The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers



St Mary's, Woburn

Annual Report 2024

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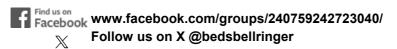
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Cover picture - St Mary's, Woburn

The church was designed and constructed between 1865 and 1868 for William, 8th Duke of Bedford, by the architect Henry Clutton. St Mary's was originally built with a tall spire, which must have been a notable Bedfordshire landmark, and a crypt for the interment of members of the ducal family. The bells were recast from 7 bells in the old tower and from the large bell formerly hanging in this tower.

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

- Association 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, 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



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 2024 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 vice president@bacbr.org.uk

Honorary Life Members

Clifford W Izzard (deceased), 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

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Honorary Techical Advisor

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Web Master

Teresa Brown 01462 631057 webmaster@bacbr.org.uk

District Officers 2024

Bedford District

Martin Goodwin Chairman Robert Jones Secretary RJ Sharp Fund, Association BRF Rep & Treasurer Jenny Thompson Ringing Master Sarah Ward District BRF Treasurer Martin Goodwin Ind. Examiner BRF & District Accounts: Andrew Dennison Committee Barbara Woplin District Outing Organiser Adrienne Sharp

Biggleswade District

ChairmanSusan SilverSecretaryNichola HeleTreasurerSusan SilverRinging MasterChristine WilliamsDistrict BRF Treasurer:Susan Silver

RJ Sharp Fund Rep
Association BRF Rep
John Loveless
Ind. Examiner BRF & Membership Accounts:
Frank Rivett

Committee: Teresa Brown, John Loveless, Claire Wright

Luton District

Chairman Richard Horne Secretary Angela Blackburn **Christopher Catlin** Treasurer Ringing Master Alan Shepherd Assistant Ringing Master & Training Officer Angela Blackburn District BRF Treasurer Simon Stranks RJ Sharp Fund & Association BRF Rep Simon Stranks Committee Barbara Fraser Ind Examiner District Accounts David Adams Ind. Examiner BRF Susan Silver Striking Contest Organiser Richard Gordon

Association 2025 Diary - see www.bacbr.org.uk for current details

Membership and Subscriptions

We now use a secure online system called MemberMojo to:

- Manage annual subscriptions and payments
- Enable members to keep their preferences and details upt to date, including subscription payment options and to receive a printed annual report
- Send out communications
- Collect any donations members may wish to make to the Association and its grant giving funds, and to sign up to Gift Aid.

More information about MemberMojo, and how to use it, is available at this web page https://membermojo.co.uk/bacbr

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	£10.00	If after paying up to four consecutive
to Non-Resident Member	(final pay- ment)	annual subscriptions
	£0	If after paying five or more consecutive annual subscriptions
From Non-Resident Member	£10	Payable on transfer
to Resident Member		
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 Treasurers

President's Report

2024 has been a year of transition for the Association.

Following several years of discussion and consultation about the future direction of the Association, at the AGM on Saturday 18 May, members voted by a significant majority in favour of significant change. New rules were adopted to put in place a revised management structure, the dissolution of the districts and a new calendar of events from 2025 onwards. Since the AGM, much work has taken place to enable a smooth transition. This includes

- District committees and the trustees of each district's Bell Restoration Fund have been planning for the dissolution of these funds once the districts cease to exist following their ADMs in January 2025.
- A questionnaire was sent to members asking what type of events they
 would like to see in future, and a calendar of events has been drawn
 up for 2025 based on responses.
- Some aspects of the new structure have already been implemented, with an interim Ringing Master/Training Officer (RMTO) and a PR/ Comms Officer (PRCO) co-opted to the General Committee, all of whom will remain in office until the 2025 AGM.
- Towards the end of the year, a great deal of work was put into researching and setting up a new membership management system called MemberMojo to reduce the administrative burden of collecting subs and to ensure that our database is up to date and compliant with the requirements of GDPR. This will be implemented in 2025.
- Other tasks still to be completed include further improvements to comms/PR and drafting the remaining role descriptions for the new Management Committee and terms of reference for workgroups.

The challenge remains to put these changes in place, and for this we do ask for the continued support of the membership and a willingness to engage.

On the ringing front the traditional pattern of monthly district meetings has continued, with varying levels of attendance. In addition:

- There was another good response to the Ring a First in February initiative. A total of 40 performances at 17 towers were recorded, many of which contained more than one first! This included 14 Quarter peals, with 44 members taking part in at least one, and 5 members ringing their First Quarter. Well done to all who achieved not only a First in February, but all other firsts throughout the year.
- Attendance at the bi-monthly Association Surprise Major practices has varied, and unfortunately it has been necessary to cancel on a couple of occasions. However, the sessions do provide an opportunity muchvalued by those who attend, and it would be great if more of our

- experienced ringers could commit to coming along to these worthwhile practices.
- There was a supper and quiz at Bromham following the AGM in May, not as well supported as in previous years but nevertheless very much enjoyed by those who came along.
- In June we hosted the Ridgman Trophy at Biggleswade. This is an annual 10 Bell Striking Competition for teams representing Associations across the Eastern Counties. The Bedfordshire team were
 - delighted to be declared the winners! Congratulations!
- In July, our Young Ringers had a great day out at the Ringing World National Youth Contest in London. Although not yet experienced enough to compete, with a little assistance they rang at some challenging towers, including the 42cwt ring of 12 at St Mary-le-Bow. Well done all, and thank you parents and helpers for your support!
- Another very successful and enjoyable Summer School took place at the end of August with 24 helpers, 16 students, 8 towers, 4 days, 20 hours of ringing lots of Plain Bob Doubles and Plain Hunt, 34 pub lunches, a few sore hands, and most importantly lots of good progress made by all of the students! Once again the Summer School was oversubscribed, but we hope that the new calendar will provide more similar opportunities for all of our members to develop their ringing at all levels. Thank you to all the helpers and to towers for the use of your bells.

Finally, thank you to the Association and District Officers for your hard work during 2024, and to everyone, for all that you do to support the Association and to keep the bells at your towers ringing. I look forward to meeting and ringing with members old and new at Association events during the course of the coming year.

Linda Garton, President

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that 2024 saw an increase in membership from 268 adult members and 7 young members in 2023 to 302 and 10 respectively in 2024. The additional income from subscriptions was very welcome. Fund raising in 2024 was £10316.65 which mainly consisted of the legacy from Derek Hammond's will of £10000. Gift Aid resulted in a further £354.40 being added to the BRF. The revenue from Peal Fees also increased from £94 in 2023 to £161 in 2024.

The increase in Interest Rates has resulted in an extra £338.95 being distributed between the General Account, R J Sharp Fund and the Association BRF.

The year ended with a surplus of £204.10 in the General Fund which left us with a healthy £4351.54 at the end of 2024.

The RJ Sharp Fund stands at £4064.84 and the Association BRF at £26228.45.

Sue Silver, Honorary Treasurer

Peal Secretary's Report

The number of peals rung during the year shows a slight increase from the last few years, with a total of 19 peals being rung (14 in 2023). The trend of the previous year continues with nearly half of the total peals being rung in the last guarter of the year.

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 continuing to be Campton (5 peals).

The number of ringers taking part was broadly similar to last year with 58 members participating (55 in 2023). While the list of leading ringers includes regular peal ringers, a new name to the list is Dean De-Matteis who rang 6 peals for the Association. The number of conductors has shown an increase with the total this year at 12 (8 in 2023), although the increase is partly due to peals called by non-resident members.

This year marks the 140th anniversary of the first peal rung for the Association (26th April 1884 at Biddenham) and a repeat performance took place, also at Biddenham on 26th April 2024. The callings used for the first peal are not known (Plain Bob Minor – 7 different 720s) but 7 different callings were used in the current performance. The original peal was a first peal for all. While this wasn't matched, congratulations are due to Simon P. Smith on ringing his first peal in this performance.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Cliff Izzard of Kempston, who died on 10th December 2024. Peals at Henlow (19th December) and Biggleswade (28th December) were rung in his memory. Cliff rang 238 peals for the Association, covering the period from his first peal in 1947 to his final peal rung in 2012.

