

St Mary's Lytchett Matravers - 2023

During the year we have welcomed Sandy as a **new member** of the Band but sadly we have had to say goodbye to Gordon, Carol, Luke, Jennie and Jack for various reasons.

The Tower has continued to use the **ART scheme** for training which is proving successful with lots of ringers moving on to Level 3 and 4. Our practices remain from 5-7 on a Friday. We continue with a regular **Simulator** session, **Plain Hunt** session and a variety of **Methods** sessions each month.

Successes and goals are completed in **log books** or discussed with one of our trainers and recorded in supporting learner sheets. Jennie achieved Level 3 and Cathy level 5. Jack passed his M2 teaching Module. Congratulations to all. We have attended several outside courses either with the Branch, the DCA, the Guild or ART.

Cathy has continued to run **Monthly simulator sessions** throughout the year. We have progressed to ringing Plain Hunt on 5, and developing some ropesight skills, alongside the listening and rhythm skills. Some are also using the simulator to ring various methods and to learn how to treble to a method.

Gordon has continued to maintain our bells and tower in good working order and we thank him for his 5 years as Steeple Keeper. He has now handed over this position to the capable hands of Kriss Knudsen. Our Tower Correspondent Jennie having moved away from the area has now been taken over by Helen. Debbie has resigned as Tower Captain and at the moment the position is vacant.

In March Debbie attended the ART conference where she was awarded the prize for **Inspiring Leadership** and Cathy was awarded Runner up for the **Contribution Award**.



We held at least 4 **social events** including our annual outing to Brownsea. We had special ringing for the signing of the Commonwealth Charter and the King's Coronation. Some of us attended all the **Branch Practices** and meetings and when it was our turn to host the practice we also offered Cream Teas – the profits of which went to the Young Ringers. We entered 3 teams in the **Branch Novice Competition** and one of our teams won and then went forward to ring in the Guild Novice competition. We also had a team in the main Branch Striking Competition. We rang for 6 funerals but sadly no weddings. We had 4 different groups of visiting ringers.

Members of our band have rung in **23 Quarter Peals** (not counting those rung by Jack – I don't have enough fingers and toes to count those!) It was a great achievement to have our first full band Quarter Peal since I took over as Tower Captain – thank you Jack for conducting it.

Our **TC Challenge** this year was for our ringers to visit another tower practice. 7 of our ringer took up this challenge and enjoyed reporting back on their experiences.

We are pleased to be keeping our band together and indeed our numbers at 15 all of whom have moved on to ringing Plain Hunt.

Our thanks go to all those from Branch and Guild who have helped to achieve this

Debbie Phipps
(Tower Captain Lytchett Matravers)