

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers



All Saints, Turvey

Annual Report 2023

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Cover picture – All Saints, Turvey

The tower itself is of four stages, all added at different stages with the lower parts building on Saxon foundations and being added in C13. The upper stage was added in C15 leading to the pyramid roof rising above the embattled parapet.

Work has recently been completed on the tower roof.

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 www.facebook.com/groups/240759242723040/



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 2023

President

Linda M Garton, 17 Gravenhurst Road, Campton SG17 5DW
president@bacbr.org.uk

Vice-President

Angela Blackburn, 7 Knotts Close, Dunstable, LU6 3NY
01582 840278 vicepresident@bacbr.org.uk

Honorary Life Members

Robert R Churchill (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

Sue Silver, 3 Heronslee, Shefford, SG17 5FQ
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

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 2023

Bedford District

Chairman: Martin Goodwin
Secretary: Robert Jones
Treasurer: Jenny Thompson
District BRF Treasurer:
Martin Goodwin
Committee: Barbara Woplin
Ringin 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: Susan Silver
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 2024 Diary – see www.bacbr.org.uk for current details

2024 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/>

President's Report for 2023

By far the biggest ringing event in 2023, both in Bedfordshire and nationally, was ringing for the coronation of King Charles III. In addition, there have been two main priorities for the Association during the year. The first has been to

consolidate and build upon successful "post-Covid" initiatives. The second has been to continue the review of the Association by agreeing revised Objects and then reviewing the structure of the Association. In addition,

Ringling for the Coronation of King Charles III



We set ourselves the challenge to ring the bells at every ringable tower in Bedfordshire on or around the weekend of the coronation in May. A series of very well supported Ring for the King bell handling sessions were held at the RJ Sharp Ringing Centre at Biggleswade, to supplement teaching taking place in towers, so that new ringers who had come forward as a result of national publicity, as well as other more recent recruits, would be ready to ring for this historic occasion.

Over the weekend of the coronation, bells were rung at 87% of Bedfordshire's ringable towers with 430 ringers taking part. A fantastic response! Special congratulations to the following "Double Coronation" ringers who rang for the coronations of both King Charles III & Queen Elizabeth II: Roger Framp – Goldington, Vernon Green – Flitton, Jean Heaslip – Goldington, Cliff Izzard – Kempston. Thank you to everyone who took part, for the co-operation between towers, to individuals who assisted at other towers and to Chris Williams for her hard work as co-ordinator

Consolidating and building upon recent successful initiatives:

On the ringing front there have been lots of positives including:

Another good response to the Ring a First in February initiative, with 27 "Firsts", including 7 members ringing their First Quarter Peal. Well done everyone!

Attendance at the bi-monthly Association Surprise Major practices has varied, but the sessions do provide an opportunity much-valued by those who come.

Another enjoyable and well-supported supper and quiz at Flitton following the AGM in May.

A second annual Summer School. This was fully subscribed, with 19 students making very good progress with Plain Hunting on 5, Plain Bob Doubles and beyond. Thank you to the 26 tutors/helpers, and 10 towers who allowed us the use of their bells.

On a less positive note, the planned Open Striking Competition and Picnic in September had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Such a pity, as Striking Competitions are not only a really good way of encouraging us all to focus on and improve our striking, but also fun and sociable occasions.

Review of the Association:

2023 was also a year when much discussion about the future direction of the Association took place. With revised Objects agreed at the AGM, attention turned to reviewing the structure of the Association. The views of members expressed in two surveys and other consultations since Covid clearly indicated that change was needed. By the end of the year, a draft revised structure had been drawn up. As President, I firmly believe that the significant changes proposed would give us a more sustainable Association, able to meet its revised objectives and provide better opportunities for all members to



participate and progress their ringing. The proposals will be circulated during the first part of 2024. Members will be invited to comment, with a vote to take place at the AGM.

I know, through conversations with officers of other Guilds and Associations across the country, that many would like to implement similar reforms in their organization. I hope very much that in the President's Report next year we can proudly celebrate the fact that this Association has been willing to embrace change, and that we are looking forward to a sustainable and exciting future as an Association seen as a role model by others.

Thank you to the Association and District Officers for your hard work during 2023, and to everyone for all that you do to support the Association and to keep the bells at your towers ringing.

Linda Garton, President

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that 2023 saw an increase in membership from 249 adult members and 7 young members in 2022 to 268 and 7 respectively in 2023. A further positive was to see the number of new members elected at the recent ADMs.

Fund raising was good in 2023 with the Quiz evening following the AGM raising £341.73, and £328.78 raised as a result of money donated in memory of Bob Churchill. Gift Aid resulted in a further £331.98 being added to the BRF.

The increase in Interest Rates has resulted in an extra £361.85 being distributed between the General Account, R J Sharp Fund and the Association BRF.

The year ended with a surplus of £248.39 in the General Fund which left us with a healthy £4152.44 at the end of 2023.

The R J Sharp Fund stands at £3999.94 and the Association BRF at £13573.35.

Sue Silver, Honorary Treasurer

Peal Secretary's Report

The number of peals rung during the year was slightly lower than last year, with a total of 14 peals being rung (17 in 2022). For the first three-quarters of the year only 5 peals had been recorded but then, in the last quarter of the year, a further 9 peals were rung. All the peals this year (both tower and hand bell) have been at places within the Association boundary, with the most popular tower for peals still Campton (5 peals). The number of ringers taking part was broadly similar to last year with 55 members taking part (51 in 2022) and 8 conductors officiating. We congratulate Shaun Somerville, Steven Akhurst and Rebecca Bullingham on ringing their first peal and hope to see them taking part in further peals.

A number of footnotes this year have marked the death, or anniversary of the death, of some well-known members of the Association. Of these, two peals were rung in memory of Wendy Piercy (former President) and Robert (Bob) Churchill (former Vice-President and Honorary Life Member) who passed away during the year. On a lighter note, the coronation of King Charles III was marked with a peal at Campton on 5th May and there were a number of peals rung to mark other significant personal events and milestones.

Finally I would like to thank Richard Hillson for his on-going investigation and updates to the Association peal records on Bell Board.

Richard Horne, Honorary Peal Secretary

Points from the peals and details of peals rung for the Association in 2023 are on pages 47-51.

Librarian's Report

2023 was again a quiet year with only the occasional loans of the Ringing World DVD's. There were no new acquisitions to the library.

Richard Hillson and I have now completed our joint project of entering all peals rung for the Association anywhere, and all peals rung in Bedfordshire Towers regardless of Association, into the Bellboard database. Now that all peals sent to the Ringing World will automatically be entered into the database, this forms a complete and ongoing record and will prove invaluable for future research into the activities of the Association and individual towers. Does anyone fancy having a go at the Quarters?

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

Association Bell Restoration Fund Report.

The fund stood at £13,582.35 at the year end with an income of £2,727.36 and no expenditure (subject to final approval of the accounts). There is an outstanding grant commitment of £8,000 for St Pauls Bedford. The committee convened once on 27/11/23 to consider an application for the refurbishment of the installation at Blunham that is planned in two phases. With support from the Biggleswade District BRF, the first phase was fully funded. A decision was therefore deferred pending an application for the second phase by which time it is envisaged that a more meaningful contribution from the Association fund might be possible. 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 2023 we continued to make good use of the Ringing Centre facilities with monthly learner practices and also hosting an ART Module 1 – Teaching Bell handling course in January.

Owing to its popularity the second Saturday learners practice has now been divided into two parts, the first between 10.00 & 11.00 concentrates on handling skills with one-to-one sessions. The second, between 11.15 & 12.30 is aimed at those who can handle a bell competently and so moving on to rounds and plain hunt whilst also improving their listening skills.

