

## **Tower Report 2025 for APCM**

The number of our band members who ring every week has dwindled this year, due to some moving away, illness, and other commitments. However, we have been very fortunate to have regular ringers joining us from Hampreston, Corfe Mullen, and Lytchett Minster. We held an Open Day in May, and advertised in the parish magazine and the village Facebook page, to see if we can encourage new ringers and/or returning ringers. We currently have one new learner and another 2 hoping to start shortly.

In addition to our weekly Tower bell practices, we also held handbell practices from Feb – March in preparation for the Church APCM Meeting in April, when all of the 10 fully restored handbells were rung.

We have rung for 5 funerals and 3 weddings this year, as well as VE Day and VJ Day. We also completed 8 Quarter Peals at St. Mary's with one or more of our band members. The majority of these QP's have been achieved on the back of our monthly method sessions, which are very well supported by more experienced ringers from the Branch.

We have continued regular monthly Simulator Sessions throughout 2025, with the main emphasis on good striking at all times, which will benefit all of our Service ringing. These sessions are open to any of our regular Friday practice ringers.

Our bells have been very popular with visiting ringers this year, although we do silence the bells and use the simulator on some occasions, to avoid unnecessary annoyance to our neighbours.

Our Steeplekeeper checks the Tower monthly, which includes the ground floor, ringing chamber and bell chamber. There is a full check each time as it is easier to see subtle differences, and whether any wear is changing or not! There are no urgent repairs needed, however the ropes on bells 5 and 2 will need to be replaced in the coming year. These are the only 2 ropes that have not been replaced with pre-stretched polyester tops – we have one spare rope which we will use for number 5, but will have to purchase another one for number 2 bell. We are planning a Tower Clean before the summer.

**Cathy Neyland (Tower Captain)**