

St Martin's Guild Yearbook 2019





SMG at a glance

The St Martin's Guild (SMG) is a voluntary association of bell ringers, centred on the wider Birmingham area, with the objectives of:

- Maintaining ringing for church services
- Practising, encouraging and advancing the art of change-ringing
- Providing a fund to support belfry restoration and improvement projects within its area

For more information

Website: https://stmartinsguild.org

YouTube: https://tinyurl.com/smgcbr

Facebook: https://tinyurl.com/smgcbr1

Email: smgcbr@gmail.com

Who we are

SMG members represent numerous towers within the wider Birmingham area, each housing bells suitable for change ringing. SMG is a member of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) and works alongside other national and regional bell ringing bodies.

When were we formed?

The Guild was created in 1755, the date of the first peal of 5000+ changes known to have been rung by members of the principal Birmingham change ringing society, The Society of St Martin's Youths. The current Guild is in direct line of descent from this society.

Why?

In a nutshell, SMG is about working together and forging a collective identity for the region's bell towers. In times of recruitment challenges and conflicting demands on individuals' time, collaboration is more important than ever. Sharing our knowledge and expertise makes us collectively stronger, and creates new opportunities for exciting joint projects.

Our aims

- Help maintain strong local bands of ringers who ring for church services
- Maintain the heritage of ringing as an art by training new ringers
- Provide a rewarding and enjoyable activity for its members
- Demonstrate excellence in ringing and achieve the highest standards of performance
- Push forward the boundaries of change ringing achievement and ambition
- Support the improvement of bells and ringing infrastructure through the provision of funds.

How we are funded

SMG is a member subscription-based organisation.

Charitable status

SMG's Bell Restoration Fund is a registered charity (Registered Charity Number 508571)

President, Vice Presidents and Officers of the Guild for 2020

President The Bishop of Birmingham, The Right Reverend David Urquhart

Life Vice Presidents John Anderson, Richard Grimmett, Richard Jones,

Simon Linford, Andrew Stubbs

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Trustees (General Fund)

John Anderson, John Fielden

Trustees (Bell Restoration Fund)

Don Finnemore, Andrew Stubbs

Independent Examiners

Steven Horton, Thomas Horton

Meet the Team for 2020



President: The Bishop of Birmingham, The Right Reverend David Urquhart

Life Vice Presidents: John Anderson, Richard Grimmett, Richard Jones, Simon Linford, Andrew Stubbs



Master: Clare McArdle

I joined the St Martin's Guild in the 1970s, not long after learning to ring at Harborne. Although I have dabbled with peal ringing, my main focus has been to help to improve the standards of teaching across the Guild. I am very proud of the success of the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing, both for the quality of teaching that is delivered and the opportunities we are able to offer mentoring people learning to teach. My work in this field has been recognised by the Association of Ringing Teachers — I am an ART tutor and sit on the ART Management Committee.



Ringing Master: Arthur Reeves

I am a member at St Martin's and St Philip's in the city centre though like visiting other practices as often as I can. I enjoy many aspects of bell ringing: the music we create itself; the challenge of learning new things; the commitment to a team; the personal drive to keep getting better; and certainly not forgetting the social opportunities to meet new people. Bell ringing certainly has something for everybody, so if you haven't had a go then get in touch!



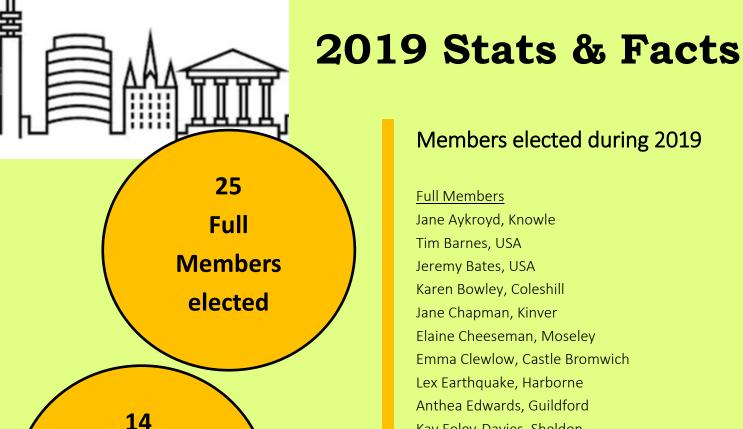
Secretary: Stella Tew

I started ringing at St Anne's and St Mary's in Moseley in 2014, joining the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing that year. I went on to complete the 'Learning the Ropes' programme as one of the early graduates from the school in 2017 and attended the national Masterclass In Autumn 2018. For the last two years I have been Tower Contact for St Anne's Moseley.



Treasurer: Tracy Stevens

I learnt to ring in October 2008, requiring a new hobby following a sporting injury. I soon became hooked by the art of campanology. I ring at Harborne where I am also Assistant Tower Captain and in 2011 I became the Guild's Treasurer, a position I enjoy. I have also completed the ITTS Modules for teaching bell ringing and am a full member of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART)



112 **Guild practices** and events organised

88 **Peals rung for** the Guild

Associate

Members

elected

Members elected during 2019

Full Members

Jane Aykroyd, Knowle

Tim Barnes, USA

Jeremy Bates, USA

Karen Bowley, Coleshill

Jane Chapman, Kinver

Elaine Cheeseman, Moseley

Emma Clewlow, Castle Bromwich

Lex Earthquake, Harborne

Anthea Edwards, Guildford

Kay Foley-Davies, Sheldon

Luke Groom, Leicester

Lucy Gwynne, Warwick

Michael Harrison, USA

Phoebe House, USA

Rob Lynock, Knowle

Beverley McAlister, Coleshill

Tony McAlister, Coleshill

Jane Morris, Castle Bromwich

Jonathan Newey, Edgbaston

Austin Paul, USA

Alex Ross, Solihull

Annette Seeley, BSoBR

Margaret Whiteley, Derby

Martin Whiteley, Derby

Sandra Wilcox, Walsall

Associate Members

Susan Boston David Harrison Cian Brophy Sarah King Denise Carr Andrew McIlroy Jeffrey Carr **Beryl Pritchett** Carol Edgeworth Richard Spink George Ellis Helen Surr James Ellis Susan Webb

2019 around the Guild...

Handsworth

Handsworth has been a key tower for the BSoBR, with the Level 2 stage usually running there. However it was felt that the overall experience could be improved if the ringing chamber was redecorated. The School offered to do this on behalf of the local ringers, and over the course of about six months, the old polystyrene ceiling tiles were chipped off, the ceiling was boarded by Gary Peynado, and a team including Steve Horton, Olly Bouckley, Simon Linford, Clare

McArdle, Tracy Stevens, Stella Tew and Jane Morris transformed the ringing chamber into one of the brightest and most colourful in the Guild!



National 12 Bell Contest

The band representing Birmingham won their 12-bell eliminator, at St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, in March. The team then proceeded to the final on the heavy ring at Exeter Cathedral in June, finishing a close second to the home team.

The Exeter band produced a stunning piece of ringing to claim the trophy for the very first time! Many congratulations to the band, who hosted a superb event in the gorgeous surroundings of the Cathedral.

The 2020 Final is scheduled to take place at Sheffield Cathedral.

Brumdingers

The Brumdingers are progressing very well and still managing to enjoy

themselves greatly. They are perfectly capable of ringing rounds and call changes by themselves – a sight to behold because they don't get the concept of only the conductor talking!

Seven or them rang for the Christingle Service at St Mary's. One of the Brumdingers, Susan, has started ringing at other towers and will be starting at the School this month. Luke Daniel's son Elliot is the other way round – he has just started to be taught by Tony at the School and is going to come along to Brumdingers as well.

Sheldon

At St Giles, Sheldon, we have continued with our monthly practices. The main aim of these is to improve our Sunday Service ringing. In August we concentrated on St Simon's Doubles and are now able to ring a



reasonably well-struck plain course. Our recent September practice helped one of our ringers practice the work at bobs for Plain Bob Doubles to help her achieve ringing a touch. At the same practice more experienced ringers rang touches of Reverse Canterbury Doubles.

