stand were out of the game, and the remaining ringers would move round to fill the gaps left by those who were eliminated. In the end, only three ringers were left - Debbie from Matravers became the only woman standing, Jon from Minster and the Ringing Master, Jack. Debbie and Jon ended up in a draw for second place when neither successfully stood, which left the Ringing Master victorious, and many eager for a second go!

Many notable firsts were scored during the evening, including:

- Sue's longest ring yet, comprising nearly 10 minutes of called changes
- Debbie's first blows conducting Grandsire on tower bells
- Heaviest bells for Sue, Jennie and Viv (14cwt); Maureen and Mark (20cwt) and Cathy, who rang the tenor (27cwt) for the first time, shattering her previous record by half a tonne!

## Ringling Master for 20 minutes continues



Our practices are slightly longer than most so we have a coffee break in the middle. You can imagine if you have the job of Ringling Master you have to keep putting your mug down and as ours are all either blue or orange you can forget which is yours. I have so often picked up a drink with sugar in – YUK!! So we now have a special mug for Tower Captain and Ringling Master.

So that was the first 4 months of the year. We have volunteers for the next 2 and 9 more waiting in the wings. I thought we would have one a month to last till the end of the year but we have since recruited more ringers so it looks like some might have to wait till next year!

## Novice leads ringling session April

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022



I was bowled over when the next person piped up to say she wanted to have a go as she was one of our latest recruits and was still learning the basics but has been really interested in all the ART exercises we use. **Jennie Pease was all set to run the April session.** This is what Jennie had to say:

“I joined the band at St. Mary’s Church, Lytchett Matravers at the end of 2021 as a novice. Early in 2022, Debbie Phipps, Tower Captain, gave us all a challenge. On the last Friday of the month, each of us would take a turn to lead a 20 minute ‘Trainer’ session, to perhaps work on a skill we wished to improve/develop, or something the band needed to

practice. Despite being a novice, I volunteered fairly early on purely on the basis that if I managed to come up with an idea, I didn’t want someone else to run with the same, leaving me back at square one! My initial idea was changed at the last minute after attending a session at Kingston, run by Ringling Master Jack Pease. He had devised a game whereby people chose a bell, and the instruction was for one whole pull before standing. Anyone who failed to stand was out and the remaining ringers moved round to fill the gaps. This was both hugely enjoyable and a useful skill to practice, so after a consultation with Debbie, I ran my session with this game, which I called ‘Last bell standing’.

Running a practice is not as easy as Debbie makes it look, so I was grateful for the support and input from Jack. However, I think everyone enjoyed playing, and over the two rounds, Viv and Gordon were the winners. Sarah narrowly missed out to Gordon in a long bout between the two. Playing this game definitely makes you think about making sure your technique is spot on in order to stand the bell and I hope the experienced ringers found it as useful as this novice. It might be interesting at a later date to play it again, but add in a variation of standing at backstroke.” **Jennie Pease**

Jennie made an expert job of organising the band and came up with a good little game. Even though it was the least experienced who dropped out first it only lasted a short time and gave a real challenge to the two left at the end and everyone enjoyed cheering them both on. Well done Jennie.



# Ringling Master for 20mins May

6<sup>th</sup> May – Viv Endecott

All of our ringers have a 'job' in the band and Viv's is to support those doing 50 Ringing Things. When she said she wanted to get some of them together during one of our practices to talk through how they were getting on I suggested she did it for the whole of the band so we could all experience from her suggestions.

So **Viv Endecott took on the May challenge**. This is what Viv had to say:



"When our Tower Captain wanted us to experience running a practice, she didn't need to delegate as we were all so keen; each of us was to lead a 20 minute session on some aspect of ringing.

When my turn came, I decided to enthuse the band about the 50 Ringing Things scheme. I had returned to ringing after a thirty year break and used

the challenges it offered to invite myself to other towers, make a bell from Meccano and eat a lot of cake.

Success! Our newest recruit liked the sound of all that (particularly the cake bit) and has already gained her Bronze certificate.