These sessions do not happen without the support from experience ringers and the 'technical team', so a big thank you to all who have helped in any way during the year.

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

Sue Silver & Chris Williams

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).

No new awards were made in 2023, however £160.00 was paid towards the Learning to Teach Art Course which took place in January and was agreed in the previous year. As at the year end 31/12/2023 the fund stood at £3999.94.
Sue Silver

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

New Safeguarding Hubs have been introduced that has a suite of tools to help a parish with safeguarding.

The first three tools:

- Keep track of DBS checks and safeguarding training.
- Create role descriptions and person specifications.
- Track the safer recruitment of new volunteers.

Rosemary Drewery – Safeguarding Co Ordinator

Technical Adviser's Report for 2023

Only two requests for assistance this year:

Campton – A request by the Tower Captain to give the installation a look-over as it had been several years since the last inspection. No significant issues were noted and advice was given on a number of minor issues. The opportunity was taken to give one of the local ringers a brief on the sorts of things to look for when checking an installation.

Stevington – Again, a request by the locals to give the ring a once-over as they are not being rung regularly now. No major issues were encountered and advice was given on minor stay, slider and clapper issues, and about regular lubrication of the plain bearings.

General – Over the years I have frequently come across issues, some quite serious, that have been ongoing for months or even years. It is important that problems are nipped in the bud promptly before they become expensive and / or dangerous. As Technical Adviser, I am always willing to come out and check on a potential problem. It's free of charge and, hopefully, will put your mind at rest, or at the very worst, catch a problem before it becomes serious.

Pat Albon

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

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 2023

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 2023

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	2023				2022			
	General	The Ronald J Sharp Fund	Bell Restoration Fund	Total Funds	General	The Ronald J Sharp Fund	Bell Restoration Fund	Total Funds
Receipts								
Income								
Subscriptions								
Annual Membership - Adults	2,680.00	-	-	2,680.00	2,490.00	-	-	2,490.00
Annual Membership - Under 19's	17.50	-	-	17.50	17.50	-	-	17.50
Associate Member	10.00	-	-	10.00	12.50	-	-	12.50
Arrears	102.50	-	-	102.50	90.00	-	-	90.00
Advance Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trading								
Sale of Association Badges	2.00	-	-	2.00	-	-	-	-
Sale of Reports	5.00	-	-	5.00	-	-	-	-
Income from Report Adverts	80.00	-	-	80.00	131.50	-	-	131.50
Other								
Peal Fees	108.00	-	-	108.00	134.00	-	-	134.00
Gift Aid - HMRC	331.98	-	-	331.98	392.81	-	-	392.81
Donations	486.78	-	-	486.78	126.50	45.00	-	171.50
Donations Summer School	-	-	-	-	53.00	-	-	53.00
Donations AGM	341.73	-	-	341.73	516.50	-	-	516.50
Investment Income								
Interest	67.62	69.29	224.94	361.85	1.76	1.84	4.78	8.38
Total Receipts	4,233.11	69.29	224.94	4,527.34	3,966.07	46.84	6.86	4,019.77
Payments								
Charity Expenditure								
Central Council Affiliation Fees	63.00	-	-	63.00	120.00	-	-	120.00
Printing of Annual Report	460.00	-	-	460.00	440.00	-	-	440.00
Other Expenditure								
Districts Administration Expenses	-	-	-	-	3.00	-	-	3.00
Insurance for Public Liability	567.62	-	-	567.62	530.08	-	-	530.08
Website costs	95.94	-	-	95.94	48.00	-	-	48.00
Ringling World Notices	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Committee Meeting - Room Hire	69.00	-	-	69.00	25.00	-	-	25.00
Gifts for Striking Comp Judges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donation for use of bells	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zoom licence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenses - Training Course	-	160.00	-	160.00	-	-	-	-
Expenses - President	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenses - Secretary	6.90	-	-	6.90	-	-	-	-
Expenses - CCCBR conference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Young Ringers - use of bells for practices	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	1,262.46	160.00	-	1,422.46	1,166.08	-	-	1,166.08
50% Annual Adult Subs to BRF	- 1,391.25	-	1,391.25	-	- 1,290.00	-	1,290.00	-
Peal Fees to BRF	- 108.00	-	108.00	-	- 134.00	-	134.00	-
Donations to BRF	- 828.51	-	828.51	-	- 696.00	-	696.00	-
Gift Aid to BRF	- 331.98	-	331.98	-	- 392.81	-	392.81	-
Investment Interest to BRF	- 67.62	-	67.62	-	- 1.76	-	1.76	-
Total Transfer Between Funds	- 2,727.36	-	2,727.36	-	- 2,514.57	-	2,514.57	-
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
Net Receipts/Payments	243.29	- 90.71	2,952.30	3,104.88	285.42	46.84	2,519.35	2,851.61
Cash Funds at 31/12/2023	4,147.44	3,999.94	13,582.35	21,729.73	3,904.15	4,090.65	10,630.05	18,624.85

<u>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</u>							
<u>AT 31 DECEMBER 2023</u>							
					2023	2022	
					£	£	
Cash and Bank Deposits							
1. General Fund							
	Lloyds Bank Current Account			4,017.97		1,592.04	
	Lloyds Bank instant access saving account			-		2,290.64	
	Lloyds Bank 32 Day notice account			-		-	
	Cash held by Association Officers			93.47		21.47	
	Cash held by Peal Secretary			36.00		-	
	Total			4,147.44		3,904.15	
2. The Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund							
	Lloyds Bank Current Account			209.10		-	
	Lloyds Bank instant access saving account			2,036.25		4,090.65	
	Lloyds Bank 32 Day notice account			1,754.59			
	Total			3,999.94		4,090.65	
3. Bell Restoration Fund							
	Lloyds Bank Current Account			-		-	
	Lloyds Bank instant access saving account			-		10,630.05	
	Lloyds Bank 32 Day notice account			13,582.35		-	
	Total			13,582.35		10,630.05	
Other Monetary Assets							
Debtors							
	Ringling World Balance			92.05		92.05	
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 - 77 (2022: 78)			123.20		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 21.02.2024

DISTRICT BELFRY REPAIR FUNDS

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Bedford	Biggleswade	Luton	TOTAL	
	£	£	£	2023	2022
Balance Brought Forward	13,353.65	5,689.80	4,935.16	23,978.61	23,188.41
Income	493.19	567.15	349.14	1,409.48	782.00
Interest	15.98	49.89	47.71	113.58	8.20
Less Grants				-	-
Total	13,862.82	6,306.84	5,332.01	25,501.67	23,978.61

Notes to the Accounts

Future Liabilities

including grants approved:

None

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

	£	Bedford No.	£	Biggleswade No.	£	Luton No.	£	TOTAL 2023 No.	£	2022 £
Ringling Member (Resident) @	10.00	83	830.00	107	1070.00	78	780.00	268	2680.00	2490.00
Ringling Member (Resident) undr @	2.50	0	0.00	5	12.50	2	5.00	7	17.50	17.50
Non-Resident Member (Ringling @	5.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Associate Member @	2.50	4	10.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	10.00	12.50
Arrears @	10.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	11	102.50	11	102.50	90.00
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	1	2.00	1	2.00	0.00
Sale of Report @	5.00	1	5.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	5.00	0.00
Donations		0	0.00	0	0.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0.00
Total Receipts			845.00		1082.50		894.50		2822.00	2610.00
Less Admin Expenses			0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Net Receipts (To Receipts & Payments A/c)			845.00		1082.50		894.50		2822.00	2610.00
Notes										
Cash balance retained b/f			21.47		0.00		0.00		21.47	24.47
Cash accrued in Year							10.00		10.00	
Income for Year			845.00		1082.50		894.50		2822.00	2610.00
Total			866.47		1082.50		904.50		2853.47	2634.47
Less amount paid to Assoc. Lloyds A/c			-440.00		-90.00		-672.50		-1202.50	-1285.00
Less direct payments into Assoc. Lloyds A/c			-405.00		-992.50		-160.00		-1557.50	-1315.00
Less expenses			0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	-3.00
Net cash balance c/f			21.47		0.00		72.00		93.47	21.47

District Reports

Bedford District

The first District activity of the year was a well-attended January meeting held at Kempston. The local band had provided a delicious hot meal, which was followed by the ADM. It was disappointing that there were no members willing to participate in District management, so the remaining officers and depleted committee agreed to continue. The deaths of three District and previous Bedford District ringers was sadly announced; Gemma Davison of Sharnbrook, David Jones, who rang at St Andrews Bedford before moving North on his retirement, and Avril Ivin, previously a ringer at St Pauls Bedford. On a positive note, the District welcomed eight new members.