The difference between a special practice and an ordinary practice is that everyone commits to coming in the same way that they would to wedding ringing. This then enables us to invite helpers from nearby towers to provide the necessary support and enable ringers to benefit from having a stander-behind. As it requires intense concentration, we have a short break for refreshments and a chat. To make it worthwhile it is necessary to plan these practices carefully in advance, but the hard work involved is well rewarded by the sense of achievement that we feel as a tower as a result.



Harborne

Congratulations to Mike and Eileen Keeble, graduates of BSoBR and ringers at Harborne, on ringing their first peal. The peal was rung as part of the Harborne ringers' "remembering soldiers from Harborne" project and commemorates the centenary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.





We've been working on touches of Stedman for some time at St Alphege but needed some assistance to help us progress. So in February, we hosted the X Practice, requesting Stedman Caters. This went pretty well and several of us felt a good deal more confident afterwards.

We also volunteered St Alphege for the three month "swap week" trial, so when this was deferred and we were offered a quarter peal prior to our normal practice instead, we jumped at the chance to ring Stedman Triples. This was successful with Linda Whitehead ringing her first quarter peal of Stedman. Most of the non-St Alphege ringers stayed on for our normal practice afterwards, which enhanced the experience for our non-quarter peal ringers too. This assistance was much appreciated and we'll be looking for more opportunities to progress our Stedman. Perhaps a quarter peal of Caters next?

St
Paul's
Visiting ringers
to St Paul's notice
emphasis is placed on
striking rather than ringing complex methods. All bands are
placed rather than using a 'catch hold if you want to'
approach. Using these techniques, it is possible to tailor each
touch for a specific recipient, granting the beneficiary a
quality opportunity to develop. Visitors often mention the

The St Paul's Society won the Tewkesbury Shield in 2019, successfully navigating a lengthy touch of Stedman Caters. We intend to return to Tewkesbury next year if we are lucky in the ballot for places, and in the interim we will continue with our development using 'Rounds & Squares' as well as method ringing. The thing about striking is that however good you believe a band has become there is always room for improvement, and we know we have a long way still to go.

experience is not something they are used to, but are pleased

Birmingham University of Bell Ringing

to see.

For some time we have been thinking about a purpose built ringing training facility. It has always been one of those projects with lots of talk and no action! Well the action has started now as Clare and I have met and briefed an architect to produce a concept design that will help with identifying a good place to build it, and help get backing for the project. The building would have a normal ring of eight, a ring of six dumbells, a set of booths for individual practice, a handbell room, and central shared space that could also be used for other community groups.

Although the BUoB could easily just be in an empty industrial unit or shed, the intention is for it to be a piece of architecture in its own right which will sit in a public place such as one of Birmingham's parks. This will attract people to it and put ringing into the public eye. Plans to put such a centre into a building in one of the Cemetery chapels (Brandwood End or Witton) have been thwarted by the Council being completely unwilling to allow access to them in the evening when they are shut.

So the new line of attack is to have a great looking building and persuade the Council to allow us to put it in one of the Parks (for example, Sutton or Cannon Hill).



ART: Teaching Bell Handling

The ART teaching bell handling course, M1, was held on Saturday 27th April 2019 at St Paul's, Birmingham. The course was led by Clare McArdle and there were 11 students from towers across Birmingham and beyond. We all had varying degrees of experience: some students had been teaching learners for some time whereas others had never taught. We all recognised the importance of developing the skills and confidence to teach bell handling.

The course was structured with alternating theory and practical sessions. The emphasis of the theory was on teaching complex skills by breaking them

down into smaller skills. The learner focuses on the smaller skills and then puts them together. The complex skill can be broken down again if the learner needs it. The importance of giving good, instant feedback to learners was made clear as was spotting and correcting incorrect handling before it becomes permanent! The practical sessions followed were extremely important for developing the confidence to allow learners to handle a bell from the start while remaining in control of the learning process. Clare made the point that, even if we did not have a learner to teach straight away, we could practice our teaching skills on experienced ringers and keep those skills fresh. We worked together during the practical sessions with some of us being teachers, some being learners and then swapping over.

One of the most useful things we did during the practical sessions was to start teaching ringing a bell up and down straight away. The learner feels the weight of the bell and holds and pulls the rope right from the start but the teacher can minimise risks through controlling the 'up' part of the process. Before the course I had never realised that this could be the main way to teach bell handling.

At the end of the course we were given lots of useful resources, links to the Smart ringer website and the name of our mentor who will guide us to become accredited ART teachers. I was on the course with two ringing colleagues from my tower. Since the course, we have been teaching our learners in dedicated bell handling sessions as a team of three teachers. We have been able to use all the skills we learnt in the course and we have supported each other throughout. Our confidence as teachers has improved massively.

Report by Sarah Vernon.



Shirley

The Rev. Richard Postill, Canon Emeritus of Birmingham Cathedral and member of the Shirley Band, celebrated 50 years as an ordained priest during 2019.

He was ordained in St Martin's Church on 21st
September 1969 by Bishop Leonard Wilson and apart
from three years, has served all his ministry in the
Birmingham Diocese. The Shirley Ringers rose to the
occasion and celebrated with a Quarter Peal of
Cambridge Minor, Cambridge being the place where
Richard trained for the ministry. The photo shows
Richard with the QP band. The next day there was a
celebratory Eucharist at St James the Great, Shirley, with
Richard presiding. Congratulations to Richard from all the
Band at Shirley.







Knowle

Following his 90th birthday on 30th January 2019, William Mills and the band from Knowle rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples on Saturday 2nd February. This was particularly creditable as the ringing chamber was icy cold and it steadfastly stayed that way throughout!

William is a loyal and regular member of the Knowle band and climbs the awkward staircase to ring for Sunday services and practices. After the quarter peal and photos, William, his wife and a dozen other local ringers repaired to a local pub for a celebratory lunch

ART Conference 2019

The Guild was well represented at the Association of Ringing (ART) conference, held this year at Worcestershire County Cricket Ground over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd March.

Mark Regan started proceedings off with one of the keynote presentations, entitled "Ringing in Worcester – the Future", which began by taking us back three centuries to when Worcester's bells replaced a 20cwt 8, realising the vision of one Richard Cattley. Mark ended by asking us to imagine ringers 100 years from now returning – what visions of ours would amaze them?

Later in the day Simon Linford and Clare McArdle presented "LtR Plus and Pickled Eggs". ART's LtR Plus scheme, to help ringers move on from the basics once they have completed all five levels of Learning the Ropes, has been relaunched and it is now open to anyone. It is a modular scheme guiding learners through a range of methods from Doubles to the Core Seven Pickled Egg methods. The stepping-stones provided by the LtR Plus scheme are designed to help get ringers across the barriers that often prevent them moving from basic skills to advanced skills.

The ART Awards rounded off the proceedings on Saturday. Again the Guild was well represented, not least by Stephanie Warboys, the ART Awards Organiser. Brumdingers were runners up in the Sarah Beacham School & Youth award — Simon now has the difficult task of persuading them not to spend all of the prize money on caramel wafers... Tim and Jenny Sunter received a Highly Commended in the Learning the Ropes Contribution award (see photograph).

On Day two, a workgroup day led by the CCCBR Volunteers and Leadership Group, the Guild was represented by James Ramsbottom, one of our CC Reps and a member of the V&L Workgroup. The keynote presentation of the day, "A Vision for the Future of Youth Ringing", was delivered by David Hull.

For a small Guild, we certainly made an impact.







Simon Linford:

thank you!

With the news that Simon Linford has been elected President of the Central Council, a little reflection on his achievements seems appropriate. Simon deserves recognition as one of bell ringing's most innovative and inspiring leaders.

When Simon became Master of the St Martin's Guild in 2009 he saw the potential the Guild had to offer to improve and develop ringing within Birmingham. He sought to reinvigorate the Guild, believing that his role as Master could be instrumental in leading on this. Simon publicly made it known that his aim was to remain Master until the Guild had as many ringers as it had bells.

