

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers



St Andrew's Biggleswade

Annual Report 2015

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Cover picture – St Andrew’s, Biggleswade

From February to June 2016, with significant financial and practical support from the Bedfordshire Association, the 1912 Gillett and Johnston ring of 8 bells at St Andrew’s Biggleswade will undergo a major restoration with augmentation to 10 by John Taylor and Co of Loughborough. Retractable lifting beams have been fitted above the frame and an electrically operated sound management system, controllable from the ringing room, is being installed. The cast iron and steel bell frame has been altered to accommodate a ring of 10 bells on one level with extra ‘H’ frames cast to match the existing components. The frame has been thoroughly cleaned and will be repainted in goose grey while it is empty.

Some of the bells’ partial tones have been slightly re-tuned to bring them into more correct alignment and they have all been cleaned by gentle sandblasting to remove generations of oil and dust. Two new trebles, given in memory of members of the congregation, were cast on 4th February to Gillett and Johnston profiles and lettered in the same style as the existing 8 bells. The 10 bells will be hung on new bearings with all fittings completely restored. New galvanised steel access and walkways will be installed in the belfry and the ringing room refurbished.

A new dumb bell for training purposes and a simulator will be installed to complete the project which will be set up as a ringing centre.

For further details, please see: www.biggleswadebells.org.uk

Information on the Association’s Website: www.bacbr.org.uk

- Association and District events diary and details.
- Association rules.
- Association Bell Restoration Fund information.
- Details of the Association’s insurance cover.
- Association Officers from 1882.
- Up to date tower contact information.
- Association 6 bell inter-district striking competition for the St Peter’s cup – rules and results.
- Association safeguarding guidance and ‘permission to ring’ form.
- Jim’s Jug raise and lower in peal challenge – rules and results.



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Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers

Established 13 March 1882

Registered Charity 263781

Patrons

Right Reverend Dr Alan Smith, Lord Bishop of St Albans
Right Reverend Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford

Association Officers 2015

President

Susan M Silver, 3 Heronslee, Shefford, SG17 5FQ
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Vice-President

Patrick J S Albon, 27 Home Close, Sharnbrook MK44 1PQ
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Honorary Life Members

Robert R Churchill, Derek A Hammond, Clifford W Izzard,
John R Pemble, Alan S Smith, Anthony H Smith

Honorary Secretary

Teresa J Brown, 10 Arnhem Place, Shefford SG17 5UJ
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Honorary Treasurer

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Honorary Peal Secretary

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Honorary Librarian

Patrick J S Albon, 27 Home Close, Sharnbrook MK44 1PQ
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Central Council Representatives

Patrick J S Albon, Richard A Horne, Susan M Silver

Honorary Independent Examiner

Richard J Hillson, 17 Mortimer Road, Kempston, Bedford MK42 8RE
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Susan M Silver, Robert Jones

Technical Advisor

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Safeguarding Coordinator

Rosemary Drewery
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Web Master

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District Secretaries and Treasurers 2016

Bedford District

Secretary: Robert Jones
St Monica, Norfolk Road, Turvey
MK43 8DU
01234 881741
bedford@bacbr.org.uk

Treasurer: Jenny Thompson
16 Langdale, Bedford
MK41 9EG
01234 216571
bedfordtreasurer@bacbr.org.uk

Biggleswade District

Secretary: Lucy Croucher
9, Brambling Close, Sandy
SG19 2UJ
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biggleswade@bacbr.org.uk

Treasurer: Peter Overfield
10 Peartree Close, Shefford
SG17 5JG
01462 815672
biggleswadetreasurer@bacbr.org.uk

Luton District

Secretary: Richard Horne
48 Burr Street, Dunstable
LU6 3AG
01582 600073
luton@bacbr.org.uk

Treasurer: Christopher Catlin
12 Millards Close, Flitwick
MK45 1AS
01525 752347
lutontreasurer@bacbr.org.uk

District Officers 2015

Bedford District

Chairman: Alex Nash
Secretary: Robert Jones
Treasurer: Jenny Thompson
District BRF Treasurer: Andrew Dennison
Ringing Master: James Saunders
Committee: Ann Desics, Roger Framp,
Adrienne Sharp, Barbara Woplin

Striking Contest Organiser: Andrew Dennison
District Outing Organiser: Adrienne Sharp
RJ Sharp Bell Fund Rep: Andrew Dennison
Association BRF Rep: Andrew Dennison
Ind. Examiner BRF: Richard Hillson
Ind. Examiner District Accounts: Tim Blunt

Biggleswade District

Chairman: Susan Silver
Secretary: Linda Garton
Treasurer: Peter Overfield
Ringing Master: Christine Williams
Committee: Teresa Brown, Linda Bryant,
Alice Scott

District BRF Treasurer: Clare Francis
RJ Sharp Bell Fund Rep: Linda Garton
Association BRF Rep: John Loveless
Ind. Examiner- BRF & Membership
Accounts: Mary Mann

Luton District

Chairman: Barry Eglesfield
Secretary: Richard Horne
Treasurer: Christopher Catlin
Ringing Master: Alan Shepherd
Training Officer & Asst. Ringing Master:
Lyndsey Brett
Committee: Elizabeth Churchill,
Robert Churchill, Barbara Fraser

Striking Contest Organiser: Mary Hartley
District BRF Treasurer: Simon Stranks
RJ Sharp Bell Fund Rep: Sally Creveul
Association BRF Rep: Simon Stranks
Ind. Examiner BRF: Susan Silver
Ind. Examiner District Accounts:
David Adams

Association Rules

1. Name and Objects

The Association shall be called 'The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers'. It shall have for its objects:

- The promotion of ringing for divine service.
- The cultivation of scientific change ringing.
- The preservation of proper belfry conduct.
- The encouragement of ringers to take part in the worshipping life of the church.
- To promote and support the care, maintenance, improvement and restoration of bells within the area of the Association.

There shall be three districts within the Association, namely the Bedford, Biggleswade and Luton Districts.

2. Membership

Register of Members

A register of members shall be kept. The contents and control of the register shall be responsibility of the General Committee. Personal information will be held in accordance with the Data Protection legislation.

Definition of Criteria for membership

Ringling: Be able to ring rounds competently.

Residency: Either ring for Sunday Service at a tower within the Association boundary or reside within the Association boundary. The Association boundary is defined as those parishes which lie within the geographical county of Bedfordshire including the parish of Eaton Socon in Cambridgeshire.

Definition of membership categories

(a) Ringing Member (Resident)

A Ringing Member (Resident) must satisfy the criteria for ringing and residency.

A Ringing Member (Resident) may be elected at any public meeting of the Association or one of its Districts provided the proposer and seconder hold the status of Voting Member. A Ringing Member (Resident) may be elected prior to a peal attempt, provided the proposer and seconder hold the status of Voting Member and the election is ratified at a public meeting of the Association or one of its Districts within three months of the peal attempt.

(b) Ringing Member (Resident, Life) - This membership category is closed as from 18 May 2013.

(c) Ringing Member (Non-Resident)

A Ringing Member (Resident) who no longer fulfils the criteria for residency may transfer to Ringing Member (Non-Resident) upon application to the Honorary Secretary. A Ringing Member (Non-Resident) who fulfils the criteria for Ringing Member (Resident) must automatically return to Ringing Member (Resident).

(d) Ringing Member (Non-Resident, Life)

A Ringing Member (Resident, Life) who no longer fulfils the criteria for residency will automatically transfer to Ringing Member (Non-Resident, Life). A Ringing Member (Non-Resident, Life) who fulfils the criteria for Ringing Member (Resident, Life) shall automatically return to Ringing Member (Resident, Life).

(e) Honorary Life Member

The Honorary Life Member category is reserved for any person who has given outstanding service to the Association. An Honorary Life Member may only be elected at an Association Annual General Meeting, provided that notice of such nomination shall be given in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The nomination must be proposed and seconded by members holding the status of Voting Member.

(f) Associate Member (Ringing)

An Associate Member (Ringing) must fulfil the criteria for ringing and must not fulfil the criteria for residency.

An Associate Member (Ringing) may be elected at any public meeting of the Association or one of its Districts provided the proposer and seconder hold the status of Voting Member.

An Associate Member (Ringing) may also be elected prior to a peal attempt, provided that the proposer and seconder hold the status of Voting Member and they are taking part in the attempt. The election must be ratified at a public meeting of the Association or one of its Districts within three months of the peal attempt.

(g) Associate Member (Non-Ringing)

An Associate Member (Non-Ringing) must not fulfil the criteria for ringing. The criterion for residency does not apply. An Associate Member (Non-Ringing) may be elected at any public meeting of the Association or one of its Districts, provided the proposer and seconder hold the status of Voting Member.

General

In order for a member to change between Ringing Member, Associate Member or Honorary Life Member an election must take place.

It is the responsibility of members to notify the appropriate Association officer of any alteration to their entry in the Register of Members.

3. Election and Voting

Only Ringing Members (Resident), Ringing Members (Resident, Life) and Honorary Life Members shall have power of voting on matters connected with the Association or one of its Districts. Such members shall be referred to as Voting Members.

A Voting Member is entitled to speak and vote at any public meeting of the Association or one of its Districts. Only Voting Members shall be eligible for election to any official position (as defined in Rule 4 and Rule 6).

Voting will take place by show of hands or secret ballot as directed by the chairman of the meeting.

Voting on the following Association matters shall be approved by an absolute majority: rule changes, finance, charitable status, election to Association office, membership and other items at the discretion of the chairman of the meeting (Association or District). All other proposals shall be approved by a working majority.

An 'Absolute Majority' is defined as a majority of all Voting Members who are present and eligible to vote at a public meeting of the Association or one of its Districts.

A 'Working Majority' is defined as a majority of those Voting Members who are present, eligible and cast a vote at a public meeting of the Association or one of its Districts.

4. Management

The management of the Association shall be vested in a General Committee consisting of a President, a Vice-President, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Librarian, an Honorary Peal Secretary, the Central Council Representatives, the three District Secretaries, two members of each District Committee and those Honorary Life Members elected. The President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Librarian, Honorary Peal Secretary and Honorary Life Members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and serve for one year. The number of Central Council Representatives permitted by the Central Council shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and serve for three years. The General Committee may appoint specialists, as required, to carry out certain roles, for example Technical Advisor, Safeguarding Co-ordinator and Web Master. In their roles, specialists will not be members of the General Committee. Any officer or Honorary Life Member shall be eligible for re-election. Each year the General Committee must appoint two of its members to be Bank Trustees. The General Committee shall have the power to co-opt if a position becomes vacant during the year. To form a quorum, there shall be a minimum of six General Committee members. A quorum must have at least one of the following officers: President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for recording the activities of the Association as a whole, the preparation of the Annual Report and membership records. The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for the recording of finances of the Association. The Honorary Peal Secretary shall record details of all peals rung by the Association and shall ensure that the rules of the Association and of the Central Council have been observed. The Technical Adviser shall assist and advise in all matters concerning bells and their fittings at churches within the Association boundary. The Safeguarding Co-ordinator shall be the focal point for all complaints, shall take the complaint seriously and pass it on in accordance with Diocesan guidelines. The Central Council Representatives shall attend meetings of the Council on instructions of the General Committee and represent the declared views of the Association.

6. Districts

Each District shall elect a District Committee, consisting of a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and at least four other members, with other officers as they may find necessary. Each Treasurer shall collect the subscriptions of members and other monies payable to the Association's funds. Each District shall report annually on its activities and membership.

7. Subscription

The subscription of each member (who is liable to pay an annual subscription) shall be due on January 1st and shall be paid before the Association Annual General Meeting in each year. Membership shall cease as from 1st January, if the subscription is not paid within the specified time period. The appropriate subscription for a new member shall be payable upon election.

The subscription level for each membership category and its effective date (as defined below) shall be recommended by the General Committee and approved at an Association Annual General Meeting. If the Association Annual General Meeting rejects the recommended subscription levels, the existing subscription levels will then remain in force until such time as the General Committee make further recommendations which are accepted by the Annual General Meeting.

Definition of Subscription Levels for Each Membership Category

(a) Ringing Member (Resident)

There shall be three classes of Ringing Member (Resident):- Under 19, 19 to 64 and 65 and over.

The age requirement shall be determined by the age of the member at the 1st January in each year. Each member shall pay an annual subscription.

(b) Ringing Member (Resident, Life)

This membership category is closed as from 18 May 2013.

(c) Ringing Member (Non-Resident)

A Ringing Member (Resident) who has paid five or more consecutive annual subscriptions may transfer to Ringing Member (Non-Resident) without further payment; otherwise the transfer may be made by payment of a single fee. Such transfers shall be deemed to begin on 1st January after the date of transfer.

(d) Ringing Member (Non-Resident, Life)

Such transfers shall be deemed to begin on 1st January after the date of transfer. No payment is required.

(e) Honorary Life Member

Exempt from subscription payments.

(f) Associate Member (Ringing)

Each member shall pay a single payment upon election.

(g) Associate Member (Non-Ringing)

Each member shall pay an annual payment.

A table giving subscription rates for each membership category shall be published in the Annual Report.

8. Peals

All peals rung by the Association shall be recorded in the Annual Report, provided that all those taking part are Ringing Members, Honorary Life Members or Associate Members (Ringing). Full details of the peal including the composition, together with the peal fee shall be given to the Honorary Peal Secretary by the conductor within four weeks or not later than the 14th January in the following year, whichever date is earlier. It is the responsibility of the conductor to ensure compliance with these rules. The peal fee and its effective date shall be set by the General Committee and published in the Annual Report.

9. Annual Report

A report shall be published annually before the Association Annual General Meeting, containing a list of officers, the Association rules, the Committee's reports, statements of accounts, peals rung during the year, other announcements as the General Committee shall find necessary and a list of members.

The list of members shall be compiled as follows:

- a) Honorary Life Members, Ringing Members (Resident), Ringing Members (Resident, Life) and Associate Members (Non-Ringing) annually;
- b) Ringing Members (Non-Resident) and Ringing Members (Non-Resident, Life) in the year of transfer;
- c) Associate Members (Ringing) in the year of election.

Each member listed in the Annual Report shall be entitled to a copy of the Annual Report; others may purchase copies if available. The fee shall be set by the General Committee and published in the Annual Report.

10. Meetings

The time and date of the Association Annual General Meeting together with the District in which it is to be held shall be fixed by the previous Association Annual General Meeting. The General Committee shall have power to arrange other meetings of the Association when required. Each District shall hold an Annual District Meeting in January and monthly meetings when possible.

11. Accounts

The General Committee must:

- Authorise opening and closing all Association bank accounts, and
- Review all bank accounts regularly to make sure that charges and/or interest rates are competitive.

The Honorary Treasurer and Bank Trustees must be signatories and any two of these three must authorise payments and/or withdrawals

An Independent Examiner shall be appointed at the Association Annual General Meeting to examine the accounts of the Association at the end of each financial year.

12. Rule Alteration

All alterations or additions to the Rules shall be made at the Association Annual General Meeting and notice of any alterations or additions shall be given in writing to the Honorary Secretary in full, at least 14 days previous to such a meeting.

13. Affiliation

The Association shall be affiliated to the Central Council and shall abide by the Rules and Decisions thereof.

14. Interpretation of Rules

The interpretation of these Rules, and matters not covered by them, shall be finally decided by the General Committee.

15. Dissolution of the Association

If the Trustees decide that it is necessary, or advisable, to dissolve the Association, they must present a

resolution to a General Meeting called for this purpose. The resolution must be agreed by at least a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. The resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets remaining after satisfying any outstanding debts and liabilities. The assets must not be distributed to Association members; they shall be given, or transferred to, a charitable institution(s) that have objects similar to all, or some, of the Association's objects, as the Association may agree. If this is not possible, the assets may be given or transferred to some other charitable purpose.

The Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund Code of Practice

1. The fund shall be known as the Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund.
2. Objectives. The objective of the fund shall be to advance the Christian Religion by:
 - (a) Providing financial assistance in the form of loans to churches within the territory covered by the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers for the following purposes:-
 - (i) Augmentation, recasting, or any other work on bells, frames and fittings
 - (ii) Major work in ringing rooms, e.g. floors
 - (iii) Work to the fabric of towers, e.g. sound control
 - (iv) Provision of and hanging of new peals.
 - (b) Providing grants to the Association General Committee and the District Committees for the following educational purposes:-
 - (i) Training courses on bell ringing
 - (ii) Educational materials relating to bells and bell ringing
 - (iii) Promotion of bell ringing.
3. Administration. The administrators of the fund shall be known as the 'Fund Committee'. The Fund Committee shall comprise one member from each of the three Districts of the Association, together with the President and the Honorary Secretary of the Association. The Fund Committee shall be empowered to co-opt from the Districts to fill vacancies as necessary. The Fund Committee shall be empowered to approve or reject applications for loans and grants. Applications for loans and grants shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary. Having received an application for a loan or grant, the Honorary Secretary shall call a meeting of the Fund Committee within twenty one days. The Honorary Treasurer and the Trustees of the Association shall be the trustees of the fund, any two of whom shall be cheque signatories.
4. Income and Investment. The responsibility for fund raising and investment shall be that of the General Committee of the Association. The General Committee of the Association shall have the power to borrow money for the purposes of the Fund.
5. Applications. Applications for a loan shall include all relevant details as follows: - An estimate of the proposed work, a specification of the proposed work and details of the financing scheme. Duration of the loan shall be twelve months. An extension of the loan may be applied for. Interest rates on loans shall be decided by the General Committee. A 'Form of Agreement' shall accompany all loans. No loan shall be for less than £250 or such a sum as shall be decided by the General Committee. Applications for a grant shall include a brief description of the proposal, estimated expenditure and financing available. A grant shall only be paid to defray actual expenses and proof of expenditure must be supplied.
6. Reports and accounts. The General Treasurer shall prepare accounts for the fund each year ending 31st December. The accounts shall be included within the body of the Association accounts. A report of the activities of the fund shall be presented to the Association AGM by the Fund Committee.
7. Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of the fund the accrued assets of the fund shall be paid into the General Fund of the Association.
8. Provision for changes to the code of practice. No amendment of; addition to; or deletion from this code of practice shall be made which would cause the Association to cease to be a charity at law. Propositions for changes shall be made at the Association's AGM.

Decisions of the General Committee

20th May 2000: Rule 5. The interest rate for loans is nil for the first twelve months. Should the loan period be extended, interest will be charged at the rate that would have applied had the loan not been made.

Subscription rates and other charges 2016		
Membership Category	Rate	Details
Associate Ringing	£5.00	Payable on election
Associate Non-ringing	£2.50	Payable on election / annual
Resident Ringing – under 19s	£2.50	Payable on election / annual
Resident Ringing – 19 and over	£10.00	Payable on election / annual of which £5 is passed to the Association Bell Restoration Fund
Transfer between categories		
From Resident Ringing to Non-resident Ringing	£10.00 (final payment)	Only after paying up to four consecutive annual subscriptions
From Resident Ringing to Non-resident Ringing	£0	Only after paying five or more consecutive annual subscriptions
From Non-resident Ringing to Resident Ringing	£10	Payable on 1st January the following year
From Non-resident Ringing Life to Resident Ringing Life	£0	
Other fees and charges		
Peal Fee	£0.50	Per ringer per peal
Annual report	£5.00	Charge for non-members
Badge	£2.00	Available from District Secretaries

BEDFORD DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

‘HEADSTOCK’

Editor: Maureen Hall

Email: maureensgpost@gmail.com

Association Officer Reports

President's Report

2015 was another busy year for the Association. It started with the usual round of Annual District Meetings, soon followed by the General Committee Meeting. Each District has held full programmes, including monthly meetings, outings, training sessions, quarter-peal days and various social events. The Association AGM was held in May hosted by the Luton District at Leighton Buzzard.

On the 6 June the Association competed in the Ridgman Trophy contest at Wisbech. This is a 10 bell striking competition for Eastern Region Associations and the test piece was a half course of Cambridge Royal. For several of the team it was their first competition on 10 bells and it was good to see two of our Ringing World National Youth Competition team taking part. The draw takes place in advance of the competition and we were drawn last out of eight teams, this did give the band the opportunity of fitting in a morning practice at Kettering on the way to Wisbech. The extra practice obviously helped as we came third, only 2% behind the Suffolk Guild and some distance ahead of the fourth placed team. Thanks go to Linda Garton for making the arrangements.

2015 was also another very successful year for our young ringers as was witnessed on the 11 July in Oxford at the Ringing World National Youth Contest, when those representing the Association retained The Whitechapel Trophy for the third year running. The Bedfordshire Team were, Alice and Clarrie Scott, (Biggleswade), Melissa Nash (St Andrew's Bedford), Sammi Brett (Linslade), Lizzie Pawley (Luton District), Cameron White-Spunner (Houghton Regis), Dean De-Matteis (Husborne Crawley) and Thomas Monks (Eaton Bray) and were under the expert guidance of Linda Garton and Lyndsey Brett. It was a fantastic 'team' effort and I am still not sure if it was the participants or the supporters who were more excited when the result was announced. Another wonderful effort! We also had two travelling reserves, Jonathan Nash (St Andrews Bedford) and Becca Smith (Linslade) and they were able to take part in all the activities laid on for the competitors. We will be entering a team in the 2016 competition in London on 2 July, when, as defending champions we will be hoping to win the trophy for a fourth successive year.

Alice and Cameron have rung in all five of the competitions so far and 2015 was to be Alice's last as she has now exceeded the age limit. As Alice has rung the treble in all of the contests we now need to find another expert treble ringer!

I cannot praise our young ringers highly enough for their efforts and commitment to the Association. We continue to run a monthly 'get together' on the 4th Sunday afternoon which is regularly attended by 15 to 20 young ringers and the sessions are structured for them. This has given them all the opportunity of meeting ringers of a similar age across the Association. I would also like to thank all the ringers and parents who give up their Sunday afternoon to transport these youngsters to the relevant tower and to Linda Garton and Lyndsey Brett for running them.

The Association Striking Contests took place in September hosted by the Biggleswade District on the back six at Clifton. This year all three Districts plus a scratch team entered the Young Ringers Competition for the Melville Cup. The Biggleswade District did have to enlist the help of a couple of ringers from the Bedford District to make up their team, the important point being that all young ringers who came along on the day were able to take part in the Competition. The cup was won by Bedford Band with an excellent exhibition of rounds ringing. The St Peter's Cup was a very closely fought contest with the winners being Kempston.

Congratulations go to both of these teams and thanks go to the Clifton and Campton ringers for the excellent tea.

In October an outing was arranged for the Young Ringers to Cambridge to ring at five towers including the 12 at Great St Mary and the heavy 8 at the Catholic Church. 13 young ringers came along with about the same number of helpers so there were some crowded ringing rooms! Thanks go to John Loveless for suggesting and arranging the outing.

As you will have been aware there was a Central Council initiative to encourage 300 ringers to ring their 1st first peal during 2015. I am delighted to report that fifteen of our members achieved this goal during the year. More on this is covered elsewhere in the report. Congratulations to all.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has suggested, arranged, assisted and supported Association events and activities this year, and I look forward to 2016 being an equally active and successful year.

Sue Silver, President

Treasurer's Report

This year we are showing a small surplus of £153.62. Peal fee income increased by £10 and gift aid by £40. We also received generous donations of £140, this being the surplus from the AGM teas and the striking competition teas. Our membership now seems to have steadied, this year we only lost four adult members compared to twenty five last year and gained three junior members.

We were able to transfer £2125.81 into the Association BRF which now stands at £8442.92.

Barbara Fraser, Honorary Treasurer

Peal Secretary's Report

This year saw 28 peals being rung, which is a reversal of the recent downward trend; these were rung by 91 members in 17 towers, two of which were outside our geographical boundary.

Encouraged by the Central Council's initiative to increase the number of people ringing their first peal, 15 of our members achieved this milestone during the year. Indeed as a proportion of Association membership, Bedfordshire was right at the top of the list. The experience of our first pealers ranged from a year or so up to... shall we say a long time? We congratulate them all and hope that they continue and expand their repertoires in coming years.

It would be unfair to pick out any particular first performance, except to mention that Alan Shepherd was inveigled to ring his first handbell peal, by two of his pupils. I know he is proud of them, but at times, when they encourage him into greater complexities, I wonder if he regrets teaching them to ring handbells.

Anthony Smith, Honorary Peal Secretary

Points from the peals and details of peals rung for the Association in 2015 are on pages 49 to 53.

Librarian's Report

2015 was again a quiet year with only one item out on loan. One enquiry regarding Association badges was also dealt with.

In line with our policy to acquire the Ringing World in machine-readable format as

and when it becomes available, a copy of the DVD containing the years 1971 to 2000 was purchased during the year. I assume that this will be the last one for some time; however it does allow machine searches of all the Ringing Worlds from their start in 1911 through to 2000.

The update of the library database on the Association's website promised last year did not materialise; however it is still on my list of things to do.

I continue to be grateful to Dunstable Church authorities for providing a home for the library at Chews House and Alan Shepherd for acting as its custodian.

Patrick Albon, Honorary Librarian

Technical Advisor's Report

One visit was carried out this year.

Great Barford

I was asked by the incumbent to inspect the bells after a slider was broken on one of the bells.

The western tower contains a ring of five bells cast by Hugh Watts II in 1636/7 which are rung from the ground floor. The bells are hung in a massive low-side wooden frame which was strengthened when the bells were re-hung by John Taylor & Sons in 1905. The bells are hung on cast-iron box section headstocks which are in a rusty condition fitted with castle top plain bearings. All the bells are fitted with independent crown stapled clappers the bushes of which are all worn. The bells have been liberally greased over the years a quantity of which has run down onto the frame. I suggested that all frame bolts, wheel bolts, bell bolts, etc. be checked for tightness; all grease be cleaned off the frame; lift the bells and clean the plain bearings and housings to remove all grease and dirt and then lubricate with a suitable oil. I also suggested that the cast-iron headstocks be wire brushed and then painted with good quality paint. I also suggested that all the clappers be re-bushed.

For the future I suggested that the bells should be inspected by a reputable bell founder/bell hanger.

Roger Kendrick, Technical Advisor

Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund Committee Report

This year's Committee were Andrew Dennison (Bedford District), Linda Garton (Biggleswade District), Sally Creveul (Luton District), Sue Silver and Teresa Brown. We awarded one new grant:

Biggleswade District (on behalf of the Association) – tower donation costs for Bedfordshire Young Ringers monthly, structured training sessions: a grant of up to £120 to provide 12 x £10 tower donations.

Updates on previously awarded grants:

1. Bedford District, River Festival July 2014: a £315 grant to cover River Festival pitch costs was awarded in 2014. As reported last year, Bedford Borough Council agreed to reduce this cost to £165 and the account wasn't settled until this year.

2. St Peter and St Paul, Cranfield: a grant of £765 (maximum) was awarded in 2014 towards the cost of providing simulator equipment for training purposes. However, the company selected by the Cranfield ringers were revising their specifications and the equipment wasn't available to buy in 2015. It is hoped

that this can be progressed in 2016.

3. St Andrews Biggleswade: In 2014 a grant of £9000 was awarded towards the cost of a sound management system to enable the tower to be used as a recognised Central Council Ringing Centre and available for use by the whole Association. One of the stipulations of the award was that the grant be taken up by 31 December 2015. Over the course of the year it was apparent that, because a significant delay in obtaining the faculty, this wouldn't be achievable.

The delays were due to additional reports being required by the Diocesan Bell Advisor, unforeseen work on the ringing chamber ceiling and tower clock and the faculty application being lost in the 'Diocesan system'. The faculty wasn't formally granted until 16 October which meant that it was impossible to meet the original work scheme proposed by Taylor's Bell Foundry.

As a result, the Committee unanimously agreed to extend the deadline for the grant to be taken up to 1 June 2016. New bells were due to be cast on 4 February 2016 and tower work begun the week after. Taylor's and the ringers are confident that the project will be completed by this date.

The 2014 RJ Sharp Committee's report generated a discussion at the February General Committee meeting. The legality of one of our decisions was queried - had we had acted within the RJ Sharp Code of Practice? After considerable discussion a vote that we had acted legitimately was taken and passed by a majority.

Review of the RJ Sharp Fund

The General Committee also asked us in February to reconsider our 2014 review recommendation not to change the Code of Practice or the Fund's scope to only provide 'training and education' grants.

The RJ Sharp Committee agreed to recommend that:

- as the R J Sharp Fund is distinct from the Association Bell Restoration Fund, with no conflict or overlap between the two, there is still no need to make any changes to the current Code of Practice or make it a 'training and education' only Fund; and
- The General Committee should consider a 'reserves policy' for this Fund.

Teresa Brown, Honorary Secretary

Association Bell Restoration Fund Report

2015 was the second full operational year for the Association Bell Restoration Fund (BRF). This year the Fund has increased by £2125.81 from £6317.11 to £ 8442.92. This level of income is likely to become the more usual expected amount, with no transfer of surplus from Association's General Fund this year.

Despite a few enquiries, no applications for grant were received this year. Information about the BRF is on page 17 and on the website and I encourage applications from church authorities for bell projects that are within the scope of the Fund.

This year's District representatives were Andrew Dennison (Bedford District), John Loveless (Biggleswade District) and Simon Stranks (Luton District).

Thanks to those who made personal donations and to all members who supported the BRF by paying a subscription this year.

