



BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Update



September 2025

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Forthcoming ringing events - September and October

Details of the outing to Milton Keynes - Saturday

20 September; please sign up asap if you're coming for all or part of the day.

Henlow rededication service and try your luck with 'Guess the weight of Henlow tenor'!

Bedfordshire ringing for VJ Day, Friday 15 August

Central Council Roadshow in Sheffield

Please see below for more details.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 6 September, 10.30 - 12.30

General Ringing and Short Business Meeting at Biddenham (8)

This general ringing meeting is for everyone, all levels will be catered for. There will be a short business meeting to elect new members, provide news and updates as necessary. Sign up preferable for contact purposes.

Subject: General Ringing Biddenham

Saturday 13 September (Morning)

Second Saturday Training at the R J Sharp Ringing Centre at St Andrew's Biggleswade

10:00 - 11:00 Session 1: Bellhandling

11:00 - 11:15 Coffee (and cake!)

11:15 - 12:30 Session 2: Foundation skills - rounds, call changes, Plain Hunt

These sessions are aimed at less experienced Bedfordshire ringers who would like to improve basic skills and confidence.

Session 1: for those who are learning to handle a bell with assistance or wish to improve their handling skills

Session 2: For those who can handle a bell unassisted and wish to improve their bell control and progress to ringing rounds/call changes with others.

Sign up essential (Helpers and students please)

Please state whether you are coming to Session 1 or Session 2.

Subject: Second Saturday September

Saturday 13 September (Afternoon) , 14:30 - 16:30

Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles practice, Silsoe

Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles practice. For those who can ring Plain Hunt and would like to learn to hunt the treble or those who can hunt the treble and who'd like to ring plain courses of Plain Bob Doubles inside and touches unaffected.

Sign up essential (Helpers and students please)

Subject: Plain Hunt Bob Doubles Silsoe

Sunday 14 September, 14:30 - 16:30

Bedfordshire Young Ringers at All Saints, Campton

Bedfordshire Young Ringers is for **all** young ringers aged 18 or under, whatever your ringing experience. (Experienced tutors will be there to help!) Come along to ring with ringers your own age, eat cake and have fun!

For safeguarding reasons, we ask that all young ringers under the age of 18 are accompanied by an adult. Adults do not need to stay for the whole session (though you are very welcome to do so - tea, coffee and a comfortable place to sit will be available). We will need some paperwork to be completed for each young ringer the first time they attend.

For more details or to confirm that you are coming please

email youngringers@bacbr.org.uk

Subject: Young Ringers August or via the Bedfordshire Young Ringers WhatsApp Group

(Please ask to be added to this when you attend a Young Ringers' session)

Tuesday 16 September 14:30 - 16:30

General Ringing Meeting -Colmworth now confirmed

This is for everyone, all levels will be catered for. Please sign up to let us know you're coming so we know that the practice is viable.

Email Angela - trainingofficer@bacbr.org.uk

Subject: General ringing meeting September

Saturday 20 September, all day

Outing to the Milton Keynes area -

10.00 - Cosgrove, 11.15 - Old Wolverton, 12.15 - Great Linford,

Lunch - own arrangements,

2.30 - Down Barns, 3.30 - Loughton, 4.30 - Milton Keynes village

Please let us know that you're coming by completing this form [Poll – Bedfordshire](#)

Association Outing – Framadate

Join us for an evening meal at The Wheatsheaf, Bow Brickhill – 5.45pm.

The menu is available on the website [here](#).

Please email your order to Sarah Ward as soon as possible –

sarahlouiseward34@gmail.com

Saturday 27 September, 14:00 - 16:00

Surprise Minor Practice (6) - venue tbc (not Arlesey, as previously advertised)

For those who can already ring Surprise Minor and want to consolidate / learn more methods; also OK for those who can ring plain Bob Minor confidently and want to progress to Treble Bob on the treble.

Booking essential

Subject: Surprise Minor September

It's really important to book your place/confirm your attendance for the events above by emailing Angela Blackburn on trainingofficer@bacbr.org.uk giving the meeting name/venue in the subject line of your email. The events will only go ahead if there are enough people to make them viable.

Angela would also appreciate helpers giving their availability for specific workshop/targeted practices.

We look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

Please note: Not all events shown below have a confirmed venue at the time of writing and venues may change at short notice, please see the [Website](#) for the up to date situation. If any event has to be cancelled due to lack of numbers, we'll email those who have signed up. It may not be possible to post any amendments on the website at short notice.