This renewed focus of the Guild's prime objective – indeed its raison d'être – has been the driving force in changing the Guild's activities. Simon was clear. Any activity the Guild hosted was re-examined. Anything held simply because of tradition was abolished and replaced. The Guild was re-structured: the Northern and Southern Area Ringing Master posts were suspended and activities were centralised. Generic Guild practices were replaced with focused sessions to help ringers develop in specific areas.

Simon, himself an outstanding ringer, sought to bridge the wide gap between the less experienced ringers within the Guild and the highly talented members of the St Martin's band. One of Simon's first initiatives was to start a quarterly newsletter. He worked hard to get contributions from as many people as possible. The first edition ran to five pages; the newsletter for the first quarter of 2016 was thirteen pages long and Simon was beginning to complain that he was struggling to fit everything in. The newsletter has put names to faces, keeps members informed and celebrates all that is good in the Guild.

In 2012 Simon brought grass-roots and top-end ringers together on the first Adult Learners' Event (ALE). The idea was simple – a locally based ringing outing, accessible by public transport, giving less experienced ringers the opportunity to listen to and take part in ringing that would be better than the ringing in their own tower. In preparation, Simon targeted some of the best ringers in the Guild and invited them along. The first of these outings identified some serious shortcomings in the teaching that prevailed at local tower level and many of the ringers were struggling to ring competently in rounds, but crucially, it was an immensely enjoyable social occasion for all concerned. Drawing participants from all over the Diocese, friendships began to form and a social network began to develop. The ALEs have continued and are always one of the highlights of the Guild's calendar. They have developed to the extent that Simon no longer needs to ensure that there are enough experienced ringers in support, as they look forward to each outing as much as the members who are benefitting from the support. Over the seven years since their inception there has been a huge improvement in the standard of ringing of the less experienced ringers.

The early experiences of running the ALEs were one of the catalysts that brought about the foundation of the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing, the Guild's flagship training and recruitment programme. Key members of the team that Simon has built around him came together and the idea was mooted, thrashed out and, with Simon as one of the driving influences, the School was formed in September 2013. It is highly unlikely that this would have happened without Simon as one of the key players. The Guild now has a consistent purposeful training programme which has seen the training and development of more than ninety ringers through BSoBR. 170 Learning the Ropes certificates have been awarded and the Guild has fifteen tutors accredited through ART,



some of whom came through the School as students, and more in training. Simon plays a core and regular role as a tutor to students and mentor to teachers in training.

Another area in which Simon's influence has been felt, is the development of youth ringing in the Guild. In 2017 "Brumdingers" was born – weekly sessions at St Mary's Moseley for young ringers. The group started with Charlie and a couple of keen individuals, recruited from the local primary school, and its popularity grew, through word of mouth, resulting in a thriving and enthusiastic youth group, who have now entered the Ringing World National Youth Contest twice. In addition to these four core initiatives, Simon has led the way in the provision of numerous other ringing activities, each with an individual focus. In particular, Simon has promoted the need to appreciate the theoretical side of ringing along with the practice. Every one of Simon's initiatives involve pre-set homework. These focus practices are almost too numerous to mention, but have included: Surprise Minor workshops which focused on how such methods are constructed; serial Surprise Major practices with built-in progression; how to conduct Plain Bob Minor; how to conduct Stedman. Simon's initiatives are invariably successful and feedback is, almost without exception, excellent. To ensure this success he uses what has become his trademark formula – prepare by securing the 'buy-in' of experienced ringers and the rest (enhanced, of course, by his expertise as a teacher and communicator) follows.

Simon has never been afraid to stand up to resistance within the Guild, and the wider ringing community, when he has felt change has been necessary. Simon is a conciliatory man, preferring to achieve change through persuasion rather than by force. He will lead discussions at Guild meetings, seeking opinions from a wide range of people. However, Simon is also determined when he feels change is essential and will seek out, prior to a meeting, those he feels may be resistant to hear their views and explain why he feels as he does. The respect and regard people have for Simon mean that when he wishes to see something happen, it invariably does. Simon is the absolute 'go-to' man for other Guild officers when we have a difficult problem which needs solving! Simon himself defines inspirational leadership as encouraging others to do things they did not think they could do. Simon embodies the spirit of generosity with a selflessness that has inspired others to come together and reinvent the St Martin's Guild as a forward-thinking association with its members at the core.

Simon prides himself on his many outstanding peal records, especially on completing many "all the work spliced" records. What is equally remarkable is the sheer amount of time Simon gives to helping others achieve their peal records, especially for those to achieve things they did not think they could. A commonly articulated complement paid by many of the less experienced ringers, in particular those who engage with BSoBR, is that they really appreciate the help they receive from those ringers whom they regard as 'on a par with international sporting heroes'. Simon certainly fits that description (even if some of the rest of us don't!). He has brought about a culture of 'sending the elevator back down'. Simon has been instrumental in supporting the Association of Ringing Teachers, believing that the overall objectives and direction of the scheme was exactly what ringing needed. It was Simon who promoted the notion that the Guild should adopt the Learning the Ropes teaching programme, and Simon publicly supported ART through what were at times often challenging obstacles formed by other ringers.

Simon truly has inspired change, not just within the St Martin's Guild, but for ringers all around the country. As he steps down as Master of the Guild, we must be thankful for the huge contribution he has made. The Guild has flourished – membership has increased by over 25% (circa 220 in 2009 to 289 in 2019). St Martin's Guild is frequently singled out as an example of a forward-thinking association in these times of change and uncertainty. The Central Council is extremely fortunate in the election of its new president.

Clare McArdle and Arthur Reeves.



The 131st Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner: Saturday 23 February 2019

The 131st Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner was held on Saturday 23rd February 2019 with Alan Regin MBE acting as the Chairman. This year the dinner returned to the Banqueting Suite in Birmingham's impressive Victorian Council House in Victoria Square, much to the relief of those attending. Around 100 ringers were present, both local and distant St Martin's Guild members plus many supporters and friends from around the country, many of whom regard the evening and indeed the whole weekend as one of the key events in the national ringing calendar.

Unlike some dinners where the speeches are somewhat of an afterthought, to be endured rather than enjoyed, the tradition at the Henry Johnson is rather the reverse where the speeches, from well-known ringing personalities are an interesting and entertaining part of the evening.

As is traditional, the proceedings opened with the Chairman proposing a toast to the memory of the late Henry Johnson reminding those present of something about the history of Henry Johnson himself. Born in Lichfield in 1809 he was drawn to Birmingham like so many of his generation as the Industrial Revolution took hold. He learned to ring at Aston and rang his first peal there in 1830. He went on to have a great influence on the development of ringing in Birmingham and more widely. He was a respected composer and many of his compositions were published in 'Bell News' which served to establish his fame as a ringer nationwide. He was held in such high regard that the first dinner was organised in his memory by Sir A P Hayward one of the founders of the Central Council.

The welcome to guests and visitors was proposed by Jack Page, surely one of the next generation of great ringers if not one already – he is even a member of BUSCR! Jack found it somewhat difficult to distinguish between members and guests now that the St Martin's Guild has removed its residence qualification for membership and thrown itself open to likeminded ringers everywhere. In an amusing speech he managed to make everyone welcome whilst revealing that he had almost disqualified himself by forgetting to pay his subs before being reminded by certain 'Guild heavies'.



The response was given by Ian Campbell on behalf of the guests. He recalled his first visit to Birmingham to ring two peals in 1968 and he complemented the Guild on its bells, its ringers, the welcome that it extended to all and the local and national friendships that were cherished by ringers as a result. Ian paid particular tribute to the work being carried out by the Birmingham School of Bellringing led by Clare McArdle and made the extremely generous donation of a set of handbells to the School for use in their work. This set had come into his possession wrapped in newspaper dated 1933 as a gift from the family of a former East Riding ringer.

The bells were then rung to a fantastic touch of Bristol Maximus by Henry Pipe, Alfie Pipe, David Pipe, Jack Page, Michael Wilby, and Alistair Cherry, probably the first time they had been rung to Maximus. Further musical entertainment was provided by James Ramsbottom with Chris Kippin on keyboard in a variety of WW1 songs, reflecting the overall theme of the evening.