Teresa Brown, Honorary Secretary

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Accounts

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers Charity Registration 263781

Summary of District Accounts For the year ending 31 December 2015

			Bedford		Biggl'wade		Luton		TOTAL 2015		2014
			£	No	£	No	£	No	£		£
Ringing Member (Resident)	@	10.00	87	870.00	87	870.00	117	1170.00	291	2910.00	2950.00
Ringing Member (Resident) Under 19s	@	2.50	6	15.00	11	27.50	19	47.50	36	90.00	85.00
Associate Member (Ringing)	@	5.00	1	5.00	2	10.00			3	15.00	35.00
Associate Member (Non Ring)	@	2.50	4	10.00					4	10.00	12.50
Arrears	@	10.00	2	20.00					2	20.00	10.00
Sale of Badges	@	2.00			4	8.00	3	6.00	7	14.00	
Sale of Reports	@	5.00									5.00
Total Receipts				920.00		915.50		1223.00		3059.00	3097.50
Less Admin Expenses				-5.98		-7.50		-5.89		-19.37	-12.49
Net Receipts (To Receipts & Payments A/c)				914.02		908.00		1217.61		3039.63	3085.01
Notes											
Cash balance retained b/f				20.09		13.48		0.00		33.57	21.06
Income for Year				920.00		915.50		1223.50		3059.00	3097.50
Total				940.09		928.98		1223.50		3092.57	3118.56
Less amount paid to Assoc. Lloyds A/c				-832.50		-606.98		-1125.11		-2564.59	-2757.50
Less direct payments into Assoc. Lloyds A/c				-80.00		-312.50		-92.50		-485.00	-315.00
Less expenses				-5.98		-7.50		-5.89		-19.37	-12.49
Net cash balance c/f				21.61		2.00		0.00		23.61	33.57

Receipts and Payments

For the year ending 31 December 2015

<u>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</u>		2015	2014		2015	2014
		£	£		£	£
Receipts				Payments		
Income				Charity Expenditure		
Subscriptions				Central Council Affiliation Fees	90.00	90.00
Annual Membership - Adults	2910.00	2950.00		Printing of Annual Report	466.00	456.00
Annual Membership - Under 19	90.00	85.00		Other Expenditure		
Associate Member (Ringing)	15.00	10.00		Districts Administration Expenses	19.37	12.49
Assoc Member (Non Ringing)	10.00	37.50		Insurance for Tech. Adviser		
Arrears	20.00	10.00		& Public Liability	399.80	410.23
Trading				Ringing World Notices	200.00	
Sale of Association Badges	14.00			Committee Meeting - Room Hire 2014	25.00	
Sale of Reports		16.00		Committee Meeting - Room Hire 2015	25.00	
Income from Report Adverts	95.00	95.00		Young Ringers Subs - for competition	25.00	25.00
Other				Young Ringers Events Expenses	146.05	77.77
Compensation - Lloyds Bank		25.00		Young Ringers T-Shirts		120.00
Peal Fees	95.50	86.00		Ringing World DVDs	70.00	
Gift Aid - HMRC	290.11	250.55		Gifts for Striking Competition Judges	30.00	27.19
Donation from AGM Tea	74.00	25.00		50% Annual Adult Subs to BRF	1455.00	1475.00
Donation from River Festival		25.40		Associate Ringing Member Subs to BRF	15.00	35.00
Donation Biggleswade Ringers		33.50		Peal Fees to BRF	95.50	86.00
Donation Mike Matthews	50.00	50.00		Surplus from Previous years to BRF		2610.54
Donation Richard Reeves	10.00			Donations to BRF	215.00	138.90
Donation Sue Silver	10.00			Gift Aid to BRF	290.11	250.55
Donation Scott family	5.00	5.00		Investment Interest to BRF	11.74	22.42
Donation striking comp teas	66.00			Expenses - President		20.99
Investment income				Expenses - Secretary	27.37	22.60
Interest	11.74	22.42		Expenses - Association Treasurer	6.79	6.22
Total Receipts		3766.35	3726.37	Total Payments	3612.73	5886.90
				Balances		
				Cash Funds at 31.12.2014	2918.70	5079.23
				Net Receipts/Payments for the Year 2015	153.62	-2160.53
				Cash Funds at 31.12.2015	3072.32	2918.70
DESIGNATED FUNDS						
THE RONALD J SHARP FUND						
Receipts				Payments		
Investment Income				Hire Charnborough Ring - River Festival		305.00
Interest	127.06	140.51		River Festival Pitch 2014	165.00	
				Expenses - Bell Maintenance Course		40.00
				Model Bell for Campton		160.00
				Young Ringers - use of bells for practices	100.00	90.00
				Hall Hire & Ringing St Andrew Bedford - Training		115.00
Total Receipts		127.06	140.51	Total Payments	265.00	710.00
				Balances		
				Cash Funds at 31.12.2014	18467.89	19037.38
				Net Receipts for the Year 2015	-137.94	-569.49
				Cash Funds at 31.12.2015	18329.95	18467.89
BELL RESTORATION FUND						
Receipts				Payments		
Balance of Reserve A/c			£			
50% Adult Ringing Member Subs	1455.00	1475.00				
Associate Ringing Member Subs	15.00	35.00				
Peal Fees	95.50	86.00				
Surplus from Previous Years		2610.54				
Donations	215.00	138.90				
HMRC Gift Aid	290.11	250.55				
Interest General A/c	11.74	22.42				
Interest	43.46	12.46				
Total Receipts		2125.81	5884.87	Total Payments	0.00	0.00
				Balances		
				Cash Funds at 31.12.2014	6317.11	432.24
				Net Receipts for the Year 2015	2125.81	5884.87
				Cash Funds at 31.12.2015	8442.92	6317.11

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

At 31 December 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
Cash and Bank Deposits		
1. General Fund		
Lloyds Bank Current Account	1124.25	2148.27
Lloyds Bank Bond	1918.94	724.55
Cash held by Association Officers	29.13	45.88
Total	3072.32	2918.70
2. The Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund		
Lloyds Bank Bond	18329.95	18467.89
Total	18239.95	18487.89
3. Bell Restoration Fund		
Lloyds Bank Bond	8442.92	6317.11
Total	8442.92	6317.11
Other Monetary Assets		
Debtors		
Ringing World Balance	165.75	71.99
Investment Assets		
None		
Liabilities (items owed by the Charity)		
Current Liabilities		NIL
Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund – re River Festival		165.00
Fixed Assets - Estimated Value		
Library - Books, Periodicals and DVDs	775.00	775.00
President's Badge	145.00	145.00
St Peter's Cup	120.00	120.00
St Giles' Cup	30.00	30.00
The Melville Cup	500.00	500.00
C Edward Jeffries Trophy (Bedford District)	250.00	250.00
Gavel	10.00	10.00
Reading Glass	10.00	10.00
Note		
Stock of badges - 85	136.00	147.20

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

(a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011, and

(b) to prepare accounts which accord to the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act, have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Richard J Hillson

4 February 2016

District Bell Funds

For the year ending 31 December 2015

	Bedford	Biggleswade	Luton	TOTAL 2015	2014
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	16719.59	11224.44	8450.33	36394.36	30197.50
Income	556.76	807.10	369.55	1733.41	7562.48
Interest	97.26	4.78	39.72	141.76	110.74
Less Grants		-200.00		-200.00	-1300.00
Less Luton BRF 50 Club			-115.00	-115.00	-170.00
Administration			-12.72	-12.72	-6.36
Total	17373.61	11836.32	8731.88	37941.81	36394.36

Notes to the Accounts

Future Liabilities including grants approved:

Biggleswade	8500.00
Leighton Buzzard	2000.00

District Bell Fund Grants made in 2015

Biggleswade District: Arlesey - £200 towards the repair to the tenor wheel.

Luton District: Leighton Buzzard - £2000 for work to strengthen the bell frame.

Contacts for District Bell Fund grant applications

Bedford District Bell Restoration Fund, Registered Charity 284250

Robert Jones, St Monica, Norfolk Road, Turvey, MK43 8DU
01234 881741 bedforddistrictbrf@bacbr.org.uk

Biggleswade District Belfry Repair Fund, Registered Charity 280785

Clare Francis, 32 Gravenhurst Road, Campton, SG17 5NY
07977 442179 biggleswadedistrictbrf@bacbr.org.uk

Luton District Belfry Repair Fund, Registered Charity 280164

Simon Stranks, 43 High Road, Shillington, SG5 3LL
01462 713036 lutondistrictbrf@bacbr.org.uk

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Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund

The Association BRF was set up to give grants to church authorities within our area towards work to provide, restore, maintain and improve bells and bell installations. The Fund's income is supported by a proportion of every adult member's annual subscription.

After the second full year of operation there is approximately £8400 in the Fund. This isn't a large amount, compared with the high cost of most bell projects, and we wish to build the Fund up over the coming years so that significant grants can be given. However, the General Committee is keen to promote the Fund and would like to encourage churches embarking on bell projects, which are within the Fund's scope, to consider making an application.

Full details and an application form are available on the website or from the Association Secretary: Teresa Brown, 10 Arnhem Place, Shefford, SG17 5UJ. secretary@bacbr.org.uk

If you, or your tower, would like to make a donation to the Fund or have any fundraising ideas please get in touch with any Association Officer who will be delighted to hear from you.

District Reports

Bedford District

The Annual District Meeting was held at Cardington and there was no change in the District's officers. The C Edward Jeffries Memorial Trophy for young ringers was awarded to Jonathan Nash of St. Andrew's, Bedford.

In addition to our monthly pattern of ringing and quarterly business meetings we have continued to have monthly practices at St Paul's, Bedford which have attempted to give greater opportunity to all to ring on higher numbers although attendance has often been quite low.

Our District Outing at the start of May was to the Stamford/Peterborough area visiting Easton-on-the-Hill, Thornhaugh, Wansford, Yarwell, Alwalton and Warmington.

Adrienne Sharp had once again crafted an enjoyable day out, including some interesting church buildings and bells within the capabilities of the group.

Over the summer we invited the District's young ringers to augment a series of tower practices and were able to offer some of them support to ring new things. We were able to enter a district band for the Association's Melville Cup Young Ringers' Striking Contest and came out winners. Congratulations to our team of Melissa and Jonathan from St. Andrew's Bedford, David from Oakley and Louise, Jacob and Lawrence from Turvey. Kempston made it a double for the District by winning the Association Striking Competition.

Kempston had qualified from District Striking Competition held at the newly refurbished bells at Bletsoe in June. They won the method section ahead of Bromham and three others. Oakley beat Goldington and Felmersham to take the rounds trophy.

Towards the end of the year five of our District members, namely Lisa Adams, Jonathan Nash, Melissa Nash, George Saunders and Ian Townsend rang their first peals. Our very warm congratulations to them all.

We are grateful to the churches that have hosted us through the year and thank our Ringing Master, James Saunders, for overseeing our ringing at meetings and the District Committee for their work over the year.

Alex Nash, District Chairman

Biggleswade District

It has been another busy year of meetings and events for the District, some of which are detailed below.

Over the weekend of 14/15 February we rang four quarter peals, which included a first quarter at first attempt and a first inside.

The District Striking Competition was held at Pottton in March. Biggleswade were the winners in the change ringing competition and Campton the rounds competition.

Biggleswade together with Eaton Socon should have represented the District at the Association Competition in September at Clifton but unfortunately neither could raise a team on finals day, so that honour then fell to Campton. My thanks go to Linda Garton for organising the day and to the judges Nick and Natalie Brett from Linslade.

The Annual Outing took place on the 9th May with 5 towers in the Huntingdon area visited. As this was the date that bells were requested to be rung at 11am for the 70th Anniversary of VE Day we observed this at our second tower where Guy Scott led us in short act of remembrance before we rang. It was a very enjoyable day and excellently organised by Chris Williams.

On the 11 July the National Young Ringers Competition took place in Oxford and what a day it turned out to be as Bedfordshire Young Ringers followed up their previous triumphs in York and Worcester by retaining the trophy for a third year. Words cannot describe the elated feeling of the team and supporters alike. This District was represented by Alice and Clarrie Scott. Alice has rung in all five of the National Young Ringers Competitions and this year was the last that she could take part in. Congratulations and thank you Alice.

The Association striking competitions in September were hosted by this District at Clifton. The afternoon started with the Melville Cup Competition for the young ringers. The Biggleswade District band had to borrow a couple of ringers from the Bedford District in order to make up a band and although relatively inexperienced compared to the other Districts gave a very good account of themselves. The St Peter's Cup was again a very close competition and was won by the Kempston band with Campton 5th.

As I am sure that you have been aware there was a drive on in 2015 to get 300 people to ring their first peal, a target that was exceeded by the end of November. There have been fifteen ringers in the Association who have achieved their first peal in 2015. Those from the District are Clarrie Scott, Clive Moncrieff, Lucy Croucher and Charlotte Francis. Congratulations!

The December meeting was, as always, devoted to the Christmas Social organised by the Biggleswade ringers. Thank you to all those who helped out, too numerous to mention by name, who, as always, made it such a good occasion.

Finally thank you to the Committee for their hard work and support throughout the year.

Sue Silver, District Chairman

Luton District

Events and meetings in the Luton District have followed much the same pattern as in previous years.

Eleven meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 21, which is similar to last year. However, meeting attendance numbers ranged from 11 for the September meeting at Houghton Regis to 48 for the striking contest at Flitwick in March. The earlier times of meetings during the winter months continues to be well supported. At the District AGM in January the existing officers were re-elected for a further year and I am pleased to welcome Mary Hartley to the Committee as Striking Competition Organiser. The District also hosted the Association A.G.M., which was held at Leighton Buzzard in May. My thanks go to those who helped with arrangements on the day.

We elected eleven new members during the past year, plus three previous members who were re-elected. The membership within our District is 140, of which there are 19 young ringers. It is good for the future to see there are young ringers in our membership but we do need to continue to encourage young (and older) ringers to take up and progress in the Exercise.

The District striking contest, held in March at Flitwick, was judged by Stephen Stanford and Sarah-Louise Ward from Elstow. Three teams entered the Method section. In a reversal of the previous year, Linslade were placed first and Dunstable second. A team from Husborne Crawley was placed third. Four teams entered the Rounds and Call changes section with Eaton Bray first, Flitwick second, Dunstable third and Houghton Regis fourth.

The Association Striking Competitions were held at Clifton in September. In the St. Peters cup competition Linslade were placed second and Dunstable a close third. In the Melville cup competition, which is for the young ringers, the Bedford District band was placed first, with the Luton District band being placed second.

On the 11th July, five young ringers from this District were part of the winning team in The National Young Ringers Striking competition held at St. Thomas, Oxford. This is the third time they have won this prestigious event and my congratulations go to all involved in this. It is also good to see that our young ringers are keen to attend the monthly Sunday afternoon meetings and had an enjoyable outing to Cambridge in October. We should not forget the support and organisation provided by the adult 'helpers' without whom these events would not happen.

I would like to conclude by extending my sincere thanks to Incumbents and Tower contacts for the use of the bells and to all of you for your support during the past year.

Barry Eglesfield, District Chairman

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- Sort Code 30-94-47
- Use your name as the reference

Please let your District Treasurer know if you've set this up.

Association 2016 Diary – see www.bacbr.org.uk for current details			
Association AGM	Sat 21 May	Bedford St Paul	See website
Ridgman Trophy	Sat 4 June	Holy Cross, Daventry	
Ringling World National Youth Contest	Sat 2 July	London – details at http://rwnyc.ringingworld.co.uk	
Melville Cup Striking Competition for Young Ringers	Sat 17 September	Eaton Bray	Draw 3.30pm
St Peter's Cup Six Bell Striking Competition	Sat 17 September	Eaton Bray	Draw 5.00pm
2017 Forward Look			
Biggleswade District ADM	Sat 14 January	Ampthill	Service 4.30pm Tea 5.15pm Meeting 6.00pm
Bedford District ADM	Sat 21 January	Bedford St Peter	4.00 – 8.30pm
Luton District ADM	Sat 28 January	Aspley Guise	Ringling 3.30pm Service 4.30pm Tea 5.00pm Meeting 6.00pm
Association AGM	Sat 20 May 2017	Biggleswade District	To be confirmed
Association Striking Competitions	Sat 16 September 2017	Bedford District	To be confirmed

Member and Tower Listing Notes

Ringling times are 24-hour clock

The Sunday service times shown are when ringling starts, **not** the time of the service.

PN – Practice night

GF – Ground floor ring

AC – Anti-clockwise ring

* denotes Life Member ♦ denotes Honorary Life Member

Tenor weights are given as hundredweights-quarters-pounds.

An Ordnance Survey grid reference is given for each tower.

Corrections and Amendments

Please send corrections or changes of tower/contact details to Association Secretary, Teresa Brown.

