



# Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 289

Website: [www.bristolrural.co.uk](http://www.bristolrural.co.uk) email: [bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk](mailto:bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk)

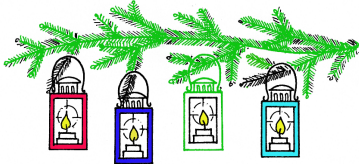
## Headlines

- 1 Mince Pie Practice—Frampton Cotterell—29th December, 1430-1630
- 2 Branch Practice—Mangotsfield—28th January, 1430-1630
- 3 Branch Quiz—Iron Acton—11th February, 1900 onwards
- 4 Branch Practice—Pucklechurch—25th February, 1430-1630

## Christmas

## 2022

# HAPPY



# CHRISTMAS

### Branch AGM

Our AGM was held at Olveston this year. As usual, we started with ringing and what a wonderful ring of 8 bells they are, perfectly well-behaved and making the ringing of them seem like child's play compared with some. After ringing we had a short service with a thoughtful talk from the vicar David Moss. Then it was time for tea, a grand spread of sandwiches, sausages rolls, cheese snacks, cakes galore, tea and coffee. Finally we had our AGM meeting. Our Secretary Bill Liebow will be circulating the minutes in due course but key things to note are:

1. Branch subscriptions are now due. There is a form on the website to fill in. Please note that the £10 concessionary rate for pensioners was abolished at the G&B Association AGM in April, so the rate for all adult ringers is now £15.
2. Based on a poll of members present we decided to make all Branch practices afternoon events next year, rather than having evening practices in the summer months.
3. Sue Elliott stood down as Ringing Master, so thanks to her for her support during her time in office. As a result,

### Avon Ropes proudly sponsors Bristol Rural News

Contact us for bell ropes, light pull bell ropes, and a 2-week bell rope repair service.

Please see our website, [www.avonropes.co.uk](http://www.avonropes.co.uk), our Facebook page or phone on 07946 605 963.

We're local too, based in Mangotsfield.

Matt Johnson has stepped up to take on the post of Ringing Master and Geoff Pick has taken on the role of his Deputy. All the other Branch officers were re-elected to their present posts.

Chris Greef

### Branch Training

Do you want to learn to raise and lower a bell, perhaps in peal? Do you struggle to get to grips with that new method, because there never seem to be enough of you at your tower practice to manage it? If so, we will set up a training session for you. We will arrange for a group of students to meet with enough helpers to provide a strong supporting band as you learn.

We had the first post-Covid training session recently, in response to a request for Grandsire Triples. We rang at Warmley and had 8 students with 10 helpers. I think the students found the morning useful and certainly several of them clearly improved in their ability to ring the method.

So whatever your training needs, contact me and we will set something up to suit your needs.

Chris Greef



## Ringling after the Queen's Death

I came across this reflection on the ringing that formed a significant part of the nation's commemoration of the death of Queen Elizabeth II:

Well I think, collectively, we have done our national, parochial, liturgical & civic duty. We have created the soundscape to the nation's mood and be it a peal at a lofty cathedral or tolling at a humble parish church we have all stepped up and fulfilled our London Bridge obligations with great love for our late Monarch and professionalism for our art.

We all knew the day would come and the collective enthusiasm and pride, the reactive speed with which we have all performed, and the clear love and respect we have received from those who have attended services, listened from afar or been moved to draw near and contemplate, whilst listening to the mysterious and muffled sound of our bells has been much evident.

In this strange time of national mourning- ringing has given me personally, some sense of drive, duty and I guess distraction.

To have tolled, service-rung and scored a decent quarter have all been with a great sense of personal pride and I'm proud of that- but more so, to be part of a national group of like-minded, enthusiastic and skilled people who contribute so much to our national good- and never more so than the past 11 days...

Congratulations and well done all.

I think our late Queen would have approved..A superlative national & international effort!

