



BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Update



October 2026

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Recent happenings

September ringing meetings - 11 ringers came to the General Ringing meeting at Silsoe on 5 September, including two young ringers, Zachary and Freddie, from Houghton Regis who came with their Grandad and did very well! Simon Stranks

ran the ringing which included Rounds, Plain Bob Doubles and Minor, Grandsire Doubles and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

Ringing to welcome the new Bishop of St Albans - see below in the 'Firsts and Commemorative Ringing' section below.

Ringing Up and Down - unfortunately the training session at the RJ Sharp Ringing Centre didn't go ahead as there weren't enough takers. Please let Linda know if this is something you'd like to do so we get an idea of demand for the future - email ringing@bacbr.org.uk.

Website Refresh - our website - www.bacbr.org.uk - has been up and running since 2016 and its basic layout hasn't changed much in all that time, apart from a few tweaks here and there. We've recently reviewed it and decided it needed a refresh which we started in September. You'll see some pages have moved and there are some new pages, so things may not be where you're used to finding them. Take a look and see what you think. It's still a work in progress and there'll undoubtedly be a few glitches. We hope to finalise things as soon as possible. We're also planning a new calendar function which we won't put up until we've sorted out the refresh. If you have any questions, feedback or comments please email webmaster@bacbr.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

Ringing Opportunities

Unless otherwise stated, 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 3 October, 10.30am - 12.30pm

General Ringing and Short Business Meeting at Goldington (6)

***** We need some more sign ups to make this viable*****

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 Goldington

Saturday 10 October - please note....

There's no Second Saturday Training at the R J Sharp Ringing Centre, St Andrew's Biggleswade this month.

Sunday 11 October, 2.30 - 4.30pm

Bedfordshire Young Ringers at Stotfold - please note different 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 don't 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'll 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 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 17 October, 6.30 - 8.30pm

Advanced 8 Bell Practice at Henlow

This is for those who can ring well struck Grandsire Triples and upwards, including Surprise Major.

Sign up in the MemberMojo Store <https://membermojo.co.uk/bacbr/store>

or Email Linda - ringing@bacbr.org.uk

Subject: Advanced 8 bell Henlow

Saturday 31 October, 10.00am - 1.00pm

"Go next"... Calling Call Changes and Plain Bob Doubles Course at the RJ Sharp Ringing Centre, St Andrews, Biggleswade.

This half day course is suitable for ringers with a range of experience, from those who can ring call-changes and want to make a start on learning to call, through to those who can

ring touches of Plain Bob Doubles confidently and would like to learn how to call bobs and pick up some tips on keeping others right!

This course will be divided into different levels depending on your prior experience:

- Level 1: Calling simple call changes
- Level 2: Calling go and stop to Plain Hunt / a plain course of Plain Bob Doubles
- Level 3: Calling a touch of Plain Bob Doubles being 'unaffected'
- Level 4: Calling touches of Plain Bob Doubles with other bells 'unaffected'

We ask for a voluntary donation of £5 per student please, payable in cash on the day.

Sign up is essential for students and helpers on the MemberMojo Store -

<https://membermojo.co.uk/bacbr/store> or Email Linda - ringing@bacbr.org.uk

Events will only go ahead if there are enough people to make them viable, so 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.

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 may 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 November events - put these dates in your diary!

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

Sunday 1 November, 2.30 - 4:30pm - Young Ringers practice at Campton. **Note**
change of date to avoid Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 7 November, 10.30am - 12.30pm - General Ringing and a short business meeting, at Linslade (8) **Venue still to be confirmed at time of writing.**

Saturday 14 - 21 November, ringing to mark the retirement of the Bishop of Bedford.

The farewell service for the Bishop of Bedford, the Rt Revd Richard Atkinson OBE, is being held at St Paul's Bedford on **Sunday 15th November.**

Bishop Richard is one of our Patrons and has been a great friend to the Association since he was installed as Bishop in May 2012. To mark his retirement and to thank him for his interest in, and dedicated support for, ringing in Bedfordshire, we hope that bells can be rung at as many towers as possible on or around this date.



Bishop Richard with Bedfordshire Young Ringers back in 2014!