Alan Regin then reflected on the work that he had carried out maintaining and updating the Rolls of Honour of ringers who lost their lives in WW1 and read out the names and brief biographies of the former members of the Guild recorded as making the ultimate sacrifice. The rendition of The Last Post on handbells was particularly poignant.

Linda Garton proposed the continued prosperity of the St Martin's Guild in a witty speech where the main action took place in Heaven where there seemed to be a surprising amount of ringing taking place and where God was found musing on how he could be more like Simon Linford. Finally the Guild Master, Simon himself responded by paying tribute to this year's Chairman for his achievements in ringing over the years, his peals at home and abroad and in particular the great service he had rendered to the Exercise in the painstaking work to research and update the records of those ringers lost in the First World War.

Report by Tim Martin.





Samuel Lawrence and his Birmingham friends:

a commemoration and an appeal

Shifnal, where St Andrew's parish church has a 19 cwt ring of eight, is about half way on the old road between Shrewsbury and Birmingham, and on Saturday 5th June 1819, Samuel Lawrence, a native of the town, met his Birmingham friends there for a peal – their first of Stedman Triples. It was successfully completed, becoming the second true peal of this kind ever rung, its composer Henry Cooper 'sitting in the steeple' calling from manuscript.

Lawrence (1763–1825) was one of the most eminent ringers of his day, and as a peal ringer one of the most widely travelled, as we can tell from his exceptionally engaging personal peal-book now in the care of the Shrewsbury Record Office. He rang the 10th in the first ever peal of Stedman Cinques at St Martin in the Fields in 1788, and the 9th in the first peal of Stedman Caters outside London, which was at St Philip's Birmingham two years later and 'completed at the first attempt'. He conducted many of his early peals, and altogether he took part in more than seventy performances — a very high total for that period. In the pre-railway age, he was in peals not only in Shropshire and the London and Birmingham areas, but also as far afield as Wrexham, Liverpool, Chesterfield, St Albans and Gloucester.

The Birmingham connection

He had a ready-made connection with Birmingham ringers from his earliest days, for Andrew Peake, a leader of that town's ringing in the mid-18th Century, had moved to Shifnal in about 1770 and established a pealringing band there (the Albion Society). Lawrence's first peal was Grandsire Triples at Shifnal in 1783, conducted by Peake, who will surely have been impressed with the young man's aptitude. Lawrence rang his second peal 17 months later at Aston near Birmingham (an eight similar to Shifnal), demonstrating both ability and confidence by calling Oxford Treble Bob Major from the tenor.

He was a great ringer in more than one sense, being thought the second heaviest man in England, at 32 stone; and in his later years he travelled around in a chaise cart built specially for him. He must also have been a great character. John Day tells us in his Recollections that Lawrence was always spoken of by the old ringers 'with the greatest possible respect', and one of them commented in reminiscence 'Ah, John! It is a pity that such men as Lawrence should ever die'.



Stedman Triples

The decade 1811–20 had been a period of strong development in the Birmingham tradition and the idea of achieving a peal of Stedman Triples may have been long in mind. Once Cooper had got a composition out, Lawrence will surely have been keen to join his friends in ringing it. He does not actually state that the peal at Shifnal was the first attempt, and the footnote in the peal-book is a little ambiguous: 'Such is the difficulty of the undertaking that no company has yet attempted it except the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths, London, who completed a peal at St Giles [in the Fields] about 20 years ago' (This was Noonan's peal, 22nd May 1799). In a later note, he acknowledges the peal at Kensington on 4th December 1803 by the College Youths, and adds that Noonan's peal 'is little thought of as to truth or correctness'. In fact, it was the 1803 peal that was subsequently found to be false.

What is clear is that they recognised the unique challenges of Stedman Triples – participants in such peals today will know them well – and it seems quite possible that there had been one or more attempts in the Birmingham area, with Aston a very likely venue. As usual, there is no evidence of any lost peals. Anyway, we may picture Lawrence proposing a summer day's outing to his home tower to go for the peal, and the band being happy to agree. The Birmingham contingent were all leading peal-ringers: James Jarvis; Thomas Chapman; Thomas Worrall; Thomas Thurstans; William Hassall; Alexander Sanders; and Henry Cooper was among the most experienced of conductors. So they must have rated their chances quite highly.

A Controversy

The successful peal, rung in three hours and two minutes, did not however escape 'attempts to throw discredit on the very able performance'. Lawrence wrote a strongly-argued defence, a copy of which, together with the figures for the composition, is among the papers kept with his book. He mentions the attestations of several well-qualified witnesses, and gives details of changes per minute and overall timings of various peals, which he felt necessary as 'evidence as to its truth and stability that shall silence the malevolent and set scepticism at rest'. He does however admit that they had a problem shortly after the half-way single:

[At that time] and two courses after, there was scarcely a bad blow. Our Tenor Man was now knock'd up, came among us and threw us into confusion for about 3 Minutes, which was completely recovered, & Mr Cooper will make oath that all the calls were made during the blunder and after. The ringing may not be quite so good for some little time after, but each man was in confidence & there was no blundering nor firing after that time & the bells came home as fair & as true as the first single was made.

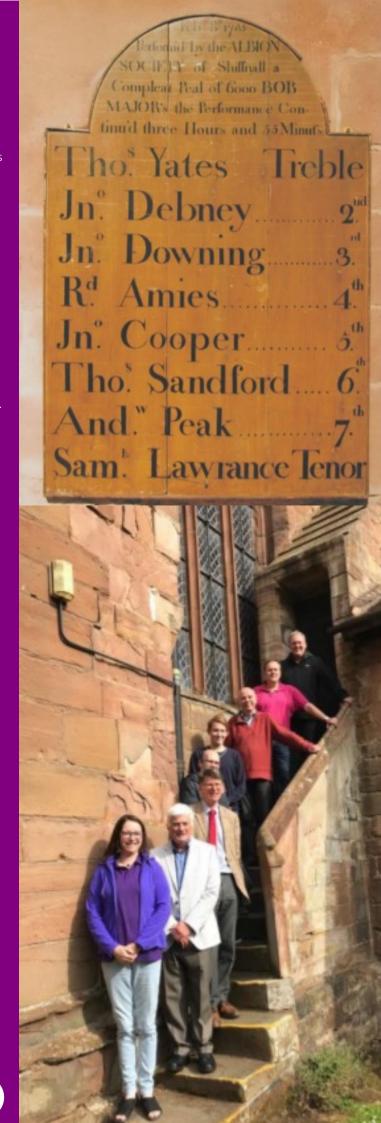
The unfortunate tenor man – Joseph Patchett – from Stourbridge, must have been regarded as normally reliable: he had, for example, rung the tenor at Bromsgrove for the opening peals of Caters on two successive days in 1816 (the first of which had not come round cleanly), and he was on the eighth at Dudley for a peal of Royal in December 1820. So one imagines at Shifnal all was forgiven in the pub afterwards.

The Commemoration

On 5th June this year, 200 years later to the day, this historic performance was commemorated by a Birmingham band in a repetition of the original peal – and the bells had not been out of the tower in the meantime (see band photograph).

It was not an exact replication: our conductor Mark Eccleston called every call of the Cooper composition from memory with miraculous assurance; our tenor man Richard Grimmett avoided the least lapse throughout (not without effort, he said); Michael Wilby took Lawrence's bell, the seventh, but did not say, as Lawrence is reported to have said, 'What sort of a peal do you call that? For I have rung sixty plain courses!' (he knew in advance). But we did spend a large part of the day in celebratory mode, and it was good to feel so warmly welcomed by the Vicar Revd Chris Thorpe, by the tower captain John Burton, and by other local ringers.

In assembling in the churchyard near the entrance to the central tower, we stood within a yard or two of Lawrence's grave. This is no longer marked, but we were told that pieces of his tombstone now form the lowest steps of the belfry stair.