I now encourage all our new recruits to look at 50 Ringing Things because it introduces them to the wider ringing world, makes them useful members of their tower and branch and also helps us to get to know our new members better."

## Viv

Viv planned the session well by having us all sit on the wall outside to hear her enthuse about the benefits of ringing in different towers. She had then produced an exercise for everyone to have a go at in small groups having collected up 4 model bells. There were also plenty of 50 RT books lying around to study. As she said, it so inspired Jennie that she went off that evening and got 2 ticks having just passed her ART level 1 on Friday. Well done Jennie and a great evening thank you Viv.



## Brownsea Visit

13th May

This was our first outing including ringing since Lockdown so it was a very special day. We also had 3 new ringers who hadn't rung on Brownsea before. The day started by meeting up to get the ferry and then when we arrived on Brownsea Cathy gave us one of her very interesting tours. We were fortunate enough to see a red squirrel which even ran across the path in front of some of us. We stopped in the church on the way and were joined by Janet who plays the organ. She played a couple of hymns on the Foot pumped Harmonium and then delighted us by playing 'Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer' and 'Seek ye First the Kingdom of God' on the Hand Pumped organ which was manfully pumped by Mike. After a 2 hour walk we stopped for our own picnic lunches at the Outdoor Centre and we even had chance to have a quick Call Changes theory session. We then had the hour walk along the stunning coastline to the church where Steph met us to join in the ringing and later Jon, both from Lytchett Minster.



With a very novice band and very light bells and one which was prone to slip wheel we needed a good plan for placement. Most ringers rang on at least 2 different bells and some on 3 or 4. We rang rounds and call changes mostly but after Jon arrived we were able to ring Bob Doubles with our John covering Bob Doubles for the first time. Congratulations John. We were then entertained by a gaggle of geese on the walk back before catching the ferry back – all tired but having had an excellent day.



# Platinum Jubilee Ringing

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June

How to ring something special for the Platinum Jubilee for a novice band I decided to write a different kaleidoscope pattern but what I wrote maybe doesn't really fit into that category. The pattern I wrote was for Bell 2 to hunt to the back, lie and hunt back to thirds place and continue again. This pattern draws out the shape of a crown if viewed sideways! We didn't get an opportunity to practice it but we didn't need it. Of the 13 ringers on Saturday June 4th everyone rang more than one bell and still wanted to have a go on other bells.



## Lytchett Royal Minor



Four of us can ring an inside bell to a method, 4 can ring a bell to Plain Hunt and 4 are at the Call Changes stage. We were supported also by Jack Pease our Ringing Master who took the photo.



Funny faces accepted we did actually ring very well for a novice band and I was so surprised how keen they were to look at the patterns for different bells and have a go at more than the one I had originally allocated for them - so as not to confuse! It did make a change from places and dodging and made the little grey cells work a bit harder.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1520898>



## Presentation of Certificates

Sunday June 12th

We were able to present several certificates before the start of our Sunday service.

Jennie, Carol and Sue achieved ART Level 1.

Helen achieved ART Level 2.

Alec received a Branch certificate for his first Quarter Peal.

Jennie and Helen received a certificate for Bronze 50 Ringing things.

It was a delight to be able to share their successes with our congregation.

Debbie, Cathy and Stephen presented the certificates.



## Ringling Master for 20mins July

8<sup>th</sup> July – Gordon Patterson

Gordon ran a very successful 20 minute practice helping us all to know how to ring faster and slower.





# Debbie conquers Plain Bob Minor!

April 7th, May 2nd, May 12th, June 16th

For quite some time now, Debbie has had an ambition, a goal, to pass Level 5 of ART's Learning the Ropes Scheme. Level 5 is a big jump up from Level 4, involving ringing quite a bit of Minor. Minor involves ringing all six bells to a method, whereas in Doubles, it covers behind. This leads to a completely different feel and sound, and though it is only one extra bell compared to Doubles, it is substantially more difficult. ART Level 5 requires the ringer to ring a quarter of a Minor method inside before it can be ticked off, so Debbie planned to do just that.

