

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers



St James, Silsoe

Annual Report 2022

Contents

Association Officers 2022	3	List of Members and Towers	20
District Secretaries and Treasurers 2023	4	Obituaries	33
District Officers 2022	4	Points from the Past	39
Association Diary 2023/2024	5	Points from the peals	40
Subscription rates and other charges	6	2022 Peals	41
Association Officer reports	7	General information	43
Accounts	14	Practice sessions	46
District reports	16		

Cover picture – St James, Silsoe

St James, Silsoe the original chapel had a large round bell turret, sadly it collapsed during other building works to the chapel. The present-day church was designed by Earl De Grey of Wrest Park and completed in 1830.

Photograph taken by Simon Stranks, Tower Captain

Information on the Association's Website - www.bacbr.org.uk

- Association and District events calendar
- Association rules
- Association Bell Restoration Fund rules and information
- R J Sharp Bell Fund Code of Practice and information
- Details of the Association's insurance cover
- Association Officers from 1882
- Membership forms, subscription and gift aid information
- Tower map and up to date tower contact information
- Association St Peter's Cup 6 bell striking competition - rules and results
- Association safeguarding guidance and 'permission to ring' form
- Personal data privacy information
- Jim's Jug raise and lower in peal challenge - rules and results
- Bell Board feed of Bedfordshire peals and other performances



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Facebook

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Follow us on Twitter [@bedsbellringers](https://twitter.com/bedsbellringers)

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 and Committee Appointees 2022

President

Linda M Garton, 17 Gravenhurst Road, Campton SG17 5DW

01462 539469 president@bacbr.org.uk

Vice-President

Susan M Silver, 3 Heronslee, Shefford, SG17 5FQ

01462 817530 vicepresident@bacbr.org.uk

Honorary Life Members

Robert R Churchill, Derek A Hammond (deceased), Clifford W Izzard,

John R Pemble, Anthony H Smith

Honorary Secretary

Sarah Ward, 34 Wood End Road, Kempston Rural, MK43 9BB

01234 856778 secretary@bacbr.org.uk

Honorary Treasurer

Timothy Blunt, 5 Water Lane, Flitwick, MK45 1LD

07595 318274 treasurer@bacbr.org.uk

Honorary Peal Secretary

Richard A Horne, 48 Burr Street, Dunstable, LU6 3AG

01582 600073 pealsecretary@bacbr.org.uk

Honorary Librarian

Patrick J S Albon, Chapel Cottage, Higham Road,

Chelveston, NN9 6AH

01933 626238 librarian@bacbr.org.uk

Central Council Representatives

Patrick J S Albon Richard A Horne Linda M Garton

Honorary Independent Examiner

Trevor W Groom, 6 Bell Close, Hitchin, SG4 9NJ
01462 622497 examiner@bacbr.org.uk

Safeguarding Coordinator

Rosemary Drewery 07792 926004 safeguarding@bacbr.org.uk

Web Master

January to October Tony Sharp
From November : Teresa Brown 01462 631057
webmaster@bacbr.org.uk

District Secretaries and Treasurers 2023

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: Nichola Hele
45, Alameda Road, Ampthill MK45 2LA
01525 840278
biggleswade@bacbr.org.uk

Treasurer: Susan Silver
3 Heronslee, Shefford SG17 5FQ
01462 817530
biggleswadetreasurer@bacbr.org.uk

Luton District

Secretary: Angela Blackburn
7 Knotts Close, Dunstable
LU6 3NY
01582 663756
luton@bacbr.org.uk

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

District Officers 2022

Bedford District

Chairman: Martin Goodwin
Secretary: Robert Jones
Treasurer: Jenny Thompson
District BRF Treasurer:
Martin Goodwin
Committee: Barbara Woplin
Ringling Master: Sarah Ward

District Outing Organiser: Adrienne Sharp
RJ Sharp Fund & Association BRF Rep:

Ind. Examiner BRF & District Accounts
Andrew Dennison

Biggleswade District

Chairman: Susan Silver
Secretary: Nichola Hele
Treasurer: Susan Silver
Ringing Master: Christine Williams
Committee: Teresa Brown, Paul Chandler,
Charlotte Francis, Henry Francis

District BRF Treasurer: Susan Silver
RJ Sharp Fund Rep: Linda Garton
Association BRF Rep: John Loveless
Ind. Examiner BRF & Membership
Accounts: Frank Rivett

Luton District

Chairman: Richard Horne
Secretary: Angela Blackburn
Treasurer: Christopher Catlin
Ringing Master: Alan Shepherd
Assistant Ringing Master & Training
Officer: Angela Blackburn
Committee: Barbara Fraser
Striking Contest Organiser: Richard Horne

District BRF Treasurer: Simon Stranks
RJ Sharp Fund & Association BRF Rep:
Simon Stranks
Ind Examiner District Accounts:
David Adams
Ind. Examiner BRF: Susan Silver

Association 2023 Diary – see www.bacbr.org.uk for current details			
Association AGM	Sat 20 May	Flitton	5pm
Ridgman Trophy	Sat 17 th June	tbc	tbc
RWNYC	Sat 8 July	York	Not competing
Association 6 bell open striking competition and St Peter's Cup	Sat 16 September	Bletsoe	Draw tbc
Melville Cup Striking Competition for Young Ringers	Sat 16 September	tbc	Draw tbc
2024 Forward look			
Biggleswade District ADM	Sat 13 January	Henlow	4.30 – 8.30pm
Bedford District ADM	Sat 20 January	tbc	3.30 - 8.30pm
Luton District ADM	Sat 27 January	tbc	3.30 - 8.30pm
Association AGM	Sat 18 May	tbc	Timings tbc
Association 6 bell open striking competition and St Peter's Cup	Sat 21 September	tbc	Draw 5.00pm

2023 Subscription rates and other charges		
Membership Category	Rate	Details
Resident Member – under 19s	£2.50	Payable on election / annual
Resident Member – 19 and over	£10.00	Payable on election / annual of which £5 is passed to the Association Bell Restoration Fund
Non-Resident	£0.00	
Associate Member	£2.50	Payable on election / annual
Transfer between categories		
From Resident Member to Non-Resident Member	£10.00 (final payment)	If after paying up to four consecutive annual subscriptions
	£0	If after paying five or more consecutive annual subscriptions
From Non-Resident Member to Resident Member	£10	Payable on transfer
Other fees and charges		
Peal Fee	£1.00	Per ringer per peal (to BRF)
Annual report	£5.00	Charge for non-members
Badge	£2.00	Available from District Treasurers

Paying subscriptions by standing order or on-line banking

It's easy to pay your subscription by standing order or online banking. You can either:

- Complete a standing order mandate to send to your bank. Download the form from our website <https://www.bacbr.org.uk/association/business/subscriptions/>
- Pay online with a recurring, annual payment in January each year.

Our account details are:

- Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers,
- Account number 01418488
- Sort Code 30-94-47

Use your surname/district as the reference

Gift Aid - If you are a UK tax payer please complete a Gift Aid Declaration so we can recover the tax on your subscription or donation at no cost to you. For more information and to download the form visit our website at <https://www.bacbr.org.uk/association/business/subscriptions/>

Association Officer Reports

President's Report for 2022

As we entered 2022, COVID restrictions were still in place. Early in the year there was a tentative return to ringing, reaching something more akin to normality by the end the year! However, the impact that COVID has had on ringing is evident and there is much rebuilding to be done, as we anticipated would be the case when we drew up the Association Action Plan in March 2021. Since then, progress has been made towards several of the objectives of the Action Plan.

During 2022, this included several successful new initiatives:

- Ring a First in February, with "Firsts" achieved by 18 individuals or local bands.
- Bi-monthly Association Surprise Major practices.
- The AGM in May was followed by a supper and quiz, a very enjoyable social event.
- A Summer School, held in August, was attended by 11 students, all of whom made good progress Plain Hunting on 5 and ringing Plain Bob Doubles. Thank you to the 18 helpers and 9 towers who allowed us the use of their bells.

It is intended that these events will become regular fixtures in the Association's calendar.

Due to the death of HM the Queen, the Association Open Striking Contest in September had to be cancelled. However, it is intended to reinstate this event in September 2023, following its success in 2021.

However, despite many positives, there remain some big issues which need to be addressed. Most importantly these are:

- Recruitment remains a big priority, but we need more teachers of ringing in order to teach new recruits.
- We don't have a coherent training plan across the Association.
- There is no-one with specific responsibility for training or for communications/PR.

It became increasingly evident that to make the desired progress with the Action Plan and to secure a healthy future for ringing in Bedfordshire, some fundamental changes were necessary. Therefore, at the AGM May 2022 it was agreed that we'd conduct a review of the objectives, structure, and roles of the Association.

The first stage of this was another survey, this time of the whole membership. From this, it was clear that members felt that the main purposes of the Association should be:

- Recruitment, training and development
- Communication both to members and to non-ringers / outside
- Promoting ringing for Church services
- Care and restoration of bells and their fittings

Draft revised objects were drawn up by the end of 2022, and it is hoped that, following due process, these will be adopted at the 2023 AGM, after which the focus will move on to a review of the management structure of the Association.

During 2022, there were several national events, and it was good that many Bedfordshire towers were able to ring for at least one of these:

- The 70th anniversary of the Accession of HM the Queen in February, involving 80+ ringers at 20 towers.
- HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, involving 192 ringers at 33 towers.
- In September, bells were rung or tolled to mark the death and funeral of Her Majesty (at 43 towers)

The big national event of 2023 will be the coronation of King Charles III in May, and we hope that as many towers as possible will be able to ring for this.

We look forward to seeing you either at a District or Association event soon. Thank you to the Association and District Officers for their hard work during 2022, and to everyone, for all that you do to keep the bells at your towers ringing.

Linda Garton, President

Treasurer's Report

2022 was a much better year in terms of ringing following the previous 2 years where activities had been restricted. This included much welcomed events such as at the AGM where the quiz night resulted in donations to the sum of £516.50 going towards the BRF. Unfortunately, membership numbers were down year on year with 254 adult members and 6 young members in 2021 reducing to 249 and 7 respectively in 2022. This is not a surprise given the opportunities, particularly towards the start of the year to recruit and train new potential members had been limited. It was however positive to see a number of new members being voted in at the most recent ADM which will hopefully boost the membership in 2023.

The year ended with a surplus of £285.42 in the General Fund which was up from £173.05 in 2021. This was helped by the collection of arrears for 9 2021

memberships and low outgoings due to a few of the events such as the striking competition not going ahead. This put the overall General Fund at a healthy £3,904.15 balance at the end of the period.

Timothy Blunt, Honorary Treasurer

Peal Secretary's Report

The last year has seen a modest recovery in the number of peals rung for the Association (from 9 to 17). The lifting of COVID restrictions in the early part of the year, and a return to a more 'normal' situation, permitted a wider resumption of peal ringing. The result was an increase in the number of tower bell peals (from 3 to 16) and a decrease in handbell peals (from 6 to 1). Peals were rung at only five towers in the Association boundary, with Campton remaining the most popular place, and two outside the Association boundary. The number of ringers taking part was 55 and was a mixture of both resident and non-resident members. It was a little disappointing, but perhaps understandable due to the limitations of the last few years, that there were no members who rang their first peal during the year.

