



BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS



Update

August 2026

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Recent happenings

David William Manton - former Cranfield ringer.

We're sorry to report that David W Manton died recently at the age of 101 years. David rung five peals for the Bedfordshire Association between 1968 and 1980.

Bedfordshire Young Ringers win the 8 Bell Advanced Call Changes category at the RWNVC at Nottingham!

On Saturday 4 July 325 young ringers in 43 teams from all over the country competed in the Ringing World National Striking Contest across five different categories. Our Bedfordshire Young Ringers team **Won the** Advanced 8 Bell Call Changes, the second highest category. This is a fabulous result and testament to the hard work the team put in to their practices – congratulations and very well done! Huge thanks also to the families who have been so supportive and our wonderful team of leaders and helpers!



The team with the Robert Lewis Trophy.

Treble Oscar Matthews, 2 Alicia Williams, 3 Harry Devereux-Harrison (C), 4 Ben Coe, 5 Oli Coe (C), 6 Sam Warner, 7 Joe Warner, Tenor Declan Newton.

During the day there was also ringing at other towers, including the lovely 12 at St Mary's Nottingham, hand bells, mini-rings, riding on trams and cake of course!

Next years competition will be held in Guildford. Click [here](#) for more information about our Young Ringers practices.

July ringing meetings - unfortunately the General Ringing meeting scheduled at Tilsworth on 4 July didn't go ahead - there weren't enough sign ups to make it viable.

However, the Ringing Meeting at Blunham's Bells, Beer and Bangers event on 25 July was a great success. 24 ringers came to the open ringing session - a great turn out, and several more, who had been ringing for weddings elsewhere, came for the refreshments which included a BBQ, a Pimms bar, beer and cider bar and tea and cakes.

During the ringing session we elected Laura Bowyer as an unattached Resident Member, proposed by Linda Garton and seconded by John Loveless. Welcome Laura!

It was a really great village occasion. Many thanks to the Riversmeet Benefice organisers who did us proud. About £2250 was raised for their bell restoration project.

Forthcoming Events

Ringing Opportunities

There's a suggested £2 donation/person at Association Ringing Programme events. This is so we can make a donation to the tower being visited. Thanks.

Saturday 1 August, 10.30am - 12.30pm

General Ringing and Short Business Meeting at Sharnbrook (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 in the MemberMojo Store <https://membermojo.co.uk/bacbr/store>
or Email Linda - ringing@bacbr.org.uk

Subject: General Ringing Sharnbrook

Saturday 8 August, 10.00am - 12.30pm

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

10:00 - 11:00 Session 1: Bell handling

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.

We're always looking for experienced ringers to support these sessions. If you'd like more information either contact Chris for details or come along and see for yourself. Whether you feel you could help with bell handling and/or foundation skills you'd be most welcome.

Sign up essential for both students and helpers please

Email Chris Williams - christine.williams.bells@gmail.com

State whether you're coming to Session 1 or Session 2.

Sunday 9 August, 2.30 - 4.30pm

Bedfordshire Young Ringers at Elstow - note change from usual venue!

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

or via the Bedfordshire Young Ringers WhatsApp Group if you're on that (Please ask to be added to this when you attend a Young Ringers' session).

Saturday 22 August, 2.00 - 6.30pm

Walk, Tea and Ring - at All Saints, Campton (8)

Meet at All Saints Church at 2.30pm for 3 mile (approx) circular walk, 4.00pm Ringers Tea (£5/person - pay on the day), 5.00 - 6.30pm general ringing at All Saints, Campton. You can come for the walk, tea and ringing , or just tea and ringing or just the ringing - your choice!

Names for tea essential though, please sign up either in the MemberMojo Store <https://membermojo.co.uk/bacbr/store>

or Email Linda

Subject: Walk Tea & Ring

It's really important to **book your place/confirm your attendance** for most events. There are two ways to do this:

1. Via the MemberMojo Store <https://membermojo.co.uk/bacbr/store>

Simply click on the link above and choose which event(s) you wish to attend.