Other notable performances from the footnotes include the peal of Pudsey at Campton, which completed the Standard 8 methods rung by an all ladies band and the first peal at Steppingley, augmented to six bells in 2020. On a more personal note, peals were rung to mark Martin Major's 80th birthday (peal at Henlow on 17th August) and Clive Smith's 40th anniversary of his first peal (peal at Biggleswade on 28th December).

Richard Horne, Honorary Peal Secretary

Points from the peals and details of peals rung for the Association in 2024 are on pages 44-45.

Librarian's Report

2024 was again a quiet year with only one loan of an Annual Report volume.

There were three new acquisitions to the library:

- An order of service for the Rededication of the bells at Eversholt in October 2018, following their rehanging.
- An order of service for the Blessing of the bells at Steppingley in February 2020, prior to their rehanging and augmentation.
- An order of service of Dedication and Thanksgiving at Kempston following the replacement of the 7th and Tenor, and rehanging of the remainder.

All donated by the Librarian.

I mentioned last year that all peals rung for the Association anywhere, and all peals rung in Bedfordshire Towers regardless of Association, are now on the Bellboard database, and jokingly suggested that someone might have a go at the Quarters! No one has yet taken up the offer. Joking aside though, it would provide a valuable indication of the health of ringing at individual towers over the years. If anyone would like to look at doing their own tower, or even their own records, I can assist and we do now have access to all Bell News and Ringing World's in machine-readable format, which makes it a lot easier than ploughing through paper copies of the comic!

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

P J S Albon, Honorary Librarian

Ronald J Sharp Bell Fund Committee Report

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

No awards were made in 2024. The only transaction on the Account was the addition of £64.90 Bank Interest.

As at the year end, 31/12/2024, the fund stood at £4064.84

Sue Silver Hon Treasurer

Association Bell Restoration Fund Report.

The fund stood at £26,228.45 at the 2024-year end (£13,582.35 in 2023) with an income of £12,646.10 (£2,727.36 in 2023) and no expenditure. (This subject to final approval of the accounts). The income included a very generous bequest of £10,000 from the estate of Derek A Hammond, a past President of the Association. There is an outstanding grant commitment of £8,000 for St Pauls Bedford. The General Committee received

correspondence (28/6/24) from the St Paul's Bedford PCC formally acknowledging the grant offer.

The Committee convened on 16/8/24, to consider an application relating to refurbishment of the installation at St Mary Magdalene, Roxton. Falling masonry and movement of the bell frame foundations had resulted in advice against ringing the bells being given by two firms of bell hangers. Support and advice was provided in commissioning a structural engineering survey so that ringing might be resumed. As there was no viable proposal or project at the time of the application it was only possible to consider the cost of the structural survey. The Committee recommended complementing any grant from the Biggleswade District BRF to ensure that 50% of the survey cost was covered. A subsequent grant from the Biggleswade District BRF exceeded this amount and so the PCC was advised to revise the application if and when there was a viable project and funding appeal by which time a more meaningful grant might be possible. The structural survey resulted in reinstatement of advice initially given by the Diocesan Advisory Committee that limited ringing could continue subject to regular observation of the masonry and frame foundations. A viable scheme to restore the tower fabric and underpin the bell frame is under development and further advice has been given to the PCC. The grant application will be amended and considered by the committee once the scheme is finalised and costs are known.

The Committee convened on 27/10/24 to consider an application from St Mary Henlow for general maintenance of the pulleys, wheels, and bearings, of the back six bells. The Committee recommended a grant of £1,000 towards the work, and that a further amount would be considered if the PCC could be encouraged to consider a rather more extensive scheme as suggested in the bell hangers report.

Stephen Stanford (Chair)

Ronald J Sharp Ringing Centre Report

During 2024 we continued to make good use of the Ringing Centre facilities with monthly learner practices.

Owing to its popularity the second Saturday learners practice is now 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. Due to the high demand it is now essential to book for these.

Such practices do not happen without the support of experienced 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. The social part of the morning is just as important as the ringing part.

Sue Silver & Chris Williams

Safeguarding Report

Beth Miller ~ DSA in the Diocese of Durham

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

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is an absolute priority in the Diocese of St Albans.

In 2017 the national independent safeguarding audit commissioned by the national Church of England recognised that the Diocese is committed to safeguarding by effectively working together to make churches and chaplaincies safer places. Anyone who has suffered abuse needs to be properly heard, properly cared for and where necessary entitled to justice. The Church of England will respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.

The Diocese of St Albans has designed various levels of high, quality targeted safeguarding training for any members of the church working with children and vulnerable adults across the Diocese and this has to be refreshed every three years. Previous levels of training will be more enhanced and there will be further training on domestic abuse and mental health.

Regular newsletters from the Diocese Safeguarding Training Team are sent out with any updates on safeguarding with links to the online training. The guidance in these newsletters comes from the House of Bishops Safeguarding Training and Development Practice Guidance. All national policies and practise guidance, CCPAS guidance and the newsletter can be found at www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/safeguarding-documents.

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.

Bell Ringers Safeguarding Information

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has produced a guide for clergy, PCCs and Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers which explains how ringing 'works', through individual towers, territorial and non-territorial bell ringing associations, and the work of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

The guide, 'From Practice to Perfect' focuses particularly on how church bell ringers are trained, safeguarded and organised can be found on the Central Council website (https://cccbr.org.uk)

Rosemary Drewery

Technical Adviser's Report

This has been quite a busy year.

Luton – a joint visit with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) Bells Adviser, Stephen Stanford. No major issues were found here. Steve produced a report which included advice on replacing stays and improving sound levels in the ringing chamber.

Flitwick – again, a joint visit with the DAC Bells Adviser at the request of the local ringers. No significant issues were found and advice was given about the security of an electrical unit in the bell chamber, frame painting and soundproofing.

Barton-le-Clay – a visit was requested by the local Tower Captain, to give the installation a check over. Nothing of significance was noted and advice was given on checking ropes and tightening a loose clapper. A rope was removed during my visit, which was repaired and sent back.

Silsoe – another joint visit with the DAC Bells Adviser after he had raised concerns over the go of the 5th at a previous ringing event. The 5th was found to be loose on it's headstock and the wheel was loose. Both were tightened during our visit. Advice was given on bearing maintenance, general bolt tightening, correct stay fitting and painting the installation. It is understood that the locals intend to get a firm of bell hangers to do a maintenance visit.

Turvey – the local Tower Captains here had got quotations from three bell hanging firms for restoration work. The scope of works was widely varying, and advice was sought to help them understand how to prioritise the work. I made an initial visit to the tower to understand the present situation and then a further meeting was held with the Tower Captains and the DAC Bells Adviser, to talk through the various options available to them.

Blunham – whilst not carrying out a Technical Adviser role, I was involved here assisting a Bellhanger in carrying out some improvement work, including replacing bearings, repairing a rotten part of the bellframe and stiffening up the bellframe. It's is good to see the local ringers being proactive in maintaining and improving their installation.

Milton Ernest – a request here, by the local Tower Captain, to have a look at a damaged rope. I took the opportunity to use the visit as a training session for two potential future Technical Advisers.

Clapham – another request by the local Tower Captain to look at a damaged rope. This was removed, repaired and returned.

Tempsford – again, not a Technical Adviser role, however assistance was given to a Bellhanger fitting Galebreaker bird-proofing to the belfry openings.

Goldington – a visit was requested by the local Tower Captain following the deterioration of the go of several of the bells. The main issue here is a need for a general checking and tightening of all nuts and bolts in the installation. I will be assisting the locals in doing this when the weather improves a little.

Stevington – following last year's inspection, I volunteered to assist the locals to do some work here. Two stays and a damaged slider runner board were replaced.