Although the total number of peals was not that great in comparison to previous years, a significant number of the peals were rung for specific events or occasions. Of National significance, peals were rung to mark the 70th anniversary of the Accession (February), the Platinum Jubilee (June) and, sadly, for the passing of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II (September).

The long delayed first peal on the refurbished ring of 10 at Kempston was scored in June with a peal of Grandsire Caters and this was followed by a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal in November.

It was good to see that two of our younger members were able to progress in their ringing. Henry Francis rang his first on eight inside, with a peal of Campton Delight Major, at Campton and Kristian White-Spunner rang his first on ten at Biggleswade in October. At the other end of the age continuum Frank Rivett marked a significant birthday with a long length of Surprise Minor at Haynes. We extend our congratulations to Anthony & Charlotte Smith, whose Golden Wedding anniversary was celebrated with a peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor at Henlow in July.

Finally I should like to mention the work done by Richard Hillson, Pat Albon and others in entering historical Bedfordshire Association peals into BellBoard. Almost inevitably this has highlighted a few peal records that need further research and possibly future corrections. However, I think is a valuable record of our peals and will be beneficial for other purposes too. This task has taken a significant amount of time and effort on their part, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for undertaking this work.

Richard Horne, Honorary Peal Secretary

Points from the peals and details of peals rung for the Association in 2022 are on pages 40-42.

Librarian's Report

2022 was again a quiet year with only the occasional loans of Annual Reports and Ringing World DVD's. There were two new acquisitions to the library; both orders of service for the funerals of Michael Benson of Felmersham, and Gemma Davison of Sharnbrook.

Richard Hillson and I have continued to make good progress in entering peals into the Bellboard database. At the time of writing this report, Richard has finished all the peals, rung anywhere, for the Bedfordshire Association. I have concentrated on peals in Bedfordshire towers, regardless of the Association to which they are attributed, and have completed all towers with the exception of Leighton Buzzard. Between us we have entered over 4400 peals!

My thanks continue to go to Stephen Stanford for providing a home for the bulk of the library and for acting as its custodian.

P J S Albon Honorary Librarian

Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund Committee Report

This year's Committee were Martin Goodwin (Bedford District) Sue Silver (Biggleswade District), Simon Stranks (Luton District), Linda Garton (President) and Sarah Ward (Honorary Secretary).

We awarded one new grant: For contributions to those who were taking part in the Learning to Teach ART course in January 2023, hire of hall and use of the RJ Sharp Ringing Centre at St Andrew's Biggleswade up to a maximum of £250.00. This will be paid in the 2023 accounts.

As at 31/12/2022 the Fund stood at £4090.65

Sue Silver

Association Bell Restoration Fund Report.

The fund stood at £10,630.05 at the year end with an income of £2,514.57 and no expenditure during the year (subject to final approval of the accounts).

The committee met once, prior to the AGM on 21 May 2022, when a grant of £8,000 was made to the St Paul's Bedford Tower Clock and Bells project, specifically for work to the bells and subject to faculty award and final firm quotations consistent with current estimates. To avoid any conflict of interest, Pat Albon was elected to chair the meeting in the Chairman's absence. I would like to thank all who contributed to the fund during the year whether through their membership, peal fees, or donations.

Stephen Stanford (Chair)

Ronald J Sharp Ringing Centre Report

During 2022, we continued to make good use of the Ringing Centre facilities for the monthly learners practice. This takes place on the second Saturday of the month between 10 and 12 and concentrates on handling skills, striking and listening. Over the year, we welcomed a number of new attendees with a range of knowledge from complete beginner to those wishing to improve their handling. These sessions do not happen without support from experienced ringers and the “technical” support, so a big thank you to all of you who supported us this year.

We would also like to say a big thank you to those who provide excellent refreshments in the Chapter House during these sessions. The social part of the morning is just as important as the ringing part.

Philippa Whittington, Sue Silver and Chris Williams

Safeguarding Report

Beth Miller ~ DSA in the Diocese of Durham

~ Churches welcome vulnerable people, many of whom view it as a safe place to be. If any place should be safe a church should be it ~

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is an absolute priority in the Diocese of St Albans. In 2017 the national independent safeguarding audit commissioned by the national Church of England recognised that the Diocese is committed to safeguarding by effectively working together to make churches and chaplaincies safer places.

Anyone who has suffered abuse needs to be properly heard, properly cared for and where necessary entitled to justice.

The Church of England will respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.

The Diocese of St Albans has designed various levels of high, quality targeted safeguarding training for any members of the church working with children and vulnerable adults across the Diocese and this has to be refreshed every three years.

Previous levels of training will be more enhanced and there will be further training on domestic abuse and mental health.

Regular newsletters from the Diocese Safeguarding Training Team are sent out with any updates on safeguarding with links to the online training.

The guidance in these newsletters comes from the House of Bishops Safeguarding Training and Development Practice Guidance. All national policies and practise guidance, CCPAS guidance and the newsletter can be found at www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/safeguarding-documents

No safeguarding issues have been raised in the last year.

Rosemary Drewery – Safeguarding Co ordinator

Technical Advice provided during 2022

The following assistance was supplied this year:

Maulden – a visit here was requested and advice was given on maintenance of various parts of the installation. No serious problems were noted.

Arlesey – the local Tower Captain requested a visit as the go of the bells had been deteriorating recently. Significant problems were noted and advice was given on priorities.

Meppershall – a general check over was requested here. Generally in good order, one potentially serious issue was spotted which could easily be rectified. Advice was given on general maintenance and safety issues.

Swineshead – contact was made with the local Tower Captain when rumours that the bells were unringable came to light. A rope had broken which had temporarily rendered the bells unringable. A visit to check the whole installation was offered and accepted. No significant issues were found and an offer was made to provide ringers for special occasions wherever possible.

Odell – a check over was requested by the local Tower Captain after members of the Association had problems striking the bells at a Bedford District meeting. Generally the installation is in good order, however some maintenance is required and an offer to assist with this has been accepted.

In each case a detailed report was provided.

Pat Albion & Steve Stanford

Association Bell Restoration Fund

The BRF was set up in 2013 to give grants to church authorities within our area towards work to provide, restore, maintain and improve bells and bell installations.

Full details and an application form are available on our website - www.bacbr.org.uk

If you, or your tower, would like to make a donation to the Fund or have any fundraising ideas please contact the Honorary Secretary:

Sarah Ward, 34 Wood End Road, Kempston Rural, MK43 9BB
secretary@bacbr.org.uk

District Bell Fund Grants paid in 2022

Biggleswade District: None

Bedford District: £10,000 to St Paul's Bedford approved but not yet paid.

Luton District: None

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 bedford@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

ACCOUNTS

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Receipts	2022				2021			
	General	The RJ Sharp Fund	BRF	Total Funds	General	The RJ Sharp Fund	BRF	Total Funds
Income								
Subscriptions								
Annual Membership - Adults	2,490.00	-	-	2,490.00	2,540.00	-	-	2,540.00
Annual Membership - Under 19's	17.50	-	-	17.50	15.00	-	-	15.00
Associate Member	12.50	-	-	12.50	15.00	-	-	15.00
Arrears	90.00	-	-	90.00	10.00	-	-	10.00
Advance Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trading								
Sale of Association Badges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of Reports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from Report Adverts	131.50	-	-	131.50	143.00	-	-	143.00
Other								
Peal Fees	134.00	-	-	134.00	44.00	-	-	44.00
Gift Aid - HMRC	392.81	-	-	392.81	277.88	-	-	277.88
Donations	126.50	45.00	-	171.50	254.00	-	-	254.00
Donations Summer School	53.00	-	-	53.00	-	-	-	-
Donations AGM	516.50	-	-	516.50	-	-	-	-
Investment Income								
Interest	1.76	1.84	4.79	8.38	0.23	0.25	0.51	0.99
Total Receipts	3,966.07	46.84	4.79	4,017.69	3,299.11	0.25	0.51	3,299.87
Payments								
Charity Expenditure								
Central Council Affiliation Fees	120.00	-	-	120.00	120.00	-	-	120.00
Printing of Annual Report	440.00	-	-	440.00	496.00	-	-	496.00
Other Expenditure								
Districts Administration Expenses	3.00	-	-	3.00	8.50	-	-	8.50
Insurance for Public Liability	530.08	-	-	530.08	499.42	-	-	499.42
Website costs	48.00	-	-	48.00	-	-	-	-
Ringing World Notices	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Committee Meeting - Room Hire	25.00	-	-	25.00	25.00	-	-	25.00
Gifts for Striking Comp Judges	-	-	-	-	27.55	-	-	27.55
Donation for use of bells	-	-	-	-	50.00	-	-	50.00
Zoom licence	-	-	-	-	-	143.88	-	143.88
Expenses - President	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenses - Secretary	-	-	-	-	18.48	-	-	18.48
Expenses - CCCBR conference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Young Ringers - use of bells for pra	-	-	-	-	30.00	-	-	30.00
Total Payments	1,166.08	-	-	1,166.08	1,274.95	143.88	-	1,418.83
Transfer Between Funds								
50% Annual Adult Subs to BRF	(1,290.00)	-	1,290.00	-	(1,275.00)	-	1,275.00	-
Peal Fees to BRF	(134.00)	-	134.00	-	(44.00)	-	44.00	-
Donations to BRF	(696.00)	-	696.00	-	(254.00)	-	254.00	-
Gift Aid to BRF	(392.81)	-	392.81	-	(277.88)	-	277.88	-
Investment Interest to BRF	(1.76)	-	1.76	-	(0.23)	-	0.23	-
Total Transfer Between Funds	(2,514.57)	-	2,514.57	-	(1,851.11)	-	1,851.11	-
Cash Funds								
Cash Funds at 31/12/2021	3,618.73	4,043.81	8,110.70	15,773.24	3,445.68	4,187.44	6,259.08	13,892.20
Net Receipts/Payments	285.42	46.84	2,519.35	2,851.61	173.05	(143.63)	1,851.62	1,881.04
Cash Funds at 31/12/2022	3,904.15	4,090.65	10,630.05	18,624.85	3,618.73	4,043.81	8,110.70	15,773.24

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash and Bank Deposits		
1. General Fund		
Lloyds Bank Current Account	1,592.04	721.81
Lloyds Bank instant access saving account	2,290.64	2,848.45
Cash held by Association Officers	21.47	24.47
Cash held by Peal Secretary	-	24.00
Total	3,904.15	3,618.73
2. The Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund		
Lloyds Bank Current Account	-	-
Lloyds Bank instant access saving account	4,090.65	4,043.81
Total	4,090.65	4,043.81
3. Bell Restoration Fund		
Lloyds Bank Current Account	-	-
Lloyds Bank instant access saving account	10,630.05	8,110.70
Total	10,630.05	8,110.70
Other Monetary Assets		
Debtors		
Ringing World Balance	92.05	137.09
Investment Assets		
None		
Liabilities (Items owed by the Charity)		
Current Liabilities		
None		
Fixed Assets - Estimated Value		
Library Books and Periodicals & DVD's	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 Dist.)	250.00	250.00
Gavel	10.00	10.00
Reading Glass	10.00	10.00
Biggleswade District Trophy	60.00	60.00
Note		
Stock of badges - 78 (2021: 78)	92.05	124.80

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the account to be reached.