The Shifnal peal-boards

The Albion Society of Shifnal was, for a small town, remarkably active in the late 18th Century change-ringing scene, but knowledge of it has depended on the survival of Lawrence's peal-book, and also on the historic peal-boards which record many performances from 1774 onwards. Three or four decades ago these six boards were removed from the ringing chamber. There was reason for this: old photographs show a room overburdened with the large dark boards leaning into the room. So three were moved to a wall behind the organ in the church, and others were left standing on the floor in a storage area; all are now in need of conservation work, the loose ones damaged and in some danger of eventual loss.

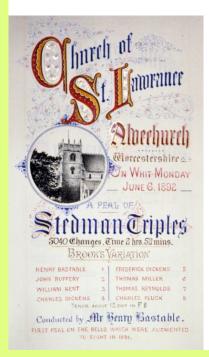
The names of Peake and Lawrence appear on the earliest boards, and as part of our bicentenary plans we felt an effort should be made to preserve these tangible memorials to the Birmingham-Shifnal link. Fortunately we found our idea readily received by Revd Chris Thorpe and the Shifnal ringers, and on the strength of our successful bid for Heritage Lottery funding for the renovation of old peal-boards at the Bull Ring in 2013, we assisted with applying for an HLF grant covering work on all six boards. A thorough report by conservationist Annabelle Monaghan and letters of support from the well-known belfry historians John Eisel and Chris Pickford were submitted and a faculty obtained. But to our surprise and disappointment we heard in March this year that the Lottery application had failed.

An Appeal

So a new approach is now necessary. One obstacle to be taken into account is a requirement not to launch a public campaign locally, since appeals in respect of other church projects are in train. It had been agreed that the two smallest boards, which are both the most attractive and the most in need of restoration, would be returned to the walls of the ringing chamber, bringing the names of Peake and Lawrence back to the attention of new generations of ringers. Permission has been kindly given for us as representatives of the St Martin's Guild to take responsibility for this part of the plan, coupling it with a new board (comparatively modest in size) commemorating the 1819 Stedman Triples and the marking of its bicentenary (there is no existing memorial). Together these boards would express something of the proud history of the Albion Society, and the special connection and friendship that existed between it and St Martin's Youths, which was in that period among the most accomplished bands of ringers in the country. It is a connection that has been renewed over the last 18 months with a friendly exchange of practice-night visits by ringers at St Paul's Birmingham and St Andrew's Shifnal.

We hope that members and others keen to see the preservation of this history would be willing to subscribe to meeting the cost of the necessary work of conservation on the two early boards, which is estimated at a total of £2,400. Contributions to the St Martin's Guild Shifnal Commemoration project will be very gratefully acknowledged. Please contact Richard Jones or Richard Grimmett if you wish to contribute.

SMG Library and Archives



The St Martin's Guild library is one of the largest and most impressive of its kind.

As a collection of wide-ranging ringing-related materials, it is intended to be a resource for both practical ringers and those with more historical interests to pursue.

The collection comprises printed books and pamphlets, electronic material, and archival items.

Contact the SMG Archivist for further information, or see the library pages at:

https://www.stmartinsguild.org



Guild Outing to York: Saturday 12 October 2019



Whether it was a chance to visit the beauty of York's historic centre, ringing itself, the Minster or breakfast at McDonald's, this year's Guild trip was enjoyed by nearly 50 members. Here, three Guild members recall their highlights.

Philip Sealey writes: I'd never rung at York Minster before, though heard the bells at close quarters when I went up to the 1980 National 12-bell Striking Contest to support the Guild (they came second, sadly). Impressed by their musicality and the unlikely combination of delicacy and majesty, I made a mental note to go and ring there some time, not knowing that almost 40 years would pass before it happened.

My luck was in when Simon Linford's notice went out earlier this year regarding the Guild outing. I'd been on ringing outings to York before, but the Minster never featured. This was a SJLL promotion though: not only were we going to ring at the Minster (the seat of an archbishop, no less), it was to be for Evensong. No pressure then! Whilst most ringers' faces were inscrutable, I'll admit to private nerves before and on the day. Would I get up the 100 (100!) chunky stairs without needing the paramedics (yes I did) and would I be able to hold up that first backstroke round the front when pulling off on a substantial ring of 12 (yes I did, twice).

Arthur was nervous too, pacing up and down with a frown and a clipboard containing lists, which, much to Tracy Stevens' amusement, had been amended, renumbered and re-grouped during the morning. He need not have worried though and the day went faultlessly as he pulled everything together.

Up in the vast ringing room, flooded with natural light, we pulled off and rang a bob course of Grandsire Cinques to start. The sound was indescribable (in a good way!), so I won't try. Suffice it to say that, for me, spine-tingling and a certain amount of welling-up featured as the various tones and harmonics filled the air, and it was an unforgettable experience.

I've focused on the Minster as it dominated the day. However, there was lots more to do, with other towers to ring at, pubs to go to and tours to be had, all aided by a splendidly informative map produced by David Hull which was the go-to piece of paper for the event. It was truly a grand day for all.

Sara Paulson (Brumdingers) writes: It's 06:00 in the morning, my alarm goes off and it's not a school day! The promise of a McDonald's breakfast was too good to resist, ready to set me up for the busy day ahead. We met up with some of Brumdingers – our young ringers' group – at New Street station along with many others.

Two and a half hours later we arrived in York and we rapidly walked to the first church - All Saints, North Street. The Church was a ground floor ring and having rung Plain Hunt and Call Changes, we headed off to the next tower, St Olave's, which is a 6-bell tower. It was decided that if all three 12 year old girls (Charlie, Eliza and me) could ring a touch of Plain Bob Minor inside, we would celebrate by going shopping and having another McDonald's! After we successfully completed our task, we headed off into town for a bit of retail therapy.





Our next church was St Wilfrid's and we walked there armed with my new Primark handbag and full of chicken nuggets. After a quick ring here, we were ready and keen to get to the Minster. The first thing I thought when I reached the top of the tower was how clean it was! The bells were very heavy so I only rang the second and third bells. I normally enjoy ringing heavy bells and the Minster had a very nice ring of 12. Some of the many ringers went up to watch the bells in motion in the bell chamber whilst they were being rung. After the ringing we had a short but special guided tour of the minster (see photograph of the Brumdingers in action at the Minster).

Soon after this, we watched the adults have a quick pint in the pub, before catching our train back to Birmingham. I was shattered but I had a fantastic day.

John Rogers writes: As morning broke to bright sunshine in York, a band of ringers of all ages from Birmingham were on their way for a much anticipated tour of bell towers in the city centre. Most arrived by train for the day, some came for a long weekend – one even came for a week's holiday ending with a day of ringing!

The first church of the day and our meeting point was at All Saints in North Street, a ground floor eight led by Clare McArdle who organised ringers dependent upon abilities into teams to ring Rounds, Plain Hunting and Cambridge Surprise Major to name a few. After an hour's ringing at All Saints, we made our way through the park and across the river bridge to St Olave's Marygate), another ground floor ring of six bells. Our leader here was Mark Eccleston and he organised teams to ring Plain Bob Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire Doubles and some Plain Hunting.



Before we broke for lunch, our large group of 48 ringers was split into two groups in anticipation of the afternoon ringing sessions at our next two towers - St Wilfrid's and York Minster.

After a short lunch and enjoyable ring at St Wilfrid's, the main event of the day was having the opportunity to ring at the Minster, a fantastic ring of 12 bells. We did this in two groups and while each group rang, the other group had a guided tour of the Minster. The ringing was led for both groups by Simon Linford and we were accompanied by very experienced ringers from the Minster. Our ringers were also given the opportunity to go up into the belfry to see all 12 bells in motion.

All in all, a very enjoyable day was had by everyone, and for that we have to thank a lot of people.