10 Arnhem Place, Shefford, SG17 5UJ

secretary@bacbr.org.uk

List of Members and Towers

Honorary Life Members

Robert R Churchill, Derek A Hammond, Clifford W Izzard, John Pemble,
Alan S Smith (elected 2015), Anthony H Smith

Non-Resident Life Members

James Buckenham, Mike Cassell, Geoffrey Dann, Keith H Fleming, Avril Ivin,
David Lazzerini, Lynda Lazzerini, Brian Makeham, Martyn J Marriott, Clive G Smith

Associate Non-Ringing Members

Emily Entwistle Bedford St Peter; Miriam Clark - Elstow;
Nicholas Fowler and Hazel Spencer - Goldington

Associate Ringing Members elected in 2015

Jonathan Spencer (1156), James E Benner (1666), Timothy R Forster (1673)

Resident Members transferred to Non-Resident Membership

Harriet Moncreiff

Resident Ringing Members Elected in 2015

Name	No.	Tower	Date
Shaun Somerville	1663	Clifton	10 January
Paul Chandler	1664	Biggleswade	10 January
Anna Pennant	1665	Biggleswade	10 January
Jonathan Nash	1150	Bedford, St Andrew	17 January
Caroline Nash	1151	Bedford, St Andrew	17 January
Anna Townsend	1152	Kempston	17 January
Ian Townsend	1153	Kempston	17 January
Rosie Billington	2228	Cranfield	24 January
Steve Capper	2229	Cranfield	24 January
Garth Holman	2230	Cranfield	24 January
Alan Morfee	2231	Cranfield	24 January
Catherine Morfee	2232	Cranfield	24 January
Andrew Pearson	2233	Cranfield	24 January
Louisa Smith	2144	Linslade	24 January
Nicola Shepherd	2165	Linslade	24 January
David Shaw	1154	Riseley	18 April
George Saunders	1155	Bedford, St Paul	18 April
Alex Sturgeon	1667	Cople	14 March
Susan Hillyard	1668	Cople	14 March
Lucy Croucher	1669	Cople	14 March
Mike Vacher	1670	Cople	14 March
Patricia Briscoe	1671	Cople	14 March
Phillipa Ebbs	1672	Cople	14 March
Jennifer Fisher	2234	Flitton	14 March
Lizzie Pawley	2240	Unattached	12 April
Richard Gordon	2235	Dunstable	25 April
Rebecca Gordon	2236	Dunstable	25 April

Lauren Reay	2237	Dunstable	25 April
Jessica Harper	2238	Dunstable	25 April
Charlotte Simpson	2239	Dunstable	25 April
Fran Smith	2077	Toddington	25 April
Caroline Pawley	2241	Unattached	9 May
Anne Clarke	2242	Aspley Guise	16 May

Bedford District

Unattached Members

Rosemary Buckle, Owen Davis, Rebecca Sharp

BEDFORD St Andrew (8) 5-2-22 in B TL057509

Sunday: 09.30 PN: Thursday 19.45-21.00
 Barbara Woplin, 3 Windsor Gardens, Bedford, MK40 3BU
 01234 346852 barbara.jean1@btinternet.com

Lisa Adams, Gareth Burrows, Viki Evans, Richard Gallivan, David Heaslip,
 Philip Kino, Alex Nash, Caroline Nash, John Nash, Melissa Nash,
 Barbara Woplin

BEDFORD St Paul (12) 28-3-6 in D TL049496

Sunday: 09.30 PN: Monday 19.30-21.00
 Sunday evening by arrangement
 James Saunders, 40 The Grove, Bedford, MK40 3JN
 07885 316443 jrbasaunders@yahoo.com

Matthew Barnard, John Long*, George Saunders, James Saunders

BEDFORD St Peter de Merton (8) 12-1-0 in F# TL051501

Sunday: 09.40 PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00
 Mrs Margaret Cowley, 12 Ennerdale Close, Kempston, MK42 8HE
 01234 854294

Lorraine Andrews*, David Cowley, Margaret Cowley, Ann Desics,
 Richard Entwistle, Susan Entwistle, Lynn Goodwin, Martin Goodwin,
 Sylvia MacDowell, Sheila Richardson, Pat Staite

BIDDENHAM St James (8) 12-3-18 in G TL014499

Sunday: 08.30 PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00
phone to check

Brian Toyn, 30 Days Lane, Biddenham, MK40 4AE
 01234 211716 bdtoyn30@talktalk.net

Peter Culverwell, Brian Toyn

BLETSGOE St Mary (6) 11-2-11 in F# TL023583

Sunday: 09.00 3rd PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00
 Paul Vine, 50 The Avenue, Bletsoe, MK44 1QF
 01234 782875 trishvine@btinternet.com

Andrew Fyvie, Trish Vine, Paul Vine

BOLNHURST St Dunstan (4) 8-0-0 in Bb (GF) TL081588

Sunday: None PN: None
Rex Whitmore, Silver Birches, Kimbolton Road, Bolnhurst, MK44 2EL
01234 376233 rex.mar@tesco.net

BROMHAM St Owen (8) 22-3-18 in Eb TL013512

Sunday: 09.45, check 4th PN: Tuesday 19.45-21.15
Robert Jones, St Monica, Norfolk Road, Turvey, MK43 8DU
01234 881741 r.jones1@mypostoffice.co.uk

Robert Gornall, Derek Hammond ♦, Steve Hare, Andrew Heyman,
George Ilett, Robert Jones, Adrienne Sharp, Elizabeth Walshe

CARDINGTON St Mary (8) 19-1-1 in F TL086479

Sunday: 10.30 PN: 3rd Thursday
phone to check

Mrs Julie Eddy, 141 Bamford Road, Bedford, MK42 0NH
01234 353489 julieannarose@btinternet.com

Rev'd Stephen Smith

CARLTON St Mary (6) 9-2-7 in Ab SP952549

Sunday: 09.00 3rd and 10.30 4th & 5th PN: Friday 19.30-21.00
alternate with Harrold

Mrs Lin Barratt, 10 Beeby Way, Carlton, MK43 7LW
01234 720756 lin.barratt@btinternet.com

Ann Boyle

CLAPHAM St Thomas of Canterbury (6) 5-3-20 in Bb TL034525

Sunday: None PN: Tuesday 19.45 prompt-21.00
Jeff Henson, 77 Bents Close, Clapham, MK41 6DY
01234 343198 jeffhenson@btinternet.com

COLMWORTH St Denys (6) 9-3-18 in G (GF) TL109586

Sunday: 10.30 1st & 3rd PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00
alternate with Renhold, Tuesday

Felicity Evans, Sunrise Cottage, Channel's End Road, Colmworth, MK44 2NS
01234 376887 stephenandfelicity@btinternet.com

Humphrey Chetwynd-Talbot, Felicity Evans

ELSTOW St Mary and St Helena (6) 8-2-0 in G TL049474

Sunday: 10.50 and 18.00 PN: Friday 20.00-21.00
Mrs Miriam Clark, 1 Garnith Close, Kempston, MK42 8DX
01234 853135

Don MacFarlane, Richard Marshall, Stephen Stanford*, Sarah Ward*

FELMERSHAM St Mary (8) 20-2-18 in Eb SP991578
Sunday: 10.30 PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00
Mike Benson, 8 Marriotts Close, Felmersham, MK43 7HD
01234 781649 mail@mikebenson08.plus.com

Mike Benson, Jane Brunetti, Wendy Freegard, Katie Henman,
Caroline Jones, Elizabeth Nicholls

GOLDINGTON St Mary (6) 10-2-7 in F# TL076510
Sunday: 09.00 and 16.30 2nd PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00
Mrs Jenny Thompson, 16 Langdale, Bedford, MK41 9EG
01234 216571 thompbarr@aol.com

Gale Bevan, Peter Blunt, Timothy Blunt, Andrew Dennison, Roger Framp,
Jean Heaslip, James Howlett, Dorothy Kirby, Doug Taylor, Jenny Thompson

HARROLD St Peter and All Saints (6) 13-0-6 in F# SP954567
Sunday: 09.00 1st, 2nd & 5th and 10.30 3rd PN: Friday 19.30-21.00
alternate with Carlton
Martin Barratt, 10 Beeby Way, Carlton, MK43 7LW
01234 720756 martin.d.barratt@btinternet.com

KEMPSTON All Saints (10) 17-2-4 in E TL015480
Sunday: 09.45 PN: Wednesday 19.45-21.00
Dr Nicola Darwood, 113 High Street, Kempston, MK42 7BP
01234 855167 the.darwoods@ntlworld.com

Rebecca Bentley, Nicola Darwood, Rachel Darwood, Stephen Darwood,
Glynda Easterbrook, Chris Grundy, Richard Hillson, Cliff Izzard ♦, Andrew Keech,
Ros Keech*, Thomas Keech*, Melvyn Potts, Anna Townsend, Ian Townsend

KEYSOE St Mary (5) 14-1-19 in E (GF) TL073624
Sunday: 09.30 3rd PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00
Mrs Penny Heming, Pump Cottage, Keysoe Row East, Keysoe, MK44 2JB
01234 378878 penny.heming@btinternet.com

Carol Burge, Ro Heming, James Hills, Joy Mooring,
Richard Thurmott, Marion Turner

LITTLE STAUGHTON All Saints (5) 10-2-20 in G# (AC) TL107630
Sunday: 09.30 PN: Friday 19.30-21.00
Bernard Hopperton, Cherry Blossom, Staughton Moor Road, Great Staughton,
St Neots, PE19 5BW
01234 376292 hazelhopperton@btinternet.com

Marion Bastin

MELCHBOURNE St Mary Magdalene (4) 12-1-12 in F# TL028654
Sunday: Phone to check PN: None
Rev'd Stephen Holroyd, The Rectory, High Street, Upper Dean, PE28 0ND
01234 709740 stephenholroyd@btinternet.com

MILTON ERNEST All Saints (6) 9-1-1 in G TL020561
Sunday: None PN: None
Mrs Valerie Lincoln, 9 Huntsman's Way, Milton Ernest, MK44 1SA
01234 824923

Lesley Hattersley

OAKLEY St Mary (6) 12-0-2 in G TL011530
Sunday: 9.00 1st & 5th; 10.00 2nd, 3rd & 4th PN: Friday 20.00-21.15
Bill Sellars, 2 Parsonage Close, Oakley, MK43 7TG
01234 823473 / 07980 745292 thesellars@btinternet.com

Martin Heaslip, Graham Ridgway, Bill Sellars

ODELL All Saints (6) 13-1-8 in F# SP966580
Sunday: None PN: None
Dr Martin Eshelby, 16a Avenue Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 0SJ
01933 410959 martin@eshelby.co.uk

PAVENHAM St Peter (5) 8-0-0 in A SP992560
Sunday: None PN: None
Martin Barratt, 10 Beeby Way, Carlton, MK43 7LW
01234 720756 martin.d.barratt@btinternet.com

RENHOLD All Saints (6) 13-0-15 in F# TL089528
Sunday: 10.30 PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00
Alternate with Colmworth, Thursday
Mrs Yvonne Potter, 8 Brook Lane, Salph End, Renhold, MK41 0LD
01234 771495 yvonnepotter@onetel.com

RISELEY All Saints (6) 13-1-26 in F TL039631
Sunday: 10.15 1st and 3rd PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00
phone to check
David Shaw, 5 Dodds Close, Riseley, MK44 1DH
01234 708204 d.r.shaw@btinternet.com

David Shaw

SHARNBROOK St Peter (8) 9-3-5 in F# SP993596
Sunday: 09.00 and 17.15 PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00
Patrick Albon, 27 Home Close, Sharnbrook, MK44 1PQ
01234 782251 pat@albon1.plus.com

Jacque Albon, Patrick Albon, Tom Anderson*, Rosemary Drewery,
Helen Horn, Kathryn Stenton

STAGSDEN St Leonard (6) 10-2-18 in G (GF) SP982491
Sunday: Check PN: Thursday, 20.00-21.00
Richard Brown, Manor Farm, High Street, Stagsden, MK42 8SQ
01234 822330 rjrichardbrown@btopenworld.com

STEVINGTON St Mary (5) 10-2-14 in F# (GF) SP990536
 Sunday: 09.00, except 4th, check 5th PN: Tuesday 19.30-20.30
 Peter Bishop, 4 Church Road, Stevington, MK43 7QB
 01234 825158 sueandpeterb@btinternet.com
 Peter Bishop, Jean Edwards, Rosemary Maclaine

SWINESHEAD St Nicholas (5) 2-2-7 in F TL058659
 Sunday: None PN: None
 Mrs Carolyn Long, Lilac Cottage, High Street, Swineshead, MK44 2AA
 01234 709947 stuartlong209@btinternet.com

THURLEIGH St Peter (6) 14-0-0 in F# (GF) TL051584
 Sunday: None PN: Tuesday 19.30-20.30
 John Mustoe, Blackthorn Cottage, 20 Cross End, Thurleigh, MK44 2EE
 01234 771667 nigelmustoe@msn.com

TURVEY All Saints (8) 19-0-20 in E SP940525
 Sunday: 10.30 and 17.30 1st, 2nd & 3rd PN: Friday 19.00-20.00
 David Nightingale, 10 Barncroft, Turvey, MK43 8DN
 01234 881453 david@bats-in-the-belfry.co.uk

UPPER DEAN All Hallows (5) 9-3-20 in G (GF) TL046676
 Sunday: 09.45 check PN: Thursday 20.00-21.00
 phone to check
 Mrs Lindsay Langley, Te Aroha, 6 Aylott Close, Upper Dean, PE28 0NA
 01234 708165 alangley35@btinternet.com

WILDEN St Nicholas (5) 11-2-0 in F# TL093552
 Sundays: None PN: None
 Mrs Carolyn Walker, 49, High Street, Wilden, MK44 2QD
 01234 771102

WOOTTON St Mary (6) 14-3-26 in F TL003451
 Sunday: None PN: None
 Richard Reeves, 102 Bedford Road, Wootton, MK43 9JB
 01234 767726 mail@richardreeves.net
 Richard Reeves

Unringable

MARSTON MORETAINE St Mary the Virgin (5) 13-2-0 in F SP996412
PODINGTON St Mary (4) 9-0-0 in G SP942627
WYMINGTON St Lawrence (5) 13-1-22 in F# SP955644
YELDEN St Mary (4) 8-0-0 in Bb TL011672

Biggleswade District

Unattached Members

Barbara Beard

AMPTHILL St Andrew (8) 13-3-6 in Ab TL037383

Sunday: 09.00 except 1st PN: Thursday 19.45-21.00

John Hele, 45 Alameda Road, Ampthill, MK45 2LA

01525 840278 john.s.hele@gmail.com

Robert Butcher, Margaret Coleman, John Hele, Rae Marshall, Hilary Nellist,
Christopher Shrimpton,

ARLESEY St Peter (6) 10-3-15 in G TL192375

Sunday: 09.00 except 9.30 2nd PN: Friday 19.30-21.00
alternate with Meppershall

Peter Overfield, 10 Peartree Close, Shefford, SG17 5JG

01462 815672 peter.overfield@waitrose.com

Don Brace, Brian Juffs, Katie Juffs, Elizabeth Overfield*, Peter Overfield*,
Heather Waters

BIGGLESWADE St Andrew (8) 13-1-18 in F TL188446

Sunday: 9.30 and 17.30 PN: Wednesday 20.00-21.00

Anthony Smith, 58 Cambridge Road, Langford, SG18 9PS

01462 700676 biggleswadebellringers@gmail.com

www.biggleswadebells.org.uk

Sarah Asque, David Carr*, Paul Chandler, Fiona Day, James Eggleston, Sian Harris,
Roy Haynes, Yvonne Humberstone*, Prudence Moore, Anna Pennant, Rev'd Guy
Scott, Kate Scott, Alice Scott, Clarrie Scott, Alan Smith ♦, Anthony Smith ♦,
Charlotte Smith*, Sheila Smith*, Elaine Taylor*, Christine Williams,
Beryl Worsley*, John E Worsley*, Martyn Worsley*

BLUNHAM St Edmund (6) 18-2-0 in Eb TL153512

Sunday: Check PN: Wednesday 19.00-20.30
alternate with Tempsford and Sandy,
phone to check

David Collins, 2 The Barns, Blunham, MK44 3LY

01767 641569 enginehouse13@btinternet.com

CAMPTON All Saints (8) 6-2-10 in B (GF) TL130381

Sunday: 10.30 except 5th PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00

John Loveless, 5 Riverside, Shefford, SG17 5DW

07803 206161 john@jplmanagementservices.co.uk

Linda Bryant, Jenny Davison, Kirsty Davison, Charlotte Francis, Clare Francis,
Henry Francis, Linda Garton, Barrie Glenn, John Loveless, Susan Silver

CLIFTON All Saints (8) 10-0-6 in G TL166393

Sunday: 10.00 and 18.00

PN: Friday 19.45 – 21.00

Learners 19.00-19.45

Mrs Sheila Ashton, Vic's Orchard, 15a Pedley Lane, Clifton, SG17 5EH

01462 813340 sheila.stanashton@btinternet.com

Sheila Ashton*, Stanley Ashton*, Peter Blackmore, Nicholas Brown, Russell Brown, Teresa Brown, Clive Moncrieff, Jim Peacock, Keith Pledger, Mary Pledger, Frank Rivett, Shaun Somerville, Philippa Whittington