T Groom Date

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

		£	Bedford		£	Biggleswade		£	Luton		£	TOTAL 2022		2021
			No.	£		No.	£		No.	£		No.	£	
Ringling Member (Resident)	@	10.00	80	800.00	97	970.00	72	720.00	249	2490.00	2540.00			
Ringling Member (Resident) under 19	@	2.50	0	0.00	6	15.00	1	2.50	7	17.50	15.00			
Non-Resident Member (Ringling)	@	5.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00			
Associate Member	@	2.50	5	12.50	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	12.50	15.00			
Arrears	@	10.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	9	90.00	9	90.00	10.00			
Advance Subscription	@	10.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00			
Advance Subscription	@	2.50	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00			
Sale of Badges	@	2.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00			
Sale of Report	@	5.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00			
Total Receipts				812.50		985.00		812.50		2610.00	2580.00			
Less Admin Expenses				0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00			
Net Receipts (To Receipts & Payments A/c)				812.50		985.00		812.50		2610.00	2580.00			
Notes														
Cash balance retained b/f				24.47		0.00		0.00		24.47	32.97			
Income for Year				812.50		985.00		812.50		2610.00	2580.00			
Total				836.97		985.00		812.50		2634.47	2612.97			
Less amount paid to Assoc. Lloyds A/c				-442.50		-170.00		-682.50		-1295.00	-995.00			
Less direct payments into Assoc. Lloyds A/c				-370.00		-815.00		-130.00		-1315.00	-1585.00			
Less expenses				-3.00		0.00		0.00		-3.00	-8.50			
Net cash balance c/f				21.47		0.00		0.00		21.47	24.47			

District Reports

Bedford District Annual Report 2022.

The year started with another COVID scare which caused the Annual District Meeting in January to be held on Zoom, with Technical support gratefully received from Simon Stranks again. More normal life soon resumed, and there were regular monthly ringling meetings throughout the year, although attendance has generally been slightly down on pre-pandemic numbers. and many towers rang for this special occasion.

The mini District outing in August was curtailed because a number of those attending went off to ring at weddings in their own towers. The District was to host the Annual Striking Contest at Bletsoe on September 17th, but this was cancelled because the whole country was in mourning on the death of HM the Queen a few days earlier. Many District Towers rang several times for this occasion, following the procedures specified in Operation London Bridge.

Several members passed away during the year. Derek Hammond, who served as Association President for ten years and had been a loyal member and ringer at Bromham for over 60 years, Mike Benson from Felmersham and previously Carlton, who joined in 1999 and rang regularly until ill health recently intervened,

and Humphrey Chetwynd-Talbot tower captain at Colmworth and ringer for over twenty years. Cranfield suffered two losses, Steve Capper and Heather Holman. St Paul's Bedford has been the scene of much work to the parapets and pinnacles on the roof. It is planned to rehang the bells in a new frame and a District BRF Grant of £10,000 was approved in July. Recently all 12 bells have been rung most Sunday mornings, introducing a new experience of 12 bell ringing to many local ringers, and steadily improving the striking.

I would like to thank all those who have supported the District over the past year, in particular our solitary Committee Member, Barbara Woplin, who has also been the driving force behind Tailenders, and our Ringing Master, Sarah Ward, both for the introducing the booking system for better planned meetings, and for her encouragement during the ringing

Bob Jones, District Secretary

BIGGLESWADE DISTRICT

Thankfully 2022 saw the return of regular monthly ringing meetings with the exception of the ADM last January, where, although we were able to meet 'face to face' no ringing could take place. It was agreed that meetings would be held in the afternoon and this resulted in seeing a good turn out from the District and beyond. Early in the year meetings were held at Churches with Ground Floor rings with plenty of space to socially distance if necessary.

We continued our monthly training sessions at the R J Sharp Ringing Centre at St Andrew's, Biggleswade throughout the year and these have been very well attended by people from Bedford District as well as our own. These sessions are open to any ringers wishing to improve their handling skills and confidence on the end of a rope. Good progress has been seen over each session. My thanks go to Philippa Whittington and all the helpers for running these very successful sessions.

In addition I would like to thank Frank & Philippa for all their help and wish them good luck in their move to Norfolk. Chris Williams will be taking over the mantle of running the Saturday morning sessions at the Ringing Centre.

Finally, thank you to the Committee for their hard work and support throughout the year, and to you all for supporting the meetings.

Sue Silver, District Chairman

Luton District Report for 2022

The year started as 2021 had finished, with general restrictions on ringing still in place. However, the restrictions were eased and in March we were able to hold our first District meeting, in two years, at Tilsworth. Although a ground floor open ring, with plenty of ventilation, only seven ringers came along, so a rather low-key start but perhaps a reflection of the on-going concerns about COVID. Meetings were held in the following months, with the exception of May, which

was the Association AGM. In July we ventured out-of-district to try out the new ring of bells at Steppingley. While the restoration and augmentation had been completed in February 2020, the COVID restrictions precluded visits to the tower. As anticipated, this proved to be one of the more popular meetings of the year. In a departure from our usual afternoon or evening meetings, the fall of Christmas and New Year on a Sunday meant that our normal meeting day would be on Christmas Eve and so it was decided to try a morning meeting on New Year's Eve. This turned out to be well attended and beneficial to the novice band at Totternhoe, some of whom were able to ring the eight for the first time. The number of ringers attending the monthly Saturday meetings has fluctuated, with attendance ranging from 7 to 15; the average District members being 9 – 10 and 12 with visitors from other Districts or further afield.

We held our District AGM in January, again as a Zoom online meeting due to the restrictions. The attendance at the meeting was rather disappointing and perhaps indicative of holding general meetings by this method rather than in-person. The committee was re-elected unopposed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers for their work and contribution over the last year.

The Association Committee had planned to hold an open striking competition in September, however with the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II this event was cancelled. Many towers within the Association, and this District, were rung half and fully muffled during the period of mourning and for the State Funeral of Her Majesty. Bells were also rung open for the Accession of King Charles III. Given the longevity of Her Majesty, ringing for both of these events is something that most ringers have not participated in previously.

I would like to conclude my report by thanking the Incumbents for the use of the bells, tower contacts for making the arrangements and for your support during the past year.

Richard Horne, District Chairman

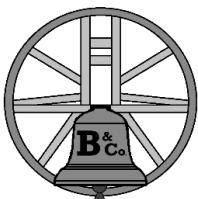
The Ronald J Sharp Ringing Centre, St Andrews, Biggleswade

The Ringing Centre has fully adjustable sound control, a dumb bell, a set of hand bells, multi view CCTV, white boards, a multi and single bell, simulator equipped with Abel, Virtual Belfry and Beltower ringing software and other training aids.

The ringing chamber is a large, pleasant and comfortable space and an excellent environment for training and teaching activities.

The Ringing Centre's Operating Guidelines are available on the website at <http://www.bacbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Operating-Guidelines-May-2018.pdf>

The Ringing Centre is available for anyone to book for one-off sessions, regular practices or courses, subject to availability. Suggested Ringing Centre event times are Saturday mornings 10.00 – 12.00 with the option of using Monday evenings, when the bells must be down by 9.00pm. Enquiries can be made by email to **Biggleswadebellringers@gmail.com**

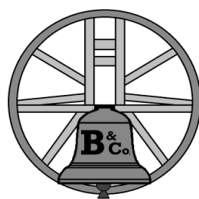


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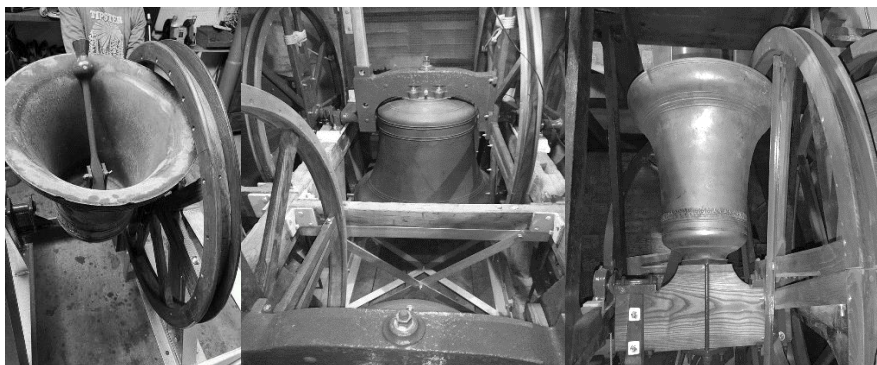
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List of Members and Towers

Honorary Life Members in 2022

Robert R Churchill, Derek A Hammond (deceased), Clifford W Izzard, John Pemble, Anthony H Smith

Non-Resident Life Members in 2022

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

Non-Resident Members elected in 2022 prior to a peal

None

Resident Members transferred to Associate Members in 2022

None

Resident Members transferred to Non-Resident Members in 2022

Resident Ringing Members elected in 2022

Name	No	Tower	Date
Amanda Harvey-Wade	1743	Blunham	08.01.2022
Sarah Harvey-Wade	1744	Blunham	08.01.2022
Simon Baxter	1745	Sandy	08.01.2022
Marguerite Smith	608	Clifton	08.01.2022
Carol-Ann Tucker	1746	Potton	12.02.2022
Karen Humphreys	1747	Great Barford	12.02.2022
Christopher Surridge	1748	Potton	14.05.2022
Neal Goodwin	1749	Great Barford	09.07.2022
Susan Ashman	2283	Eversholt	
Chris Jones	2284	Eversholt	
Godfrey Foat	2285	Silsoe	
Simon Smith	1181	Biddenham	16.01.2022
Clive Dunbavin	1182	Elstow	05.02.2022
Ann Steward	1183	Stevington	21.06.2022
Ian Steward	1184	Stevington	21.06.2022

Member and Tower Listing Notes

We will endeavour to keep the tower details up to date on our website but this relies on towers letting us know.

Ringling times are 24-hour clock.

Sunday service times are **when ringing starts**, not the time of the service.

PN – Practice night, GF – Ground floor ring, AC – Anti-clockwise ring

Tenor weights are given as hundredweights-quarters-pounds.

An Ordnance Survey grid reference is given for each tower.

★ denotes Life Member

◇ denotes Honorary Life Member

Resident, Non-ringing Associate Members are shown under their affiliated tower.