A provisional calendar for the rest of the year can be found on the website here:

<https://www.bacbr.org.uk/events/forthcoming-events/>

This will be updated during the year, once towers are confirmed and we know which types of events are being supported.

Proposed October events - please check [website calendar](#) for latest situation.

Saturday 4 October. 2:30 - 4:30 - General Ringing with short business meeting, Thurleigh (6)

Saturday 11 October. 10:00 - 12:30 - Second Saturday Training at the RJ Sharp Ringing Centre, St Andrew's, Biggleswade, two sessions.

Sunday 12 October. 14:30 - 16:30 - Young Ringers practice at Campton (8)

Thursday 16 October. 10:30 - 12:30 - General Ringing, at Stanbridge (6)

Saturday 18 October. 14.30 - 16.30 - Plain Hunt and Bob Doubles, venue TBC

Saturday 25 October. 14.00 - 16.00 - Surprise Major Practice at Ampthill (8)

Congratulations and well done to two of our Young Ringers...

Declan (aged 14) - who rang his first Quarter Peal at first attempt on the tenor to Plain Bob Doubles at Campton on August 13th.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1875876>

Oscar (aged 9) - who rang his first Quarter Peal at first attempt on the tenor to mixed Doubles (Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob) at Biggleswade on August 27th. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1880481>

Other notices

VJ Day 80th Anniversary - ringing in Bedfordshire

20 Bedfordshire Churches submitted details to Bellboard of their ringing for the national commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VJ Day on Friday 17th August. Submissions included chiming, tolling, rounds and call changes, general ringing, specific touches and a peal was rung at Campton.

Very well done to 8 year old William who chimed 80 blows each at Bolnhurst and at Keysoe, the first and second times of handling a bell rope, and also helping James Hills to toll at both churches. This ringing was particularly to remember Gerald Deakin of Polesworth, who was William's Great Great Uncle and who served in Burma.

At Clifton the touch of Plain Bob Minor was also rung to remember Lieutenant John Harris, Charlotte Smith's Uncle, who was a prisoner of war in Kuching, Borneo.

Rededication Service at St Mary's Henlow

Following the successful completion of major refurbishment work at St Mary's Henlow, the bells are being rededicated in a service at 3.00pm on Saturday 18th October. There will be refreshments and general ringing afterwards.

And if you haven't already done so please to have a go at guessing the weight of the tenor, the winner will be announced following the service.

Guess the weight of Henlow tenor!

The true weight of the Henlow tenor has been a matter of speculation for 150 years and could be anything between 12½ and 15½ cwt – but the mystery will be solved when it is weighed this summer. Whilst the bells are undergoing some refurbishment, the ringers have decided to have a 'Guess the weight of the tenor' competition to raise funds for the church. The bell hangers will weigh the tenor and put the weight in a sealed envelope.

Click on the link below to enter as many guesses as you want to pay for, at £5 a guess. The winner will be revealed when the envelope is opened at the Rededication Service on 18th October. The closest guess will win £50 and a bottle of Bells! It will be fun to guess, fascinating to learn the true weight and should raise some money for the church.

ENTER on this link <https://www.guesstheweightofthetenor.co.uk/>

Successful Plain Bob Doubles Workshop and Zoom Theory Session

Well done to all the students at the Plain Bob Doubles Workshop held at Haynes on Saturday 16 August, all of whom made really good progress. A very big thank you to all of the helpers too. The workshop was preceded on the previous Monday by a theory session held via Zoom. The theory session notes are on the website [here](#)

Update from the CCCBR



Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

The Central Council's Annual Meeting and Roadshow - is being held over the weekend of Friday 5th - Sunday 7th September in Sheffield.

The Roadshow on Sunday is open to all and runs from 11am to 4.30pm with trade stands, demonstrations, speaker events and the chance to try out mobile rings and training bells although booking closed on Sunday 17th August.

Our Central Council Reps, Linda Garton, Pat Albon and Richard Horne, will be attending the meeting on Saturday 6th.

Click [here](#) for more information.

The Central Council Code for Ringing - a reminder for everyone about this code for ringers - [Code-for-Ringing-Edition-1-v1-285.pdf](#)

Do keep an eye on the Central Council website for wider ringing news, resources and helpful information! <https://cccbr.org.uk>



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You have received this because you are an Association member, a past member who wishes to remain in touch or a Tower Contact for the Association

You can [unsubscribe from this list](#).