General – Whilst not able to provide an annual inspection service for the towers within the Association (I just wouldn't have the time!), I am more than willing to visit a tower, to give the installation a good look over, if it hasn't had a maintenance visit or check over recently. Ideally, this will be with locals accompanying me, so that they will be better able to ensure that they keep their bells in good order. I would also like to use these visits to train up those with an interest in learning more about the care, maintenance and restoration of bells and their fittings.

Pat Albon

District Bell Fund Grants paid in 2024

Biggleswade District: £1942 Bedford District: None Luton District: None

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 Association Secretary:

secretary@bacbr.org.uk

ACCOUNTS

	2024					11116	2023	
	Comment	The Ronald J Sharp	Restoration		CI	Ronald J Sharp	Bell Restoration	
Receipts	General	Fund	Fund	Total Funds	General	Fund	Fund	Total Funds
Income								
Subscriptions								
Annual Membership - Adults	3,020.00	-	-	3,020.00	2,680.00	-	-	2,680.00
Annual Membership - Under 19's	25.00	-	-	25.00	17.50	-	-	17.50
Associate Member	7.50	-	-	7.50	10.00	-	-	10.00
Arrears	60.00	-	-	60.00	112.50	-	-	112.50
Advance Subscriptions	30.00			30.00	-	-		-
Trading								
Sale of Association Badges	4.00	-	-	4.00	2.00	-	-	2.00
Sale of Reports			-	-	5.00	-	-	5.00
Income from Report Adverts	40.00	-	-	40.00	80.00	-	-	80.00
Other								
Peal Fees	161.00	-	-	161.00	94.00	-	-	94.00
Gift Aid - HMRC	354.40	-	-	354.40	331.98	-	-	331.98
Donations	10,316.65	-	-	10,316.65	486.78	-	-	486.78
Donations Summer School	-	-	-	-		-	-	
Donations AGM			-		341.73	-	-	341.73
Investment Income								
Interest	63.34	64.90	210.71	338.95	67.72	69.29	224.94	361.85
Total Receipts	14,081.89	64.90	210.71	14,357.50	4,229.11	69.29	224.94	4,523.34
Payments								
Charity Expenditure								
Central Council Affiliation Fees	63.60	-	-	63.60	63.00	-	-	63.00
Printing of Annual Report Other Expenditure	550.00	-	-	550.00	460.00	-	-	460.00
Administration Expenses	95.00	-	-	95.00		-	-	
Insurance for Public Liability	611.80		-	611.80	567.62	-	-	567.62
Website costs	42.00	-	-	42.00	95.94	-	-	95.94
Ringing World Notices	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Committee Meeting - Room Hire	50.00	-	-	50.00	69.00	-	-	69.00
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	30.00	-	-	30.00	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	1,442.40	-	-	1,442.40	1,262.46	160.00	-	1,422.46
50% Annual Adult Subs to BRF	(1,540.00)	-	1,540.00	-	(1,396.25)	-	1,396.25	_
Peal Fees to BRF	(161.00)	-	161.00	-	(94.00)		94.00	-
Donations to BRF	(10,316.65)		10,316.65	-	(828.51)		828.51	-
Gift Aid to BRF	(354.40)		354.40	-	(331.98)		331.98	-
Investment Interest to BRF	(63.34)		63.34	-	(67.62)		67.62	-
Total Transfer Between Funds	(12,435.39)	-	12,435.39	-	(2,718.36)	-	2,718.86	-
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
Net Receipts/Payments	204.10	64.90	12,646.10	12,915.10	243.29	(90.71)		3,104.88
Cash Funds at 31/12/2024	4,351.54	4,064.84	26,228.45	34,644.83	4,147.44	3,999.94	13,582.35	21,729.73

			2024	2023
Cashai	nd Bank Deposits		£	£
1.	General Fund		~	-
1.	Lloyds Bank Current Ac	count	2,803.22	4,017.97
				4,017.97
	Lloyds Bank instant acc	_	1,525.14	
	Lloyds Bank 6 Month F7		-	-
	Cash held by Association	n Officers	23.18	93.47
	Cash held by Peal Secre	etary	-	36.00
	Total		4,351.54	4,147.44
2.	The Ronald J Sharp B	ell Fund		
	Lloyds Bank Current Ac			209.10
	Lloyds Bank instant acc		4,064.84	2,036.25
			-	
	Lloyds Bank 6 Month F7	0	-	1,754.59
	T-4-1		4.004.04	2.000.04
	Total		4,064.84	3,999.94
3.	Bell Restoration Fund			
	Lloyds Bank Current Ac			-
	Lloyds Bank instant acc	ess saving account	1,228.45	
	Lloyds Bank 6 Month F7	D	25,000.00	13,582.35
	Total		26,228.45	13,582.35
				·
Other N	Monetary Assets			
Debtors				
DCDtOI3			92.05	92.05
	Ringing World Balance		92.00	92.05
	ent Assets			
Vone				
	ies (Itemsowed by the Ch	na rity)		
Current	Liabilities			
None				
ixed A	ssets - Estimated Value			
	Library Books and Perio	dicals & 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 Tro	phy	60.00	60.00
Note				
	Stock of badges - 77 (20)22: 78)	123.20	124.80
			125.25	1255
. da c	nd ant Eva m i!- 64			
	ndent Examiner's Statem		1	
				e to my attention in connect
vith the	examination which gives m		, ,	
	- accounting records were			f the Charities Act or
	- the accounts do not acc	ord with the accounti	ng records	
have no	o concems and have come	accross no other ma	tters in connection wit	h the examination to which
attention	n should be drawn in order t	o enable a proper un	derstanding of the acc	ount to be reached.
ttention	n should be drawn in order t	o enable a proper un	derstanding of the acc	ount to be reached.

				Bedford		Biggleswa	da	Luton		TOTAL 202	м.	2023
			£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	No.	£	£
Ringing Member	Resident)	@	10.00	85	850.00	128	1280.00	89	890.00	302	3020.00	2680.0
Ringing Member	Res ident) under 19	@	2.50	0	0.00	7	17.50	3	7.50	10	25.00	17.5
Non-Resident Me	mber (Ringing)	@	5.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.0
Associate Memb	er	@	2.50	3	7.50	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	7.50	10.00
Arrears		@	10.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	60.00	6	60.00	102.50
Advance Subscrip	otion	@	10.00	3	30.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	30.00	0.00
Advance Subscrip	otion	@	2.50	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Sale of Badges		@	2.00	0	0.00	1	2.00	1	2.00	2	4.00	2.00
Sale of Report		@	5.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5.00
Donations				0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	5.00
Total Receipts					887.50		1299.50		959.50		3148.50	2822.00
Less Admin Exp	ens es				0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Net Receipts (To	Receipts & Paymen	ts A/c)			887.50		1299.50		959.50		3148.50	2822.00
Notes												
Cas h balance ret	ained b/f				21.47		0.00		0.00		21.47	21.47
Income for Year					887.50		1299.50		959.50		3148.50	2832.00
Total					908.97		1299.50		959.50		3167.97	2853.47
Less amount paid	to Assoc. Lloyds A	/c			-357.50		-82.00		-450.00		-889.50	-1202.50
Less direct paym	ents into Assoc. Llo	yds A/c			-530.00		-1217.50		-502.00		-2249.50	-1557.50
Less expenses					0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00
Net cash balance	c/f				21.47		0.00		7.50		28.97	93.4

DISTRICT BELFRY REF	PAIR FUNDS				
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS	FOR THE YEAR EN	IDING 31 DECEMB	ER 2024		
				TOTAL	
	Bedford	Biggleswade	Luton	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	13,862.82	6,306.84	5,332.01	25,501.67	23,978.61
Income	10,242.70	593.59	99.65	10,935.94	1,409.48
Interest	105.79	67.02	78.83	251.64	113.58
Less Grants		1,942.00		1,942.00	-
Total	24,211.31	5,025.45	5,510.49	34,747.25	25,501.67
Notes to the Accounts					
Future Liabilities	10000.00	5025.45	0.00		
including grants approved:					
None	-	-	-	-	-

District Reports

Bedford District

The Annual District Meeting was held at St Paul's Bedford. Whilst having all the regular content, it was different from many previous meetings because the major topic was possible changes to the structure of the Association. These proposal evolved into what was adopted at the Association AGM last May and means that this 2025 Bedford District ADM will be the last and that activities are henceforth going to be coordinated at Association level. The C Edward Jeffries Memorial Trophy for young ringers was not awarded. We continued to have monthly ringing events and District quarterly business

meetings in 2024. We are grateful to all those who hosted us for ringing, those who additionally provided refreshments and those who presided over services for us. Several 'firsts' were achieved by District members during the Association 'Ring a First in February' initiative.

