

Bellringing Report for PCC

14th March 2025

Our Bellringing PCC rep, Ann Manning has reported back following the PPC meeting last week. There were a few discussion points which were raised at the last PCC meeting which Ann was not able to provide answers to, so hopefully we can clarify those here. If you would ever like anyone from our Band to come to a meeting to explain more, then we would be more than happy to do so.

Purrier Fund

The Purrier Fund is a Bellringing restricted fund set up in Memory of Jean Purrier to enable the bells in the tower to be maintained in perpetuity. We were going to have to use some of this for the Bell Restoration project but as the bellringers worked hard applying



for Grants and doing fundraising events, although we had to borrow from the Purrier fund we were able to pay most/all of it back for future use. We don't use it for new ropes or stays which are sometimes needed for the running of the belltower as we also have a small Bellringing Fund held by Roger which we use for these items – more below.

Bellringing Fund

Debbie believes we also have a Day to Day Bellringing fund also held by Roger but though she kept an update during the restoration project when she was Tower Captain she is unaware how much is still in this fund (It was £16,000 at some stage but it would be useful to know what this is please). For many years having taken over as Tower Captain any donations were passed on to put into this fund to cover the running costs as explained above. It would probably be 2 or 3 years ago when realising that we were getting enough donations to keep this fund topped up we suggested that any donations from visiting ringers would be given to Roger to put into the main Church fund – we would usually write on the envelope that it is a donation from Bellringers so Roger knew where it had come from.

Band Petty Cash

We have a ringing Petty Cash which is controlled by one of our ringers who was an accountant. We all put in £10 up to twice a year and this is used for our refreshments, books etc. At the end of the last 3 years we have had a surplus and rather than carry it over to the next year we have made a donation of about £50 to the church. At the moment John is in the process of transferring this to Roger for 2024.

Visiting Ringers

There is a standard donation for any visiting ringers to make to a tower throughout the country. At the moment this is £2 per rope whether you ring a Quarter Peal for 45 mins or run a course for a couple of hours. Each time we get any visitors this is passed on to Roger but sometimes if for example the Branch have a larger event the payment might equally be larger. We never have visiting ringers who do not pay a donation to the church.

Future Open Day

There seems to be some query over payment to the church for the planned Open Day. This I might equate to opening the church for visitors to come and see the Nativity scenes at Christmas. This will be run by St Mary's bellringers who will be giving up their time to set up activities in the church to encourage our villagers to come and see what bellringing is all about and maybe try out having a ring either on the Tower bells or Handbells. The ringers will be making a cake to guess the weight, making cakes to sell as refreshments and on the whole supporting St Mary's even if they live out of the village or are not regular members of the congregation. If there are any ringers who are not from our band they will be coming to support us and our church by maybe helping teach a learner, demonstrate rope splicing or helping with refreshments. The Branch nor any other bellringing organisations are involved, is purely to support our church, maybe get some new ringers and any profits made from the sale of refreshments or games will be passed on to St Mary's.

Floor above the ringing Chamber

Apparently there was some mention about something being needed to be repaired on one of the floors. We have not been told about this yet but when repairs within the tower have been needed in the past this has been discussed with the Tower Captain and decisions made on how it is to be funded.

Bellringers Contribution to the Church

The bellringers with the support of church members raised over £29,000 for the Bell Restoration and new ladders. Many are church members as well, but even those who are not support the church by making cakes or helping with Cream Teas, ringing the bells for a Sunday service, wedding, funeral or other events. Some come from as far away as Dorchester and Southbourne to maybe just ring for half an hour and go home again. They also help with the Church and Tower annual clean.

Our bellringers would like to feel they are part of the church community and thank the church for the opportunity to learn to ring the bells and support the church by ringing for services and events.