Debbie and Cathy invited Angie Jasper, Jane and Nigel Pridmore, Robin Mears, Robert Newton, Paul Tyson, Alan Bentley and myself to a practice one Thursday morning in April at Lytchett Matravers to see if we could help. A very useful morning, with Debbie ringing plain courses inside and Cathy trebling.

It was apparent though, in conversations between Debbie and I afterwards, that though the Lytchett Matravers bells are easy to ring, they are hung in an odd layout, with the ropes in three straight lines, making ropesight difficult. They are also fairly small bells, which makes them turn quickly, shortening the amount of thinking time available.

I offered to organise a further session on some heavier bells, which hopefully would make it a little easier, this offer was accepted and a further session was duly held at Spetisbury on Monday 2nd May. This was much more successful, with Cathy trebling to touches and Debbie ringing touches inside. However, like Lytchett, the bells at Spetisbury have the ropes in three straight lines, and as further work was needed on the singles, I offered to organise a third and final session for practice.

The third practice was held at Shillingstone on May 12th, a combined morning focusing on Plain Bob Minor for Debbie and Grandsire Doubles for Cathy. Shillingstone have an excellent rope circle, but with heavy bells and a long draft, they take a fair bit of ringing. Nevertheless, some very good ringing was achieved, with the calls sorted out in both methods. Now for the quarter!

After a few unsuccessful attempts at organising a quarter peal before the Platinum Jubilee, a date was duly fixed for June. I was again asked to organise this, booking the bells at Martinstown near Dorchester for the attempt. These are a similar weight ring of six to Lytchett Matravers, but now Debbie had the calls and the rhythm sorted, the faster speed was no longer an issue. Martinstown are a delightful set of bells, very musical and easy to ring so an ideal venue for a quarter.



On a blisteringly hot Thursday 16th June, Debbie, myself and four other ringers assembled at Martinstown for the attempt. A quarter was duly scored in 45 minutes, meaning Debbie can finally sign off Level 5. Well done Debbie! **Jack Pease**

## Branch Ringing Bonanza

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July

We managed to put together 3 Novice teams for the Bonanza this year. We chose the option to have 3 experienced ringers in each team to give the novices the most positive experience even though we would have the number of errors doubled. There was only one other novice band than us who came first in the competition. We always say it is the entering and experience that is the reason why we ring and our ringers rang the best I have heard in any competition which was also confirmed by our two experienced ringers Jack and Gillian. We learnt from the experience as well in that we still ring too slowly and need to be more consistent with leading and covering. Great to have something to work on for next year.



We also put a team in for the main Striking competition with 3 other teams. The feedback for this was that the changes and rate of changes was good and well executed.

Though we didn't win in the ringing competition we did win elsewhere – Viv won the Limerick competition and Kriss won the quiz - Congratulations. We also had a cake in the cake competition.

Well done everyone for joining in and supporting the Branch in this way.

## Quiz night at the Chequers

3rd August

In aid of MacMillan and MS

Team; Mike, John, Viv, Jennie, Kris and husband David.

Happily Kris and Jennie knew enough 1980s Rock Anthems to see us to a middling score.

Thanks Viv for getting a team together.



# Social Sunday

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August



We combined our monthly Simulator Session this month with learning to splice a rope (Thank you Phil Cox), creating and solving quizzes (Thank you Viv and Jennie), learning about Before and After Bells and most of all enjoying a 'Ringers' tea.



# Ringin Master for 20mins August

26<sup>th</sup> August – Mike Kimber



Mike enjoys some of the ART exercises so when it was his turn to be Ringin Master this is what he had to say.

“I was really pleased to be asked to run the practice for 20 mins but as it got closer I got a bit nervous. I talked to Debbie about what I should do and chose one of my favourite exercises which is making places. We looked at who was coming on the evening and made a plan. It was really strange to be in charge but nice to take a leading

part in the group. I called 2 bells to make places at the right time and then ‘That’s All’. I then called a different 2 bells but forgot to call ‘That’s All’ and went straight into ‘Stand’ which confused everyone but I learnt from this as well. Debbie and I had then decided I would ask 2 pairs of bells to change at the same time which we hadn’t done before.