The normal pattern of first Saturday meetings was interrupted in May by Coronation ringing for His Majesty King Charles III. In July there was a depleted attendance at Oakley, and unfortunately the Quarterly business meeting in July could not take place because no officers were available. The District Striking Contest was also cancelled because of a lack of interest. Attendance at ringing meetings has been variable, and generally is still lower than four years ago. Sarah Ward, our Ringing Master held a training session on Call Changes: how to call them and how to ring them, which was well received. Another novelty was a jigsaw puzzle based on Oxford Treble Bob, which at first confused several experts.

Recruiting new ringers has not been much in evidence this year, and no Young Ringers were nominated for Eddie Jeffries plate. Tailenders has continued to flourish throughout the year with its monthly meetings. It is hoped that the proposed changes to the Association will enable the 1882 Bedfordshire motto "Floreant Campanologie Scientia in Aeternum" to continue to ring true.

Bob Jones, District Secretary

Biggleswade District

District Meetings have been held every second Saturday of the month with the exception of a May meeting as most of us were involved with ringing for 'King'. It was pleasing to see so many of our new ringers taking part and thanks are due to all who undertook bell handling sessions in the lead up to the Coronation and beyond.

There is no doubt that the success of our District Meetings owes much to our Ringing Master, Chris Williams, for her organisation skills and the way that she places her bands to give support to the less experienced ringers. Thank you Chris.

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 across the County as well as our own District. 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 Chris Williams and all the helpers for running these very successful sessions.

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

This year has seen a return to 'business as usual' and we have been able to hold monthly meetings throughout the year. Our Annual District Meeting (ADM) was held at Dunstable in January. The District officers were re-elected for a further year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers for their contribution over the previous year. I would also like to thank the Dunstable ringers for hosting the ADM. In general, the Saturday meetings have been well supported with numbers ranging from 13 to 27. The number of District members attending each meeting has been fairly constant, averaging just over 11 and in all but one month we have welcomed members from other Districts or further afield, giving an average attendance of between 17 and 18 ringers. The total membership within the District increased this year from 77 to 84. This was due mainly to a revival of the band at Totternhoe when seven new members were elected at the ADM.

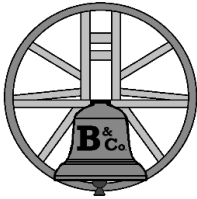
The Association AGM, in May, was held in the Luton District at Flitton. The format followed the arrangements of the previous year, with general ringing and a service in church in the afternoon. The business meeting was then held in the church hall. In a change to the Association officers our District Secretary, Angela Blackburn, was elected as Vice-President. The business meeting was followed by a quiz, ably organised by our President, Linda Garton. At this point I would like to thank the vicar for taking the service, Alan Shepherd for playing the organ, those who provided refreshments during the afternoon and especially Simon Stranks, Barbara Fraser and others for providing an excellent supper during the quiz.

One of the major national events of the year was the coronation of King Charles III, which took place in May. Most, if not all, District towers marked this occasion with ringing at some point around the bank holiday weekend.

This report would not be complete without mentioning the passing of two prominent members of the District. In January Roger Kendrick of Whipsnade died suddenly. Roger's interest in bells & bell frames led to his involvement in restoration/augmentation projects at Dunstable and especially the rings at Whipsnade and Studham. Then, in October, Robert (Bob) Churchill died. Bob was not only an Honorary Life Member of the Association but always supported ringing in general and especially the towers in and around Husborne Crawley, Aspley Guise, Woburn and Eversholt; where he was instrumental in getting the bells rehung in 2018. Their passing is a loss not only to their respective towers but also to the Association and ringing in general. I would like to extend our condolences to their families in their loss.

In concluding my report, I would like to thank the Incumbents for the use of the bells for the monthly meetings, tower contacts for making the arrangements and for your support during the past year.

Richard Horne, District Chairman

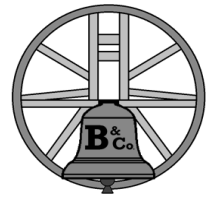


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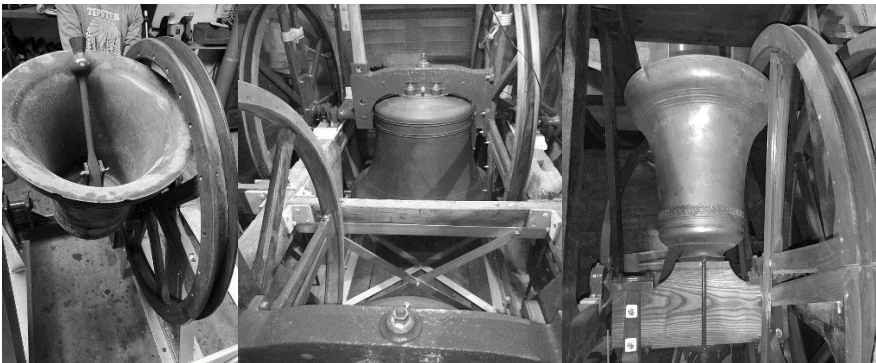
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List of Members and Towers

Honorary Life Members in 2023

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

Non-Resident Life Members in 2023

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

Non-Resident Members elected in 2023 prior to a peal

None

Resident Members transferred to Associate Members in 2023

Resident Members transferred to Non-Resident Members in 2023

Philippa Whittington, Frank Rivett, Jonathan Nash, Melissa Nash

Resident Ringing Members elected in 2023

Name	No	Tower	Date
Broadbent Caroline	1750	Biggleswade	14.01.2023
Holford Andrew	1751	Sandy	14.01.2023
Simpson Belinda (Dec'd)	1752	Ampthill	14.01.2023
Haddow Phil	1753	Potton	14.01.2023
Richardson Sheila	1124	Biggleswade	14.01.2023
Revell Mia	1754	Clifton	15.04.2023
Harvey Steve	1755	Ampthill	15.04.2023
Stayner Jane	1787	Northill	15.04.2023
De-Matteis Giorgio	1788	Maulden	22.04.2023
Joshi Penny	1789	Tempsford	20.05.2023
Goddard Maureen	1790	Tempsford	20.05.2023
Lickorish Colin	1791	Ampthill	12.08.2023
Wood Cindy	1192	Turvey	21.03.2023
Tibbs Simon	1194	Unattached	07.10.2023

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.