## Big Bristol Youth Team Day Out

The G & B and Bath and Wells Youth Teams were invited by the experienced local ringers to ring on the Bristol City bells. They rang at the following towers:

St Stephen's 12

Christchurch 10

St Michael on the Mount Without 6

Bristol Cathedral 8

St Mary Redcliffe 12

A great day was had by over 20 young ringers, including ringers from Bristol Rural branch. From ringing the characterful bells at Christchurch, flighty bells at St Stephens, long unguarded draughts at St Michael's, the lovely bells at the Cathedral, to the opportunity to ring on one of the best rings of twelve in the world at St Mary Redcliffe. It was a great day out with lots of ringing and many new friendships made.

Many thanks go to Matthew Jerome and his team for organising such a good outing for our young ringers.

The next practice will be at Broad Blunsdon, Swindon and

the youth team have also been invited to ring for Sunday service at Tewkesbury Abbey in the New Year.



## Branch Newsletter Distribution

I am sure you all know that Chris Greef produces the branch newsletter and I put it on the branch website and send it out by email. Unfortunately, my six-year-old laptop has decided it has had enough and I have had to move on to a new computer. Moving to a new Laptop is a pain in the proverbial especially with email and Outlook. Whilst you can transfer your contacts, it does not transfer your circulation lists. I have paper copies of the circulation list groups, but I have to re-input them with every change of computer with Windows and Outlook. (If any one knows how to avoid this please do let me know.)

This has reminded me to ask you all to make sure if you want a copy of the Branch Newsletter published every two months:

**-if you want to receive a copy but don't get it send me an email**

**-if you do not want to receive it let me know and I will remove you from the lists.**

Tony York

## When did you last do it—check the tower first aid kit?

Is there a first aid kit in your ringing room? If so, what does it contain and are all the items still in date? While visiting a tower recently, I came across a first aid box that contained several items with expiry dates in the 1990s!

So when did you check the provision of first aid equipment in the towers where you ring? It may be possible for ringers to access the church's first aid kit in an emergency, rather than maintain separate supplies in the tower. If in the ringing room, then these too should be maintained as part of the church health and safety

## Big Wilf's Bell Muffles

proudly sponsors Bristol Rural News

We have Velcro fitting Bell Muffles at over 1000 churches and we're now based in Mangotsfield. Please see our website, [www.bigwilfsbellmuffles.co.uk](http://www.bigwilfsbellmuffles.co.uk) or our Facebook page or phone 07946 605 963.

procedures. Any health and safety related incidents should be noted in the church records. If in doubt, then seek advice from those responsible for health and safety in the tower concerned.

Alison Hodge  
CCCBR Stewardship & Management Workgroup Leader

### **Belfry Maintenance**

The Stewardship & Management Workgroup of the Central Council are pleased to announce [Belfry Upkeep](#), an online document aimed at the Steeple Keeper (the person responsible for keeping the bells in order). The aims of the document are:

- o To help you understand the installation in your tower
- o To describe the checks you should carry out to identify any problems
- o To advise you on the maintenance tasks that you should be able to carry out, possibly with expert advice or assistance

Most importantly, to help you recognise the tasks that require specialist knowledge from a Bell Hanger or other expert.

<https://belfryupkeep.cccb.org.uk/>

### **Ringling Books Available**

Bill Liebow has some books and badges available at cost as below. Please contact him if you are interested:

The One per Learner Book (the little yellow book, ideal for learners for logging progress in early stages) - £1 each.

Ringling Circles (gives the blue line and details of what happens at calls for some standard methods) - some left at £3.50 each.

### **Branch Ringling Achievements**

Frampton Cotterell—1260 Doubles

Rung in thanksgiving for the life of Brynley A Shackleton who died on the 28th September 2022. Mary S York would like to be associated with this quarter.

Wapley—1260 Doubles

Rung for Sunday evening Service by the Sunday Service band in memory of our friend and one time leader, Brynley (Bryn) A Shackleton, who died on 28 September 2022.

Frampton Cotterell—1260 Doubles

In memory of Bryn Shackleton, ringer at Frampton Cotterell.

Westerleigh—1260 Mixed Doubles

Rung to celebrate the life of Brynley Shackleton whose funeral took place earlier today.

### **In memoriam Queen Elizabeth II and/or for the Accession of King Charles III**

Pucklechurch—Tolling

Olveston—5056 Bristol Surprise Major

First peal at first attempt—Matthew B Johnson

Coalpit Heath—1260 Mixed Doubles