COPLE All Saints (6) 8-1-0 in G# (AC) TL103485

Sunday: None

PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00

Mike Vacher, 91 Willington Road, Cople, MK44 3TN

01234 831207 vacher309@btinternet.com

Patricia Briscoe, Lucy Croucher, Phillipa Ebbs, Susan Hillyard, Alex Sturgeon, Mike Vacher

EATON SOCON St Mary (8) 13-2-24 in F TL170588

Sunday: 10.00 except 8.30 1st

PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00

Sue Matthews, 28 Burwell Road, Eaton Ford, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 7QQ

01480 476068 suejmatthews@outlook.com

D Graham Hall, Maureen Hall, Michael Matthews*, Sue Matthews, Mary Parnham, Wendy Piercy*, Christopher Spencer

GREAT BARFORD All Saints (5) 15-3-16 in F (GF) TL134517

Sunday: 09.00 1st, 2nd and 4th

PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00

Christopher Branch, 107 Chapel Field, Great Barford, MK44 3JT

01234 870982 cjbranch@btinternet.com

HAYNES St Mary (6) 6-3-5 in B (GF) TL081412

Sunday: 09.00 1st

PN: Monday phone to check

Brian Oertel, 13 Howard Close, Haynes, MK45 3QH

01234 381428 brianvalerioertel@btinternet.com

Amy Johnston, Brian Oertel, Jason Pillar, James Plummer, Emily Welham, George Welham

HENLOW St Mary (8) 14-2-0 in F# TL178387

Sunday: 10.30, check 5th

PN: Tuesday 20.00-21.00

Mrs Carol Donnelly, 4 Oak Drive, Henlow, SG16 6BX

01462 811960 carol.j.donnelly@sky.com

James Burgess, Carol Donnelly, Heather Jewell, Philip Jewell, Martin Major*, Randall Perrey, Jessica Sawyers

MAULDEN St Mary (8) 10-2-0 in F# TL058381

Sunday: 08.45, phone to check

PN: Wednesday phone to check

Mrs Mary Mann, 60 The Grove, Houghton Conquest, MK45 3JU

01234 740348 maryl.mann@btinternet.com

Mark Garner*, Mary Mann*, Yvonne Tomkins*

MEPPERSHALL St Mary (6) 12-2-0 in G# (GF) TL134359
 Sunday: None PN: Friday 20.00-21.00
 alternate with Arlesey
 John Parsons, 17 Shillington Road, Meppershall, SG17 5ND
 01462 813333 Jparsons55555@gmail.com
 David Bartlett, Anne Parsons*, John Parsons*, Elizabeth Wade*

NORTHILL St Mary Virgin (6) 18-2-12 in Eb TL149466
 Sunday: 10.30, check 5th PN: Monday 19.30-21.00
 Chris Morris, The Barracks, Northill, SG18 9AH
 01767 627476
 Andrew Bryans, Valerie Bryans, Mike Cowell, Simon Melvin, Susan Melvin,
 Chris Morris, Cathy Olphin, David Pegg (deceased), Roy Thrower

OLD WARDEN St Leonard (6) 9-1-0 in G (GF) TL136443
 Sunday: None PN: None
 Rev'd Janet Humphries, 7 Shakespeare Drive, Upper Caldecote, Biggleswade
 SG18 9DD
 01767 220365 janet.humphries1@ntlworld.com

POTTON St Mary (6) 8-0-0 in A TL229495
 Sunday: 09.45 PN: Tuesday 19.45-21.00
 Mrs Rosemary Kimber, Spencer Farm, 28 King Street, Potton, SG19 2QT
 01767 261206 rosemary.kimber@yahoo.co.uk
 Timothy Eltringham, Rosanna Jackson, Rosemary Kimber, Mary Oliver-Barratt,
 Tony Sharp

ROXTON St Mary Magdalene (5) 10-1-3 in G TL153545
 Sunday: 10.30 PN: None
 Walter Jennings, The Lilacs, Chawston Lane, Chawston, MK44 3BH
 01480 213155
 David Bradley, Walter Jennings, Norman Keightley

SANDY St Swithun (6) 12-0-8 in F TL174491
 Sunday: 09.30 PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00
 alternate with Blunham and Tempsford
 phone to check
 Steven Akhurst, 13 Abbey Grove, Sandy, SG19 1QP
 01767 835039 / 07984 860108 sakhurst21@gmail.com
 Carly Akhurst, Phillip Akhurst, Steven Akhurst, Ann Eaton, Viv Smith,
 Christopher Wagstaff, Kevin Wood

SOUTHILL All Saints (6) 11-3-3 in F# TL146422
 Sunday: 08.30 3rd PN: Thursday before 3rd Sunday
 19.30-20.30
 Colin McCartney, 29 Birch Close, Broom, Biggleswade, SG18 9NR
 01767 314669 colin.mccartney@virgin.net
 Colin McCartney, Elizabeth McCartney, Alan Dover*

STOTFOLD St Mary (8) 11-0-2 in G TL220367
 Sunday: 09.30 PN: Thursday 19.30-21.20
 Roy Webb, Amber Lodge, Hatley Road, Wrestlingworth, SG19 2EH
 01767 631285
 Eileen Castledine, J Richard Castledine, Roy Webb

TEMPSFORD St Peter (6) 9-1-0 in Ab (GF) TL162531
 Sunday: Check PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00
 alternate with Blunham and Sandy
 Phone to check
 David Collins, 2 The Barns, Blunham, MK44 3LY
 01767 641569 enginehouse13@btinternet.com
 Jeff Claughton, Sandra Claughton

WILLINGTON St Lawrence (6) 9-0-1 in A TL106498
 Sunday: None PN: Tuesday (Phone to check)
 Mike Vacher, 91 Willington Road, Cople, MK44 3TN
 01234 831207 vacher309@btinternet.com

Unringable

HOUGHTON CONQUEST All Saints (6) 12-1-02 TL043414
LITTLE BARFORD St Denys (4) 6-0-0 TL178570
STEPPINGLEY St Lawrence (4) 5-0-0 TL012355
SUTTON All Saints (4) 7-0-0 TL218475

Luton District

Unattached Members

Keith Lewin, Caroline Pawley, Jonathan Pawley, Lizzie Pawley, John Pemble ♦,
 Robert Tregillus

ASPLEY GUISE St Botolph (6) 10-0-11 in G# SP943363
 Sunday: 09.00 PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00
 alternate with Husborne Crawley
 Ron Battams, 37 Mount Pleasant, Aspley Guise, MK17 8JZ
 01908 582673
 Ron Battams, Anne Clarke, Richard Lanyon-Hogg

BARTON-LE-CLAY St Nicholas (8) 16-1-14 in E TL085304
Sunday: 10.00 PN: Monday 19.30-21.00
Phone to check

Mrs Jennifer Archer, 1 Old School Gardens, Barton-Le-Clay, MK45 4LS
01582 881497 jenny.archer@hotmail.co.uk

CADDINGTON All Saints (6) 8-0-0 in G TL064198
Sunday: 9.00 PN: Thursday 20.00-21.00

Rob Jones, 72 Mancroft Road, Caddington, LU1 4EL
01582 452663 belfry72@orange.net

CRANFIELD St Peter and St Paul (6) 17-1-14 in E SP956420
Sunday: 09.45 PN: Thursday 19.30 -21.00

Mary Hartley, 102a Bedford Road, Cranfield, MK43 0HA
01234 750153 mary.hartley56@gmail.com

Jonathan Billington, Nicky Billington, Rosie Billington, Thomas Billington, Steve
capper, Jim Ewen, Christopher Hartley, Mary Hartley, Garth Holman, Jane Leslie,
Alan Morfee, Catherine Morfee, Andrew Pearson, John Peat, Susan Webster

DUNSTABLE St Peter (8) 23-2-15 in Eb TL021219
Sunday: 08.40 and 18.00 PN: Wednesday 20.00-21.15

Alan Shepherd, 19 Totternhoe Road, Dunstable, LU6 2AF
01582 603238 secretary@dunstablebells.org.uk

Rebecca Gordon, Richard Gordon, Jessica Harper, Robert Hornby, Richard Horne*,
Andrew Jeffs, David Jeffs, Jackie Jeffs, Paul Jeffs, Matthew Johnson,
Karl Osborn, Graham Proctor, Lauren Raey, Alan Shepherd*, Charlotte Simpson

EATON BRAY St Mary the Virgin (6) 9-2-0 in A SP969207
Sunday: 09.30 PN: 2nd Wednesday 19.30-21.00

John Plater, 41 Church Lane, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DJ
01525 221095

Richard Booth, Bob Deeley, Gordon Gray, Ruth Monks, Thomas Monks,
Rose Nightingale, Gaye Soule, Bob Stilliard, Sharon Stilliard, Richard Stroud

EVERSHOLT St John the Baptist (6) 17-1-16 in F SP983325
Sunday: None PN: None

Robert Churchill, 11 Tingrith Road, Eversholt, MK17 9EF
01525 280632 r.churchill883@btinternet.com

FLITTON St John the Baptist (6) 6-0-6 in Bb (GF) TL059358
Sunday: 10.30 1st, 09.00 2nd PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00

Maureen Morey, Kenilworth House, High Street, Flitton, MK45 5DU
01525 860422 mefs1@hotmail.co.uk

Sally Creveul, Jennifer Fisher, Vernon Green, Maureen Morey

FLITWICK St Peter and St Paul (6) 9-1-9 in G TL029342

Sunday: 10.00 PN: Friday 19.45-21.15
Ian Holman, 33 Station Road, Flitwick, MK45 1JT
01525 716258 i.holman@cranfield.ac.uk

Michael Catlin, Simon Daw, Imogen Diver, Ian Holman, Matthew Holman,
Rebekah Holman, Jackie Lawrence, Paul Swannell, Jemma Till,
Michael Trimm, David Watson

HOUGHTON REGIS All Saints (6) 13-1-3 in F TL018239

Sunday: 09.30 PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00
Delroy Grey, 36 Kent Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NZ
01582 868644 delroy_grey@live.com

Carl Anthony, Eloise Catling, Peter Goode, Delroy Grey, John Pratt,
Peter Pratt, Cecilia Pymont, Cameron White-Spunner

HUSBORNE CRAWLEY St James (8) 18-2-12 in D SP955362

Sunday: 15.00 2nd only PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00
alternate with Aspley Guise

Robert Churchill, 11 Tingrith Road, Eversholt, MK17 9EF
01525 280632 r.churchill883@btinternet.com

Elizabeth Churchill, Robert Churchill ♦, Dean De-Matteis, Helen De-Matteis

KENSWORTH St Mary (6) 3-3-15 in D# TL031190

Sunday: 10.00 PN: Phone to check
Mrs Polly Frazer, 10 Poplar Road, Kensworth, LU6 3RS
01582 873143 pollyfrazer7@gmail.com

Peter Culley, Barrie Huggins

LEIGHTON BUZZARD All Saints (12) 35-1-14 in C# SP918248

Sunday: 08.45 PN: Monday 19.45-21.30

Evensong QPs by arrangement
Kevin Pughe, 10 Church Square, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1AE
0740 2233022 kevin.pughe@btinternet.com
Barry Eglesfield, 07967 755148

Margaret Birtles, Gwenda Burley, Hannah Dobbie, Gemma Dolton,
Barry Eglesfield, Kevin Pughe

LINSLADE St Barnabas (8) 9-3-3 in A SP912249

Sunday: 09.30 PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.15
Thursday 17.30-19.00 for young ringers
Mrs Lyndsey Brett 01525 790241

Mrs Heather Darvill, 428 Bideford Green, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 2TY
01525 371836 ddarvil100@tiscali.co.uk

Lyndsey Brett, Natalie Brett, Nicholas Brett, Samantha Brett, Janesse Cornfoot,
Heather Darvill, Simon Head, Anne Hoxey, Sam Pearce, Peter Phillips,
Dale Rhys-Pearman, Janice Robinson, Nicola Shepherd, Louisa Smith,
Rebecca Smith

LUTON St Mary (12) 25-0-24 in D TL095212
 Sunday: 09.15 PN: Tuesday 18.30-20.00
 by arrangement
 Mrs Dee Vanner, 13 Elmwood Crescent, Luton, LU2 7HX
 01582 619738 deanna.vanner@hotmail.co.uk
 Ian Brown, Beryl Gardner, Pat Limanni, Santo Limanni

MILTON BRYAN St Peter (3) 8-2-16 in A (GF) SP972308
 Sunday: None PN: None
 Kelvin White, 4 Church End, Milton Bryan, MK17 9HR
 01525 210337 kb.ss.white@gmail.com

SHILLINGTON All Saints (5) 18-2-0 in E TL123339
 Sunday: 09.00 PN: Monday 20.00-21.00
 Ian Harvey, 77 Church Road, Shillington, SG5 3LJ
 07976 705871 ian-harvey@tiscali.co.uk

SILSOE St James (6) 6-1-9 in B TL082356
 Sunday: 09.00, 2nd phone to check PN: Monday 19.45-21.00
 Mrs Barbara Fraser, 18 Bedford Avenue, Silsoe, MK45 4ER
 01525 861709
 David Adams, Paul Biscoe, Christopher Catlin, Julia Catlin, Barbara Fraser,
 Jane Lawton, Simon Stranks

STANBRIDGE St John the Baptist (6) 9-0-15 in F# SP966242
 Sunday: 10.00 1st and 08.30 last PN: Wednesday 20.00-21.00
 Laurence Cooper, 10 Carlton Grove, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3BR
 01525 377291 laurence@peanutwood.net

STUDHAM St Mary the Virgin (6) 10-0-22 in Ab (GF) TL016159
 Sunday: 10.00 PN: Monday 20.00-21.00
 Miss Angela Blackburn, 7 Knotts Close, Dunstable, LU6 3NY
 01582 663756 angela@ablackburn.co.uk
 Angela Blackburn, Sally Cload, Margaret Maddox, Graham Magor,
 Peter Sanders, Andrew Wheeler

TILSWORTH All Saints (6) 8-3-17 in A (GF) SP975243
 Sunday: 09.30 PN: Monday 20.00-21.00
 Phone to check
 John Wilkins, 9 Lords Close, Stanbridge, LU7 9JB
 01525 210961 jf.wilkins@btinternet.com
 John Wilkins

TODDINGTON St George of England (8) 22-2-0 in E TL010289
 Sunday: 10.30 PN: Friday 19.30-21.00
 Peter Boon, 33 Vicarage Street, Woburn Sands, MK17 8RE
 01908 584181
 Ruth Betts, Peter Boon, Vicki Holton, Anne Kiss, John Pask, Fran Smith

TOTTERNHOE St Giles (8) 9-2-0 in F

SP988208

Sunday: 09.30

PN: None

Mrs Jacqui Hunt, 35 Totternhoe Road, Dunstable, LU6 2AF
01582 602266

WESTONING St Mary Magdalene (6) 11-1-18 in F#

TL027327

Sunday: 10.30

PN: Monday 19.30-20.45

Sarah Sharp, 48 Townfield Road, Flitwick, MK45 1JF
01525 630961

Alan Davies, Mervyn Gulliver, Peter Little, Peter Luff, Tom Luff, Geraldine Moore,
David Moorhouse, Joy Moorhouse, Alun Sharp, Janice Sharp, Sarah Sharp

WHIPSNAD St Mary Magdalene (6) 3-1-24 in E (GF)

TL012179

Sunday: 08.30, except 5th

PN: None

Mrs Pam Ward, Chapel Farm, Whipsnade, LU6 2LL
01582 872406 pamelaj.ward@outlook.com

Sarah Ayres, John Kendrick, Roger Kendrick, Sylvia Kendrick, Pam Ward

WOBURN St Mary the Virgin (8) 24-1-16 in D

SP950333

Sunday: 09.30 2nd only, 17.15 1st only

PN: Thursday 1st only

Raymond Watkin, 6 Quadrans Close, Pennyland, Milton Keynes, MK15 8AU
01908 675764 raymondwatkin@yahoo.co.uk

Raymond Watkin

Unringable**HARLINGTON** St Mary the Virgin (5) 13-2-0 chiming only

TL038305

HOCKLIFFE St Nicholas (4) 6-2-12

SP966270

HULCOTE St Nicholas (4) 8-0-0

SP944389

TINGRITH St Nicholas (3) 6-2-0

TL006324

UPPER GRAVENHURST St Giles (5) 10-0-11 in G# - bells being removed by Keltek
Trust in 2016

Our Technical Advisor can help you with:

- Advice on maintenance of bells and fittings
- Advice on bell frame care
- An inspection of your bell installation (by appointment)

Contact Roger Kendrick
01582 413564
techadvisor@bacbr.org.uk

Association Events and Reports

Melville Cup Striking Competition for Young Ringers

It was Biggleswade District's turn to host the Melville Cup inter-district striking competition for young ringers. It was held on 19 September at All Saints Clifton using the back six bells.