Ringing 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*, Simon Tibbs

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, 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: First Thursday of the month 19.45-20.00

Simon Smith, 7 Franklyn Gardens, Biddenham, MK40 4QB

07831507733 biddenham@bacbr.org.uk

Simon Smith

BLETSOE 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, Bletsoe, MK44 1QF
01234 782875 bletsoe@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, 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
Alternate with Milton Ernest
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

Kate Abrahams, 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, Jonny Foster Christopher Hartley,
Mary Hartley, Garth Holman, Richard Lanyon-Hogg, Jane Leslie, Andrew Pearson,
Susan Webster

ELSTOW St Mary and St Helena (6) 8-2-0 in G TL049474
Sunday: 9.30 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
alternates 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: 10.30 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, Jane Edis, Richard Hillson,
Cliff Izzard, Andrew Keech, Melvyn Potts

KEYSOE St Mary (5) 14-1-19 in E (GF) TL073624
Sunday: 1st 9.30 3rd 11.00 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: Tuesday 19.45-20.45
Alternate with Clapham
Richard Newman, 3 Church Close, Milton Ernest, MK44 1RD
01234 961440 miltonernest@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: No practice
Phone to check

Ian Steward
07974 827098 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: 09.30 1st, 10.30 2nd, 3rd & 4th check PN: Friday 19.30-20.30
Ed Whittle/David Wood
07968 353209/07765 772434 turvey@bacbr.org.uk

Richard Bray, Helen Clarkson, Paul Clarkson, Tabitha Cobb, Ed Whittle, Cindy Wood,
David Wood

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, 52a Church Road, Wootton, Bedford, MK43 9HF,
07753 303 437, 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, Steve Harvey, John Hele, Nichola Hele, Timothy Hele, Helen Hodgson
Dominic Holroyd-Thomas, Colin Lickorish, Rae Marshall, Hilary Nellist,
Angela Newberry, Christopher Shrimpton, Belinda Simpson (Deceased)

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 arleseey@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

Caroline Broadbent, David Carr*, Paul Chandler, Trevor Chandler, Fiona Day, Yvonne
Humberstone*, Shelia Richardson, Charlotte Smith*, Johannas Strauss, Leah Strauss
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

Linda Bryant, Darrelle Buckel, 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, Mia Revell,
Frank Rivett, Marguerite Smith, Shaun Somerville, Rev Caren Topley,
Phillippa Whittington

COPE 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
Trish Appleton eatonsocon@bacbr.org.uk
07976 206250
Owen Davis, Maureen Hall, Michael Matthews*, Sue Matthews,
Mary Parnham, Wendy Piercy*(deceased), 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, (2nd Sunday) phone to check PN Tuesday 19:30-21.00
Dean De-Matteis 01525 715081 maulden@bacbr.org.uk

Dean De-Matteis, Giorgio 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, Jane Stayner

OLD WARDEN St Leonard (6) 9-1-0 in G (GF) TL136443
Sunday: None PN: Monday 2nd & 4th
Robert Dlggle 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, Phil Haddow, Andrew Inkersole, Rosanna Jackson, Rosemary Kimber,
Mary Oliver-Barratt, Jessica Richards, Tony Sharp, Christopher Surridge,
Carol-Ann Tucker

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, Andrew Holford, 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

Alan Dover*, Colin McCartney, Elizabeth McCartney,

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
Maureen Goddard, Penny Joshi

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 19.30-20.30
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
Tower captain, eversholt@bacbr.org.uk

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

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, 01525 861709
 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 husbornecrawley@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.ukj

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, Whipnade, 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

Avril Ivin 16 March 1939 – 19 January 2023



Avril was born Avril Ching. Her father (Samuel) James Ching was a renowned concert pianist, teacher and author of books on piano technique, and director of the School of Music in Brighton, where Avril was born. Her mother, Marjorie Gabriel was also a concert pianist, so music was very much in Avril's genes.

Avril's parents separated, and her mother later remarried to Dr Rupert Thackray, also a prominent musician, educationalist, and author, who was the founder and first Head of the Music Department at Bedford College of Physical Education, with research interests and publications including (perhaps interestingly from a ringer's perspective) rhythmic patterns and aptitude.

Avril attended Dame Alice Harpur School where amongst her contemporaries were Jennie Davis (Taylor), Helen Nevin (Williams), and Anne Amor (Stainsby) all ringers at St Paul's. During her school years, she consolidated her musical roots becoming accomplished at the piano and cello, progressing through music exams and playing in school and county orchestras.

Avril learnt to ring as a teenager at Wootton, and is first listed as a member of the Association in the 1956 Annual Report. Her first peal, Plain Bob Minor, at Biddenham, on 12th of January of that year, was conducted by Bryan Pattison. She met Steve at a ringing meeting at St Peter's Bedford and by 1957 they had transferred their allegiances to St Paul's, then under Sid Foskett's leadership.

Despite having considerable musical talent, Avril chose to study domestic science in Leicester. It was at a time when Leicester Cathedral boasted one of the pioneering and leading bands of the day, by then led by Herrick Bowley. Avril participated in a number of peals there between 1957 and 1960, including a variety of different Surprise Maximus methods; a number of them firsts.

Avril and Steve continued their courtship between Leicester and Oxford where Steve was studying Classics (and London S Major)! They were engaged in June 1958 and married on August 13th 1960 at Houghton Conquest.

On completing teacher training, Avril took up a post in domestic science at the Silver Jubilee Girls' School, Bedford, no doubt a challenging first appointment in a somewhat difficult area of the town. Later she taught at Stratton School Biggleswade before moving to the newly opened Pilgrim Grammar School (the first state and only co-educational grammar school in the town), becoming amongst its first members of staff.

At about the time I joined Pilgrim School at the age of 11, Avril left to pursue her music interests, becoming a peripatetic cello teacher in The Bedfordshire County music service. She was well-known and greatly respected in teaching circles, playing with the county philharmonic and youth orchestras and various other music groups. She also taught privately.

Avril was a great support to Steve in establishing the band at St Paul's Bedford, initially as its secretary. Under Steve's leadership they developed, what was without doubt, one of the best Sunday service bands in the country at that time. Although not a prolific or particularly keen peal ringer, Avril was extremely capable and reliable; she seldom made method errors and her striking was very accurate – incredibly so for one who did relatively little ringing. She rang in a number of first peals of S Royal for the Association.

I first came to know Avril when, at about the age of 12 and as a very inexperienced ringer, I joined the band at St Pauls. In those days Avril seemed quite scary, although she was always very supportive and encouraging to me and a number of other youngsters who were fortunate enough to ring there. She was an extremely good teacher, identifying potential and emphasising and demonstrating the advantages of sustained effort and regular practice that would enable those who were, perhaps not so naturally gifted or talented, to achieve success beyond their own perceived capability and horizons. This said, she didn't suffer fools gladly, and had little patience with any who were less than genuine, or did not take matters seriously and work to improve to the best of their ability. Any who didn't, were seldom left in much doubt about it!

Avril and Steve moved to Oxfordshire in 1979 when Avril took up a post in the Oxfordshire peripatetic music service, eventually becoming its head of strings. She gave tremendous encouragement to Steve throughout the various bell restoration projects that he undertook in Oxford; at Lincoln College, St Mary Magd., St Thomas's the Martyr, and elsewhere, but she limited herself to occasional service ringing and standing in to complete peal bands when Steve was short, often at the last moment. Despite her lack of practice, Avril always rang to a very high standard that few in the band were able to emulate.

Beyond her music teaching and playing, Avril's principal interest at this time was her horses. She owned and rode several over the years. She also greatly enjoyed gardening; growing fruit and vegetables to provide ingredients for some wonderful home-cooking, and she had an extensive knowledge of plants and shrubs, including all their Latin names.