Bedford District

Unattached Members

Timothy Blunt, Rosemary Buckle, Lesley Hattersley, Thomas Keech*

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 Standrewbedford@bacbr.org.uk

Gareth Burrows, Philip Kino, Alex Nash, Caroline Nash, Jonathan 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 stpaulsbedford@bacbr.org.uk

John Long*, Karen Rogers, James Saunders

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

TL051501

Sunday: 09.30

PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00

Mrs Margaret Cowley, 12 Ennerdale Close, Kempston, MK42 8HE

01234 854294 stpetersbedford@bacbr.org.uk

Lorraine Andrews*, David Cowley, Margaret Cowley, Emily Entwistle, Richard Entwistle, Susan Entwistle, Lynn Goodwin, Martin Goodwin, Sylvia MacDowell

BIDDENHAM St James (8) 12-3-18 in G TL014499
Sunday: None PN: None
Simon Smith, 7 Franklyn Gardens, Biddenham, MK40 4QB
07831507733 biddenham@bacbr.org.uk

Simon Smith

BLETSGOE St Mary (6) 11-2-11 in F# TL023583
Sunday: 09.00 1st PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00
Paul and Trish Vine, 50 The Avenue, Bletsgoe, MK44 1QF
01234 782875 bletsgoe@bacbr.org.uk

Andrew Fyvie, Paul Vine, Trish Vine

BOLNHURST St Dunstan (4) 8-0-0 in Bb (GF) TL081588
Sunday: None PN: None
James Hills, Corner View, School Lane, Bolnhurst, MK44 2EN
01234 376024 bolnhurst@bacbr.org.uk

BROMHAM St Owen (8) 22-3-18 in Eb TL013512
Sunday: 09.45, check 3rd and 4th PN: Tuesday 19.45-21.15
Robert Jones, St Monica, Norfolk Road, Turvey, MK43 8DU
01234 881741 bromham@bacbr.org.uk

Melanie Daniels, Derek Hammond(deceased), Steve Hare, Andrew Heyman,
Robert Jones, Adrienne Sharp, Elizabeth Walshe, Revd. Catherine Wilson

CARDINGTON St Mary (8) 19-1-1 in F TL086479
Sunday: 10.30 PN: 3rd Thursday
Mrs Julie Eddy, 141 Bamford Road, Bedford, MK42 0NH
01234 353489 cardington@bacbr.org.uk

CARLTON St Mary (6) 9-2-7 in Ab SP952549
Sunday: 10.30 1st & 3rd PN: Friday 19.30-21.00
alternate with Harrold
Mrs Lin Barratt, 86 The Moor, Carlton, MK43 7JS
01234 720756 carlton@bacbr.org.uk

Ann Boyle

CLAPHAM St Thomas of Canterbury (6) 5-3-20 in Bb TL034525
Sunday: None PN: Tuesday 19.45-21.00
Jeff Henson, 77 Bents Close, Clapham, MK41 6DY
01234 343198 clapham@bacbr.org.uk

COLMWORTH St Denys (6) 9-3-18 in G (GF) TL109586
Sunday: 10.00 confirm with contact PN: None
Kate Abrahams, Woodfield, Honeydon Road, Colmworth MK44 2LZ
colmworth@bacbr.org.uk

Humphrey Chetwynd-Talbot(deceased), Felicity Evans

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 cranfield@bacbr.org.uk

Jonathan Billington, Nicky Billington, Jim Ewen, Christopher Hartley, Mary Hartley,
Garth Holman, Richard Lanyan-Hogg, Jane Leslie, Andrew Pearson, John Peat,
Susan Webster

ELSTOW St Mary and St Helena (6) 8-2-0 in G TL049474
Sunday: 11.00 1st&3rd; 9.30 2nd,4th&5th PN: Thursday 18.00-19.00
Evening by arrangement
Stephen Stanford, 34 Wood End Road, Kempston, MK43 9BB
01234 856778 elstow@bacbr.org.uk

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

FELMERSHAM St Mary (8) 20-2-18 in Eb SP991578
Sunday: Alternates with Sharnbrook – check PN: Tuesday
Joint at Sharnbrook
Pat Albon, Chapel Cottage, Higham Road, Chelveston, Wellingborough, NN9 6AH
01933 626238 felmersham@bacbr.org.uk

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 goldington@bacbr.org.uk

Gale Bevan, Peter Blunt, Andrew Dennison, Revd. Simon Dommett, Nicholas Fowler,
Roger Framp, Jean Heaslip, Ash Kathuria, Dorothy Kirby, Hazel Spencer,
Jenny Thompson

HARROLD St Peter and All Saints (6) 13-0-6 in F# SP954567
Sunday: 09.00 2nd & 4th PN: Friday 19.30-21.00
alternate with Carlton
Martin Barratt, 86 The Moor, Carlton, MK43 7JS
01234 720756 harrold@bacbr.org.uk

KEMPSTON All Saints (10) 21-1-17 in E TL015480
Sunday: 9.30 1st & 3rd PN: Wednesday 19.45-21.00
Sarah Ward, 34 Wood End Road, Kempston, MK43 9BB
01234 856778 kempston@bacbr.org.uk

Nicola Darwood, Stephen Darwood, Glynda Easterbrook, Richard Hillson,
Cliff Izzard, Andrew Keech, Melvyn Potts

KEYSOE St Mary (5) 14-1-19 in E (GF) TL073624
Sunday: 10.00 3rd PN: Wednesday 19.45-21.00
Penny Heming, Pump Cottage, Keysoe Row East, MK44 2JB
01234 378878 keysoe@bacbr.org.uk

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

LITTLE STAUGHTON All Saints (5) 10-2-20 in G# (AC) TL107630
Sunday: 08.30 PN: Friday 19.30-21.00
Bernard Hopperton, Cherry Blossom, Staughton Moor Road, Great Staughton,
St Neots, PE19 5BW
01234 376292 littlestaughton@bacbr.org.uk

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 melchbourne@bacbr.org.uk

MILTON ERNEST All Saints (6) 9-1-1 in G TL020561
Sunday: None PN: Alternate with Clapham 19.15-20-15
Richard Newman, 3 Church Close, Milton Ernest, MK44 1RD
01234 961440 miltonerrest@bacbr.org.uk

Jacque Blows, Richard Newman, Roy Neil

OAKLEY St Mary (6) 10-0-2 in G TL011530
Sunday: Contact TC PN: Friday 20.00-21.15
Bill Sellars, 2 Parsonage Close, Oakley, MK43 7TG
01234 823473 / 07980 745292 oakley@bacbr.org.uk

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 allsaintsodell@bacbr.org.uk

PAVENHAM St Peter (5) 8-0-0 in A SP992560
Sunday: 10.45 4th PN: None
Martin Barratt, 86 The Moor, Carlton, MK43 7JS
01234 720756 pavenham@bacbr.org.uk

RENHOLD All Saints (6) 13-0-15 in F# TL089528
Sunday: 10.30 PN: 5th Tuesday 19.30-21.00
Mrs Yvonne Potter, 8 Brook Lane, Salph End, Renhold, MK41 0LD
01234 771495 renhold@bacbr.org.uk

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

David Shaw

SHARNBROOK St Peter (8) 9-3-5 in F# SP993596
Sunday: Alternate with Felmersham. PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00
Phone to check
Pat Albon, Chapel Cottage, Higham Road, Chelveston, Wellingborough, NN9 6AH
01933 626238 sharnbrook@bacbr.org.uk

Jacquie Albon, Pat Albon, Tom Anderson*, Rosemary Drewery, Rebecca Norton

STAGSDEN St Leonard (6) 10-2-18 in G (GF) SP982491
Sunday: Phone to check PN: Wednesday 20.00-21.00
Richard Brown, Manor Farm, High St, Stagsden MK44 8SQ
01234 822330 stagsden@bacbr.org.uk

STEVINGTON St Mary (5) 10-2-14 in F# (GF) SP990536
Sunday: Phone to check PN: Tuesday 15.00-16.00
Phone to check
Peter Bishop, 4 Church Road, Stevington, MK43 7QB8SQ
01234 630247 stevington@bacbr.org.uk

Peter Bishop, Ann Steward, Ian Steward

THURLEIGH St Peter (6) 14-0-0 in F# (GF) TL051584
Sunday: None PN: 1st Wednesday 19.00-20.00
others joint at Milton Ernest
John Mustoe, Blackthorn Cottage, 20 Cross End, Thurleigh MK44 2EE
01234 771667 thurleigh@bacbr.org.uk

TURVEY All Saints (8) 19-0-20 in E SP940525
Sunday: 09.00 1st, 10.30 2nd, 3rd & 4th PN: Friday 19.30-20.30
Ed Whittle/David Woods
07968 353209/07765 772434 turvey@bacbr.org.uk

Richard Bray

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

WILDEN St Nicholas (5) 11-2-0 in F# TL093552
Sunday: 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
Hazel Sanders (Church Warden), 52a Church Road, Wootton, Bedford, MK43 9HF,
01234 765981, wootton@bacbr.org.uk

Biggleswade District

Unattached Members

Barbara Beard

AMPTHILL St Andrew (8) 13-3-6 in Ab TL037383
Sunday: Ring to check PN: Thursday 19.45-21.00
John Hele, 45 Alameda Road, Ampthill, MK45 2LA
07768252461 ampthill@bacbr.org.uk

Robert Butcher, John Hele, Nichola Hele, Timothy Hele,
Dominic Holroyd-Thomas, Rae Marshall, Hilary Nellist, Angela Newberry,
Christopher Shrimpton, Belinda Simpson

ARLESEY St Peter (6) 10-3-15 in G TL192375
Sunday: 09.00 except 9.30 2nd PN: Friday 19.30-21.00
Phone to confirm
Peter Overfield, 10 Peartree Close, Shefford, SG17 5JG
01462 815672 arlesey@bacbr.org.uk

Don Brace, Elizabeth Overfield*, Peter Overfield*

BIGGLESWADE St Andrew (10) 13-1-3 in F TL188446
Sunday: 9.30 PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00
Charlotte Smith, 58 Cambridge Road, Langford, SG18 9PS
01462 700676 biggleswadebellringers@gmail.com

David Carr*, Paul Chandler, Trevor Chandler, Fiona Day, Yvonne Humberstone*,
Charlotte Smith*, Elaine Taylor*, Christine Williams, Beryl Worsley*, John E Worsley*,
Martyn Worsley*, Laura Wren

BLUNHAM St Edmund or St James (6) 18-2-0 in Eb TL153512
Sunday: Check PN: 2nd or 3rd Tuesday, check
Davina Buckle, The Rectory, Park Lane, Blunham, MK44 3NJ
01767 640412 blunham@bacbr.org.uk

Davina Buckle, Amanda Harvey-Wade, Sarah Harvey-Wade

CAMPTON All Saints (8) 6-2-10 in B (GF) TL130381
Sunday: 10.30 except 5th PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00
John Loveless, 17 Gravenhurst Road, Campton, Shefford SG17 5NY
07803 206161 campton@bacbr.org.uk

Darrelle Buckel, Linda Bryant, Charlotte Francis, Clare Francis, Henry Francis,
Linda Garton, Barrie Glenn, John Loveless, Susan Silver, Kaitlin Woodland

