

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers Members Update August 2020

Dear Member,

I hope you continue to keep well. Since the last Update I'm aware that one member, Roy Webb, sadly passed away on 28 May after a long illness. He was a long-time ringer at St Marys Stotfold and a former Chairman of the Biggleswade District. He will be missed and our sympathies are with his family and friends. A handbell peal of Plain Bob Minor was rung in memory of Roy and Stan Ashton on 3 June by John Loveless, Linda Garton and David Kemp. You can read the details on the Ringing World's BellBoard here: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1367992>

Covid 19 - guidance for resuming service ringing

As churches start to hold services again there has been guidance from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) and the Church of England about how service ringing can also be resumed safely.

The CCCBR guidance, which was updated again on 14th August to mention face coverings, social distancing requirements and the impact of local lockdowns, can be found here:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Please keep checking this guidance as the pandemic and government guidance evolves. I'm aware that the CCCBR are currently seeking views about changing the guidance in a way that would allow either, more ringers to ring but still for just 15 minutes, or the same number of ringers to ring for longer. Any changes will have to be agreed by Public Health England and the Church of England. For the time being, ringers at individual churches will need to devise their own procedures and carry out a risk assessment according to the current guidance to resume service ringing. This will also have to satisfy your incumbent and PCC and take into account the particular circumstances at your church. Unfortunately, there is no 'one size fits all' with this. If you need any help or advice about a risk assessment and procedure then email me secretary@bacbr.org.uk and I'll see if I can help.

There is little possibility of recreational ringing, such as practice nights, outings, peals or district meetings, being able to resume any time soon.

Association and District events

Because of the current restrictions on bell ringing, all Association and District events remain cancelled for the foreseeable future. Please keep an eye on the website www.bacbr.org.uk and the Association's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/240759242723040/> where we will post any updates as soon as possible.

The General Committee are still hopeful of holding an AGM at some point this year but we appreciate there are pros and cons with both face to face meetings or virtual meetings in the current circumstances. I'd be interested to hear your views about whether you would support an AGM held either face to face or using Zoom (or similar virtual mechanism), or whether you think we should just postpone until next year. Please email your views to secretary@bacbr.org.uk - a response by the end of August would be useful.

Association Peal Secretary and Association Secretary

As I mentioned in the last Update, we need to find a new Peal Secretary as soon as possible and Association Secretary as from May 2021. Here are a few notes about the roles. Please think about how you could help us! Chris Williams (email pealsecretary@babcr.org.uk) would be glad to answer any questions about the Peal Secretary role, as would I for the Association Secretary role.

The Peal Secretary:

- Is an Honorary Officer and Trustee of the Association and serves on the General Committee.
- Receives details and peal fees for all peals rung for the Association.
- Pays cash peal fees in to either Lloyds Bank or the Post Office, and records on-line banking payments made directly to the Association's account.

- Collates peals (via peals.co.uk) in a suitable format to be published as the main record in the Association's Annual Report.

The Association Secretary:

- Is an Honorary Officer and Trustee of the Association and serves on the General Committee.
- Is the main contact for communications from the CCCBR and other Associations.
- Provides administrative services to the General Committee for two Committee meetings, the Association AGM each year, producing agendas and taking the minutes and for other matters that arise.
- Produces the Association Annual Report which involves requesting, collating and editing contributions, such as reports and obituaries.
- Is responsible for maintaining the Association membership records.
- Is the contact for arranging insurance cover with the Association's insurers, Ecclesiastical Insurance.
- Has in recent years, worked closely with the Webmaster to help keep website up to date, informative and relevant to members.
- Is the administrator of the Associations' Facebook and Twitter accounts.

I do think that some parts of the role could be done by others as Non-Committee roles, for example - producing the annual report, membership, helping with the website and social media. To be honest the more people who help with these jobs the better as far as I'm concerned. It would also help reduce the Hon. Secs workload!

There is a well known saying – "Don't ask what the Bedfordshire Association can do for you but think about what you can do for the Association"!

That's all for now - please let me know if you change your email address or if you don't want to receive these updates.

Regards

Terry Brown

Honorary Secretary

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