Despite her tough and seemingly stern no-nonsense exterior, Avril was incredibly resilient, kind-hearted, and generous with her time and money. She valued her close friendships immensely and was very generous in supporting a wide range of charities. She was devastated when Steve died in 2010, but wisely took his final advice to have a dog. From about that time onwards, Avril and her golden lab Brandy became inseparable companions, and I think it was largely because of Brandy that she pulled through and kept going.

She developed a wide circle of friends associated with her music, horse riding, and dog training and walking activities, and an extensive support network of very kind neighbours and tradespeople within the village. She also served on the Steventon parish council. She rang occasionally, mostly at East Ilsley.

Early in 2022 Avril was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and the final 18 months of her life were difficult with several periods of hospitalisation. It was very sad to witness the gradual decline of such a once-vibrant, confident, self-assured, and hugely talented friend of some 50 years.

Avril rang 219 peals, including two in hand, her last being Stedman Caters at St Thomas Oxford on 22/12/97. Of these 129 were for the Association with 24 each for the Leicester and Peterborough DGs, including, London S Major (29), Cambridge S Royal (14), and 11 each of London and Bristol S Royal. 196 of her peals were with Steve, followed by Ron Sharp (62) and Bob Piron (56). She was elected to the SRCY prior to a peal at St Paul's Bedford on 15 May 1961.

Avril's funeral was held at Steventon Church on 15th February, a cold and sunny day, when over 100 shared in a wonderful and fitting celebration of her life. The service included a Bach viola solo performed by her great niece, Rosa, and pieces by Mozart and Purcell performed by her teaching colleagues, and friends from Oxford Sinfonia. Friends rang the bells before and after the service and the tributes reflected on her life of service to music and ringing.

Rest in peace dear friend.

Stephen Stanford

This is a shortened version of Avril's obituary that was published in Ringing World 5855, 14/7/23, p710. It can also be read on the Association web site.

Wendy Piercy 25 May 1943 – 20 Sept 2023



Wendy was born in Liverpool – her mother became a second world war widow at the end of the war and things were not easy for Wendy and her younger brother in their formative years.

Her Mum remarried when Wendy was 11 and, in consequence, she gained another brother.

After school Wendy went to Homerton College in Cambridge to train to become a teacher. Initially she taught maths at secondary level, then moved to primary teaching when she realised many errors at secondary level could be prevented by a solid maths foundation at primary level. Wendy spent most of her working life teaching at schools in the St. Neots area. The family remember her delight when seeing 'Happy birthday Mrs Piercy' on the chalk board pig outside Anderson's butchers – a true indication of her fame and popularity in Eaton Socon.

Wendy met her future husband whilst ringing at St George's Jesmond in Newcastle. After starting teaching Wendy married Tom, and they moved into a brand-new house in Eaton Socon, which Wendy continued to live in for nearly 60 years. Their children Andy and Caroline were born quickly after moving into Wilkinson Close. Andy and Caroline remember a happy childhood. Wendy gave them both a stable and happy upbringing. The kitchen was always a social place and there were many enjoyable family occasions with lots of delicious meals, copious wine and homemade cakes and desserts. The wider family often hoped that the meal lasted long enough for them not to have time to play Scrabble, which Wendy unfailingly won. This extended to her grandchildren, who in turn, refused their Granny as an opponent, instead opting for the Computer AI as opposition.

Wendy was always an avid reader. As a girl, she went to the library every Saturday, borrowed her allocation of books, sat on the bench outside the library, read them and took them back in to exchange for another set. However, she found another interest in bellringing which she started when she

was about 12 or 13, a pastime that continued to be a big part of her life, even in the last few years when she was physically unable to take part. Wendy was the Tower Captain at Eaton Socon church for over 40 years and she spent a lot of time teaching new ringers here and further afield. Her claim to fame was that she taught Tom Griffiths to ring and was so proud of what he has achieved.

Wendy had prominent roles in the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bellringers, including being President from 2004 to 2007 and Central Council Rep from 1998 – 2001. She enjoyed ringing outings both in the UK and further afield, including one trip to Australia and one to the USA. The church, and ringing in particular, gave her many friends and much enjoyment. Her love of bell ringing has been taken up by her daughter Caroline and granddaughter Helen.

She rang 306 tower bell peals and one on handbells between 1959 and 2013. Her last was a peal of Grandsire Caters at St Neots on her 70th Birthday. She only conducted one peal, and then only after a certain amount of cajoling by a well-known St Neots ringer, Yorkshire S Royal in November 1996. She was so pleased that we scored! She was a member of the Royal Cumberland Youths and 15 of her peals were rung for them.

At a time of life when Wendy should have been enjoying her well-deserved retirement, she took on the care of her elderly parents in the annex they had built on her house. As her Dad became frailer and her Mum's dementia worsened, this was a much tougher and more time-consuming challenge than Wendy, Eric and John (her brothers) had imagined. However, Wendy did everything she could to make their time in Eaton Socon as happy, safe and fulfilled as possible until they both passed away.

Looking after her Mum had made Wendy realise the desperate need locally for support for people living with dementia and their families, so she helped establish and run the Coffee Pot facility to give them a much-needed break and support. And of course, her excellent cake baking skills were again put to good use.

The wider family have happy memories of the fabulous holiday she arranged at a villa in Spain for her 70th birthday – and witnessed her courage and determination to get to her final family holiday in Shropshire to celebrate her 80th birthday this year. Throughout her illnesses, although she was in pain and discomfort, we never ever once heard Wendy complain or moan. She met each challenge with lots of equipment from Amazon, the support of the lovely carers from Beaumont, and the love and care of her friends and neighbours. Wendy was not a gardener but loved gardens, especially her own after Robert,

her friend and gardener, took control and turned it into the little haven she was able to appreciate until the end.

As Wendy was very confident in the digital world, she was able to carry on chatting to her friends and family on FaceTime and indulging her passion for Wordle – not bad for someone of her age. She often managed to find humour in the situation and as her world shrank to the bedroom, she found pleasure in watching the birds and squirrels on her brother's rough and ready bird table, hastily and loosely constructed from a wire basket, bamboo cane and clothes pegs.

Anyone who knew Wendy would know that she was always upbeat and would always welcome you into her home. She will be greatly missed by all her family and by everyone who knew her.

(I acknowledge help in compiling this obituary from Wendy's Grandsons, Funeral Eulogy and from PealBase - thanks Andrew!)

George Bonham

Wendy's obituary was published in The Ringing World 5874, 24/11/23, p1150

Robert R (Bob) Churchill 26 March 1926 – 25 October 2023



Robert Randolph (Bob) Churchill of Eversholt, Bedfordshire, passed away peacefully at the age of 97. He was a former Vice President and Honorary Life member of the Bedfordshire Association; also, the eldest and one of its longest serving members.

Bob was born at Betchworth Heath near Rickmansworth where his grandfather owned a dairy farm. The family later moved to Hooley Farm Woods, near Coulsdon Surrey. Having left school at the age of 14, Bob was evacuated to South Leigh, Oxfordshire. Farm work was a reserved occupation, resulting in his exemption from National Service, and so it was that he learned to ring when the ban was lifted in 1943. Bob thus qualified for membership of the 43rs group that he joined in 1993 and actively supported, enjoying many outings, quarter peals, and other events.

On his move to Bedfordshire in 1945, Bob was employed at Church Farm Husborne Crawley. He married Mary his first wife at Husborne Crawley on 3rd March 1948 and went into business with his brother-in-law, Doug, delivering milk to the villages bordering the Duke of Bedford's estate. After 16 years, the onset of angina resulted in Bob's premature retirement. Sadly, a few years later, Mary died.