CLIFTON All Saints (8) 10-0-6 in Ab TL166393
Sunday: 10.30 and 18.00 3rd PN: Friday 19.30 - 21.00
Teresa Brown, 01462 631057 clifton@bacbr.org.uk

Penny Bellis, Peter Blackmore, Nicholas Brown, Russell Brown,
Teresa Brown, Ros Keech*, Cara Nocera, Keith Pledger, Mary Pledger,
Frank Rivett, Marguerite Smith, Shaun Somerville, Rev Caren Topley,
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

Philippa Ebbs, Susan Hillyard, David Prior, Judy Prior, Alex Sturgeon

EATON SOCON St Mary (8) 13-2-24 in F TL170588
Sunday: 10.00 contact PN: Wednesday 19:00-21:00
Sue Matthews eatonsocon@bacbr.org.uk

Owen Davis, 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: 10:30 by arrangement 3rd & 4th PN: Tuesday 1st 19.30-21.00
 Rota with Blunham, Roxton and Tempsford
 Vivienne Johnson, 28 Silver Street, Great Barford, MK44 3HX
 01234 871590 greatbarford@bacbr.org.uk

Joan Brass, Sue Chandler, Neil Goodwin, Karen Humphreys,
 Vivienne Johnson

HAYNES St Mary (6) 6-3-5 in B (GF) TL081412
 Sunday: 09.00 1st PN: Monday 19:00-21:00 phone to check
 Brian Oertel, 13 Howard Close, Haynes, MK45 3QH
 01234 381428 haynes@bacbr.org.uk

Amy Johnston, Brian Oertel, James Plummer

HENLOW St Mary (8) 14-2-0 in F# TL178387
 Sunday: 10.30, check 5th PN: Tuesday 20.00-21.00
 henlow@bacbr.org.uk

Stuart Cracknell, Carol Donnelly, Heather Jewell, Philip Jewell,
 Martin Major*, Randall Perrey, Jess Sawyers, Anthony Smith

MAULDEN St Mary (8) 10-2-0 in F# TL058381
 Sunday: 08.45, phone to check PN 3rd Tuesday
 Dean De-Matteis 01525 715081 maulden@bacbr.org.uk

Dean De-Matteis, Helen De-Matteis, Mark Garner*, Mary Mann*,
 Yvonne Tomkins*

MEPPERSHALL St Mary (6) 12-2-0 in G# (GF) TL134359
 Sunday: None PN: Thursday 20.00-21.00
 John Parsons, 17 Shillington Road, Meppershall, SG17 5ND
 01462 813333 meppershall@bacbr.org.uk

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 1st, 3rd & 5th 20.00-21.00
 Sue Melvin northill@bacbr.org.uk

Barbara Dunn, Simon Melvin, Susan Melvin, Angela Norris

OLD WARDEN St Leonard (6) 9-1-0 in G (GF) TL136443
 Sunday: None PN: Monday 2nd & 4th
 Robert Diggles oldwarden@bacbr.org.uk

POTTON St Mary (6) 8-0-0 in A TL229495
Sunday: 09.45 PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00
Mrs Rosemary Kimber, Spencer Farm, 28 King Street, Potton, SG19 2QT
01767 261206 potton@bacbr.org.uk

Val Cooper, Andrew Inkersole, Rosanna Jackson, Rosemary Kimber,
Mary Oliver-Barratt, Jessica Richards, Carol-Ann Tucker, Tony Sharp,
Christopher Surridge

ROXTON St Mary Magdalene (5) 10-1-3 in G TL153545
Sunday: 10.30, phone to check PN: 4th Tuesday 19.30-21.00
Norman Keightley, Brooklands, Chawston Lane, Chawston, MK44 3BH
01480 472268 roxton@bacbr.org.uk

David Bradley, Norman Keightley

SANDY St Swithun (6) 12-0-8 in F TL174491
Sunday: 09.30 PN: Wednesday 19.00-20.30
Steven Akhurst, 13 Abbey Grove, Sandy, SG19 1QP
01767 835039 / 07984 860108 sandy@bacbr.org.uk

Carly Akhurst, Phillip Akhurst, Steven Akhurst, Simon Baxter, Emily Bushby,
Terri Creed, Ann Eaton, Jessica Ramsey, Matthew Shaw, Jessica Watts

SOUTHILL All Saints (6) 11-3-3 in F# TL146422
Sunday: 08.30 3rd PN: Phone to check
Colin McCartney, 29 Birch Close, Broom, Biggleswade, SG18 9NR
01767 314669 southill@bacbr.org.uk

Colin McCartney, Elizabeth McCartney, Alan Dover*

STEPPINGLEY St Lawrence (6) 6-0-11 in Bb TL011354
Sunday: Ring to check PN: Ring to check
John Hele, 45 Alameda Road, Ampthill, MK45 2LA
07768252461 steppingley@bacbr.org.uk

Ruth England, Lorna Staples, Claire Wright

STOTFOLD St Mary (8) 11-0-2 in G TL220367
Sunday: 09.30 PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00
Richard and Eileen Castledine, 7 Hazel Grove, Stotfold, SG5 4JJ
01462 629075 stotfold@bacbr.org.uk

Eileen Castledine, J Richard Castledine, John Coles, David Ribbans,

TEMPSFORD St Peter (6) 9-1-0 in Ab (GF) TL162531
Sunday: Check PN: 2nd or 3rd Tuesday 19.30-21.00
In rotation with Gt Barford and Roxton phone to check
Davina Buckle, The Rectory, Park Lane, Blunham, MK44 3NJ
01767 640412 tempsford@bacbr.org.uk

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

Luton District

Unattached Members

Keith Lewin, John Pemble

ASPLEY GUISE St Botolph (6) 10-0-11 in G# SP943363
Sunday: 09.00 PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00
Ann Clarke, Braystone House, Aspley Guise, MK17 8HY
01908 585040 aspleyguise@bacbr.org.uk

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 bartonleclay@bacbr.org.uk

CADDINGTON All Saints (6) 8-0-0 in G TL064198
Sunday: 9.00 PN: Thursday 20.00-21.00
Basil Seymour, 20 Millfield Way, Caddington
01582 738078 / 07504 988420 caddington@bacbr.org.uk

DUNSTABLE St Peter (8) 23-2-15 in Eb TL021219
Sunday: 08.50 PN: Wednesday 20.00-21.15
Alan Shepherd, 19 Totternhoe Road, Dunstable, LU6 2AF
01582 603238 secretary@dunstablebells.org.uk

Emily Gordon, Rebecca Gordon, Richard Gordon, Richard Horne*, Andrew Jeffs,
Graham Proctor, Lauren Reay, Alan Shepherd*, Charlotte Simpson

EATON BRAY St Mary the Virgin (6) 9-2-0 in A SP969207
Sunday: 09.30 PN: Phone to check
Gaye Soule, Blanche Cottage, 210 Castle Hill Road, Totternhoe, LU6 2BW
07807924218 eatonbray@bacbr.org.uk

Gordon Gray, Rose Nightingale, Gaye Soule

EVERSHOLT St John the Baptist (6) 16-2-14 in E SP983325
Sunday: 9.30 1st only PN: Monday 18.30-20.00
Robert Churchill, 11 Tingrith Road, Eversholt, MK17 9EF
01525 280632 eversholt@bacbr.org.uk

Susan Ashman, John Clarkson, Paul Collin, Chris Jones, John Logan,
David Bottle, Elizabeth Churchill, Robert Churchill*

FLITTON St John the Baptist (6) 6-0-6 in Bb (GF) TL059358
Sunday: 10.30 PN:
Barbara Fraser, 18 Bedford Ave, Silsoe, MK45 4ER flitton@bacbr.co.uk

Jen Fisher, Vernon Green

FLITWICK St Peter and St Paul (6) 9-1-9 in G TL029342
Sunday: 10.00 PN: Friday 19.45-21.00
Ian Holman, 33 Station Road, Flitwick, MK45 1JT
01525 716258 flitwick@bacbr.org.uk

Michael Catlin, Richard Fullbrook, Ian Holman, Rebekah Holman, Paul Swannell,
David Watson

HOUGHTON REGIS All Saints (6) 13-1-3 in F TL018239
Sunday: 10.30 PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00
Delroy Grey, 36 Kent Road, Houghton Regis, LU5 5NZ
01582 868644 houghtonregis@bacbr.org.uk

Carl Anthony, Delroy Grey, Celia Pymont, Kristian White-Spunner

HUSBORNE CRAWLEY St James (8) 18-2-12 in D SP955362
Sunday: None PN: 19.30 2nd Thursday
Peter Woodhall (church warden) 95 School Lane, Husbome Crawley, MK43 OUY
07702 032621 husbournecrawley@bacbr.org.uk

KENSWORTH St Mary (6) 3-3-15 in D# TL031190
Sunday: 10.00 PN: please check
Angela Blackburn, 7 Knotts Close, Dunstable, LU6 3NY 01582 663756
kensworth@bacbr.org.uk

Barry Huggins

LEIGHTON BUZZARD All Saints (12) 35-1-14 in C# SP918248
Sunday: 09:00 PN: Monday 19.45-21.30
Evensong QPs by arrangement
Kevin Pughe, 7 Dudley Street, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1SE
0740 2233022 leightonbuzzard@bacbr.org.uk

Margaret Birtles, Barry Eglesfield, Ann Pawley, Caroline Pawley, Jonathan Pawley, Lizzie Pawley, Kevin Pughe, Robert Tregillus

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

Sunday: 09.30 PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.15

Louisa Hewett 07852 554704 linsladeringing@gmail.com

Mark Cluet, Janesse Cornfoot, Simon Head, Chris Hewett, Louisa Hewett, Janet Miller, Janice Robinson

LUTON St Mary (12) 25-0-24 in D TL095212

Sunday: 09.45 PN: Tuesday 18.30-20.00 by arrangement

Mrs Dee Vanner, 13 Elmwood Crescent, Luton, LU2 7HX

01582 619738 stmaryluton@bacbr.org.uk

Angela Andrews, Ian Brown, Beryl Gardner, John Lambert, 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 miltonbryan@bacbr.org.uk

SHILLINGTON All Saints (5) 18-2-0 in E TL123339

Sunday: 09.00 PN: Monday 20.00-21.00

Emma Lodge shillington@bacbr.org.uk .