2. By emailing Ringing Master, Linda Garton, on ringing@bacbr.org.uk , **or the organiser as stated,** giving the meeting name/venue in the subject line of your email.

Events will only go ahead if there are enough people to make them viable. Linda would also appreciate helpers giving their availability for focus practices and training courses.

We look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

Please note: Not all events shown 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, but it may not be possible to post any amendments on the website or Facebook at short notice.***

Proposed September events - put these dates in your diary!

Please check the website www.bacbr.org.uk for latest situation.

Saturday 5 September, 10.30am - 12.30pm - General Ringing and a short business meeting, at Silsoe (6).

Saturday 12 September 10.00am - 12.30pm - Second Saturday Training at the R J Sharp Ringing Centre at St Andrew's Biggleswade, two sessions as usual this month.

Sunday 13 September, 2.30 - 4:30pm Young Ringers practice at Campton (8)

Saturday 19 September - ring to welcome the new Bishop of St Albans, The Right Reverend Dr. Andrew Rumsey who will be formally installed as our Diocesan Bishop in a service at St Albans Cathedral on 19 September. It would be great if as many Bedfordshire towers as possible could ring to welcome him either on that date, or ring a special touch on Sunday 20 September.

Please add all ringing to BellBoard and link it to the event:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=23643> so that we can send details to Bishop Andrew.

Saturday 26 September - Ringing Up and Down Course at the RJ Sharp Ringing Centre, St Andrews, Biggleswade. 10.00am -1.00pm . This half day course is aimed at ringers who have yet to be taught to ring up and down, or who would like to improve their confidence and control when ringing a bell up or

down. Please note that this course will be on tied bells and will focus on ringing a single bell, not ringing up and down in peal. Numbers are limited so sign up is essential on the MemberMojo Store - <https://membermojo.co.uk/bacbr/store> or Email Linda - ringing@bacbr.org.uk Subject: Ringing Up and Down

Short Business Meeting notes are on the website

Notes taken at our short business meetings at General Ringing Meetings are now being loaded onto the website, click here [Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers](#)

Other notices and news

Firsts and Commemorative Ringing - July

Friday 3 July, at All Saints. Kempston - 1344 London Surprise Major - a first quarter peal of London SM for Alex Nash and congratulations to Alex's daughter Melissa (former Bedfordshire young ringer) on passing the exam and interview to become a Chartered Structural Engineer. [BellBoard](#)

Sunday 19 July, at Bedford St Paul - 259 Grandsire Caters - rung for evensong in conjunction with the Bedford River Festival. [BellBoard](#)

Saturday 25 July, at the Abbey Church of St Mary and St Helena - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles. Congratulations to Bedfordshire Young Ringers, Alisia Williams for her first quarter peal at first attempt and Oli Coe for his first quarter peal as cover. [BellBoard](#)

News from the CCCBR

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers



New!

A Heritage Open Days - 'Behind the Bells' tool kit with lots of useful information on

organising and publicising an open day is now available [Introducing the Heritage Open Days Publicity Toolkit – CCCBR](#)

A You Tube Video - Growing your Social Media

Presence https://youtu.be/u_S9yKruPTI?si=D0uXS4A8AuNogqjB

Some other useful Central Council resources

Risk Assessment Guidance - [Risk Assessment | Running a Tower](#)

In Case of Emergency Notice - [Emergency | Running a Tower](#)

Recruitment and Retention - [Recruitment and Retention – CCCBR](#)

Notice Board toolkit - [Noticeboard Toolkit – CCCBR](#)

You Tube Index - <https://cccbr.org.uk/youtube-index>

Images - [Photos – CCCBR](#)

.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>



Simon Stranks - President

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Linda Garton - Ringing Master

ringing@bacbr.org.uk

We welcome feedback on any aspect of the Association feedback@bacbr.org.uk

if you're not on the distribution list you can sign up to receive this Update directly [here](#)

Our Website - www.bacbr.org.uk

You've 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](#).