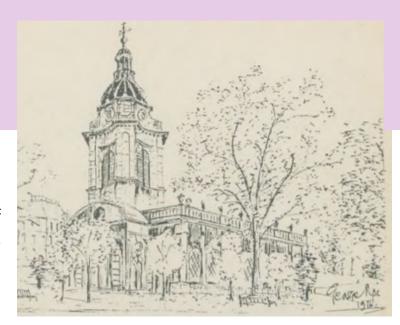
We are indebted to David Hull for organising the itinerary for the day and for making the arrangements at each church for us to ring there. Alison Edmonds gave up her time to show two groups around the Minster and we all certainly benefitted from her extensive knowledge of the Minster and its history. We must also thank the St Martin's Guild organisers and leaders at each tower for their experience and patience and for giving up their time to benefit us all!



Birmingham Cathedral: 2000 peals

The 2000th tower-bell peal at Birmingham Cathedral was rung on 17 June 2019. St Philip's is the third location, second church, but first Cathedral to reach this milestone: the other locations being Loughborough Bell Foundry and Meldreth. A good peal of Bristol Maximus was scored; the band drawn from some of the ringers who have rung the most peals on the bells in recent decades. The peal comprised ringers who between them had rung 2748 peals on the bells with Rick Shallcross taking prime position as the head of the band having rung his first peal on the bells in 1964. A peal of Stedman Caters, rung at St Paul's on the same evening, enabled other Monday night regulars to be included, the Cathedral band being oversubscribed with deserving cases.

1439 different ringers have taken part in the first 2000 peals on the bells and whilst new additions to the band are always welcome, the weekly peal attempts have retained a core of experienced ringers over many decades. 50 ringers have now each rung over 100 peals on the bells, many of them retaining a somewhat static position in the circle. This categorization, when applied in a constructive way, can provide reassuring stability within a peal. Individuals can develop an intimate knowledge of a particular bell, enabling them to concentrate on lifting the performance of the wider band instead of focusing on any arbitrary personal targets such as circling the tower. Although a similar approach is adopted in other ringing centres, Birmingham appears to have taken this categorization to the extreme as demonstrated by Peter



Drawing of Birmingham Cathedral by George Pipe, 1976

Border's phenomenal total of 523 peals on the 31cwt tenor. This bell is challenging to ring well and Peter's total is every bit as remarkable as his many other celebrated heavy bell performances.

It is perhaps unsurprising therefore that only 40 ringers have circled the 12 to peals, the first being George Fearn in 1960. Only three women have circled the tower: Fran Dodds in 1984, Julia Cater in 1991, and Sue Marshall in 2009. The quickest to circle the tower is Paul Needham who took just over 12 months, whilst the slowest is David Brown who took just over 44 years. Only three ringers have circled the tower as conductor: Peter Border, Rod Pipe and Michael Wilby. The only women to feature on the list of conductors are Fran Dodds with 12 peals, and Eleanor Linford, Stephanie Pattenden, Muriel Reay, Stephanie Warboys and June Wells on one peal each.





The 2000th tower-bell peal at Birmingham Cathedral: Bristol Surprise Maximus, rung on 17 June 2019. Band (clockwise from front right): Stephanie Warboys, Mark Eccleston, David Hull (C), David Pipe, Rick Shallcross, Paul Needham, Dickon Love, Paul Bibilo, Jonathan Healy, Simon Linford, Tom Griffiths, Michael Wilby

It was back in 1978 that the 1000th peal at the Cathedral was rung — albeit on two separate occasions. A band had been carefully selected and a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus scored on Saturday 16 September 1978. It was only a few days later that further examination of the master list of peals at the Cathedral exposed some discrepancies. Hasty checking and cross-checking of peal reports in *The Ringing World* and *Bell News* revealed that the 1000th peal was actually only number 998. A new date was fixed for the 'real' 1000th although two of the original band, Alan Ainsworth and Muriel Reay, were unable to ring. Alan had been a driving force behind the Cathedral peals during the 1960s, and Muriel had amassed a significant proportion of her own 1000 peals on these bells. The rearranged attempt did however allow Peter Border to now ring — and he rang the Cathedral tenor to a peal for the 344th time.

On 17 June 2019, the 2000th peal at Birmingham Cathedral was scored more simply and at the first attempt. The peal, organised by Michael Wilby, comprised ringers who between them had rung 2748 peals on the bells with Rick Shallcross taking prime position as the head of the band having rung his first peal on the bells in 1964. A peal of Stedman Caters, rung at St Paul's on the same evening, enabled other Monday night regulars to be included, the Cathedral band being oversubscribed with deserving cases.

We are grateful to have supportive clergy at St Philip's. The achievements of the ringers are regularly relayed to worshippers on a Sunday morning and feature prominently in Cathedral literature. In recent years the Monday evening peal attempts have clashed with a midweek evening service: the Cathedral authorities and the bellringers negotiating a friendly compromise that ringing should not start until at least 5:53pm, mid-point during the 15 minute service. With a cut-off time to conclude peals by 9:30pm, this does not leave much room for manoeuvre if a ringer is delayed negotiating Spaghetti Junction on their way into the city centre.

ST MARTIN'S GUILD

BIRMINGHAM, West Midlands

Cathedral Church of St Philip

Monday, 17 June 2019 in 3h 23 (31–0–21 in D)

5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus

Composed by R W Pipe

1 Stephanie J Warboys

2 Mark R Eccleston

3 David G Hull (C)

4 David J Pipe

5 Frederick Shallcross

6 Paul Needham

7 Dickon R Love

8 Paul E Bibilo

9 Jonathan P Healy

10 Simon J L Linford

11 Thomas W Griffiths

12 Michael P A Wilby

100th peal of Bristol S Maximus: 10.

The 2000th tower-bell peal in the tower.

Maurice Edwards is associated with this peal, having to stand down due to incapacity.

ST MARTIN'S GUILD

BIRMINGHAM, West Midlands

St Paul

Monday, 17 June 2019 in 2h 50 (12−2−13 in F#)

5004 Stedman Caters

Composed by M R Eccleston

1 Jack E Page (C)

2 Alistair J Cherry

3 Luke G Groom

4 John H Fielden

5 Jack P Gunning

6 Paul McNutt

7 Jonathan B Townsend

8 Paul Jopp

9 James P Ramsbottom

10 Gordon R Birks

A peal rung in anticipation of the 2000th peal at the Cathedral Church of St Philip, Birmingham by members of the Monday night band. With thanks to Bill Haynes for dropping out after accidentally meeting 11.



Exploring England's Belfries: a pictorial essay

Christopher Dalton (1941–2008) has been described as 'one of the greatest post-war photographers of historic buildings'. He was also a distinguished archaeologist of bells and belfries. The book illustrated below and the subject of this article, with more than one hundred photographs reproduced to a high standard, is a selection from his work portraying churches in their landscape settings, tower exteriors and interiors, historic bell frames, and a chronological sequence of bells and their ornamentation.

It is not widely known that England's belfries contain a rich heritage of bells by a great variety of makers of all periods, including some very fine examples of medieval bell-founding. In these pages one can trace the outline of this craft tradition, from a remarkable 11th-century survival to a product of the Victorian industrialised bell-trade. The book is aimed both at ringers and at a wider readership of people with an interest in historic churches and English bell design.

"In these pages one can trace the outline of this craft tradition, from a remarkable 11th-century survival to a product of the Victorian industrialised bell-trade."

The photographer was a close friend of mine whom I met through ringing, and over many years I spent a lot of time assisting him in his belfry research and photography. In putting together this commemorative book, I have added an appendix of background material, including short introductory essays on the casting and tuning of bells, and on conservation issues; and there are descriptions of each belfry represented.

The Ringing World is planning to publish a review of the book early in 2020.

Richard Jones.