SILSOE St James (6) 6-1-9 in B TL082356

Sunday: 09.00, except 5th PN: Monday 19.45-21.00

Mrs Barbara Fraser, 18 Bedford Avenue, Silsoe, MK45 4ER

01525 861709 silsoe@bacbr.org.uk

David Adams, Paul Biscoe, Christopher Catlin, Julia Catlin, Godfrey Foat, Barbara Fraser, Margaret Jeeves, Les Miller, Peter Philips, Simon Stranks,

STANBRIDGE St John the Baptist (6) 9-0-15 in F# SP966242

Sunday: None PN: None

Annette Brooks, 07792 374703 stanbridge@bacbr.org.uk

STUDHAM St Mary the Virgin (6) 10-0-22 in Ab (GF) TL016159

Sunday: 10.00 PN: Monday 20-00-21.00

Angela Blackburn, 7 Knotts Close, Dunstable, LU6 3NY

01582 663756 studham@bacbr.org.uk

Angela Blackburn, Paul Hassan, Margaret Maddox, Andrew Wheeler

TILSWORTH All Saints (6) 8-3-17 in A (GF) SP975243
Sunday: email to check PN: None
Annette Brooks, 07792 374703 tilsworth@bacbr.org.uk

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 toddington@bacbr.org.uk

Peter Boon, Viki Holton, John Pask, Debbie Thrower, Wendy Whaley

TOTTERNHOE St Giles (8) 9-2-0 in F SP988208
Sunday: 10.30 PN: Tuesday 20.00-21.00 phone to check
Annette Brooks, 13 Weatherby, Dunstable, LU61TP
07792 374703 totternhoe@bacbr.org.uk

WESTONING St Mary Magdalene (6) 11-1-18 in F# TL027327
Sunday: 10.30 PN: Monday 19.30-20.45
Alan Davies, 1 Tythe Barn Close, Westoning MK45 5JT
01525 713112 westoning@bacbr.org.uk

WHIPSNADE 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 whipsnade@bacbr.org.uk

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

WOBURN St Mary the Virgin (8) 24-1-16 in D SP950333
Sunday: 10.00, Contact for details PN: Thursday, 1st & 3rd, 19.30-21.00
Bob Tregillus, 01525 379973 woburn@bacbr.org.uk

Obituaries

David M Jones 1944-2022

David learnt to ring, along with a good number of other members of the congregation, prior to the installation of the bells at St Andrew's Bedford in 1982. As I understand it, he assisted with transportation of the back six bells from the redundant church of St Mary's Bedford to St Andrew's on a sturdy farm trailer with accompanying tractor. He was a very dedicated service ringer and for several years organised monthly quarter peals for choral evensong at St Andrew's. He often attended multiple practices a week and enjoyed the occasional quarter peal outing, but rather more a day out on a regular outing or a day tower grabbing.

He covered for the first peal on the eight at St Andrew's in 19th December 1985 which was on the centenary of the first peal at St Mary's. He rang five further peals at St Andrew's, mainly to mark special events such as his daughter Christina's marriage to Peter Tribble (who both also rang in that peal), Queen Elizabeth the Queen's Mother's 100th birthday and the official opening of the Church Centre at St Andrew's, the last of them in 2004. He and Rachel retired from her family farm at Stagsden and moved up to Cumbria in 2010. David rang one further peal, his last, at Penrith in 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee. Unfortunately, as arthritis affected his hands more and his leg joints started to cause trouble he was ringing less and less in recent years. David was very committed to ringing and church life at St Andrew's for many years, the sort ofringer we probably all wish there were many of at our towers.

Alex Nash

Humphrey Chetwynd-Talbot 11.01.30 - 02.08.22

Humphrey was born in Surrey and had a privileged, somewhat austere upbringing. He went off to prep school when he was eight and then on to Winchester College as a choral scholar. After doing National Service with the Royal Artillery in North Africa he took up a place at University College, Oxford. He didn't enjoy his course much but made the most of the social scene and sport and it was at a tennis party that he met identical twins. There are various stories around of the twins swopping dates to see if their boyfriends would notice, but eventually Humphrey married Anne and his friend married her twin sister. They were married for nearly 70 years.

They lived initially in Liverpool where he joined ICI. After a few years and with three daughters, they moved down to St Albans and after 32 years working with ICI Humphrey took early retirement. He did some consultancy work but had the time to start a variety of hobbies including dog-training, bee-keeping and woodwork. He had been introduced to bell-ringing during school holidays down in Twyford and when they moved to Odiham in Hampshire to be nearer their parents for a few years he started ringing again at All Saints Church. In 1992 he and Anne moved up to Colmworth because their daughters were all around the area. They lived with Kate, three small children and four large dogs, for two happy years and Humphrey got involved in Colmworth life. His faith was important to him and he started worshipping at St Denys Church, where he was to be churchwarden for ten years and bell-tower captain for 30 years. After his death the family received many comments on how welcome he always made newcomers to the village feel and how his second sentence was invariably to ask if they would like to learn to ring bells.

They moved to Staploe and he was equally involved in anything and everything going on there and was Chairman of Staploe and Duloe Parish Council for many years. He always joined in any events in Colmworth and enjoyed all District Bell-Ringing outings and any opportunity to ring at other churches or to help teaching. He was very sociable and, although he may not have been the easiest person to live with, he would do anything to help anyone in Colmworth or Staploe. With the help of live-in carers, support from villagers and family, he and Anne could continue living at home. He died very peacefully in Hinchingsbrooke Hospital after a short illness and would have been touched to know that 120 people turned up at his funeral to celebrate his life and say goodbye with some wonderful bell-ringing.

Kate Abrahams

Derek A Hammond; 30 June 1934 – 21 June 2022

Derek Hammond of Bromham, Bedfordshire, passed away peacefully at home on the evening of Tuesday 21 June, 9 days short of his 88th birthday. Sadly, he had been suffering from an undiagnosed degenerative condition for a few years and was receiving palliative care at home following several recent hospital admissions. Derek was born in Bedford. His parents moved to The Croft, Stagsden Road Bromham, shortly afterwards, where he lived, for the remainder of his life. He attended the village primary school and then Bedford School.

Following National Service with the RAF, professionally Derek qualified as a Chartered Civil Engineer and spent all of his working life with the Highways Department of the then Bedfordshire County Council. He was very proud of his membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers and regularly attended their meetings. Following retirement he remained in regular contact with his former work colleagues, often returning to County Hall to meet them for Friday lunch.

Derek was taught to ring in the early 1960s by an up-and-coming Frank Rivett, who was some 11 years his junior and along with sister Kate (Marriott), lived opposite Derek in Stagsden Road. His name first appears in the 1962/3 Bedfordshire Annual Report. He was Tower Captain at Bromham from 1973 for a number of years and a stalwart and Honorary Life member of the Bedfordshire Association. He served twice as Association President (1985-1989, and 1998-2003) and also the Bedford District in various capacities including Chairman and Ringing Master at different times.

Derek was very honoured to be elected Association President and took the role seriously, making a determined effort to be present at every meeting of all three Districts, a considerable undertaking. He was also an excellent chair for any meeting. He was always very supportive and encouraging to learners, and over the years he taught a significant number of people to ring. In 2005 Derek was a willing member of an entirely volunteer team when the back six bells at Bromham were rehung and the frame painted by district members.

Beyond the tower, Derek enjoyed playing the organ for services at Bromham, mainly evensong, and also at District and Association meetings. I believe that Derek last rang (with assistance) on Christmas Day 2019 after which, despite his determination, it became all too difficult.

Derek will be remembered for his meticulous organisation of the Bromham outings, in later years taking great pleasure in hiring and chauffeuring the Local Authority Flitter bus; and in the 1970s and 80s he organised a number of Bedford District barn dances to raise funds for the BRF. Few could compete with Derek dancing the gay Gordon's or stripping the willow, and he was unusually intolerant of any whose attempts at doing so were less than serious! In addition to Bromham, Derek was a regular supporter of ringing at Oakley, Kempston, and Elstow, where in more recent years he rose to the challenge of ringing a number of increasingly challenging minor methods, being very pleased to achieve quarter peals of most of them.

Derek greatly valued his membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths to which he was elected on 8 January 1985, proposed by Bob Piron and seconded by Martyn Marriott. He rang one peal with the Society, of Grandsire Triples at Bromham in September 1999, conducted by Anthony Smith, that I am pleased to have participated in, and for a number of years, he enjoyed attending the annual dinner.

Looking through Derek's peal records, he rang 76 peals in total, 61 of them for the Bedfordshire Association, including one each of London Major, Grandsire Caters, and Plain Bob Royal. Those would have been quite an achievement for him and he was rightly proud of them. 27 of his peals were at Bromham, including his last, Grandsire Triples on 31 Dec 2014, conducted by myself and rung in honour of his 80th Birthday on 30 June of that year, when many of us enjoyed a memorable celebration that he very generously hosted in Bromham village hall.

Although following retirement he became a little more relaxed, Derek will be fondly remembered for his polite and very formal manner, and perhaps in contrast, a certain quirkiness that caused some amusement. Invariably he dressed in a suit with tie and was keen to ensure that proper etiquette and protocol was followed in all matters, although beneath the façade he would enjoy sharing an indiscretion or politically incorrect joke or comment.

For many years he resolutely refused to admit to having a home telephone and it became something of a sport amongst district ringers to find his number and be the first to call him. Despite it being customary to go to the pub after ringing, he would never do so unless invited personally. His timing was impeccable and he was utterly reliable; he was always exactly on time never arriving for any event either late or early. However, he could be unpredictable.

One Christmas Day Chris and Rosie Pickford encountered him in the Magna Tandoori restaurant in Bedford accompanied by five ladies! On the Kempston ringer's coach outings it became the custom for Derek to stand during the final few miles of the return journey to offer a rather immoderate vote of thanks, despite the fact that by then most of the party were oblivious to his efforts, having spent a good part of the day and evening in the pub. And his abortive attempts to retrieve a bunch of flowers from a cupboard and present it to the judges of the Ridgman Trophy competition at Kempston were quite hilarious and will long be remembered by those who were there. Derek could usually be relied on to provide a serious and professional explanation for any of the defective road or traffic "improvement" schemes inflicted on the Bedfordshire population, even though he probably had no involvement in them and knew he was being teased.

Above all though, Derek was genuine; a real gentleman who enjoyed his ringing and greatly valued the friendships he made through it. He equally enjoyed the social occasions and the banter that often occurred. He was a very good and loyal friend to many of us, who will be affectionately remembered and very sadly missed.

Derek's funeral was held on Monday 1st August at Bromham, a warm sunny day, when over 150 parishioners, friends, and work colleagues filled the church to capacity; a reflection of the esteem in which he was held. The bells were rung half-muffled before and after the service, which was followed by a wake at The Prince of Wales, Derek's favourite local hostelry, where fond memories were shared and stories told. May he rest in peace.

Stephen Stanford

Heather Holman 20th December 1977 – 19th August 2022

When her father, Garth, returned to ringing after a gap of many years, Heather joined him at St Peter and St Paul's, Cranfield, to learn to ring.

Heather was a fast learner and was soon ringing proficiently. Happily, she achieved her ambition of ringing her first quarter peal (on the 3rd) just before the first lock down. She was a well-loved member of the band and was particularly helpful when standing by others as they learnt new methods. She was always cheerful and positive despite going through chemotherapy.

Sadly, Heather died just last summer. Her funeral was extremely well attended with over 200 people, showing how well she was respected by her many friends and work colleagues. Open bells were rung both before and after the service.

Steve Capper

Steve learnt to ring as a youngster and returned after a gap of over 35 years. He became a valued member of the band at St Peter and St Paul's, Cranfield, becoming Ringing Master. He was well known for wearing shorts and crocs all year round and he very rarely wore a jumper or coat.