At the start of June we enjoyed a ringing outing to Cambridgeshire organised by Sarah Ward and Ann Steward. We rang at Fulbourn, Stapleford, Sawston, Barrington, Orwell and Caxton.

I think it is important to thank all the people who have served the District over the years but, this year, especially Jenny Thompson who has served as District Treasurer for longer than I can remember and Bob Jones who has served as District Secretary since 'only' 2001.

Alex Nash, District Chairman

Biggleswade District

District Meetings have been held every second Saturday of the month with the exceptions of June as the Ridgman Trophy competition was being held at Biggleswade that day and September as there was going to be a shortage of experienced ringers. The meetings have been well attended and in many ways it is a pity that we cannot continue with this format.

There is no doubt that the success of our District Meetings owed much to our Ringing Master, Chris Williams, for her organisation skills and the way that she placed 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.

This is my 18th and, obviously, final report as your District Chairman and it has been my honour to have held this post and lead the District forward over these years.

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

The big change for the District this year is as a result of the vote at the Association AGM in May to change the Association structure and so this will be the last report of the Luton District.

The year started, as is customary, with the Annual District Meeting (ADM) in January. This time it was hosted by Silsoe. I would like to thank the Silsoe ringers for making the arrangements and providing an excellent tea. As has happened for the previous few years there were no changes to the District Committee, with all current officers re-elected for a further year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers for their work in running of the District over the last year. The somewhat low attendance by District members at the ADM and the re-election of the District Committee is perhaps an indication of the need for the change in the Association structure.

In total eleven meetings were held during the year. Most of the meetings were reasonably well supported, with the average number attending a meeting being between thirteen and fourteen. This however hides some highs and lows. The meeting in September at Aspley Guise was not well supported, with only six ringers, whereas the meeting at Barton-le-Clay was attended by sixteen ringers and the best attended meeting was at Luton, in November, with twenty-five. It is good to see a number of new ringers at Barton-le-Clay and, resulting from a recruitment drive at Luton, a significant number of new recruits there. The 'First in February' event was supported by some of the District towers, with the Totternhoe ringers especially making good use of this event to successfully achieve a number of firsts. Congratulations to all those achieving a 'first' and hopefully more to come in the future.

On a more sombre note, two former members of the District died during the year. Ruth Betts from Toddington died in July. Ruth was a member from 2003 – 2020 and was District Secretary from 2007 – 2010. Ray Watkin, who was tower contact for Woburn, was a member from 2005 – 2016 and died in October. We extend our condolences to family and friends. Although not strictly part of the 2024 report, our final District meeting is at

Linslade in January 2025. As there will be no District report for 2025, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Linslade ringers for hosting the ADM. Going forward, I hope you are able to support the Association events being organised for 2025.

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.

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 $9.00 \, \mathrm{pm}$.

Enquiries can be made by email to Biggleswadebellringers@gmail.com

List of Members and Towers

Honorary Life Members in 2024

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

Non-Resident Life Members in 2024

James Buckenham, Mike Cassell, Geoffrey Dann, Keith H Fleming, David Lazzerini, Lynda Lazzerini (deceased), Brian Makeham, Martyn J Marriott, David F Perkins, Clive G Smith, John P W Taylor

Non-Resident Members elected in 2024 prior to a peal Edward Groome, Euan R M Thomas, Jadd Vigri, Benjamin J Willetts

Resident Members transferred to Associate Members in 2024 None

Resident Members transferred to Non-Resident Members in 2024 Philippa Whittington, Frank Rivett, Jonathan Nash, Melissa Nash

Resident Ringing Members elected in 2024 None

Name	No	Tower	Date
Marc Kasfiner	1792	Clifton	13.01.2024
Richard Radwell	1793	Great Barford	13.01.2024
Lexia Allman	1794	Great Barford	13.01.2024
Vicky Ewen	1795	Blunham	13.01.2024
Melinda Gladding	1796	Meppershall	13.01.2024
Gillian Marshall-Davies	1797	Meppershall	13.01.2024
Yvonne Mountcastle	1798	Meppershall	13.01.2024
Thomas Barker	1799	Clifton	13.01.2024
Ann Rowland	1800	Meppershall	13.01.2024
Peter Clark	1806	Meppershall	13.01.2024
Ben Davies	1850	Henlow	13.01.2024
Hilary Plummer	1851	Henlow	13.01.2024
Hector Arriba Gutierrez	1195	Cranfield	20.01.2024
Joseph Warner	1802	Maulden	20.01.2024
Samuel Warner	1803	Maulden	20.01.2024
Daniel Warner	1804	Maulden	20.01.2024
Amy Warner	1805	Maulden	20.01.2024
Paul Watler	1801	Northill	27.01.2024
Judy Rawlings	2301	Silsoe	27.01.2024
Anita Nancollas	2302	Silsoe	27.01.2024
Steven Goodenough	2300	Flitton	27.01.2024
Angela Brown	1196	Bedford St Peter	27.01.2024
David White	1807	Great Barford	18.05.2024
Hilary Davies	1808	Potton	18.05.2024
Harry Devereux-Harrison	1809	Campton	18.05.2024
Susan Booton	1810	Campton	18.05.2024
Declan Newton	1811	Westoning	18.05.2024
Trich Appleton	1812	Eaton Socon	18.05.2024
Tracy Lowdon	1813	Northill	13.07.2024
Christopher Lowdon	1814	Northill	13.07.2024
Nicola Horsford	1815	Northill	13.07.2024

Name	No	Tower	Date
Nicola Temple	1816	Clifton	10.08.2024
Oscar Matthews	1817	Biggleswade	10.08.2024
Gill Pettigrew	1849	Ampthill	12.10.2024
Jason Hunt	2303	Luton	26.10.2024
Ulrike Hunt	2304	Luton	26.10.2024
Soneeta Khokher	2308	Luton	26.10.2024
Clare Fitzpatrick	2306	Luton	26.10.2024
Naimh Fitzpatrick	2307	Luton	26.10.2024
Brendan Owen	2305	Luton	26.10.2024

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.

Bedford District

Unattached Members

Tim Blunt, Rosemary Buckle, Lesley Hattersley, Tom 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 standrewsbedford@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*(deceased), 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*, Angela Brown, David Cowley, Margaret Cowley, Emily Entwistle, Richard Entwistle, Susan Entwistle, Lyn 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

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

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

TL049474

Sunday: 10.00 confirm with contact PN: 2nd & 4th Fridays 18.00 - 19.00

confirm with contact

Kate Abrahams, Woodfield, Honeydon Road, Colmworth MK44 2LZ colmworth@bacbr.org.uk

Kate Abrahams

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

07545296728 cranfield@bacbr.org.uk

Hector Arriba Gutierrez, Jonathan Billington, Nicky Billington, Jim Ewen, Jonny Foster, Chris Hartley, Mary Hartley, Garth Holman,

Richard Lanyon-Hogg, Jane Leslie, Andrew Pearson

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

Sunday: 9.30 Evening by arrangement PN: Thursday 18.00-19.00

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 P

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

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 at 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: 10.25

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

(deceased), 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: Please check PN: None

Rev'd Simon Aley, The Rectory, High Street, Upper Dean, PE28 0ND

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

Jacquie Blows, Richard Newman, Neil Roy (deceaased)