PUBLISHED 15 NOVEMBER 2019

'EXPLORING ENGLAND'S BELFRIES'

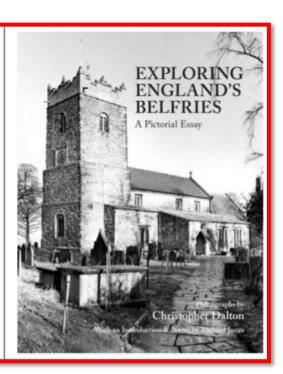
A Pictorial Essay
Photographs by Christopher Dalton
With an Introduction and Notes by Richard Jones

The Bardwell Press www.bardwell-press.co.uk
Tithe Barn House, 11 High Street, Cumnor, Oxford
OX2 9PE

ISBN: 978-1-905622-57-3

Hardback 232pp price: £39.95 (plus £5.00 p&p)

297 x 230mm 104 black & white photographs





Arthur Reeves

A few years back, I began my report by introducing Janus – the Roman God for whom January is named after. The Guild is about to undergo some more change, but Janus (as he has for the last two thousand odd years) remains the same. He is a two-faced God; one looking backwards to the past and the other forward to the future (less flattering is his reputation for being deceitful, hence the term Janus-faced, but we shall not dwell on that for now!)

Looking back

The last year has seen the Guild continue an extensive programme of events. Each month, there is at least one event suitable for most of our members. There are regular focus practices of 6 bell methods (usually extensions of minor), Surprise Major and something on higher numbers – either Caters or Cinques. Not all of these are organised by committee members. In fact, the vast majority are organised by others – either by towers keen to augment their practices (such as the monthly Shirley Surprise Major practice) or by a very active group of volunteers. Once again, Phil Ramsbottom has tirelessly organised a super programme of Guild activities of which I am very grateful for, as I know are many members. My thanks also to Jonathan Townsend for organising several higher number practices and quarter peals. And I'm only reporting on what we as Guild officers know about. Keith Whitehead remarked to me the other day that he suspects there is a lot of activity across the Guild that we do not hear of. I suspect he is right. So a reminder to all Guild members that if you'd like your practice advertised (for free!) on the monthly digest, just drop me an email. And if you'd like some more experienced ringers to come and support you, get in touch too – I'll do my best to get across myself or ask other friendly ringers to do so.

One of my aims when I became Ringing Master was to develop and enhance communication across the Guild. I feel, with the regular newsletters and monthly digest emails, this is in a good place now. Huge thanks to Andy Clark for his sterling work on the newsletter over the last few years. A more recent aim has been to ensure that centralised Guild activities are as representative of what members want and need as far as possible. So 2019 saw the emergence of a range of successful "X Practices" — practices hosted by towers where Guild officers would run a practice directed by the local ringers. We hosted well-attended practices ranging from Bristol Surprise Maximus to Plain Bob Doubles and Foundation Skills. Again, thanks to those who ran and attended these practices. I'd now like to develop these further (see below for my thoughts!)

One final aim of mine over the last 5 years has been to ensure the Guild remains as inclusive as possible. I've been delighted that the vast majority of Guild activities have been extremely well attended over the year. Our outing to York was very well received and was attended by over 50 members.

Our recent Challenge Day saw over 40 members competing across a range of enjoyable challenges; Eleanor Linford's team narrowly beat their competitors. Similarly, a good number joined our annual walking tour in July ably organised by Mike Dodson. Admittedly, we have some work to do to improve attendance at the 6 Bell Striking Contest, but otherwise it is wonderful to see the active engagement we have among members.

Looking forward

With Simon moving on, the Guild is inevitably going to see some change. The last few years of change reminds me of another Greek link – that of Theseus' ship. Theseus' ship returns from battle and is preserved in a museum. Over time, parts of it need replacing. The philosophical question is how many parts of the ship can be replaced before it is no longer considered appropriate to call it Theseus' ship – is it still Theseus' ship if half of the planks are replaced? If most of the planks and the mast are renewed? What if we replace all of the original features of the entire ship? At what 'change' does the ship stop being Theseus' ship?

My point here is that whilst we have spent time over the last few years reflecting on Guild activities and, with Simon moving on, inevitably further change will happen; the core values and direction of the Guild will not change course. We will remain the St Martin's Guild but fit for the 21st century.

Our central purpose remains improving ringing opportunities for ringers. In short, providing the opportunities members on their own will struggle to access. I don't foresee any major changes to the wide range of activities we have on offer across the year. One thing I'd like to consider is how we can provide this support across a longer period of time. A monthly practice on its own, however successful, will not lead to much improvement. So I'd like to consider how we can work more closely on a programme of a practices hosted at a tower – like the X Practice programme, but longer term. This will have to be small to begin with, because capacity will be an issue, but I'd be interested in how we can run a practice at a tower once a month for a duration to improve the local ringers on a particular skill or method. Think your tower might benefit from this? Get in touch!



Tracy Stevens

£4,130 General Fund £12,259
Bell Restoration
Fund

£2300 of subs collected in 2019. Only 1 member remains unpaid. All previous year are now cleared with members either paying off debt or have ceased membership.

Merchandising shows a small profit of £29. We now hold very little stock as orders only take approx. 1 week.

Apportionments: this is the sharing out of money from the general fund into the Library and BRF. At the 2019 AGM it was agreed that the library would receive £75.00 apportionment and the BRF would receive 25% apportionment of annual substotalling £554 this year.

Donations have been received from Life Vice Presidents and Life Members who wish to donate their subscriptions to the BRF and a personal generous donation from a member to the general fund.

The 100 Club has raised £1303 for the BRF this year, £87 of this is donated prizes. The change in the administering of the 100 club this year using a dedicated Gmail account worked very well, we sold more numbers 92 in total and increased the profit to the BRF by £150.

The Guild has donated £300 to the Shifnal peal board appeal.

BRF: Both Knowle and Harborne received their donations for work completed last year.

AmazonSmile has raised £31 for the BRF. Thanks to members who have used AmazonSmile and donated to the BRF.



January 2019		August 2019	
David Flint	£45.50	Steve Pugh	£46.00
	£13.65	Malcolm Paulson	£13.80
Tony Daw		111212211111	£4.60
Brenda Thompson	£4.55	Mary Pipe	±4.6U
February 2019		September 2019	
Clare McArdle	£46.00	Ann Smart	£46.00
Richard Lewis	£13.80	David Hull	£13.80
Chris Mills	£4.60	Graham Kelly	£4.60
March 2019		October 2019	
Margaret Burling	£46.00	Carl Jenkins	£46.00
Margaret Burling	£13.80	Mike Dodson	£13.80
Eleanor Linford	£4.60	Malcolm Paulson	£4.60
April 2019		November 2019	
Jen Hickman	£46.00	David Ingram	£46.00
Steve Pugh	£13.80	Clive Day	£13.80
Janet Horton	£4.60	Catt Smith	£4.60
May 201 9		December 2019	
Olly Bouckley	£46.00	John Anderson	£46.00
Rebekah Horton	£13.80	Arthur Reeves	£13.80
Eileen Keeble	£4.60	Olly Bouckley	£4.60
June 2019		Christmas 2019	
Janet Horton	£46.00	Ruth Shepherd	£88.24
Richard Lewis	£13.80	Ann Smart	£44.12
Margaret Burling	£4.60	Tom Horton	£44.12
July 2019		Ann Smart	£11.03
Sarah Vernon	£46.00	Triona Jowett	£11.03
Mike Rigby	£13.80	Catt Smith	£11.03
Mike Dodson	£4.60	David Ingram	£11.03
	-	<u> </u>	
BRF total	£1,103.00		
Unused admin	£112.30		
Prizes donated	£87.25	BRF total	£1,302.55





Archivist's Report:

Mark Eccleston

Many thanks to Clare McArdle for donating all issues of last year's *The Ringing World*. These have subsequently been bound and incorporated into the Guild Library. Clare has done this for a number of years, negating the need for the Guild to use funds to pay for a Guild subscription. Also, many thanks to Steve Horton for the kind gift of *Exploring England's Belfries*. Such kind gestures are always very much appreciated.

As reported last year, our usual book-binders 'The Binding Place', located in Worcester, have closed for business. A new binding company, 'Perpetua Press', based in Newent, have proved to be a very suitable alternative.

There remains fairly modest use of the Guild library, although the Ringing World DVDs continue to prove popular and have been borrowed during the year. Future tasks include ongoing repackaging activities as well as developing our archive catalogue finding aid which, I must admit, has been a work in progress over a number of years now.

As always, I encourage all members to make use of the library; and I would also welcome discussions with any members who may consider depositing material in the Guild library.