A team from each District and a scratch band to accommodate all the young ringers came along. The judges, Nick Hughes and Chris McCarthy, recorded the number of clean changes rather than faults. Nick and Chris said they were very pleased to judge a young ringers competition and commented that the competitors were definitely future 12 bell striking competition material! Generally all teams used their practice time well and the treble and tenors were well rung.

Place	Team	Judge's Comments	Score	Rang
1	Scratch	Confident, nice pace, 5 and 6 rung particularly well. Some very good ringing	90	4
2	Bedford	Overall striking was very good; the treble was rung well; got more confident as the piece went along.	81	2
3	Luton	4, 5 and 6 set a good rhythm; a nice piece of ringing.	70	3
4	Biggleswade	Nervous start but got better as the ringing went along. The band were listening and correcting the striking.	37	1

The scratch band, comprising of two ringers from Campton, 3 from Linslade and one from Oakley achieved the best striking of the afternoon but the Melville Cup was awarded to Bedford District team.



Louise receiving the Melville cup on behalf of the Bedford District Young Ringers team from judges, Chris McCarthy and Nick Hughes. Photo: Terry Brown

St Peter's Cup - Association Six Bell Striking Competition

Five teams took part in this year's six bell striking competition for the St Peter's Cup held on 19 September on the back six at All Saints, Clifton.

Unfortunately Biggleswade and Eaton Socon should have represented the Biggleswade District but couldn't make it on the day so a relatively inexperienced Campton band rose to the challenge and stepped in. The judges, Nick Hughes and Chris McCarthy from Bishops Stortford, scored this competition by the number of faults.

Place	Team	Judge's Comments	Score	Rang
1	Kempston	Rang grandsire doubles. Very controlled ringing at a slower pace. The few faults were generated in the middle of the change.	14	3
2	Linslade	Rang bob minor. Good pace set by the tenor. The errors were in clusters but overall nice ringing.	23	2
3	Dunstable	Rang grandsire doubles. Rushed hand strokes, rhythm didn't settle despite 5 and 6 dictating the pace.	26	4
4	Bromham	Rang bob doubles. Confident method ringing but leads were rushed; nice steady tenor ringing. Most errors picked up towards the end.	35	1
5	Campton	Rang bob doubles. Not very confident, the rhythm didn't settle but they kept going!	66	5



Andrew Keech receiving the St Peter's cup, on behalf of the winning Kempston band, from Chris McCarthy and Nick Hughes. Photo: Terry Brown

Ringing World National Youth Striking Competition, Oxford

On 11 July our young ringers travelled to Oxford to take part in the Ringing World Young Ringers Striking Competition (RWNYC) once again. The competition, held at St Thomas the Martyr, was a chance for the team to retain the Whitechapel trophy for a third successive year. And retain it they did by winning the call change competition and being declared overall winners with an A* grade!

Many thanks to Linda Garton and Lyndsey Brett for mentoring and guidance, and also to all parents, helpers and other young ringers who have given such tremendous support throughout the year.



The winning Bedfordshire team with the Whitechapel Trophy and medals.

From left to right:

Back row: Cameron White-Spunner, Dean DeMatties, Becca Smith, Jonathan Nash
Front row: Clarrie Scott, Sammi Brett, Alice Scott, Thomas Monks, Melissa Nash, Lizzie Pawley. Photo: Linda Garton

How to Retain the Whitechapel Trophy - observations from the sidelines. (This article was published in the Ringing World)

The team - the key element to retaining the RWNYC trophy was of course the band. Six of the winning band from last year rang again this year with the other two being the reserves from last year. From six different 6 and 8 bell towers, including at least one from each of Bedfordshire Association's three Districts, the young ringers are all aged 13 or over. All of them are competent quarter peal ringers who have been ringing for at least 2 years, several ringing their first peals recently.

Many are the children of ringers and have been at least part-taught by their parents. This seems to have some distinct advantages. Amongst others: the parents understand what is happening and can help explain some aspects, they are more likely to give their time to transport to events and ringing parents can give easier access to some of the ringing away from home towers like District meetings. Of course we also have some other tower captains and teachers who give up their time to facilitate our junior ringers attending activities.

The activities - there is a monthly practice at which any young ringer from an Association tower is welcome. This is usually attended by in excess of 15 young ringers from 8 towers or more. This may involve 45 minute drives each way for the parents but the young ringers are keen. These practices have been running for about three years and the half-time break for refreshments has evolved to permit the 'taxi drivers' to drink tea almost throughout the two hour session which has gone down well. Initially there were more 'training' exercises but bell control is not an issue any more and most ringing now is things purists would recognise. Whilst two adults run the sessions many others are often around in an open and friendly atmosphere, including more than one thousand pealer ready with advice if asked. Some of the young ringers get opportunities to ring things they do not at their home towers, others the chance to reinforce what they are currently working on.

Also within the Association - there are various monthly practices across the Association including Surprise Major and 10 bell, which are attended by some of the young ringers. The young ringers are always made welcome at these with even some of the more vocal local conductors perhaps softening and finding far more to critique amongst the adults present, although this could just be the reality of the ringing. Recently a 12 bell practice has been trialled to open a further door for the young ringers who might wish to walk through.

Melville Cup - once a year, in September, the young ringers become rivals as they compete representing their Districts in the Melville Cup, a rounds striking contest started in 2008 and won at least once by each District. Most years each District musters a team giving many a gentle introductory contest experience. It is held prior to the Association striking competition which is for the two method ringing towers from each District that have qualified from the District contests. Last year the winning young ringers rounds piece was judged as good as the winning method piece.

For the RWNYS - there was one practice for the contest, the Sunday before on a similar weight 8, which all but one of the band were able to make. This concentrated on the test piece with reserves swapping in and out 'just in case'. Here there was concentration on the striking more so than other times. At other times expectations vary for different ringers, now all were asked for minimum mistakes which they seem happy to seek.

Too much emphasis? In the scheme of things, the activities for younger ringers are a relatively small part of the Association's activities. They are

perhaps the most vibrant, but that is down to the enthusiasm of the participants (which may well then feedback into a willingness amongst organisers to plan the odd outing etc.). If the other activities are stale that may be because newer faces are fewer and formulas familiar. On average, young ringers seem more willing to ring beyond their home towers or maybe they are more easily persuaded/supported by their teachers/tower captains.

Team Effort - I have deliberately not named individuals in this piece because the whole thing is really a team effort with many roles being played by a host of individuals. This has the positives of everything not being too dependent on one or two individuals and no one individual having to do too much. We are lucky to have some highly skilled ringers and experienced ringing teachers to help guide our enthusiastic young ringers. There seems to be enjoyment on all sides which must bode well for things to continue onwards.

Alex Nash, Bedford

Ridgman Trophy Ten Bell Striking Competition – 6 June, Wisbech

'The Ridgman' is an annual 10 bell contest established in 1988 to mark Bill Ridgman's 28 years as president of the Cambridge University Guild from 1961 to 1989. Sadly Bill died in 2011 but his son Tom maintains an active involvement in the event.

The aim back in 1988 was to establish a competition to be hosted in turn by all the participating guilds and associations, these to be the CUG, the Ely DA and all the surrounding guilds and associations. The test piece tends to alternate between Stedman Caters and Cambridge Royal, 200 changes. The Bedfordshire Association has been an active participant over this time. With a strong focus on selecting strong bands that are well prepared we have won the competition 6 times in the last 10 years.

The focus changed a little this year. With a new organiser, Linda Garton, in place we moved to a brand of organisation where things were finalised a little closer (or very much closer) to the event and some new, younger ringers also came into the band. Sammi Brett and Lizzie Pawley have twice been in the winning Bedfordshire team in the RWNYS 8 bell competition for under 19s, so are not new to winning competitions, but this is supposedly a more grown up event (arguably, perhaps), generating perhaps a little more expectation, although superseding 2014's performance was unlikely to be difficult! We also welcomed Nick and Lyndsey Brett and Jonathan Pawley, so a real family feel to the day.

From the outset I was thinking that a solid performance as well as a really good day out was on the cards, and I had no concerns as I knew that our newcomers were used to ringing on 10. We then put ourselves in an ever stronger situation though another 'last minute Linda' innovation, literally 3 days before the Saturday of the contest. Linda decided on a practice en route to Wisbech so we had an hour's practice ringing at Kettering in the morning, with the focus very much on replicating competition conditions,

defined practice routines and finally ringing a decent full half course of Cambridge Royal. Good, lots of improvement in the hour and the obligatory lecturette from me on the importance of avoiding mistakes!

We were drawn to ring at 4.00pm preceded by photos so what had been a pretty relaxing day was reaching the business end. In the 1990's the old-style ring of 10 at Wisbech (all cast by William Dobson in 1823) was re-tuned with the bells rehung in a new frame with new fittings. Every time ring here I am amazed by the quality and richness of the bells. They are mellow, prominent inside yet well balanced, as well as being crystal clear in the ringing chamber. When you pull off here you wonder how bells cast in 1823 can be so good. There is a sting in the tail however because they are quite odd struck and need pulling! Overall verdict is a top class ring but no place for an easy ride.

The verdict on how the teams performed was given by David House, who is acknowledged as being an excellent judge, not just of claret but of ringing as well. Most of the ringing produced by the eight teams competing had been slow (our band included) due mainly to the clarity of the bells which means that bands 'over ring' them. But after we finished our test piece I remember thinking we had performed well and would hopefully be in the top half. It was pleasing that we kept improving not just during the test piece but consistently during the day. David placed us third with 76%, well clear of Essex with 65%. Ely DA were first with 85%, with Suffolk on 78%, so we were very close to coming second and I pondered (privately) on the value of no mistakes!

So all in all a really worthwhile day which we all enjoyed. I sometimes observe that ringing can transcend most boundaries. This was demonstrated not just by the teamwork that drove our ringing at Kettering and Wisbech but also by the wider fellowship ringing offers, for example all of our band plus supporters spending a very pleasant hour or so in the local Wetherspoons before setting off for home. Next year it would be great to resume the winning but most of all I'd like to see more of our young ringers pushing for inclusion in the team and finally the team achieving no mistakes – of course!

John Loveless

Place	Team	Rang	Marks %
1	Ely Diocesan Guild	3rd	85
2	Suffolk Diocesan Guild	2nd	78
3	Bedfordshire Association	8th	76
4	Essex Association	1st	65
5	Peterborough Diocesan Guild	6th	58
6	Cambridge University Guild	4th	54
= 7	Hertford County Association	5th	50
= 7	Lincoln Diocesan Guild	7th	50



The Bedfordshire band, clockwise from front right: Linda Garton, Lyndsey Brett, Charlotte Smith, Anthony Smith, Sammi Brett, Lizzie Pawley, Jonathan Pawley, Russell Brown, Nick Brett, John Loveless. Photo: Ely Diocesan Association

First Peal 2015

2015 was the 300th anniversary of the first-ever peal, rung at St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, on May 2 1715. When the Central Council launched 'First Peal 2015' with its target of 300 first peelers in 2015 I have to confess that I was expecting a damp squib. After all, first pealer numbers had been falling steadily for some years – from relative peaks of around 250 per year in the early 2000's the annual number had dropped to not much over 150, with a dip to 139 in 2014.

Regular reporting throughout 2015 showed that although first peelers were coming through at a reasonable rate we were still consistently below target. The May 2, 300th anniversary, bank holiday weekend saw 18 first peelers, a pleasing 'peak'.

The 2015 total was 387, 29% over target, a fantastic achievement. There was a clear gathering of momentum during the final quarter which saw 177 first peelers, with 75 in December alone. Full details, available on PealBase (<http://www.pealbase.ismysite.co.uk/pealbase/firsts.php?y=2015>) tell the story. My reading is that the announcement of First Peal 2015 stimulated significant interest, with many people very keen to achieve their own first peal who might otherwise have not thought about it as a realistic possibility. These people, stimulated by their teachers and mentors, worked hard during

the year to achieve the required standard and this probably accounts for the phenomenal final quarter.

So what about here in Bedfordshire? Well, we certainly did our bit. We were not particularly explosive off the blocks but 15 Bedfordshire ringers rang their first peal during 2015, and about half of these were teenagers. 7 were rung in November/December so a cracking finish to the year. We know that a lot of effort went into these achievements and those 15 people richly deserved their reward. It is also very important to acknowledge the support they receive from other ringers without which none of this happens. The regular Bedfordshire Young Ringers practices, 'Not So Young Ringers' events and activity in the various districts are the bedrock of this. 'One-offs' such as the Firsts Day, organised for the anniversary day May 2, are designed to help ringers progress but, as important, also get enthused. There are plenty of both in Bedfordshire at the moment - long may it continue.

Here's a target for next year – each of the 15 to ring in a peal for a first pealer during 2016!

A summary of Bedfordshire's 15 first peelers in 2015 appears in Points from the Peals on page 49.

John Loveless



Some of the ringers who rang their first peal in 2015 and some of those who supported them.

Photo: Neil Francis

The James W Yates Raise and Lower in Peal Challenge Trophy

By popular demand we include information about the challenge competition for 'Jim's Jug' in the annual report again.

In 1977 James W Yates, an Ampthill ringer at the time, gave the Association a large pottery jug as the trophy for a 'Raising and Lowering in Peal' challenge competition. The trophy was made at the Wenfordbridge Pottery in Cornwall and is known as 'Jim's Jug'; it is a splendid three handled jug with a 7 pint capacity!

Jim's challenge was to encourage bands to raise and lower six or eight bells in peal and be judged for good striking throughout.

The current holders are Biggleswade. They successfully defended two challenges from the Goldington band in 2010 and 2011.

The full challenge rules are on the website but, in summary, Biggleswade remain trophy holders until another band (or two), of resident members who are also Sunday service ringers, challenge them to a contest to raise, stand and lower 6 or 8 bells in peal. Defenders and challengers between them:

- agree on a venue for the contest and are their own umpires.
- appoint a judge who will judge teams solely on their striking; the team with the least faults and best overall performance being the winner.

The contest must be held no later than 4 months after the challenge has been accepted. The holders are bound to accept a challenge or, if unable to do so, must concede to allow a contest between other challengers to a maximum of three teams per contest.

There must be least 4 months after a contest before a challenge can be made so another challenge is long overdue! The Biggleswade band looks forward to defending a challenge soon.



Jim's Jug. Photos: Anthony Smith

Obituaries

Ronald E J Freeman (1933 - 2015)

Ron Freeman, a former ringer at Kempston and Wootton, died on 11 March 2015 aged 81 years.

Ron was born and brought up at Box End, Kempston and as a teenager he learned to ring the bells at All Saints Church, Kempston where his father, Ernest Freeman, was a ringer. He was a member of the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers from 1948 to 1959 and from 1976 to 1979, and he rang three peals for the Bedfordshire Association - in 1949 (at Kempston), 1950 (at Stagsden), and 1953 (at Kempston for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II).