On arriving in Husborne Crawley Bob had joined the local band, describing himself as "quite a green ringer". The band included Edmund Hobbs, one of the most capable of the inter-war generation of Bedfordshire ringers who had conducted the first peal of London Major in the county at Woburn in 1927. In such company, Bob made steady progress, joining the Association in 1949 and becoming Tower Captain in 1959. From that time onwards, he taught a very significant number of people to ring. Amongst Bob's subsequent and most successful recruits was a young Mark Regan, who he taught to handle a bell and encouraged through his early ringing exploits.

Bob served as Tower Captain at Husborne Crawley for over 60 years. He was also Churchwarden for much of that time. Amongst his tireless work for the Church, Bob (locally referred to as "Mr Fix It") was responsible for having the poorly toned 5th and cracked 7th bells recast in 1977 and eliminating the awkward ladder access to the ringing chamber with a door from the spiral staircase.

Although not a prolific peal ringer this is no reflection of Bob's considerable capabilities. His leading method was London S Major (9) and many of his fellow peal ringers had exacting standards. He rang 40 of his peals for the Association, 26 of them at Husborne Crawley, that under his stewardship became a popular peal venue. Bob's first peal was Plain Bob Minor on the back six at Husborne Crawley (22/7/1957), conducted by J Michael Stephens. His last was at Charleston, S Carolina (22/2/2010), Cambridge S Major conducted by Roger Baldwin. He conducted just one peal; Plain Bob Major at

Husborne Crawley (27/1/65) for the death of Sir Winston Churchill. It included two of his learners ringing their first peal.

Bob was more active when it came to ringing quarter peals. He was a regular member of the Woburn Thursday night band, and also rang a number with the Chiltern Midweek Group that he joined in 1994, and the Zipper Society that he joined in 2001, having qualified for membership the previous year with a quadruple heart bypass operation!

Amongst the learners that Bob taught in the early 60s was a 13-year-old Elizabeth Cotchin. Many years later she returned to ringing and became Bob's second wife, when on 28 May 1994, they married at Husborne Crawley. Bob and Elizabeth regularly supported meetings and social events of all three districts of the Association in addition to practices most evenings, and outings with the Chiltern and Northampton mid-week groups, the 43ers and the Zipper Society. They also enjoyed a number of overseas ringing and family visits. They were especially helpful with the Bedfordshire Young Ringers, regularly attending their practices and travelling to support them at the final on several occasions. Dean De-Matteis, a member of the team that won the RW National Youth Competition several times was one of many who benefited from Bob's encouragement and support.

At the annual Biggleswade District dinner, Bob's ode, specially composed for the occasion, was a much anticipated and enjoyed part of the entertainment. Beyond ringing, Bob was a keen cyclist, touring the neighbouring villages and regularly participating in the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride each September.

After moving to Eversholt in 1994 Bob became Tower Captain there too. Here he initiated and made a significant financial contribution towards a project in 2018 to have the rather challenging bells rehung; also, the welding of the 3rd bell that cracked shortly afterwards. His remaining unfulfilled ambition was to have the 3 bells at Milton Bryan restored and augmented to 6. One day perhaps!

Bob's funeral took place at Husborne Crawley on a rather wet Wednesday 8th November, when parishioners, ringers and friends, filled the church to capacity; a reflection of the very high regard in which he was held. The bells were rung half-muffled before and after the service as Bob was interred in the Churchyard, the rain holding off and the sun appearing just at the right time.

There followed a wake at Eversholt village hall, with wonderfully prepared refreshments, where fond memories were shared and stories told; the kind of occasion that I am sure he would have enjoyed.

RIP Stephen Stanford

This is a shortened version of Bob's obituary that was published in Ringing World 5883, 26/1/24, p90. It can also be read on the Association web site.



Bob with 'his girls' at Husborne Crawley in 1963

Roger Ian Kendrick 21 June 1946 – 24 January 2023)

Roger came from Leicestershire and learnt to ring at Barrow on Soar. His first peal was on 12th June 1962 at Wanlip ringing the treble to Plain Bob Minor, with his last at Hughenden in July 2011. In all he rang 387 peals, 11 of which were in hand. Only about 50 were rung after 1981 by which time he had moved to Bedfordshire. He rang peals on all numbers, Doubles and Minor early on up to Londinium and Newgate, top of the range on 12 at the time. He was also in the first of peal on 13 tower bells, Stedman 13 at St Margaret's Leicester. Of his peals, most (143) were rung for the Leicester D.G. as well as various other associations and societies including the S.R.C.Y., to which he was elected in the early 1970's.

His leading tower for peals was Loughborough Bell Foundry – as a lad he also worked for Taylors during holidays, much encouraged by Paul Taylor, acquiring knowledge and skills he used later on many bell hanging projects. He worked for Fisons, initially at Loughborough, and subsequent work moves took him to Cambridge and Bedfordshire. At Cambridge he met Sylvia Mitchell, a student at Cambridge University and they later married. Their children learnt to ring and two of them still do. On moving to Cambridge Roger

rang at Trumpington and was ringing master there from 1976-1980. It was interesting to note a peal in his memory at Trumpington, on 22nd April 2023, included one of his pupils. Trumpington at this time was THE place to ring in Cambridge, mixing town and gown. Ringing at the Catholic church was strictly limited and the Great St Mary's band only developed a few years later.

The family moved to Bedfordshire in the early 1980s and soon got involved with installing a new 3cwt Whitechapel six at Whipsnade. He stayed at Whipsnade and was well known for organising the Whipsnade tower camping holiday for many years, perhaps an effect of his involvement in the Scouting Movement. He would invite others to join them for the August bank holiday weekend, with tower outings at some local towers and as a way to break up the journey on the way home. It was not unknown for a football style 'yellow card' to be shown if you made a mistake during ringing. He spent a lot of time teaching new ringers and helping out in the benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade. Roger was still regularly ringing at Whipsnade with his wife and children until his death.

During the early 1980s there were a number of local bell restoration projects. Following on from Whipsnade, both Roger and Sylvia assisted with the restoration of the 23cwt eight at Dunstable in 1982/83, the augmentation of Luton to 12 and work at Leighton Buzzard. In 1993 Studham bells were augmented to six and Roger was heavily involved in this project, from knocking on doors raising money to installing the bells on their return from Taylors. Roger retired some years ago but Sylvia reckons he spent a lot of his retirement planning bell jobs while she was out at work!

Roger was a member of the Bedfordshire Association from 1980 to 2022 being listed under Whipsnade from 1981. He rang a total of 9 peals for the Association and conducted 2 of them, one of which being the first peal at Whipsnade in May 1981. Roger was a supporter of the Association and the Luton District, being on the District Committee in 1981 and 1982 and then being the Luton District BRF Accounts Examiner from 1991 until 2009 and District Accounts Examiner from 2010 to 2012. With Roger's interest and knowledge in bells & fittings it was natural for him to be the Technical Advisor to the Bedfordshire Association, a role he did from 2008 until 2016.

Roger's sudden and untimely death on 24th January 2023 was a shock to all who knew him. His funeral at Whipsnade church was very well attended, with both local people and people who knew him coming from further afield to fill the church. The bells of Whipsnade were rung before and after the service. We extend our condolences to Sylvia and family in their loss.

Angela Blackburn

Belinda Simpson

Belinda first came to learn to ring at Ampthill at the beginning of 2022. She had recently moved into a new house very close to the church, heard the bells and decided she would like to have a go.

After about 2 months Belinda could handle a bell with a little help and started to ring in rounds. She was very good at spotting weaknesses in the learning process and soon realised that call changes and the movement of the bells needed some visual aids. So, she bought for the tower some magnetic boards with magnetic numbers for anyone who was sitting out to follow what was going on. A great idea for those who have never seen call changes rung before.