I asked Ann to write on the board what the change would look like so everyone knew what they were doing. I was really pleased that they listened to what I said and we all enjoyed the session.” **Mike**

Well done Mike – look at them all smiling!





## Ringling for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Following the announcement of the death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II we fully muffled our smallest 5 bells and half muffled our tenor. Nine of our ringers rang in sadness on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 1pm. We rang into Queens and Kings, also Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles finishing in diminishing rounds with the tenor tolling at the end.

(Emma, Cathy, Gillian, Mike, Ann, Debbie, Sarah, Viv, Gordon)

### Signing of the Declaration

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> we unmuffled the bells to ring in celebration of **King Charles III signing the declaration.** (Debbie, Cathy, Sarah, Gordon, Alec, Viv)



The bells were then muffled again and remained muffled until the State Funeral on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>.

### State Funeral

Our Church Warden Elizabeth Carter opened the church at 9:30 on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, the day of the funeral for visitors to come and light a candle and sit quietly before the service was shown on the large screen.

Elizabeth read out the prayer for the Queen before ten of our ringers rang muffled bells for the hour before the funeral. We rang Queens, Kings, Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles finishing with the tenor tolling 96 times.

(Debbie, Cathy, Kriss, Viv, Helen, Gordon, Sarah, Gillian, John, Jennie)

# Ringling For Tony

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September

In July I received an email as ED Branch Hon.Sec. from the Activities Lead at Elizabeth House, a Care South home in Poole. They had a resident called Tony who was a bell ringer when he was a younger man, and despite his dementia he talked about it often and with great fondness. A special request was made for a visit for Tony to hear some bells being rung. Having decided that a ground-floor ring with easy access and parking would be required, the band at Lytchett Matravers offered to host the event. Once we realised that the full name of the resident was Tony Hiscock, who had been Tower Captain at Canford Magna for over 40 years, we also invited Paul & Kathryn Tyson and Joe Baldwin who knew him well. Tony had also been the Branch Secretary for some years, and an HLM since 2004. He also helped Angie & Mike Jasper establish ringing at Hampreston, and had regularly attended their practices on a Thursday, so they wished to come as well.



The date was set for Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September when we were still ringing fully muffled with the tenor backstroke open. We had 10 ringers in total, and were able to ring Plain Hunt, Bob Doubles, and Grandsire Doubles. Tony was joined by 3 other residents, the Activities Lead, and the Care South mini-bus driver. It was an emotional reunion for some of Tony's friends who had not seen him for over 5 years. After tea & biscuits Angie rang down the treble and passed Tony the rope, and he immediately started chiming the bell as though he had never stopped – amazing! Tony was presented with a DVD of bells ringing, and some photos of his time at Canford.

Feedback from the Care Home the following day was that Tony remembered ringing the bell and seeing us all. They assured us that even if Tony only remembers small parts of the experience, it would give him feelings of happiness and security that will continue despite his dementia. Tony doesn't get many visitors, so the Care Home would welcome any visits from his friend's.

**Cathy Neyland**

## Kriss rings for her first Sunday Service

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September

### ***Congratulations***

Kriss for achieving Level 1 of ART and for ringing for your first Sunday service - Call changes and places....and standing your bell EVERY time. Brilliant!



## Ringling Master for 20mins October

7<sup>th</sup> October – Sam and Harry

I asked Sam and Harry who are our youngest ringers if they would like to run a 20 minute practice and they took me up on the offer. I gave them a few ideas and they came up with doing some Call Changes with a difference. As we have a fairly large band they asked 6 ringers to take a rope and Sam and Harry took it in turns to make the call into Whittingtons and back. They learnt when to make the calls and to make sure everyone had settled in before making another call. Once the first group had rung they asked them all to move round anticlockwise with the ringer on Treble coming out and another ringer moving on to the tenor. They did however make one of the ringers stay in ALL the time...their Dad Luke who is a teacher himself. I think the boys enjoyed seeing him on the other end of the teacher/learner situation.

As well as having the experience of 'being in charge' they also learnt themselves and our band were extremely proud.

Congratulations Sam and Harry.