Ron served his apprenticeship as a pattern maker at W H Allen in Bedford and he subsequently worked as a pattern maker at Hobkirk's foundry in Kempston. When the Kempston bells were rehung in a new frame, Ron was a member of the Kempston Parish Church Bells Appeal Committee from 1976 to 1979. He played a valuable part in the rehanging scheme, including making the pattern for the 15 frame castings and (together with the late Jim Routledge) arranging for the castings to be machined and drilled, thus resulting in a considerable financial saving.

Ron is survived by his wife, Dorothy, who he married at Wootton Church in 1966. His funeral service took place at Norse Road Crematorium, Bedford on 26 March 2015.

Richard Hillson



W Ralph West (1921 - 2015)

Ralph West passed away peacefully at home on 8 March 2015 aged 93 years. He was a member of the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers from 1976 to 2011 and Tower Captain at Biddenham for many years. He rang one peal (a peal of Grandsire Triples on 14th June 1987 which was the first peal on the eight bells at Biddenham following their augmentation from six to eight bells). A memorial service celebrating Ralph's life took place at Christ Church, Denmark Street, Bedford, the church where Ralph worshipped, on 13 April 2015 and his ashes were interred in Biddenham Churchyard on 18 April 2015; a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on the bells at Biddenham during the interment.

Ralph was a founder member of the Biddenham Handbell Ringers with friend and neighbour Anthea Slark who wrote the following obituary which is



reproduced here with permission from Anthea and the editors of The Loop (formerly Biddenham Bulletin).

Richard Hillson

We are sad to report the death of Ralph West on 8th March 2015. Ralph was one of the oldest residents in Biddenham and lived in the village all his life. He was born at 45 Main Road and attended the (old) village school remembering the very fierce Rev (Billy) Norman who visited once a month. Afterwards he attended the Modern School and left in 1938 to join GPO telephones on a 2 year apprenticeship. In 1943 he was called up but spent most of the war at Catterick Camp where he taught communications to new recruits. Back in Bedford he continued his career as a telephone engineer progressing through the organisation to become Head of Customer Installation UK until his retirement in 1983. Also in 1943 he married Megan and bought the plot of land at 13 Church End, eventually having a house built in which he lived until his more recent move to Day's Lane. Megan died in 1998 following many years with disabling arthritis. Ralph cared for her faithfully throughout often inventing equipment to make her life easier. Ralph has a son, Nick, 3 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Music was Ralph's greatest interest; he has always played the violin, leading the Bedford Symphony Orchestra at one time. His father and grandfather were tower bell ringers (at Biddenham), although he did not start until he was in his 50s and later became Tower Captain. Together with Anthea Slark he set up the Biddenham Handbell Ringers in 1991 and was both Chairman and Musical Director for many years.

After Megan's death, Ralph was able to indulge his passion for travel and visited all 5 continents, often on cruises. During travels in America he met Sue and following a long distance romance and many obstacles in the form of British Immigration officialdom they were eventually married in July 2013. Sue has cared for Ralph wonderfully during his final years and they shared a strong Christian faith. The church was very important to him, both St James's, Biddenham and Christ Church, Denmark Street, and he hosted a weekly bible study meeting at his house. In spite of age and infirmity Ralph remained mentally active until the end always interested in everything, a good conversationalist with no apparent memory loss. He described himself as a 'gadgets guy' and kept up to date with the latest electronic equipment. Anthea Slark interviewed him for the Biddenham Bulletin magazine in 2011. When asked what piece of advice he would like to pass on he replied – 'read your bible – it's full of good advice on how to lead your life' (Ralph read through the whole bible every year). In answer to the question – how would you like to be remembered, he said "He lived a Christian life to the full". What better epitaph for Ralph. We extend our sympathy to his wife Sue, his son Nick, and the rest of his family.

Anthea Slark

David Mervyn John Pegg (1947 - 2015)

Dave was born in 1947 the youngest of 10 children. By the time he was 3 years old both his parents had died, resulting with him living with a succession of siblings eventually being based in Biggleswade where he went to school. He lived in the area for the rest of his life and did an apprenticeship in carpentry, which came in handy later on making and fitting bell stays!

The following is an extract from the eulogy given at Dave's funeral:

"He first came into contact with the Northill bell ringers in the Crown at Northill on Monday nights about 8 years ago, where we enjoy a post practice ale or two; he particularly enjoyed helping himself to the complimentary 'bellringers chips'! We only stood for this behaviour for so long - eventually, about 3 years ago, he had to have a go, and, to most people's amazement, not least his own, he turned out to be pretty good. He was a very useful, regular Sunday ringer, ringing rounds and call changes and could plain hunt. He was elected as a member of the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bellringers, he took part in striking competitions and enjoyed the social camaraderie, as well as the ringing. Bell ringing suited Dave's love for tradition, rural values and friendship and we miss him dearly".

Dave died in Bedford Hospital following a stroke earlier in October.

Sue Melvin



Frances Spavins (1917 - 2015)

Francis Spavins, nee Parkinson, (always known to ringers and friends as Fran) died on 26 December, aged 98. She was born in Raunds Northamptonshire on 10 Feb 1917, the youngest but one of seven children. She went to school, firstly at Stanwick, and later moved to Rushden where after leaving school at the age of 14, she became a shoe hand. Fran met Kenneth Spavins, who was living and working in Risely, at the age of 18, probably at a social in Rushden, where Ken had cousins. Born at the end of World War I and then experiencing the beginning of World War II, they planned to wait until the war ended before getting married, but with that seeming unlikely, they married on 2 January 1943 at St Peter's Rushden. Their first home was a farm cottage on the outskirts of Risely where Ken worked as a farm labourer, moving after about three years into the village and a house opposite the village hall. Fran was active in the



WI and amateur dramatic group, both on stage and at the piano. She did some part time jobs, mostly creative, such as designing and stitching smocking patterns for a children's clothing manufacturer in Bedford. She also took the Sunday school and participated in all aspects of village life. In 1955, following a change in jobs, the family moved to Woburn where they soon established themselves in the life of the village and church. Fran, along with Ken and their daughter Anne sang in the village choir, and also in the choral group conducted by the then Vicar (Rev Tom Gunner). Ken took over from Doug Harris as Tower Captain and taught Fran and Anne to ring on the clock bell (former 7th) at Woburn old church. Together they visited and rang at many churches across the country, and following Ken's election to the Ancient Society of College Youths, Anne recalls visiting St Pauls Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. Ken, supported by Fran, also led the Woburn handbell ringers, a tune ringing group mainly comprising children from the village, who were always very popular at the Church fete and various hospitals and care homes at Christmas time. For several years they were invited to play for the Duke and Duchess at Woburn Abbey. Fran later continued the handbell ringing tradition with the village Girl Guides. Fran served on the PCC for many years, and following Ken's death in 1982, she took his place as Churchwarden, later being elected Churchwarden Emeritus in honour of her faithful service. In addition to flower arranging, church cleaning, welcoming visitors, and many other activities, Fran was principally responsible for the embroidering of two magnificent alter cloths for Woburn Church. Sadly a fall suffered while in her 80s curtailed Fran's church attendance and connections with ringing, but she remained active until almost the end of her life, making the palm crosses for the most recent Palm Sunday services.

Fran was elected to the Bedfordshire Association in 1955 and remained a member until 2002. My personal memories will be of a reassuring and kindly lady who was always very welcoming and helpful to visiting ringers. When asked about access to the tower her usual reply was "oh, don't worry, I shall be there" and sure enough she always was. On occasions I would return the key to her home at 44 George Street, but it was seldom necessary as she was often still in church at the end of the ringing. Without people such as Fran, ringing as we know it would be so much the poorer. May she rest in peace.

Taken from a tribute written by Anne Applin, Fran's daughter, and given at Fran's funeral at Woburn on 10 January 2016, with a few additions by Stephen Stanford.

Pat Woolhead (1948 – 2015)

Pat was born in Aspley Guise in 1948. She met Martin, who lived in Eversholt, when she was fifteen and they eventually married and had two daughters, Samantha and Nadine.

When Nadine was fourteen she started ringing at Aspley Guise and was one of the team until she married and moved away. Pat then decided to fill the gap in the band and learn to ring. She was a regular and very dependable member of the local band. She was also a member of the local PCC, WI and British Legion.

In 2007 she was diagnosed with cancer and was treated at Leicester, during which time she still came ringing whenever possible and was declared clear. Alas the cancer returned in 2013 and although she had two more courses of chemotherapy, during which time she came ringing whenever she was able. She suffered a fatal heart attack in January 2015. A very much missed friend whose place will be very hard to fill. May she rest in peace.

Robert Churchill



Points from the Peals

Congratulations to the following members who rang their first peal in 2015

Date	Ringer	Bell rung, number of changes and Method	Tower
24 Jan	Clarrie Scott	3rd, 5024 Plain Bob Major	Clifton
27 Feb	Chris Hartley	Tenor, 5040 Plain Bob Triples	Woodchurch, Merseyside
12 Apr	Lizzie Pawley	4th, 5003 Grandsire Caters	Bedford St Paul
02 May	Dean De-Matteis	3rd , 5056 Cambridge S. Major	Clifton
02 May	Ruth Monks	3rd, 5040 to Minor (2m)	Flitton
02 May	Thomas Monks	Treble, 5040 Minor (2m)	Flitton
19 Jun	Clive Moncrieff	5th, 5040 Plain Bob Minor	Haynes
09 Aug	Helen De-Matteis	Treble , 5056 Yorkshire S. Major	Campton
07 Nov	Lucy Croucher	Treble, 5040 Plain Bob Doubles	Campton
13 Dec	Charlotte Francis	Treble, 5040 Plain Bob Doubles	Campton
26 Dec	George Saunders	Tenor, 5040 Grandsire Triples	Campton
28 Dec	Ian Townsend	4th, 5040 Grandsire Triples	Bromham
30 Dec	Jonathan Nash	2nd, 5040 Plain Bob Minor	Bedford, St Andrew
30 Dec	Melissa Nash	4th, 5040 Plain Bob Minor	Bedford, St Andrew
30 Dec	Lisa Adams	5th, 5040 Plain Bob Minor	Bedford, St Andrew

See the report on page 42

Members who rang five or more peals

Anthony H Smith	15	Frank W Rivett	9
John P Loveless	8	Christine Williams	8
Richard A Horne	7	Stephen H Stanford	7
Russell A Brown	6	Linda M Garton	6
Martin Major	6	Nicholas D Brown	5
Phillip S George	5	Susan M Silver	5
Charlotte M Smith	5		

Members who conducted more than one peal

Anthony H Smith	8	Stephen H Stanford	6
John P Loveless	4	Linda M Garton	2

Towers where more than one peal was rung

Campton	6	Elstow	3
Clifton	2	Eaton Socon	2
Flitton	2	Litlington	2

Methods rung

Doubles 2	Minor 15	Triples 3	Major 6	Caters 2
Plain Bob 2	7 Surprise 8	Grandsire 3	Cambridge 2	Grandsire 1
	7 Methods 2		Kingswinford 1	Stedman 1
	Plain Bob 2		London 1	
	5 Methods 1		Plain Bob 1	
	3 Methods 1		Yorkshire 1	
	2 Methods 1			

2015 Peals

Peal no. 4140 including 67 on handbells

CAMPTON, All Saints

Sat Jan 17, 2h37

5088 London Surprise Major

Comp: Stephen Ivins (No.14)

- 1 Nicholas D Brown
- 2 Martin Major
- 3 Craig P Homewood
- 4 Susan L Apter
- 5 Timothy R Forster
- 6 Russell A Brown
- 7 Simon J Poole
- 8 John P Loveless (C)

4141

CLIFTON, All Saints

Sat Jan 24, 2h42

5024 Plain Bob Major

Comp: J Barker

- 1 Kate J Scott
- 2 Alice T Scott
- 3 Clarrie Scott
- 4 Alan S Smith
- 5 Anthony H Smith (C)
- 6 Charlotte M Smith
- 7 Philippa M Whittington
- 8 Frank W Rivett

First peal: 3.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Charlotte's first peal (25th January 1965), which was rung in memory of Sir Winston Churchill.

4142

CAMPTON, All Saints

Mon Feb 2, 2h40

5040 Surprise Minor

(In 7 methods an extent each:

Annable's London, Westminster, Bourne, Surfleet, Ipswich, Norwich, Cambridge)

- 1 Charlotte M Smith
- 2 Christine A Williams
- 3 Philippa M Whittington
- 4 Frank W Rivett
- 5 Anthony H Smith (C)
- 6 Phillip S George

4143

EATON SOCON, St Mary

Sun Feb 15, 2h53

5060 Cambridge Surprise Major

Comp: D F Morrison (No.3891)

1 Christopher M J Spencer

2 James E Benner

3 Susan J Matthews

4 Michael J Matthews

5 Anthony H Smith

6 D Graham Hall

7 L Roy Woodruff

8 Michael J Belcher (C)

60th birthday compliment to the conductor.

On the 40th anniversary of Sue Matthews' first peal, at Wigtoft, Lincs, in which the ringers of 2 & 8 took part.

4144

EATON BRAY, St Mary the Virgin

Sat Mar 14, 2h35

5040 Surprise Minor

(In 7 methods an extent each:

Primrose, Ipswich, Beverley, Surfleet,

Bourne, Cambridge, Norwich)

1 Alan R Bentley

2 Robert W Jones

3 Ian N Robinson

4 Robert Tregillus

5 Simon J O Head

6 Michael Chester (C)

First peal on the bells since their restoration by Taylors.

4145

HENLOW, St Mary

Mon Mar 16, 2h50

5088 Kingswinford Surprise Major

Comp: D F Morrison (No.6909)

1 Martin Major

2 Charlotte M Smith

3 Phillip S George

4 Peter V Rogers

5 Anthony H Smith (C)

6 J Richard Castledine

7 Philip R Jewell

8 Richard A Horne

To welcome Elyjah Samuel Philip Jewell, a grandson for Philip and Heather.

4146

BEDFORD, St Paul

Sun Apr 12, 3h20

5003 Grandsire Caters

Comp: John S Warboys

1 Linda M Garton

2 Rosemary H Buckle

3 Alan J Marchbank

4 Lizzie A Pawley

5 Alexander J Nash

6 Martin A Heaslip

7 Jonathan R Pawley

8 John P Loveless

9 Andrew M Keech (C)

10 Philip R Jewell

In memory of Eileen Alexander OBE.

First peal: 4.

4147

FLITTON, St John the Baptist

Sat May 2, 2h35

5040 Plain Minor

(3 extents St Clements; 4 of Plain B)

1 Thomas Monks

2 Martin Major

3 Ruth Monks

4 Lyndsey B Brett

5 Frank W Rivett

6 Nicholas H Brett (C)

First peal at first attempt: 1 (aged 13), 3.

First peal as conductor.

To mark the 300th anniversary of the first ever peal, rung on 2nd May 1715. Also to celebrate the birth this morning of a daughter to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

4148

CLIFTON, All Saints

Sat May 2, 2h53

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

Comp: C Middleton

1 Christine A Williams

2 Linda M Garton

3 Dean De-Matteis

4 Anthony H Smith

5 James K Eggleston

6 Philippa M Whittington

7 David Kemp

8 John P Loveless (C)

First peal at first attempt: 3 (aged 15)

To mark the 300th anniversary of the first ever peal, rung on 2nd May 1715. Also to celebrate the birth this morning of a daughter to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

4149

ELSTOW, St Mary & St Helena

Sun May 3, 2h38

5040 Surprise Minor

(In 7 methods an extent each: London, Wells, Primrose, Ipswich, Beverley, Cambridge, Norwich)

1 Ann Desics

2 Nicholas H Brett

3 Anthony H Smith

4 Richard A Horne

5 Patrick J S Albon

6 Stephen H Stanford (C)

A fond farewell to Revd Jeremy Crocker, Beth, Tabitha, and Jemima on Jeremy's last Sunday as Rector of the United Benefice of Elstow, Cardington, and St Michael's Bedford, after 11 years, and following his appointment as Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Also to mark the 300th anniversary of the first recorded peal at St Peter Mancroft Norwich on 2 May 1715, and to celebrate the birth of a daughter to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on 2 May.