Sadly, by the middle of 2022 she was diagnosed with a rare form of abdominal cancer. Despite this she continued to ring whenever she could and was very keen to support the ringers at both Ampthill and Steppingley in any way she could. Lively, perceptive and interesting, she was a pleasure to have in the tower even if she was unable to ring, always questioning what was going on. One of her final acts of generosity and kindness was donating a new set of muffles for the bells at Steppingley.

John and Nichola Hele

POINTS FROM THE PAST

50 Years Ago: 1973

The obituaries included those of Miss Evelyn M. M. Steel President of the Association from 1946-1960 and first President of the Ladies Guild. She rang in the first ever peal by an all ladies band (*at Christ Church Cubitt Town*). Also, E Pearl Inskip, Captain of the Kempston band for 46 years.

A tombola stall at the Henlow Spring Bank Holiday Gala raised enough profit to pay off the debt on the crockery fund, that provided the district with 60 place settings for teas.

The Bedford district triumphed in a cricket match at Goldington School despite the Biggleswade District's valiant efforts.

The recently restored bells at Riseley were rededicated by the Archdeacon of Bedford. The bells at Haynes were augmented to 6, a new ringing floor was dedicated at Sandy, tower repairs were completed at Maulden, an order

placed for recasting the 5th and 7th bells at Husborne Crawley, and the first peal was rung at Clapham following weld repair of the cracked tenor.

A band with an average age of 16 ½ rang a peal of Plain Bob Minor at Elstow. It was Judith Izzard's and Andrew Spencer's first peal and Stephen Stanford's first as conductor. *(It remains the youngest band to have rung a peal for the Association – it would be nice to see this surpassed!)*. A peal of Plain Bob Major at Biggleswade conducted by Sheila Smith was rung by a Sunday Service band and included five of them ringing their first peal.

In a peal tour of Leicestershire over a 5 day period in early September, ten consecutive peals of London S Major were successfully rung, all conducted by Stephen Ivin using different compositions.

A peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus was rung by resident members on the challenging bells at Manchester Town Hall, and a peal of London S Royal at Bedford was rung for the birth of Clive Smith. Ronald J Sharpe completed 50 years as a Maulden ringer and rang his 750th peal. Lucy Thompson (*Shepherd*), (*aged 16*) rang the 3rd to a peal of 40 Spliced S Minor at Caddington conducted by John R Mayne, and A Patrick Cannon rang the tenor and called the first peal rung at Blunham since 1957.

The Association striking contest held at Henlow was judged by Robert Hardy and Michael Bew from St Albans and won by Dunstable. It was followed by a fish and chip supper and the day ended with the singing of "Old Langs Syne"

75 Years Ago: 1948

The committee reported that, "The Association is very much alive and stands well among other similar organisations in the country". Membership had increased by 25 to 257. The Bedford District was congratulated for achieving most of this. 37 meetings were held and 37 peals rung.

Notable performances included peals of Pudsey and Belgrave S Major at Woburn, Lincolnshire S Major at Bromham, and peals of 14 and 21 Spliced Surprise Minor at Maulden, all firsts for the Association and all conducted by C Edward Jeffries.

The first peal on the bells at Kempston following their augmentation to eight was rung. It was Ernest Freeman's first of Major as conductor and the first peal of Major for five members of the band, including Clifford W Izzard and J Michael Stephens.

A peal in 3 Minor methods conducted by Thomas Newman was the first on the bells at Stotfold following augmentation to six, and a peal of Plain Bob Major at St Peters Bedford conducted by William Stapleton was the first on the bells since augmentation to eight. This was also the first peal on eight for Stanley Harlow, George Amor, and George Hulatt.

100 years ago: 1923

The President was Canon W. W. C. Baker and the Hon Secretary Mr A E Sharman, both from Dunstable, who were also the Central Council representatives. Len Turner took over from Herbert Harlow as Bedford District Secretary.

The 26 peals rung was an increase of 4 over 1922 and included two long lengths; 7,200 in 10 Minor methods at Bromham (the heaviest six in the county) in 4 hrs and 35 mins, and 10,080 in 14 Minor methods at Emberton (Bucks) in 5 hrs 24 mins, both conducted by Charles W Clarke. The latter was rung at the 2nd attempt; the 5th rope had broken after 5 hours of ringing a few weeks before.

The death of Mr Charles Herbert of Woburn, one of the founding members of the Association and its first secretary, was recorded in a detailed obituary and appreciation where he was described as 'the father of change ringing in Bedfordshire'. He originated from Sudbury, Suffolk. Of his 10 peals, 4 were in hand including the tenors to a handbell peal of Plain Bob Maximus at his home, 20 Bedford Street Woburn, this being the first 12 bell peal in the county. The remainder were peals of Major at Woburn old church where he had persuaded the Duke of Bedford to fund the 1877 augmentation to 8. Memorial peals were rung at Woburn (Grandsire Triples, fully muffled, conducted by Arthur E Sharman) and Kempston (3 Minor methods, half-muffled, conducted by Pearl Inskip).

Augmentations (from 5 to 6) were completed at Tempsford and Westoning where the first peal was one in 7 Minor methods conducted by Edmund J Hobbs of Husborne Crawley. At Sharnbrook some of the bells (1,2,3,5) were being recast (*by Gillet and Johnston*) and the bells rehung. (*The 4th was recast later in 1924 and the Bagley tenor – wisely- retained*).

POINTS FROM THE PEALS

Leading peal ringers:

Stephen H Stanford	9	Russell A Brown	8
John P Loveless	7	David Kemp	5
4 peals: 2 ringers		3 peals: 8 ringers	
2 peals: 6 ringers		1 peal: 35 ringers	

Conductors:

John P Loveless	4	Stephen H Stanford	3
Anthony H Smith	2	5 people	1

Congratulations to the following members who rang their first peal in 2023

Name	Home Tower	Method	Place	Date
Shaun A. Somerville	Clifton	Tenor to Plain Bob Triples	Clifton	27 th May
Steven J. Akhurst	Sandy	Treble to	Sandy	25 th November
		Primrose S. Mino		
Rebecca Bullingham	Non-resident	Treble to	Kempston	25 th November
		Grandsire Caters		

Personal landmarks

50 th peal in the tower	Stephen H. Stanford	Kempston	4 th November
100 th peal of Bristol S. Major	Anthony H. Smith	Clifton	30 th December

PLACES

Bedfordshire (13 peals in 5 towers)

Campton 5 Clifton 3 Kempston 3 Biggleswade 1 Sandy 1

Peals rung elsewhere (0 peals in 0 towers)

Handbell (1 peal)

Campton, 17 Gravenhurst Road 1

METHODS

Minor (2)

Primrose Surprise	1	Minor (4m)	1
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Triples (2)

Grandsire	1	Plain Bob	1
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Major (8)

Plain Bob	1	Bristol Surprise	2
Cambridge Surprise	1	Superlative Surprise	1
Yorkshire Surprise	3		

Caters (2)

Grandsire	2
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Ringling 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 2023

Peal 4326

CAMPTON, All Saints

Thursday, 19th January 2023 in 2h 50m (6)

5152 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Comp.: E J Southerington (No 2a)

- 1 Ian G Campbell
- 2 Russell A Brown
- 3 Cynthia E Howell
- 4 June Mackay
- 5 John J Ford
- 6 Nicholas R Wilson
- 7 David Kemp (C)
- 8 Frank W Rivett

Peal 4327

CAMPTON, All Saints

Friday, 5th May 2023 in 2h 48m (6)

5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Comp.: Robert W Lee (No 4)

- 1 Linda M Garton
- 2 John P Loveless (C)
- 3 Christine A Knight
- 4 Rosalind J Keech
- 5 Richard A Knight
- 6 Russell A Brown
- 7 David Kemp
- 8 Richard A Horne

Rung for the Coronation of HM King Charles III.