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

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: No Practice

Richard Singleton

01234 771952 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, Cynthia Woods, 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, Sue Silver

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

Sunday: 9.00 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, Dominic Holroyd-Thomas, Colin Lickorish, Rae Marshall, Hilary Nellist, Angela Newberry, Christopher Shrimpton

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

Sunday: 09.10 except 2nd 9.40 PN: Friday 19.00-18.00

Phone to confirm

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

01462 815672 beth.overfield1409@gmail.com

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*, Oscar Matthews, Shelia Richardson, Charlotte Smith*, Elaine Taylor*, Christine Williams, Beryl Worsley*, John E Worsley*, Martyn Worsley*, Laura Wren

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

TL153512

Sunday: Check PN: 2nd or 3rd Tuesday, check

Davina Buckle, The Rectory, Park Lane, Blunham, MK44 3NJ

01767 640412 blunham@bacbr.org.uk

Nicholas Brown, Davina Buckle, Vicky Ewen, 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

Sue Booton, Linda Bryant, Darrelle Buckel, Charlotte Francis, Clare Francis, Henry Francis, Linda Garton, Barrie Glenn, John Loveless, Kaitlin Woodland Harry Devereux-Harrison

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

Ros Ashton*, Thomas Barker, Penny Bellis, Peter Blackmore, Russell Brown, Teresa Brown, Marc Kasfiner, Keith Pledger, Mary Pledger, Mia Revell, Marguerite Smith, Shaun Somerville, Revd Caren Topley, Nicola Temple

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

TL103485

Sunday: None PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00

Mike Vacher, 91 Willington Road, Cople, MK44 3TN 01234 831207 vacher309@btinternet.com

Lucy Croucher, Philippa Ebbs, Susan Hillyard, David Prior, Judy Prior, Alex Sturgeon, Mike Vacher

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

TL170588

Sunday: 10.00 contact

PN: Wednesday 20.00-21.00

Trish Appleton

07976 206250

eatonsocon@bacbr.org.uk

Trish Appleton, Owen Davis, Maureen Hall, Michael Matthews*, Sue Matthews, Mary Parnham, 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

Lexia Allman, Joan Brass, Sue Chandler, Neil Goodwin, Karen Humphreys, Vivienne Johnson, Richard Radwell, David White

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,

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

John Coles, Stuart Cracknell, Ben Davies, Carol Donnelly, Heather Jewell, Philip Jewell, Martin Major*, Hilary Plummer, Jess Sawyer, 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

maulden@bacbr.org.uk Dean De-Matteis 07473317259

Dean De-Matteis, Giorgio De-Matteis, Helen De-Matteis, Mark Garner*, Mary Mann*, Amy Warner, Daniel Warner, Joseph Warner, Samuel Warner **MEPPERSHALL** St Mary (6) 12-2-0 in G# (GF) TL134359

Sunday: 10.30 4th Sunday only PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00

Gillian Marshall-Davies

07778 449051 meppershall@bacbr.org.uk

David Bartlett, Melinda Gladding, Gillian Marshall-Davies, Yvonne Mountcastle, Anne Parsons*, John Parsons*, Ann Rowland, Elizabeth Wade*

NORTHILL St Mary Virgin (6) 18-2-12 in Eb TL149466

Sunday: 10.30, check 5th PN: Monday 20.00-21.00

Sue Melvin northill@bacbr.org.uk

Mike Cowell, Barbara Dunn, Nicola Horsford, Christopher Lowdon, Tracy Lowdon, Simon Melvin, Sue Melvin, Angela Norris, Paul Watler

OLD WARDEN St Leonard (6) 9-1-0 in G (GF)

TL136443

Sunday: None PN: None

Robert Diggle 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, Helen Davis, Phil Haddow, Andrew Inkersole, Rosanna Jackson, Rosemary Kimber, 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, 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:10.15 Phone to check PN: Thursday 19.15-20.30

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, 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

Sunday: None PN: Wednesday phone to check

Mike Vacher, 91 Willington Road, Cople, MK44 3TN 01234 831207 vacher309@btinternet.com

Luton District

TL106498

Unattached Members

Keith Lewin, Ann Pawley, Caroline Pawley, Jonathan Pawley, Lizzie Pawley, John Pemble◊, Bob Tregillus

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

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, David Bottle, Elizabeth Churchill, John Clarkson, Paul Collin, Elizabeth Friend, John Logan

FLITTON St John the Baptist (6) 6-0-6 in Bb (GF)

TL059358

Sunday: 10.00 2nd Sunday PN: Wednsday 19.30-21.00

Barbara Fraser, 18 Bedford Ave, Silsoe, MK45 4ER,

01525 861709 flitton@bacbr.co.uk

Steve Goodenough, Vernon Green, Louise Mackie

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

Sunday: 10.00 PN: Friday 19.45-21.00

lan Holman, 33 Station Road, Flitwick, MK45 1JT 01525 716258 flitwick@bacbr.org.uk

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, Anne Jones, 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, Husborne Crawley, MK43 OUY

07702 032621 husbornecrawley@bacbr.org.uk

Peter George, Matthew Hirst

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

Janice Nixon

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: 09.15 PN: Tuesday 18.30-20.00 by arrangement

Mrs Beryl Gardner

01582 523850 stmaryluton@bacbr.org.uk

Angela Andrews, Clare Fitzpatrick, Niamh Fitzpatrick, Beryl Gardner, Jason Hunt, Ulrike Hunt, Soneeta Khokher, Santo Limanni, Pat Limanni, Brendon Owen **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

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, Anita Nancollas, Peter Philips, Judy Rawlings, Simon Stranks, Yvonne Tomkins*

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, Vicki 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

Annette Brooks, Michael Brooks, Alex Buckledee. Debbie Gilbey, Stephen Parslow, Michael Pearson

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

TL027327

Sunday: 10.30 PN: Monday 19.30-20.45

Gavin Churchman westoning@bacbr.org.uk

Declan Newton

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

TL012179

Sunday: 08.30, except 5th PN: None

Mrs Pam Ward, Chapel Farm, Whipsnade, LU6 2LL

01582 872406 whipsnade@bacbr.org.uk

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

John B Long 4 September 1933—8 February 2024

"Pax House". How many times over the years must we have been greeted by that response? I remember once remarking to him that a particular person was a snob but he shook his head and replied, "oh no, we in Pax House are the snobs" and roared with laughter. He referred to his workplace at Bedford Hospital as Physical Medicine, everyone else seemed to call it Physiotherapy!

So here was a person of strong faith, strong enough to support others in their hour of need and firmly in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, so no surprise that he should return to this great church to worship. His analysis of the Catholic ritual of a particular church was often based on the quote from All Saints Margaret Street, "Music by Mozart, Libretto by Cranmer, but Choreography my dear, by Fortescue".

John was no particular respecter of status or office: I remember with horror attending a bellringing practice of a rather elite Society, at that time restricted to men only, at St Paul's Cathedral. I had issued clear instructions as to the convention of how he should greet the auspicious personage in charge of the Society and organising the ringing – with "good evening Master". His choice of words was brief: "hi". Dropped jaws all round, and the Master quite expressionless. Ever hoped the earth would swallow you up in one second? John joined the Society in 1956, proposed by Jim Prior, seconded by George Cecil. Although he appreciated well struck ringing, I think it fair to say he was never an active member.

Funny how eccentric people lend themselves to amusing situations, like the time one of the ringers of St Andrew's had a suspected heart attack in the ringing chamber, having heard of this John raced to his aid, providing reassurance until the ambulance crew arrived. Unfortunately, descending the tower with the carry chair, the pocket of the Paramedic behind the patient slipped neatly over the banister handrail, leading to a rather nervous request for John to lower the trousers until they became free.

He always told with pride of taking part in a passion play with Bishop Richard Chartres as Jesus and himself in the role of Pontius Pilate.