4150

LITLINGTON, Cambridgeshire,

St Catherine

Sat May 30, 2h42 (7cwt)

5040 Surprise Minor

(In 7 methods an extent each: Whitley, Bacup, Warkworth, Annable's London, Hull, Primrose, Norwich)

1 Hannah M Campbell

2 Frank W Rivett

3 Phillip S George

4 Anthony H Smith (C)

5 Russell A Brown

6 Richard A Horne

4151

HAYNES, St Mary

Fri June 19, 2h45

5040 Plain Bob Minor

(7 different extents)

1 Linda M Garton

2 Martin Major

3 Susan M Silver

4 Christine A Williams

5 Clive B Moncrieff

6 John P Loveless (C)

A surprise for Harriet.

First peal: 5.

4152

CAMPION, All Saints

Sun Aug 9, 2h45

5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Comp: Robert W Lee (No.4)

1 Helen De-Matteis

2 Christine A Williams

3 Dean De-Matteis

4 Martin Major

5 Anthony H Smith

6 John P Loveless (C)

7 Frank W Rivett

8 Linda M Garton

First peal: 1.

First in the method: 3.

4153

EATON SOCON, St Mary

Sun Sep 27, 2h49

5040 Grandsire Triples

Comp: J J Parker (6-part)

1 Michael J Matthews

2 Jane C Spencer

3 Christopher M J Spencer

4 Andrew J Spencer

5 Jonathan A Spencer

6 Michael R Spencer

7 Stephen H Stanford (C)

8 Susan J Matthews

Specially arranged to congratulate

Corinne Taylor and Christopher

Spencer on their marriage at this

church on Friday 28 August. The band

comprised Christopher's Stepfather (1),

Stepmother (2), Uncle (4), Cousin (5),

Father (6), Godfather (7) and Mother

(8).

First Triples: 5.

Circled the tower: 1.

4154/67

DUNSTABLE, Chew's House, 17,

High Street South

Mon Sep 28, 2h7 (12)

5040 Surprise Minor

(In 7 methods an extent each: Durham,

Wearmouth, Norwich, Netherseale,

Cambridge, Bourne, Ipswich)

1-2 Alan M Shepherd

3-4 Robert J Hornby

5-6 Matthew R Johnson (C)

First in hand: 1-2.

First of Surprise in hand: 3-4, 5-6.

First in hand as conductor.

4155

LITLINGTON, Cambridgeshire,

St Catherine

Sat Oct 10, 2h34 (7cwt)

5040 Surprise Minor

(In 7 methods an extent each: Alnwick,

Coldstream, Lincoln, Kelso,

Bamborough, Allendale, Westminster)

1 Hannah M Campbell

2 Frank W Rivett

3 Phillip S George

4 Anthony H Smith (C)

5 Russell A Brown

6 Richard A Horne

4156

CAMPION, All Saints

Sat Nov 7, 2h44

5040 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Lucy M Croucher

2 Linda M Garton (C)

3 Frank W Rivett

4 Christine A Williams

5 John P Loveless

6 Susan M Silver

In thanksgiving for the life of Christine

Mary Bartlett, much loved member of
this church.

First peal at first attempt: 1.

Circled tower: 6.

4157

ELSTOW, St Mary & St Helena

Sun Nov 15, 2h47

5040 Minor

(3 Methods, 2 extents each Single

Oxford, St Clements College B; 3

extents Plain Bob)

1 Christopher M J Spencer

2 Jane C Spencer

3 Michael R Spencer

4 Andrew J Spencer

5 Stephen H Stanford

6 Keith D Waples (C)

Specially arranged and rung exactly on

the 40th anniversary of Michael

Spencer's first peal. This peal was at

the same tower with Michael ringing

the same methods, the same bell and

with the same conductor as the first

4158

GREAT GRANSDEN,

Cambridgeshire, St Bartholomew

Sat Nov 28, 2h55 (14cwt)

5040 Surprise Minor

(7 methods an extent each: Sandiacre,

Northumberland, Bourne, Ipswich,

York, Beverley, Cambridge)

1 Christine A Williams

2 Richard A Horne

3 Hannah M Campbell

4 Anthony H Smith (C)

5 Russell A Brown

6 Phillip S George

350th peal: 6.

This peal completes a series in which

the ringers of 4,5 & 6 have completed

extents of all 41 Surprise Minor

Methods and 2 has done so for the

second time. We would like to thank all

those who rang in earlier peals

especially Charlotte Smith who had

hoped to be in them all.

4159

CAMPION, All Saints

Sun Dec 13, 2h46

5040 Plain Bob Doubles

1 Charlotte Francis

2 Linda M Garton (C)

3 Clare Francis

4 Christine A Williams

5 John P Loveless

6 Susan M Silver

First peal at first attempt: 1.

First inside: 3.

4160

FLITWICK, St Peter & St Paul

Monday Dec 21, 2h56

5040 Surprise Minor

(7 methods an extent each: Chester,

Lightfoot, Bourne, Warkworth, London,

Norwich, Cambridge)

1 Christine A Williams

2 Nicholas D Brown

3 John P Loveless

4 Anthony H Smith

5 Frank W Rivett

6 Peter J Waterfield (C)

4161

CAMPTON, All Saints

Saturday Dec 26, 2h51

5040 Grandsire Triples

Comp: J J Parker (6-part)

- 1 James R B Saunders
- 2 Clive G Smith
- 3 Christine A Knight
- 4 Richard A Horne
- 5 Anthony H Smith
- 6 Richard A Knight
- 7 Stephen H Stanford (C)
- 8 George E Saunders

For Christmas. With thanks to John Loveless, the organiser (who forgot to leave himself a rope!).

First peal at first attempt: 8.

4162

BROMHAM, St Owen

Monday Dec 28, 3h2

5040 Grandsire Triples

Comp: J J Parker (6-part)

- 1 David I Stanford
- 2 Anna R Townsend
- 3 Richard A Horne
- 4 Timothy M D Stanford
- 5 Ian Townsend
- 6 Russell A Brown
- 7 Stephen H Stanford (C)
- 8 Patrick J S Albon

For Christmas.

Also a retirement compliment to Russell Brown (at the second attempt).

First peal at first attempt: 5.

First of Grandsire and Triples: 2.

First of Grandsire Triples: 4.

4163

FLITTON, St John the Baptist

Monday Dec 28, 2h32

5040 Minor

(5 methods in 7 extents: (1) Cambridge S (2) Oxford TB (3) Norwich S (4) Cambridge S (5) Single Oxford B (6) Single Oxford, Plain B (7) Plain B)

- 1 Susan M Silver
- 2 James K Eggleston
- 3 Charlotte M Smith
- 4 Anthony H Smith (C)
- 5 Clive G Smith
- 6 Nicholas D Brown

For Christmas and with best wishes to Des Brazier on the eve of his 90th Birthday.

4164

SILSOE, St James the Great

Tuesday Dec 29, 2h30

5040 Minor

(7 methods an extent each: St Clements College B, Double Oxford B, Single Oxford B, Ipswich S, Norwich S, Cambridge S, Plain B)

- 1 Susan M Silver
- 2 Simon N Stranks
- 3 Charlotte M Smith
- 4 Anthony H Smith (C)
- 5 Nicholas D Brown
- 6 Russell A Brown

To celebrate Des Brazier's 90th Birthday.

4165

KEMPSTON, All Saints

Wednesday Dec 30, 3h8

5019 Stedman Caters

Comp: S H Stanford

- 1 Stephen H Stanford (C)
- 2 Julie A Haseldine
- 3 Ruth Stokes
- 4 Lesley J Belcher
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 B Douglas Hird
- 7 Andrew Haseldine
- 8 David Phillipson
- 9 Christopher C Stokes
- 10 Nicholas D Brown

For Christmas.

Also to congratulate Cliff Izzard on completing 70 years as a ringer at this church, 35 of which were as Tower Captain.

500th peal together: 2 & 9.

4166

BEDFORD, St Andrew

Wednesday Dec 30, 2h57

5040 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 David S Heaslip
- 2 Jonathan J Nash
- 3 Barbara J Woplin
- 4 Melissa F Nash
- 5 Lisa J Adams
- 6 Alexander J Nash (C)

By a Sunday service band to mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the District of St Andrew's church.

First peal: 2,4,5.

4167/67

ELSTOW, St Mary & St Helena

Thursday Dec 31, 2h43

5040 Minor

(7 methods an extent each: London S, Ipswich S, Single Oxford B, Oxford TB, Norwich S, Cambridge S, Plain B)

- 1 James R B Saunders
- 2 Martin Major
- 3 Andrew J Spencer
- 4 Anthony H Smith
- 5 Frank W Rivett
- 6 Stephen H Stanford (C)

In fond memory of Robert P Wood, who learned to ring on these bells, on the second anniversary of his untimely death.

General Information for members

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults - Association guidelines, revised March 2016

These guidelines are for Tower Captains, Association Officers and those who teach, or help, children and vulnerable adults to ring. They're based on guidance issued by the St Albans Diocese and Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR). Child Protection rules define a 'child' as a person under the age of 18 (or anyone who has been assessed as having a mental age of under 18). At present there isn't a definition of 'vulnerable adult'. Until we have a definition, everyone should use their own judgement.

Sunday service ringing and individual tower practices are the responsibility of that church/parish; we strongly advise all ringers to check local arrangements and comply with them.

Everyone should take safeguarding matters seriously. This will ensure that:

- Children and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse.
- Adults working with children and vulnerable adults don't put themselves in compromising situations.
- The good name of the Association, and ringing in general, is protected.

We recommend that everyone involved with children and vulnerable adults in ringing (whether they're members or not) should:

- Have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) 'enhanced check' if teaching children/vulnerable adults face to face, even where supervised.
- Always have at least two adults present (preferably a male and female) when children/vulnerable adults are present at tower, District or Association practices.
- Make parents/guardians responsible for taking children/vulnerable adults to and from the church.
- Keep an attendance register or record.
- Be aware of the insurance position for children/vulnerable adults.
- Never allow children/vulnerable adults up amongst the bells apart from an initial demonstration visit if it is safe to have one.
- Get written permission from parents/guardians before children/vulnerable adults are taken without them to Tower, District and Association meetings, training, outings and social functions or other towers' practices.
- Make sure parents/guardians have agreed transport arrangements for children/vulnerable adults travelling to and from ringing, meeting, or social activities away from the home tower.
- Never travel alone in a car with a child/vulnerable adult.
- Only hold child/vulnerable adult personal contact information with the permission of parents/guardians.

If you are a Tower Captain, or someone who works with children or vulnerable adults, you should also:

- Know the child protection/safeguarding policy of your church and the 'named person' to whom you should report concerns.
- Invite parents/guardians to a training session before teaching begins so that they're fully aware of what's involved.
- Ask parents/guardians to sign a registration form which gives their permission for the child/vulnerable adult to learn to ring (downloadable from our website www.bacbr.org.uk).

The Association's Safeguarding Coordinator may contact parents/guardians to make sure they understand the Association's guidelines and their own responsibilities.

For more information see the child protection notes on the CCCBR website:

www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship and guidance on the St Albans Diocese website: www.stalbans.anglican.org.

If you have any queries contact our Safeguarding Coordinator, Rosemary Drewery, email: safeguarding@bacbr.org.uk, telephone: 07792 926004.

Data protection

The Data Protection Act 1998 provisions came into force on the 1st March 2000. The Association is exempt from registration under the Act but must still follow the principles of good data handling.

As an Association member, a parent/guardian of a member under 18 years old or a Tower Contact who is a non-member, you should be aware that personal information (including name, address, telephone number, email address, subscription payment record and peals rung for the Association) is held and maintained electronically and on paper records for use by nominated Association Officers (including District Officers).

Association and District Officers also hold email addresses, where members give specific permission, to communicate about Association and District events and activities.

Your personal data is only used for the legitimate purposes of the Association; we do not allow personal data to be used by others. You have the right to see the data we hold about you.

By joining the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers you agree to your name appearing in the Annual Report and, where relevant, on the Association's website, Association and District newsletter and other communications.

We do ask members and tower contacts (whether members or not), to give specific permission before other personal data, such as phone number, address and email address, is used in the Annual Report or on the Association's website.

Please help us to keep our records up to date by informing the Honorary Secretary and relevant District Secretary of any changes to your personal information.

Association and member insurance cover – reviewed 2015

The Association has an insurance policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. Ringing Associations generally have public liability cover and some may also have property and/or personal injury cover. Some Associations don't provide any insurance cover at all, because they believe it is too expensive with little benefit.

We decided against providing personal insurance for every member because it is expensive and these policies may give a false sense of security as they have small pay-outs. For example, a typical pay-out is unlikely to cover your loss of earnings if you were unable to work due to a ringing accident. We believe our cover is a good membership benefit which accounts for about £1.00 of your annual subscription. You can view our policy document on the website.

Cover includes:

- £2,000,000 public and products liability for third party claims on the Association and individual members;
- 'Member to Member' liability, if one member should sue another member;
- Property damage and unspecified risks, for our valuable assets including the striking competition trophies, President's badge and library contents.
- A very modest personal accident insurance, **only** for our named Technical Advisor.
- Trustee indemnity cover

The liability cover only applies if a member isn't entitled to indemnity under any other policy and it won't apply if the member isn't complying with the terms and conditions of our policy, such as:

It is a condition of this insurance that the inspection, adjustment and repair of bells will be undertaken only by persons technically competent relating to engineering or church structures or if, in the view of such qualified persons, they are competent to perform the tasks allotted to them.

It is very difficult to give definitive advice here because 'technical competence' or 'qualified persons' aren't defined and because there are so many different circumstances.

The following may help you decide how this affects you:

- You should check the insurance position of your own church. Every church must have its own insurance cover. If you're teaching learners in your own tower then you're likely to be covered by your church policy, but upper and lower age limits may apply. If you are teaching outside your own tower then you'll need to check your insurance position at that tower.
- If you are doing more than 'routine maintenance' then you may not be covered by your church policy. You should seek specific advice for any work that could be considered as more than routine maintenance.
- If you are a volunteer worker for any bell or tower work project being carried out by recognised, professional bell engineers, you may be able to get some cover under their policy but check beforehand, is it for liability or accidents?
- Members of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) should check how they are covered through ART's insurance policy for teaching at towers within and outside the Association's area.

See also the Central Council's guidance note on insurance and ringing
<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship/notes/GN1v8.pdf>

Practice Nights

It is always advisable to check before visiting a tower on practice night; see the 'Towers and Members' section for details. Some towers only practice on certain weeks of the month, alternate their practice with one or more other towers or are only by special arrangement. Many towers don't hold a regular practice at all.

Only towers that indicate that they may hold or arrange a practice are listed here.

	District		
	Bedford	Biggleswade	Luton
Monday	Bedford St Paul	Northill Haynes	Barton Le Clay Leighton Buzzard Shillington Silsoe Studham Tilsworth Westoning
Tuesday	Bromham Clapham Renhold Riseley Sharnbrook Stevington Thurleigh	Campton Cople Henlow Great Barford Potton Willington	Linslade Luton
Wednesday	Felmersham Goldington Kempston Keysoe	Biggleswade Blunham Eaton Socon Sandy Tempsford Maulden	Aspley Guise Dunstable Eaton Bray Flitton Husborne Crawley Stanbridge
Thursday	Bedford St Andrew Bedford St Peter Biddenham Bletsoe Cardington Colmworth Stagsden Upper Dean	Amphill Southill Stotfold	Caddington Cranfield Houghton Regis Woburn
Friday	Carlton Elstow Harrold Little Staughton Oakley Turvey	Arlesey Clifton Meppershall	Flitwick Toddington



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