## A First Ring for a Sunday Service

9<sup>th</sup> – October

Sam, Harry and Luke (Dad and 2 sons) have all recently passed their ART Level 1. Also Jennie and Sue have passed their Level 2. As we like to present their certificates at the beginning of one of our Sunday services we were pleased that we could get them all together on 9<sup>th</sup> October. We don't often have 3 Level 1 ringers ringing at the same time but I wanted to give it a try on this day as we had the whole family and also Alec – Granddad. As well as ringing up and down without a hitch Sam and Harry rang in rounds as well as many of our practice rounds and when Luke and Alec joined with myself and Cathy I was really pleased how they rose to the challenge and rang extremely well.



***Congratulations to all of you***





## Ringling Master for 20 mins Kriss

November

As the baby to the party of bellringing it was overwhelming but at the same time pleasing to be asked to take charge of a 20 minute slot of our Friday band practice. Trying to choose an exercise was both exciting and difficult, and though I was not actually taking part in the exercise I decided to focus on something I find challenging; rope sight and hearing your own bell.



Ringers were asked to stand by the bell they wanted to ring, but were then given a card with the number of the place they were to ring in. Initially the ringers did not let on their places to each other which proved quite tricky so I called 'Stand' and we started over with all ringers knowing each other's places. As a final challenge I asked one ringer at a time to stand facing outwards, thus

taking away from them the ability to use rope sight and having to rely entirely on hearing each bell.

Afterwards some of the ringers said how they found it challenging but at the same time helpful as they felt rope-sight and listening are skills they need to improve.

Thank you all for being such good sports, boy am I glad I wasn't having to do the ringing!  
**Kris**

## Ringling Master for 20 mins Sue

December 2<sup>nd</sup>



As my turn to act as Ringing Master fell on the same day as the Tower Christmas meal, I was able to fill my 20 minutes with a fun game of Tower Bingo, that was aimed at improving listening skills and bell control with the added benefit of chocolate rewards!

Ringers picked a card to dictate which of the 6 bells they would ring and a second card indicating the number of pulls before standing (2,4,6,8,10 or 12 pulls). Those able to stand their bell as per their chosen

card shouted bingo and got to pick a chocolate treat. Lots were given out!

I think everyone enjoyed their turn and had some fun.

I was amazed by the amount of thought and prep I had to put in to fill my short 20 minute session and extend high praise to Debbie & Cathy who organise our 2 hour practices week in, week out.

**Sue**

## Band and Choir Christmas Meal

December 2nd



On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December we had our Christmas meal after our ringing and we invited Stephen and Carrie and Elizabeth and Bill. The choir usually come to have their practice after our ringing so this year we thought it would be a nice idea to ask them to join us. Apparently this is what they used to do anyway but maybe when the ringing band was a bit smaller than our 20! However some were unable to attend so there were just 12 of us plus guests and choir making a total of 25.

We followed the same theme as last year starting with a meat or vegetarian hotpot with jacket potato and salad. We then had a break and all moved round to form a big circle where we played an intriguing pass the parcel created by Viv which had us all up and down and in fits of laughter. This was followed by some carol singing organised by the choir. We then mingled a bit to make sure we had found our partner and introduced ourselves to them (each person had a name by their serviette of someone to find and chat to during the evening) We hope this encouraged mixing between choir and band. Alec was presented with his ART Level 3 certificate following his successful Treble to a Quarter peal. We finished the evening with a limoncello desert and shortbread biscuit.

Everyone helped clear up at the end so there would have been a few dishwashers being set off later.

Our thanks go to the cooks – Helen, Sue, Viv, Jackie, Cathy, Debbie and Ann but also to everyone who helped move tables and chairs, locate plates, wash table cloths and tidy up.

## End of Year Tower Check

December 7th

As part of the end of year tower check we decided to replace a number of the stay nuts which had begun to work loose due to vibration. Nuts on bells 2 to 6 were replaced with locknuts which will not be affected by vibration. Treble bell is unaffected. Note that should these nuts have to be removed (broken stay) the locknuts should be discarded as they are single use. Spares are in the box in mid chamber.

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