We're asking tower captains and organisers to assist if possible, please by arranging any of the following:

- a special touch on or around Sunday 15th November at your own tower or others nearby;
- a Quarter Peal during the week of Saturday 14th - Saturday 21st November;
- or even a Peal!

and link any ringing to the event 'Ringing to mark the retirement of the Bishop of Bedford' on Bellboard: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=23940>

We will be sending details of all ringing to Bishop Richard following his retirement.

Short Business Meeting notes are on the website

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

Other notices and news

Firsts and Commemorative Ringing

Ringing to welcome the new Bishop of St Albans, The Right Reverend Dr. Andrew Rumsey

Bishop Andrew was formally installed as our Diocesan Bishop at St Albans Cathedral on 19th September. We asked for commemorative ringing at as many Bedfordshire towers as possible to welcome him with ringing added to a BellBoard event

Our President, Simon, is writing to Bishop Andrew to invite him to be one of our Patrons and to pass on our 'ringing welcome'. 15 'performances' have been recorded with ringing at Bedford - St Pauls, Campton, Clifton, Goldington, Kensworth, Meppershall, Silsoe. Steppingley (not on BellBoard at the time of writing), Tempsford and Whipsnade and by the visiting Wayfarers Tour ringing at Bletsoe, Renhold, Riseley and Thurleigh. You can view all the performances here: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=23643>

Notable 'firsts' amongst these were:

On Sunday 20 September:

St Mary Magdalene, Whipsnade - Rounds. Congratulations to Sam Ayres, James Ayres and Meryl l'Anson on their first Sunday service ringing. [BellBoard](#)

St Peter, Tempsford - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles. Congratulations to Kate Abrahams (treble) and Becky Wharton (tenor) for ringing their first Quarter Peal. [BellBoard](#)

On Monday 21 September:

St James the Great, Silsoe - 240 Grandsire Doubles. Congratulations to Judy Rawlings for ringing her first touch of Grandsire Doubles. [BellBoard](#)

Other Firsts and Commemorative ringing in September

Tuesday 1 September, St Andrew Biggleswade - 1274 Plain Bob

Triples. Congratulations to Oscar Matthews who rang the treble for his first Quarter Peal on 8. [BellBoard](#)

Thursday 3 September, St Swithun, Sandy - 1260 Plain Bob Minor. Congratulations to Neil Goodwin on his first Quarter Peal away from cover and Steven Akhurst on conducting his first Quarter Peal of Minor. [BellBoard](#)

Friday 11 September, All Saints, Clifton - 1260 Stedman Triples. Rung half muffled in remembrance of the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City, 25 years ago.

Sunday 20 September, Bedford St Paul - 1287 Stedman Caters. Rung following the High Sheriff's Justice Service. Also, for the installation yesterday of the Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey as the 11th Bishop of St Albans who officiated at the service. Possibly the final ringing prior to major restoration of the tower, clock, and bells. The High Sheriff (Ismail Anilmis) has sponsored one of the bells. [BellBoard](#)

Tuesday 22 September, St Mary, Maulden - 120 Plain Bob Doubles. Congratulations to Joe Warner for ringing his longest length inside. [BellBoard](#)

St Paul's Bedford - Tower, Clock and Bells Project Update

As indicated in the details above, the recent Quarter Peal ringing at St Pauls Bedford was possibly the last ringing before the restoration work goes ahead. Steve Stanford has sent this picture of a project banner at the church showing that work is now underway!



Don't forget - we have an Association Bell Restoration Fund!

The Association Bell Restoration Fund (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. Half of your annual subscription goes to the BRF and many of you have made additional, generous, donations through your membership renewal process - thank you!

You can read about the BRF, its objectives, scope and rules on the website here [Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers](#) - along with reports of projects that have been supported over the years.

The Fund is in a healthy state and we'd welcome new applications for grants towards work that is in scope.

News from the CCCBR

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers



The Young Ringers Hub is live!

The Young Ringers Hub is a one stop shop for all things youth ringing and is now live. The objective of the website is to enable more young people to access bellringing and keep them ringing. [Young Ringers Hub – Young Ringers Hub](#)

The Hub has four sub sites, three of which are now live – University Ringing, Under 18s and the Library. The fourth, 'Development Pathways', will be worked on later this year. Read the full Central Council news item here [The Young Ringers Hub is live! – CCCBR](#)

Some other useful Central Council resources

Running a Tower - [Running a Tower | Running a Tower](#)

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
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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

Association Management structure and who does what - [Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers](#)

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](#).