One tale I can't let go adrift is the occasion when, on a ringing outing to Liverpool, John was very keen to ring the Great Bell, all of 82cwt. He was on the tall box. As I was passing him in the sand pit below, John commanded "take this" and gave me what we both assumed was the long rope. As my head rapidly approached a beam, I thought it might be a good idea to let go. Meanwhile, of course, John had yards or rope to contend with. After 15 minutes we had the bell back up in 'up', ringing position, but we had by then

used up nearly all of our ringing time before the service. It was painful driving back home with skinned hands, but more excruciating that we had so cut short the ringing on the heaviest ring of bells in the world!

Another occasion found us at St Augustine's Kilburn for Solemn Benediction. It was hear that John started his tradition of taking that line in the Divine Praises, "Blessed be St Joseph, her Spouse Most Chaste", or "Blessed be St Joseph, her most chaste spouse" - which ever version was in the order of service, his stentorian tones would utter the other. His voice being rather loud, this really grated, and the first time he did it I received glares as I couldn't control my hysteria.

John died within 3 days of the well-known bell historian Fr David Cawley, of Kent, Norfolk, Bristol, Leicester...and we stayed with him on a ringing tour in Bristol area in the early 1990s. I gather John met with the approval of his housekeeper!

John contributed to ringing in many ways: when in charge at St Andrew's he was instrumental in the augmentation of the bells from 6 to 8, and longer ago, in the 1960s he sat on a committee which revised the Bedfordshire Association's district boundaries. He was quite knowledgeable about bell maintenance but there were usually others about who were more interested.

On another occasion, and to re-visit a more well-known incident, John was very keen to get a ring at Arlesey, and in those days the ringing chamber was accessed by a near-vertical, 40ft wooden ladder. Arriving late, he dashed up the ladder, everything suddenly went dark, and his eyes met with all this lace. The recipient of this unwelcome intrusion came to life with "John, John, get down, John!" Miss Steel, Association President, was not amused.

John had vivid memories of various High Church characters, for example Canon Brian Brindley, featured in the biography Loose Canon, leading a procession at the annual Walsingham Pilgrimage.

Another fascination for John was pipe organs, and he himself was a competent service organist, he also went on various organ crawls with the Bedfordshire and District Organists' Association. This brings to mind, a visit to Norwich Cathedral he told me of, where he accidentally-on-purpose suddenly let rip with the instrument's Bombarde section, rattling the windows and causing consternation: officials came running. Then, there was a fairly recent visit to Tom Tower at Oxford, where the visitors were given strict instructions not to go anywhere near the clapper of Great Tom. When the guide was looking the other way, John could not resist and the clapper made a deafening impact on the bell.!

So, John was flawed, perhaps in rather unusual ways, but he definitely had significant good points. He always had time for his friends, though he definitely didn't appreciate calls after 10pm due to the distance from his bedroom to the phone in the hallway!

John was a supporter of the Aids Vigil that used to happen annually here at St Paul's. One of the pieces of music that was always played was The Power of Love by Frankie Goes to Hollywood and there's a line that I think sums up John as a friend, forgive me if I don't sing it: "When the chips are down I'll be around".

Pax

Owen Davis

Barbara Routledge 12th February 1943 - 17th January 2024

Barbara died on 17th January 2024, aged 80. She was born in Bedford and met her future husband Jim in the late 50s after he had learnt to ring at Wavendon, Bucks, quite possibly following restoration of the bells there in 1953. Following a lengthy break from ringing, a chance conversation between Jim and his good friend Ron Freeman in The Mulberry Bush in Kempston resulted in Jim returning to ringing, subsequently, in the mid-70s, joining the band at Kempston, where he persuaded Barbara and their son Andrew to learn to ring. They were taught by Clive Parrott, Cliff Izzard and other members of the band.



Later in 1978 Jim and Ron, along with Barbara and Andrew, went to ring at Wootton where there had been no regular ringing for several years. Over a period of two or three years, they re-established a band, ensuring regular Sunday service and practice night ringing that continued for some time after they left in the early 80s.

Later in about 1994 Barbara became a member of the church at Elstow, where I persuaded her to resume ringing and re taught her. She subsequently became a very dependable and valued member of the band there, regularly attending practices, ringing for two Sunday services, and making up wedding bands. She was delighted to have rung in the Bedford District striking competition winning band on a number of occasions. Although Barbara progressed to hunting the treble and ringing doubles inside

(she rang her first QP 4/5/2013, treble to Plain Bob Doubles), she was always happiest when ringing rounds and call changes which she did very competently. Sadly, Barbara developed a number of issues with her health that eventually caused her to stop ringing. She didn't ring very much if at all after about 2014.

Beyond ringing, Barbara was a very active and much appreciated member of the Church - it seemed that she was always there! She served as churchwarden and verger at different times and was a member of the PCC and a trustee of The Friends of Elstow Abbey for many years. She was also a representative on the Deanery Synod and a key member of the hospital and home visiting teams. Barbara was a very kind and caring person; one who was always concerned and cared for others more than for herself. RIP **Stephen Stanford**

Robert Neil Roy 1st April 1944 – 25thMay 2024

Neil Roy, aged 80 years, was a well-respected journalist who had many positions on the local papers and BBC radio. In retirement he carried on reporting for his village magazine in Milton Ernest, where he lived with his wife, Sheila, for more than 30 years. He was an avid supporter of the Bedford Blues spending 30 years covering the Blues including as commentator for BBC Three Counties radio. He was a former Keeper of the Records and marked the 100th and 125th anniversaries of the Blues with books. Neil also played a big role with Hospital Radio Bedfordshire in the early part of his broadcasting career. His



encouragement and mentoring of many journalists lives on extending to the current Head of News and Current Affairs at Channel 4 who paid tribute to Neil at his funeral.

He was born on the south coast of Sussex and went to school at a military establishment in Scotland where he nurtured his love of sport and became a prolific bagpiper. Rather than try for the military, he spent a year in the War Office on leaving school. Then a spell at Queen's College, Dundee, before taking a degree at the OU in Milton Keynes where he worked on sites building the new town in the '60s and '70s. At the same time, he started writing for local newspapers as a freelancer, eventually becoming sports editor, news editor and overall editor on the paid for Bedfordshire Times. For many years, Neil was a keen bellringer and fundraiser at village events and fetes. He was an integral, highly respected and deeply involved member of the community, was a trustee of the Village Hall and a fundamental part of

all that went on in Milton Ernest. He assumed the role of Tower Captain in 2019 and took much time and effort in recruiting new ringers where he was a patient and dedicated teacher.

A real gentleman, a humble man and a true Bedfordian. **Richard Newman**

Pat Staite (Skipper). August 1932 - July 2024.

It is with sadness that we were informed on 27th June that Pat had passed away at the Nursing home where she had been in care for a number of years. We had been informed that Pat had recently been put on end of life care so the news was not unexpected.

Pat was born in Croydon on August 4th 1932. She had a sister and 3 brothers. During her early years she had been evacuated during WW2 to stay in the countryside with a relative. However she recalled vividly that when out for a walk with her relative they were chased across a field by a low flying Messerschmitt and had to run for cover while the meadow was being strafed. After that experience they decided it was safer in Croydon and she returned home. Pat had many stories about the blitz which she would recall. Pat married in Croydon in Spring 1954, Ronald Staite and gave birth to her only child, Nigel, in Barnet 1957.

Pat began learning to ring when she was 48, at Pinner, Staines and Harrow. These were the towers she talked about, and she also learned to ring the musical handbells in a large handbell team. Ronald had bought a house in Bedford, but died in 1994 after which Pat decided to move to Bedford and being a ringer she quickly found her way to her nearest tower St Peter de Merton, Bedford . She was warmly welcomed by the band and fitted into tower life very quickly. Her favorite method was Cambridge S Minor, but we soon taught her to ring our tower method Single Oxford minor, which she soon came to enjoy ringing touches.