Steve enjoyed ringing at other towers when the opportunity arose and joined the Tailenders. His other dear love was drag racing and visits to Santa Pod weekend events outranked ringing!

Very sadly, Steve became ill and deteriorated very quickly, dying in February 2022. The church bells were rung at the time of his cremation and also when his ashes were interred in the churchyard near the bell tower.

Mike Benson – The genial giant of the North Bedfordshire Bell Towers **13th February 1942 – 20th March 2022**

Mike, a familiar face in the North Bedfordshire bell towers – Carlton, Felmersham, Sharnbrook, Harrold and, when 'roped in' to help out, Turvey - passed in March at the grand old age of 80 years.

Not many people can say of an octogenarian that 'I knew him man and boy' but in my case it is true. Mike was my dormitory prefect and a Senior Chorister at St Michaels College, Tenbury in 1954 and although we were out of touch until the early 80's a fortuitous meeting in Bedford brought us back into contact. By this time instead of being a young school boy this gentle and smiling giant of a man was married to Fiona and had three young boys Jeremy, Oliver and Timothy. He was at the time working as an Administrator of educational/vocational courses with City and Guilds having decided at a late stage to withdraw from his Ordination as a Church of England priest. Mike and Fiona had drifted apart having brought up three very successful children, and they parted company many years ago although remained good friends.

Mike had been taught to ring by his father, Rev. Preb. E. G. Benson, the Rector at St Andrew's, Presteigne and was an accomplished ringer, member of Cambridge University Guild and the Guild of Clerical Ringers. When Mike moved to Carlton, he joined the band, rang several quarter peals of Minor, and joined Bedfordshire Association in 1999.

Mike re-married Reiko and the couple settled in Felmersham making several trips to Japan to spend time with Reiko's family. Mike became Tower Captain at Felmersham,

but continued to ringing regularly at various towers, adding to his list of QPs. Reiko survives Mike and still lives in Felmersham.

Mike was a leading light with the Bedford Choral Society and by all accounts had a beautiful singing voice. One of his major achievements was to produce and publish "Bedford's Musical Society: A History of Bedford Choral Society" which was well received and carefully documents the history of this important local Society.

At the time of our renewing our acquaintance Mike was busy collecting 'Classic cycles' including amongst other treasures a penny farthing. His enthusiasm led to him being involved with the local and 'larger than local' Classic Cycle fraternity. He also went on to own a very early Skoda car (the one that all the jokes were about) which he maintained in beautiful condition. Sadly he parted company with all his cycles and later on the Skoda when ill health made driving difficult.

Mike had suffered from 'Parkinsons', for some time and friends and acquaintances would have been aware that his increasing infirmity would lead to him retiring from his beloved bell ringing.

Mike was a good friend and we shared many happy occasions over the years. I was to become a bell ringer and although it was obvious that my lack of co-ordination and advancing years would limit my progress Mike was very encouraging and helped me with my lame attempts.

Andy Vaughan-Jones, Turvey Tower.

Gemma Davison 23/7/61 – 19/11/22

Gemma initially started to ring at Felmersham in 1975, being taught by the late Colin Payne. She transferred her allegiance to Sharnbrook in 1978 where she continued to ring for 44 years, up till just a few weeks before her death.

She lived a large proportion of her life in Sharnbrook, her parent's home being less than 100 yards from the church and she was, for many years, the most regular attendee at both Sunday service and practice night ringing.

She rang a total of 86 quarters, all at Sharnbrook. Her most notable were one in five Doubles Methods, the treble to Cambridge Surprise Minor and inside to Grandsire Triples.

Gemma was especially proud of three of these, an all ladies local band quarter in 1995, one rung to celebrate her parents golden wedding anniversary in 2006 and a quarter to celebrate the similar significant birthdays of three members of the band (including herself) in 2011.

She was also a regular member of the hand bell-ringing team that rung carols, both round the village and in the three benefice churches at Christmas for many years.

Gemma suffered a massive stroke in September 2022, which left her unable to walk or talk. She remained in hospital and died peacefully on 19th November 2022.

Whilst not a member of the Bedfordshire Association at the time of her death, she was a member for many years.

Pat Albon, Tower Captain, Sharnbrook

POINTS FROM THE PAST

100 YEARS AGO – 1922

The President was Rev. Cannon W. W. C. Barker, one of the original members of the Association, founded March 18th 1882

Miss Evelyn Steel, one of the Vice Presidents, was one of only two ladies to ring peals for the Association during the year. She rang 9 peals for the Association during the year, and incidentally was a member of the band that in 1912 rang the first ever all ladies peal on 8 bells. The other female who rang a peal for the Association during the year was Miss Dorothy Steel, Evelyn's sister, who rang just one.

An extract from the Rules relates "No one shall be admitted to the Society . . . until he has satisfied the committee of his capability of methodically ringing 120 changes either on tower or hand bells".

75 YEARS AGO – 1947

The President was Miss Evelyn Steel, who during the year rang her 250th Peal.

Clifford Izzard and Miriam F Pettitt rang their first peal during the year.

In contrast to 1922, seven lady members rang peals for the association during the year.

A Maulden based band rang peals in 16 mixed minor methods and 12 Surprise Minor methods – both being the first for all in the band, in the county and for the Association. These peals and many others were conducted by the great C Edward Jeffries. To this day, the Association still has active members who had the great fortune of knowing and ringing with some of these pioneers.

50 YEARS AGO – 1972

The President was Mr Alfred E. Rushton, and an extract from the President's Notes reminds us of his eloquence – "We of the Bedfordshire Association are, therefore, proud to do our part in carrying on this great tradition, and if there are one or two amongst us whose ear is not too keen, or whose sense of rhythm is still dormant, we accept them as we do earthquakes and hurricanes or any other such "acts of God!"

A Biggleswade District Officers peal was rung at Clifton to mark the wedding of Anthony H Smith and Charlotte Harris.

The peal booking fee was 2½p per ringer.

The list of members who rang their first peal included Mark Regan, Christopher Catlin, and David Stanford.

The year saw an upsurge in the number of peals rung for the Association, mainly driven by the band of ringers based on and supporting St Paul's Church Bedford. Lead by the inspirational Stephen Ivin, the Bedford band at the time was regularly ringing London and Bristol Surprise Royal for Sunday Services.

POINTS FROM THE PEALS

Members who rang 5 or more peals

John Loveless 13	Nicholas Wilson 7	June Mackay 5
Stephen Stanford 10	Frank Rivett 6	Martin Major 5
Linda Garton 9	Russell Brown 5	Emma Southerington 5

4 peals:1 ringer; 3 peals:4 ringers; 2 peals:8 ringers; 1 peal:32 ringers

Leading conductors:

John Loveless 10	Stephen Stanford 4	
Frank Rivett 1	Clive Smith 1	Emma Southerington 1

Personal landmarks

500th peal	Christine Darby	Campton, 3rd June
1,500th peal together	John Loveless & Linda Garton	Campton, 3rd June
1,400th peal	Russell Brown	Campton, 14th October
400th peal for the Association	Stephen Stanford	Harpenden, 21st October
300th peal	Nicholas Wilson	Kempston, 5th November

Ringing peals for the Bedfordshire Association

Conductors should send full details (names, method, composition) to the Peal Secretary, pealsecretary@bacbr.org.uk, and pay the peal fee within 4 weeks (or by 14th January if rung in the preceding December).

Peal fees, currently £1.00 per ringer, should ideally be paid directly by online banking to the Association's account - sort code 30-94-47, account number 01418488

All peal ringers must be members of the Association. Non-members can be elected before the peal attempt provided that the proposer and seconder are Voting Members who are also taking part in the peal. Their election must be ratified at any BACBR meeting within 3 months of the peal. The proposer should make sure that the new member completes a membership form (available on the website), which should be passed to the relevant District Secretary.

Peals can be viewed on our website home page through a 'live feed' from the Ringing World's Bell Board. Peal fees are transferred to the Association's Bell Restoration Fund.

Peals 2022

Peal No. 4309 including 79 on handbells

Campton, Bedfordshire All Saints
Saturday, 5 February 2022 in 2h 48
5040 Plain Bob Minor
Seven different extents

- 1 Martin Major
- 2 Linda M Garton
- 3 Clare Francis
- 4 David Kemp
- 5 John P Loveless (C)
- 6 Emma J Southerington

First Minor inside - 3
Rung for the 70th Anniversary of the Accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Peal 4310 including 79 on handbells
Campton, Bedfordshire All Saints
Monday, 14 February 2022 in 2h 48
5088 Bristol Surprise Major
Comp : Donald F Morrison (No 55)

- 1 Linda M Garton
- 2 Rosalind J Keech
- 3 John P Loveless (C)
- 4 Philippa M Whittington
- 5 Philip R Grover
- 6 Malcolm H Joyce
- 7 Russell A Brown
- 8 Frank W Rivett

Peal 4311

Campton, Bedfordshire All Saints
Saturday, 26 February 2022 in 2h 52
5024 Campton Delight Major
Comp : A J Cox

- 1 Linda M Garton
- 2 Henry G Francis
- 3 Emma J Southerington
- 4 Rosalind J Keech
- 5 Russell A Brown
- 6 David Kemp
- 7 John P Loveless(C)
- 8 Frank W Rivett

First on eight inside: 2
A stretch for Henry - mission accomplished

Peal 4312

Campton, Bedfordshire All Saints
Sunday, 24 April 2022 in 2h 47
5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- Comp : A J Cox
- 1 Martin Major
 - 2 Christine A Williams
 - 3 Linda M Garton
 - 4 June Mackay
 - 5 Emma J Southerington
 - 6 John P Loveless (C)
 - 7 David Kemp
 - 8 Richard A Horne

In thanksgiving for the lives of Sir Stanley Odell (died 21 March 2021) and Lady Grace Odell (died 16 April 2022), much loved members of the community and this church, and donors of one of the bells when the new ring of eight were installed in 2007

Peal 4313

Haynes, Bedfordshire St Mary
Monday, 23 May 2022 in 4h 18
7777 Surprise Minor (11m)
(577 Cambridge, 1 extent each Carlisle, Chester, Munden, London, Wells, Westminster, Ipswich, Primrose, Bourne, Norwich.)

- 1 Philippa M Whittington
- 2 James E Benner
- 3 Stephen H Stanford
- 4 John P Loveless
- 5 Russell A Brown
- 6 Frank W Rivett (C)

Birthday indulgence for the old boy on

Peal 4314

Kempston, All Saints
Friday, 3 June 2022 in 3h 13
5021 Grandsire Caters
Composed by Stephen Ivins

- 1 Charlotte M Smith
- 2 Alexander J Nash
- 3 Helen J Manktelow
- 4 James R B Saunders
- 5 Margaret Feneley
- 6 David I Stanford
- 7 Stephen H Stanford (C)
- 8 Patrick J S Albon
- 9 Andrew M Keech
- 10 Antony C Manktelow

In celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen.

First peal on the refurbished bells and first ever peal on bells 7 & 10 formerly at Prinknash Abbey.