90th birthday compliment to Victor Brand, a great supporter of ringing at Campton. Audrey and Victor gave the second bell of the new ring of eight installed in 2007.

Peal 4328

CLIFTON, All Saints

Saturday, 27th May 2023 in 3h 3m (10)

5040 Plain Bob Triples

Comp.: James Clatworthy

- 1 Charlotte M Smith
- 2 Stephen H Stanford
- 3 Rosalind J Ashton
- 4 Philippa M Whittington
- 5 John P Loveless
- 6 Russell A Brown
- 7 Frank W Rivett (C)
- 8 Shaun A Somerville

First peal - 8.

In fond memory of Stanley Ashton,
Sheila Ashton & James Peacock –
loyal members of the band at Clifton
for many years. Terry Brown, who
was unable to ring, wishes to be
associated with this peal.

Peal 4330

CAMPTON, All Saints

Sunday, 10th September 2023 in 2h 52m (6)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Comp.: R I Allton

- 1 Linda M Garton
- 2 Henry G Francis
- 3 Christine C Darby
- 4 John P Loveless (C)
- 5 Richard A Horne
- 6 Lucas J Williams
- 7 Russell A Brown
- 8 Stephen H Stanford

A farewell to Henry, who's been a Campton ringer
for almost 10 years, and Lucas.
They leave shortly for Birmingham University.
We associate this with David and Lynda Hills'
60th wedding anniversary and Lynda's 80th birthday.
Lynda rings at Campton.

Peal 4329

CAMPTON, All Saints

Sunday, 16th July 2023 in 2h 45m
(6)

5088 Bristol Surprise Major

Comp.: Donald F Morrison (No 55)

- 1 Stephen H Stanford
- 2 Christine C Darby
- 3 John P Loveless (C)
- 4 Ruth Stokes
- 5 Russell A Brown
- 6 Christopher C Stokes
- 7 Lewis D Benfield
- 8 Ian D Harris

Peal 4331

CLIFTON, All Saints

Tuesday, 10th October 2023 in 2h
53m (10)

5024 Cambridge Surprise Major

Comp.: J S Warboys

- 1 Charlotte M Smith
- 2 Stephen H Stanford
- 3 Ruth Stokes
- 4 Anne C Orme
- 5 Anthony H Smith (C)
- 6 Christopher C Stokes
- 7 Russell A Brown
- 8 David Kemp

Peal 4332

CAMPTON, All Saints

Friday, 20th October 2023 in 2h 49m (6)

5088 Superlative Surprise Major

Comp.: Nathan J Pitstow

- 1 Frank W Rivett
- 2 Rosalind J Ashton
- 3 Russell A Brown
- 4 Philippa M Whittington
- 5 Stephen H Stanford
- 6 Malcolm H Joyce
- 7 Christopher J Pickford (C)
- 8 Richard A Horne

Big birthday compliments to Ros and Richard (birthday twins) and Chris Williams (earlier in the year).

Peal 4334

KEMPSTON, All Saints

Saturday, 4th November 2023 in 3h 11m (21)

5040 Grandsire Triples

Comp.: J J Parker (6 part)

- 1 Lesley J Belcher
- 2 Christine C Darby
- 3 Carole J Kendall
- 4 Helen J Manktelow
- 5 Ruth Stokes
- 6 Christopher C Stokes
- 7 Stephen H Stanford (C)
- 8 John P Loveless

For All Saints.

Also, in fond memory of Wendy Piercy (20/9/23, former President) and Robert R (Bob) Churchill (25/10/23, former Vice-President), both long-standing members of the Bedfordshire Association.

Rung after meeting short for Caters and wishing Richard Knight a speedy recovery.

First peal of triples on a tenor! - 8.

50th peal in the tower - 7.

Peal 4333 (inc. 81 on handbells)

CAMPTON, Beds, 17

Gravenhurst Road

Friday, 3rd November 2023 in 2h 20m (9)

5040 Plain Bob Major

Comp.: E M Atkins

- 1-2 Linda M Garton
- 3-4 David Kemp
- 5-6 Emma J Southerington (C)
- 7-8 John P Loveless

First in the new Handbell

Lindorium.

Remembering Wendy Piercy and Bob Churchill, both long standing and much valued members of the Association.

Peal 4335

SANDY, St Swithun

Saturday, 25th November 2023 in 2h 47m (12)

5040 Primrose Surprise Minor

- 1 Steven J Akhurst
- 2 Angela Blackburn
- 3 Owen A Davis (C)
- 4 Edward B Groome
- 5 Clive J Dunbavin
- 6 Kevin J Skillings

1st attempt - 1.

1st in the method - 2, 3, 4, 5.

Sponsored in aid of the new belfry lighting.

Peal 4336

KEMPSTON, All Saints

Saturday, 25th November 2023 in 3h 19m (21)

5039 Grandsire Caters

Comp.: A M Tyler (all the rest)

- 1 Rebecca Bullingham
- 2 Shirley Waterhouse
- 3 Helen J Manktelow
- 4 Philip M Haslam
- 5 Margaret Feneley
- 6 Antony C Manktelow
- 7 Stephen H Stanford (C)
- 8 Timothy G Haslam
- 9 James M Bence
- 10 Anthony J Davis

First peal - 1.

To welcome Joshua James Brighthouse,
first grandchild of Tim and Jane Haslam,
born 29 July 2023.

Peal 4338

KEMPSTON, All Saints

Friday, 29th December 2023 in 3h 12m (21)

5003 Grandsire Caters

Comp.: Stephen Ivin

- 1 Helen J Manktelow
- 2 Carole J Kendall
- 3 Anne C Orme
- 4 Ruth Stokes
- 5 Andrew J Spencer
- 6 Clive J Dunbavin
- 7 Stephen H Stanford (C)
- 8 Andrew Haseldine
- 9 Christopher N McCarthy
- 10 David I Stanford

For Christmas.

Also in fond memory of Anne Izzard (25/12/13)
and Robert Wood (31/12/13), past members
of the local band who often rang in the
Christmas peal.

Peal 4337

BIGGLESWADE, St Andrew

Saturday, 16th December 2023 in
2h 46m (4)

5040 Minor (4m)

Two extents each: Ipswich
Surprise, Cambridge Surprise and
Single Oxford Bob; One extent of
Plain Bob.

- 1 Charlotte M Smith
- 2 Clive G Smith
- 3 Yvonne E Humberstone
- 4 Peter G Smith
- 5 Anthony H Smith (C)
- 6 Nicholas D Brown

Rung by members of the family,
with thanks to Nick for being an
“Honorary Smith”, in affectionate
memory of Alan Smith who had
hoped to have been in this peal in
2020.

First peal on the front six.

Peal 4339

CLIFTON, All Saints

Saturday, 30th December 2023 in 3h
(10)

5088 Bristol Surprise Major

Comp.: Donald F Morrison (No 55)

- 1 John P Loveless (C)
- 2 Rosalind J Ashton
- 3 Clive G Smith
- 4 Stephen H Stanford
- 5 Anthony H Smith
- 6 Emma J Southerington
- 7 Russell A Brown
- 8 David Kemp

100th peal of Bristol Surprise Major - 5.
With congratulations to John Loveless
and Linda Garton on their 30th wedding
anniversary yesterday.

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 (under19) 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 Elstow Upper Dean	Amphill Stotfold Meppershall	Caddington Houghton Regis Woburn 1st & 3 rd
Friday	Carlton/Harrold Little Staughton Oakley Turvey	Arlesey Clifton	Flitwick Taddington

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