Pat joined the Bedford District monthly ringing group Tailenders. She particularly liked the lunches and the social occasion. Having realized there was a set of handbells in the Tower she soon set about teaching the band to ring Christmas carols, and from October onwards we met weekly at her house to practice. We played outside St Peter,s near Christmas and raised money for Children in need, even getting a booking at a residential home. For Pat's 80th we held a garden party in our garden, on a sunny August day. She enjoyed the occasion very much. Sometime after that Pat was diagnosed with Parkinson's and she gradually began to ring less until she eventually decided to call it a day. Her son Nigel had emigrated to the U.S. but came to England to find her a Nursing home and sort out her affairs.

Sadly she was unable to climb the stairs again to the tower. We missed her when she stopped ringing but we remember the happy times we all had together. She was a kind and gentle person and a friend to everyone **Richard Entwistle**

Brian Toyn 27 March 1935 – 4 October 2024

Brian Toyn, aged 89, previously of Biddenham, Bedford, died on Friday October 4th, 2024, in Huntingdon. Brian was born in Rotherham, Yorkshire, the middle son of the late William ("Bill") Toyn and Doris Westnidge. While he was still a baby, the family moved to Bristol, where he grew up with his brothers Rex and Richard. Nevertheless, one could detect the Yorkshireman rather than the Bristolian in his speech. As a child during the war, he was evacuated to Pontypridd in Wales after the



family home in Allison Road was made uninhabitable due to bomb damage. Brian attended the Queen Elizabeth's Hospital School where he developed a life-long love of sports.

Brian's initial career in industrial chemistry quickly leapt from Huddersfield to Scotland, working for ICI, and to Barry, in South Wales, working for a company called "Distillers". After a few years in Barry, he moved the growing family to Bedford, switching from chemistry to take the post of lecturer in the MBA program at Cranfield School of Management.

The family eventually settled in the village of Biddenham where Brian and Diana lived for nearly 50 years. He learned to ring the church bells, eventually taking on the responsibility of tower captain at St. James Church and training the next generation of bell ringers. Leveraging his home-improvement skills, Brian even helped to install two new bells in the church tower, completing the peal of eight after a wait of two centuries.

Brian joined the BACBR in 1986, with a number of other new members, as this was the time of the augmentation. He served as tower captain from 1999 to 2021.

Brian is survived by Diana, his wife of 66 years; his three children, Jeremy and his wife Mirjana, Sarah and her husband Alex, and Charles and his wife Lorna; four grandchildren, Izzy, Abby, Vanessa, and Galen; and 13 nephews and nieces. Brian was predeceased by his brothers Rex and Richard.

Jeremy Toyn

POINTS FROM THE PEALS Leading peal ringers:

John P Loveless	11	Dean R G De Matteis	6
Stephen H Stanford	10	Anthony H Smith	5
Linda Garton	10	4 peals:	5 ringers
Nicholas D Brown	7	3 peals:	4 ringers
Russell A Brown	7	2 peals:	10 ringers
		1 peal:	32 ringers

Conductors:

John P Loveless	3	Emma J Southerington	2
Stephen H Stanford	3	Anthony H Smith	2
Nicholas D Brown	2	7 people	1

Congratulations to the following member who rang his first peal in 2024

Name	Home Tower	Method	Place	Date
Simon P Smith	Biddenham	3rd to Plain Bob Minor	Biddenham	26th April

Personal landmarks

200th peal & 100th in the tower	Philip R Jewell	Henlow	19th December
40th anniversary of first peal	Clive G Smith	Biggleswad	de 8th December

PLACES

Bedfordshire (18 peals in 9 towers)

Campton	5	Biddenham	1
Henlow	3	Meppershall	1
Biggleswade	2	Oakley	1
Kempston	2	Odell	1
Steppingley	2		

Peals rung elsewhere (0 peals in 0 towers)

Handbell (1 peal)

Campton, 17 Gravenhurst Road 1

METHODS

Minor (8)			
Plain Bob	1	Cambridge Surprise	1
Minor (2m)	1	Surprise Minor (5m)	1
Surprise Minor (7m)	4		
Triples (1) Stedman	1		
Major (6)			
Kent Treble Bob	1	Bristol Surprise	1
Cambridge Surprise	1	Lincolnshire Surprise	1
Pudsey Surprise	1	Superlative Surprise	1

Caters (2)

Grandsire 2

Royal (2)

Cambridge Surprise 2

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 2024

Peal 4340

BIGGLESWADE, Beds, St Andrew Sat. 20th January 2024 in 3hr 11m (13) 5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

Comp. John H Fielden

Linda M Garton 2 John P W Taylor 3 Ruth Stokes 4 Emma J Southerington 5 John P Loveless (Č) 6 Elizabeth A Pawley David Kemp 7 David F Perkins

Peal 4341

8

q

10

CAMPTON, Beds. All Saints

Sun. 25th February 2024 in 2hr 45m (6)

Christopher C Stokes

Nicholas D Brown

5120 Superlative Surprise Major Comp. Nathan J Pitstow (Complib: 47925)

Linda M Garton

2 David Kemp 3 Christine C L Seaman

4 John P Loveless 5 Emma J Southerington

6 Carole J Kendall 7 Daniel R B Gregory (C) 8 Andrew B Mills

First in method - 6.

Peal 4342 **BIDDENHAM. Beds. St James** Fri. 26th April 2024 in 2hr 54m (12) 5040 Plain Bob Minor

(7 Different Extents)

Patrick J S Albon 2 Linda M Garton 3 Simon P Smith 4 Anthony H Smith 5 Richard A Horne

First peal at the first attempt - 3.

Stephen H Stanford (C)

On the 140th anniversary of the first peal by the Bedfordshire Association, seven different extents of Plain Bob Minor, rung here 26th April 1884.

Peal 4343

KEMPSTON, Beds. All Saints Sat. 27th April 2024 in 3hr 14m (21) 5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal

Comp. C I Rowson

Rosemary H Buckle 2 Ruth Stokes

3 Linda M Garton Stephen H Stanford (C) 4

5 Lesley J Belcher Russell A Brown 6 John P Loveless

7 8 Christopher C Stokes Richard A Horne 9

Ian D Harris

Peal 4344

HENLOW. Beds. St Marv

Wed. 15th May 2024 in 2hr 55m (14)

5040 Stedman Triples

Comp. W A Cave (6 singles variation)

Lesley H M Boyle David C Brown 2 3 Stephen H Stanford 4 Thomas W Griffiths 5 Anthony H Smith 6 Paul N Mounsey (C) 7 Philip R Jewell 8 Susan J Melvin

Remembering with affection David Alan Orr Hope (1955-2022), who was chorister, bell-ringer and server at this church. He is sadly missed by his many friends.

Martin Major would like to be associated with this peal.

Peal 4345

CAMPTON, Beds. All Saints

Sun. 19th May 2024 in 2hr 38m (6)

5058 Pudsey Surprise Major

Comp. C Adams

Lesley J Belcher Elizabeth A Pawley Helen J Manktelow 3 4 Carole J Kendall 5 Christine C Darby Angela Blackburn 6

7 Margaret Whiteley 8 Emma J Southerington (C)

1st in method: 2.3.4.6.

With the best wishes of the band to organiser Linda Garton on her forthcoming Numeracy Assessment. and with thanks for standing down.

Completes the standard eight by an all women's band, to mark the Centenary of the first peal of Pudsey.

Peal 4346

STEPPINGLEY, Beds. St Lawrence

Thu. 6th June 2024 in 2hr 45m (6)

5040 Surprise Minor

(7m: 720 each London, York, Bourne, Westminster,

Norwich, Ipswich, Cambridge) Christine A Williams 2 Linda M Garton

3 Russell A Brown 4 Patrick J S Albon 5 John P Loveless (C) Christopher J Pickford

First peal on the bells.

Rung to mark the 80th Anniversay of the D-Day landinas.

Remembering Andrew Underwood, a parishioner at Steppingley, whose legacy helped to fund the refurbishment and augmentation to six.