100th peal of Grandsire Caters - 7
We would like to associate this peal with Cliff Izzard who rang the previous tenor to peals for the Queen's Coronation and Silver, Golden, and Diamond Jubilees. Also, Anthony Smith who conducted the last peal on the 8 before they were rehanging, the first on the 8 following rehanging, and the first on the augmented 10.

Peal 4315

Campton, All Saints
Friday, 3 June 2022 in 2h 52
5056 Cambridge Surprise Major
Comp : C Middleton

- 1 Martin Major
- 2 Christine A Williams
- 3 Henry G Francis
- 4 Christine C Darby
- 5 Simon J Davies
- 6 John P Loveless (C)
- 7 Elizabeth A Pawley
- 8 Linda M Garton

Specially arranged as the opening event of Campton's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

First peal of Cambridge S Major inside - 3; 500th peal - 4; 1500th peal together - 6 and 8.

Peal 4316

Henlow, Bedfordshire St Mary
Saturday, 23 July 2022 in 2h 56
5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Charlotte M Smith
- 2 Martin Major
- 3 Anthony H Smith
- 4 Peter G Smith
- 5 Philip R Jewell
- 6 Clive G Smith (C)

Celebrating the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Charlotte and Anthony the previous day the tenor

Peal 4317

Campton, Bedfordshire All Saints

Thursday, 18 August 2022 in 2h 47

5152 Ealing Surprise Major

Composed by James W Holdsworth

- 1 Linda M Garton
- 2 John P Loveless (C)
- 3 Philippa M Whittington
- 4 June Mackay
- 5 Frank W Rivett
- 6 Nicholas R Wilson
- 7 Stephen H Stanford
- 8 Harm Jan A de Kok

Peal 4318

Rothwell, Northamptonshire Holy Trinity

Friday, 19 August 2022 in 3h 10

5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

Composed by Donald F Morrison (no 6291)

- 1 Simon J Dixon
- 2 John P Loveless (C)
- 3 Graham R D Lay
- 4 June Mackay
- 5 Nicholas R Wilson
- 6 Richard Sales
- 7 Stephen H Stanford
- 8 Christopher C Stokes
- 9 Harm Jan A de Kok
- 10 James W Perrins

Peal 4319

Campton, All Saints

Thursday, 15 Sept 2022 in 2h 57

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

Comp : C Middleton

- 1 Martin Major
- 2 Rosalind J Keech
- 3 Charlotte M Smith
- 4 June Mackay
- 5 John P Loveless (C)
- 6 Linda M Garton
- 7 Nicholas R Wilson
- 8 Stephen H Stanford

Half muffled in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Peal 4320

Campton, All Saints

Friday, 14 Oct 2022 in 2h 51

5088 London Surprise Major

Comp : Stephen Ivins (No 12)

- 1 Linda M Garton
 - 2 John P Loveless (C)
 - 3 Frank W Rivett
 - 4 Russell A Brown
 - 5 Nicholas R Wilson
 - 6 Stephen H Stanford
 - 7 James W Perrins
 - 8 Ian D Harris
- 1400th peal – 4

Peal 4321

Biggleswade, St Andrew

Saturday, 15 October 2022 in 3h 18

5165 Grandsire Caters

Composed by Stephen Ivins (arr SHS)

- 1 Alison J Molyneux
- 2 Christine A Knight
- 3 Michael J Cowling
- 4 Anne C Orme
- 5 Kristian White-Spinner
- 6 James R B Saunders
- 7 Stephen H Stanford (C)
- 8 Andrew R Stone
- 9 Nicholas R Wilson
- 10 Richard A Knight

First peal on ten - 5

Birthday compliments to Sarah Ward (today) and Martyn Marriott (80 last Monday); also a delayed performance of an appropriate length for the conductor's birthday.

With best wishes to Steven Spencer and Sophie Marriott to be married at Harpenden next Saturday.

Peal 4322

Harpenden, St Nicholas

Friday, 21 October 2022 in 2h 51

5120 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed by Stephen Ivins

- 1 Jane C Spencer
- 2 Linda M Garton
- 3 Christine C Darby
- 4 Andrew J Spencer
- 5 Michael R Spencer
- 6 Richard A Horne
- 7 Jonathan A Spencer
- 8 Stephen H Stanford (C)

With best wishes to Sophie Marriott and Steven Spencer to be married at this church tomorrow.

400th Beds Assn peal – 8

Peal 4323

Kempston, All Saints

Saturday, 5 November 2022 in 3h 21

5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

Composed by Stephen Ivins

- 1 Rosalind J Keech
- 2 Michael J Cowling
- 3 June Mackay
- 4 Nicholas R Wilson
- 5 Christine C Darby
- 6 Andrew R Stone
- 7 Richard A Horne
- 8 John P Loveless
- 9 Frank W Rivett
- 10 Stephen H Stanford (C)

For All Saints.

First peal of Royal on the refurbished bells.

300th peal – 4

Peal 4324 including 80 on handbells

Campton, 17 Gravenhurst Road

Sunday, 25 December 2022 in 2h 24

5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Comp : E J Southerington (No. 2c)

- 1–2 John P Loveless
- 3–4 Simon A Rudd
- 5–6 David Kemp
- 7–8 Emma J Southerington (C)

Peal No. 4325

CAMPTON, All Saints

Wednesday, December 28th, 2022 in 2h 38m (6)

5056 Bristol Surprise Major

Comp.: Anthony J Cox

- 1 Emma J Southerington
- 2 Clive G Smith
- 3 John P Loveless (C)
- 4 Paul M Mason
- 5 Nicholas R Wilson
- 6 Stephen H Stanford
- 7 Russell A Brown
- 8 David Kemp

Other General Information for Members

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults guidelines

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'. We recommend that everyone directly involved with children and vulnerable adults in ringing follows the requirements of the St Albans Diocese and their local church.

Everyone should take safeguarding matters seriously. This ensures that:

- Children and vulnerable adults are protected.
- 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.

The St Albans Diocese requires that Tower Captains, and all those who teach children and vulnerable adults in ringing, must have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) 'enhanced check' and attend the class based, Module C2 Deanery training course. DBS checks and training are arranged through your church's Safeguarding Coordinator, appointed by the PCC, and who is also the first point of contact in the event of any safeguarding concerns; their contact details should be displayed in the ringing room.

It's good practice for all ringers to complete the online Diocesan training module C0, for basic awareness and increased knowledge of safeguarding. At the present time Deanery training must be refreshed every 3 years, online training is a one off. For more information see the St Albans Diocesan safeguarding web pages at

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocesan/safeguarding/>

We strongly recommend that Tower Captains / ringing teachers should also:

- Invite parents/guardians to a training session before teaching begins so that they're fully aware of what's involved.
- Ask parents/guardians to complete and sign a registration form giving their permission to learn to ring and provide important contact and medical information - downloadable from our website at <http://www.bacbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/BACBR-young-ringers-registration-form-March-2012.pdf>
- Keep an attendance register or record.
- Make parents/guardians responsible for taking children/vulnerable adults to and from the church.
- Get written permission from parents/guardians and agree transport arrangements, before children/vulnerable adults are taken without them to Tower, District and Association meetings, training, outings and social functions or other tower's practices.
- Be aware of the insurance position at your church for children/vulnerable adults.
- Always have at least two adults present (preferable a male and female) when children/vulnerable adults are present at Tower, District or Association practices.
- Never allow children/vulnerable adults up amongst the bells apart from an initial demonstration visit if it is safe to have one.

Guidance for everyone:

- Never hold child/vulnerable adult personal contact information without permission of parents/guardians.
- Never travel alone in a car with a child/vulnerable adult.

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 about safeguarding for bell ringers see the child protection notes on the CCCBR website: www.cccbr.org.uk/towerstewardship
If you have any queries contact our Safeguarding Coordinator, Rosemary Drewery, email: safeguarding@bacbr.org.uk, telephone: 07792 926004

Data protection and privacy information

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) cover how the Association, and its three Districts, holds and uses personal information.

Personal information is anything that can be used to identify individuals, including full name, date of birth, email and postal address, telephone numbers and photographs. People give us their personal information, for example, when they ask about our activities, join as members, take part in one of our activities/events, are a named Tower Contact, or who ring a peal for the Association.

We respect the privacy of everyone who gives us personal information as a member, website user, Tower Contact, participant in our events and activities and anyone else who may be involved in the Association's day to day operation.

We only use personal information for legitimate purposes to:

- Manage and administer the Association
- Communicate with members and others about activities and events
- Produce and send the Annual Report, other newsletters and updates
- Improve our website
- Fulfil our legal obligations

We don't sell personal information and won't transfer your personal information to any third party without your permission. We make all reasonable efforts to protect everyone's privacy and maintain the security of all personal information we hold.

Under the GDPR you have certain rights about data the Association holds about you; the most relevant of these being the right to be informed, to have access, to rectify mistakes, to erase and to object. Please note that the protection of personal information kept by Church authorities on their ringers and visitors falls outside the scope of the Association's data protection responsibility.

Specifically, as an Association member, a parent/guardian of any young ringers (under 19) who participate in our organised events, a non-member who is a Tower Contact or an adult who is learning to ring, 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 and District Officers.

The Association has a membership database and Officers also hold email addresses which are used, where members give specific permission, to communicate about Association and District events and activities.

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 newsletters and other communications.

We do ask members and Tower Contacts (whether members or not), to give specific permission before other personal information, 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

Our Association insurance policy is with Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. We don't provide personal insurance for members because it's expensive and these policies generally have small pay-outs. For example, a typical pay-out is unlikely to cover loss of earnings if you were unable to work due to a ringing accident.

We believe our cover is a good membership benefit and accounts for about £1.00 of your subscription. The current policy documents are on the website. Cover includes:

- £5,000,000 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.
- Trustee indemnity cover

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. You should be aware of the following points:

- You should always check the insurance position of your own church which 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're 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 whether it is for liability and 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:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads//2021/01/Insurance-v3.pdf>

Practices

Always check before visiting a tower for a practice. Some towers only practice on certain weeks of the month, alternate their practice with one or more other towers or are just by special arrangement. Only towers that indicate that they may hold or arrange a practice are listed here.

	District		
	Bedford	Biggleswade	Luton
Monday	Bedford St Paul	Haynes Northill/Old Warden	Barton Le Clay Eversholt Leighton Buzzard Shillington Silsoe Studham Westoning
Tuesday	Bromham Clapham Felmersham/Sharnbrook Renhold 5th only Riseley Stevington	Blunham/Gt Barford /Roxton/Tempsford Campton Cople Henlow Potton	Linslade Luton Totternhoe
Wednesday	Goldington Kempston Keysoe Milton Ernest/Thurleigh Stagsden	Biggleswade Eaton Socon Sandy Willington	Aspley Guise Dunstable Flitton
Thursday	Bedford St Andrew Bedford St Peter Bletsoe Cardington Cranfield Upper Dean	Amphill Stotfold Meppershall	Caddington Houghton Regis Woburn 1st & 3 rd
Friday	Carlton/Harold Elstow Little Staughton Oakley Turvey	Arlesey Clifton	Flitwick Toddington

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