Peal 4347

CAMPTON, Beds. All Saints Sun. 7th July 2024 in 2hr 42m (6) **5024 Bristol Surprise Major**

Comp. Mark B Davies (Series 6 #6)

Comp. Mark B Davies (Series

1 Linda M Garton

2 Jadd Virji

3 Euan R M Thomas

4 John P Loveless

5 Alan T Winter

6 Benjamin J Willetts

7 Stephen H Stanford 8 Michael G Purday (C)

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Rev Christopher Strong's ordination, and Victor and Audrey Brand's 65th wedding anniversary.

Remembering Peter Mossman, a lifelong Campton resident who died recently aged 99.

Peal 4348

HENLOW, Beds. St Mary

Sat. 17th August 2024 in 3hr (14) 5024 Cambridge Surprise Major

Comp. T B Worsley

1 Philip R Jewell
2 Linda M Garton
3 John P Loveless
4 Dean R G De-Matteis

5 Anthony H Smith (C) 6 Stephen H Stanford 7 Russell A Brown

To celebrate Martin Major's 80th birthday tomorrow (18th August).

Peal 4349

8

CAMPTON, Beds. All Saints

Wed. 21st August 2024 in 2hr 51m (6) 5088 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

Nicholas D Brown

Comp. William Barton

Louise A Mackie
 John P Loveless (C)
 Linda M Garton
 Dean R G De-Matteis

Nicholas R WilsonAdrian P SweetingRichard Sales

7 Richard Sales8 Russell A Brown

Louise Mackie's second peal. Her first peal was rung over 45 years ago, on 25th November 1978, Grandsire Caters at Hillingdon, conducted by Michael J Palmer.

Peal 4350 (inc. 82 on handbells)

CAMPTON, **17 Gravenhurst Road**, **Beds**. Wed. 21st August 2024 in 2hr 24m (13)

5088 Kent Treble Bob Major

Comp. I R Fielding 1-2 Linda M Garton 3-4 John P Loveless 5-6 David Kemp

7-8 Emma J Southerington (C)

Peal 4351

CAMPTON, Beds. All Saints

Wed. 16th October 2024 in 2hr 32m (6)

5040 Minor

(2m: 1,2 Plain Bob; 3,4 Cambridge S.; 5,6 & 7 Plain

(2m: 1 Bob)

1 James R B Saunders 2 Dean R G De-Matteis 3 Helen J Manktelow 4 Stephen H Stanford 5 Richard A Horne 6 Clive J Dunbavin (C)

Birthday compliments to ringers of 5&6 and also Ros Ashton and Sarah Ward.

Get well wishes to Cliff Izzard, father to ringer of the third and also to John Loveless.

Peal 4352

KEMPSTON, Beds. All Saints

Sun. 3rd November 2024 in 3hr 20m (21)

5093 Grandsire Caters

Comp. Stephen Ivin, arr. S H Stanford

Ruth Stokes 2 Carole J Kendall 3 Richard A Horne 4 B Douglas Hird 5 Dean R G De-Matteis 6 Stephen H Stanford (C) 7 Clive J Dunbavin 8 Patrick J S Albon a Christopher C Stokes 10 James R B Saunders

First peal on 10 - 5.

For All Saints.

With grateful thanks to Cliff Izzard whose inspired leadership has ensured the maintenance of the bells and ringing at this Church over many years, and it will continue to do so. This peal would have been rung for his 93rd birthday in June had we been successful. Helen and Tony Manktelow, who were unable to ring today, are associated with this peal.

Peal 4353

OAKLEY, Beds. St Mary

Tue. 10th December 2024 in 2hr 58m (10)

5040 Surprise Minor

(7m: 1 extent each; London, Ipswich, Norwich, York,

Surfleet, Bourne, Cambridge)

1 Nicholas R Wilson

1 Nicholas R Wilson 2 Russell A Brown 3 Richard Sales 4 Patrick J S Albon 5 John P Loveless 6 Nicholas D Brown (C)

Peal 4354

ODELL, Beds. All Saints

Fri. 13th December 2024 in 2hr 59m (13)

5040 Surprise Minor

(7m: 1 extent each; Carlisle, Warkworth, London, Norwich, Surfleet, Bourne and Cambridge)

1 Stephen H Stanford 2 Paul M Mason

3 Catherine E Morley 4 Nicholas R Wilson 5 Russell A Brown

6 Nicholas D Brown (C)

Peal 4355

MEPPERSHALL, Beds. St Mary the Virgin

Thu. 19th December 2024 in 3hr 5m (12)

5040 Surprise Minor

(5m: 7 extents: (1) London, (2) Ipswich, (3) Primrose,

(4-5) Cambridge, (6-7) Norwich)

- Adrian P Sweeting
- 2 Beniamin J Willetts
- 3 Nicholas R Wilson
- 4 Dean R G De-Matteis
- 5 John P Loveless
- Ian K Bushell (C)

Most methods to a peal: 4.

Peal 4356

Henlow, Beds. St Mary Thu. 19th December 2024 in 2hr 55m (14)

5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Being seven extents

- Rosalind J Ashton
- 2 Stephen H Stanford
- 3 Clive G Smith
- 4 Anthony H Smith (C)
- 5 Philip R Jewell
- Nicholas D Brown

Rung in fond remembrance of our friend Cliff Izzard. Martin Major wishes to be associated with this tribute. 200th peal, 100th in the tower, 50th on this bell: 5

25th together: 5 and 3 also 5 and 1

250th together: 2 and 4

Peal 4357

STEPPINGLEY, Beds. St Lawrence

Fri. 20th December 2024 in 2hr 31m (6)

5040 Surprise Minor

(7m: 1 extent each London, Carlisle, Bamborough, Warkworth, Beverley, Bourne, Cambridge)

- Nicola J Turner 2 Frank W Rivett
- Colin M Turner
- Russell A Brown 5
- Peter G C Ellis (C) Nicholas D Brown

Peal 4358

Biggleswade, Beds. St Andrew

Sat. 28th December 2024 in 3hr 16m (13)

5075 Grandsire Caters

Comp. Christopher Forster

- Michael J Trimm (C)
- 2 Linda M Garton
- Clive G Smith
- Rosalind J Ashton
- 5 Dean R G De-Matteis
- 6 Anthony H Smith
- 7 Philip R Jewell
- Nicholas D Brown
- John P Loveless
- 10 Stephen H Stanford

Rung for the 40th anniversary of Clive's first peal, in which the ringers of 6 and 7 also rang.

Rung in memory of Cliff Izzard who also rang in the original peal.

Wishing a speedy recovery to Charlotte Smith and

Helen Manktelow who were to have rung in this peal.

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.

All ringers are required 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/diocese/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/safeguarding/ 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, 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 Officers

The Association uses MemberMojo as the data processor for our membership management, for information see http://membermojo.co.uk/mm/help/gdpr and Officers also hold email addresses which are used, where members give specific permission, to communicate about Association 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

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//2022/05/SM_Insurance_2022-v4.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.

Z.	Bedford St Paul	Leighton Buzzard	Silsoe
Monday	Barton Le Clay	Northill/Old Warden	Studham
	Eversholt	Shillington	Westoning
	Haynes		
Tu	Bromham	Couple	Potton
Tuesday	Blunham/Gt Barford /	Felmersham/Sharnbrook	Renhold
~	Roxton/Tempsford	Henlow	Riseley
	Clapham	Linslade	Stevington
	Campton	Luton	Totternhoe
8	Aspley Guise	Eaton Socon	Milton Ernest/
edne	Biggleswade	Flitton	Thurleigh
Wednesday	Dunstable	Kempston	Stagsden
	Goldington	Keysoe	Sandy
			Willington
굮	Ampthill	Cardington	Stotfold
Thursday	Bedford St Andrew	Cranfield	Upper Dean
~	Bedford St Peter	Elstow	Woburn
	Bletsoe	Houghton Regis	
	Caddington	Meppershall	
Fri	Arlesey	Flitwick	Toddington
Friday	Carlton/Harrold	Little Staughton	Turvey
	Clifton	Oakley	