New Accessions

<u>Catalogue no</u>	Title (and other bibliographic details)
NA722	The Ringing World. 2018 (donated by Clare McArdle,
	subsequently bound)
NA723	The Bells of Sherborne Abbey. Peter Soole and Katherine Barker, 2018
NA724	Dove's Guide for Church Bellringers. 11 th edition, 2018
DVD725	The Ringing World DVD 2018
NA726	Coventry Bells. Photocopied report by E. Alexander Young, 1926
NA727	The Tower and Bells of Solihull Church. Edgar C. Shepherd, 1950
NA728	Lead Ends. C. D. P. Davies, 1918
NA729	Stedman. C. D. P. Davies, 1903 (fragile condition)
NA730	The Thompson Papers (incomplete and fragile condition)
NA731	Mysteries Unveiled: a treatise on Stedman Triples. J. W. Parker
NA732	Some peals of Grandsire Triples. Composed by A. J. Corrigan, 1947
NA733	Spliced Minor Collection. CCCBR, 1986
NA734	History of the Worcestershire and Districts Association. P. Cattermole, 1968
NA735	Exploring England's Belfries: a pictorial essay. Photographs of Christopher Dalton. The Bardwell Press, 2019
	(donated by Steve Horton)

In addition, the library has accepted receipt of the following archival material: 2019 Henry Johnson dinner menu card, 23 February 2019; Andy Carr funeral order of service, 24 February 2019; 2019 12 Bell Eliminator programme, Bristol, 23 March 2019; Recording of SMG peal rung at Shifnal, 5 June 2019; 2019 12 Bell Final programme, Exeter, 22 June 2019; Sue Marshall funeral order of service, 26 July 2019; Printed circuits of Stedman Caters by John Carter; and 'table of starting courses of Stedman Cinques in the tittums' by Shirley Burton; copies of Guild newsletters (also held electronically in PDF format); Guild minutes, agendas and meeting papers, 2019.



The Church of England has continued to make safeguarding a key priority through 2019. The training materials have been updated and the training available is at three levels: Awareness, Foundation and Leadership (previously CO, C1 and C2).

Training Requirements

Tower Captains and those who teach bellringing should have Leadership training. The Diocese previously held safeguarding training specifically tailored for tower captains and bellringing teachers and I am working with the Diocesan Safeguarding Training Officer to provide a Leadership module in the autumn of this year. I am also a member of the diocese's Safeguarding Training Reference Group. Those who have not previously done Leadership (C2) training and who need to complete this for the first time will also need to have completed the Awareness and Foundation levels.

Bellringers

The Diocese recommends that bellringers should complete the Awareness and Foundation levels. These are available as on line courses accessed via the C of E portal: https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org

Alternatively, face to face training for Awareness and Foundation levels can be booked via the Diocesan website. All training from the Diocese is provided free of charge.

CCCBR Safeguarding guidance

Guidance from the Central Council was updated in June 2019. The guidance is comprehensive and includes Guild responsibilities, Guild Safeguarding Officer responsibilities and Tower Responsibilities. A summary is below:

Guild Responsibilities

Have an agreed safeguarding policy covering all activities (or sign up to the CCCBR/Diocesan one)

Appoint a safeguarding officer (description of role CCCBR appendix B)

Consider provision of a suitably DBS checked persons to run ringing meetings

Keep an attendance register for guild events, which all attendees must sign, so that everyone is aware who was present at any given time.

Guild Safeguarding officer Responsibilities

Ensure the procedures of the society comply with the guidelines issued by the CCCBR, the dioceses and government legal requirements.

Ensure as far as possible that towers affiliated to the guild are aware of and meet such guidelines and requirements.

Be the custodian of all guild documentation associated with these matters and be responsible for distribution of relevant information to tower and guild officers.

Act as the responsible person where it is the legal responsibility of the guild to ensure suitably qualified (DBS checked) persons are available at guild organised activities.

Tower Responsibilities (Essential in mixed age towers, advised in adult only towers)

Have tower captain appointed by the parish (use CCCBR appendix A as a guide)

Tower captain (and anyone teaching young people 1 on 1) DBS checked

Tower captain to complete Awareness, Foundation and Leadership church safeguarding training

Encourage all ringers to complete Awareness and Foundation church safeguarding training

Keep an attendance register, which all attendees must sign, so that everyone is aware who was present at any given time.

Display Appendix C clearly in the tower



DBS checks

As a reminder, DBS checks are required for Tower Captains, their Deputies, those who teach ringing to young people face to face and those who transport children as a formal arrangement, even if this is a one off.

No DBS checks are required for ringers in a general supporting role, unplanned one off teaching or deputising in an emergency or for transporting children as part of an arrangement between families.

Certificates and their Portability

When a person has undergone a DBS check, the results are notified to the Parish and the individual only will receive a copy of their certificate.

To enhance the usefulness and portability of a certificate, it is recommended that individuals register for the DBS Update Service. This service effectively monitors the status of the individual and can provide confirmation to an interested party that their status has not changed. However, to register for Update this must be done within 30 days of the date of issue of the certificate OR during a period of 28 days whilst their DBS is being processed. Note the time limit has increased from 19 days previously applied.

The Church of England has agreed that ringers carrying out similar youth training functions outside their home parish may rely on their certificate but only within the same Diocese. It is understood that ringers do teach across Diocesan boundaries and in these cases only those who have subscribed to the DBS Update Service may present their details to the host parish.

Appendix C Of the CCCBR Guidance is : **Good Practice for Maintaining a Safe Environment in the Belfry for Young People**

This can be found on the CCBR website:

https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/ SM Safeguarding AppendixC Notice 2019 Ver 2-1.pdf

Audit of Towers

I will be repeating the audit of towers previously carried out two years ago, as one of the responsibilities of my role is to ensure as far as possible that towers affiliated to the guild are aware of and meet such guidelines and requirements.

The audit will be via e mail and questions will require a simple ves/no answer.

Safeguarding and Brumdingers

All appropriate safeguarding procedures and risk assessments were in place when the Brumdingers took part in the National Youth Competition held in Liverpool in the summer. Risk assessments and safeguarding procedures are also in place for the Brumdingers young peoples ringing group held weekly at St Mary's Moseley.

Safe practice guidelines

As I have previously reported, the PCCs of St Mary's and St Anne's in Moseley require all groups to have safe practice guidelines in place for groups where there are children and young people, so these have been produced for bell ringing. If PCCs of other churches require these to be in place for bell ringing, we are happy to share what we have produced.

Alternatively there is a template on the Diocesan website for Safeguarding in mixed age groups:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7mfsu2typob6qno/AADuEQRtFN3XBLI54Wxj5dhia?dl=0&preview=Mixed+Age+Activities.pdf

Safeguarding Support and advice

Support and advice on safeguarding issues has been provided when required.

Contact details for the Guild's Safeguarding Officer are:

Email: trish_everett@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07968 362501

Landline: 0121 449 1088



Henry Johnson Dinner Secretary's Report:

Jenny Sunter



The 2020 Henry Johnson Dinner is returning to the Banqueting Suite at the Birmingham Council House and Gill Postill is this year's Chair. Gill is looking forward to sharing the evening with many friends both near and far and to this end the event has been advertised in the Christmas edition of *The Ringing World*.

The date for the dinner is Saturday 29 February 2020 and the start time is 6.45pm with venue and bar open from 6pm.

There will be a three course meal based on a set starter and dessert and a choice of main course, followed by served coffee/tea. As usual there will be a pay as you drink bar, with real ale, however, please note that this will be a cashless bar this year.

Dress code will be 'black tie optional' and the ticket price is £45.

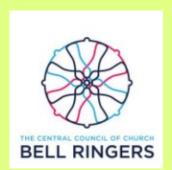
Buying tickets this year is a bit different. I have provided a poster to reps around the Guild whose help has been enlisted. You can email either myself or Clare or go through a tower rep, but we are asking people to pay directly to the Guild account where possible, so we have not printed actual tickets. Of course we will still take cash and cheques where needed.

As always when purchasing your dinner place(s), we do need to know who the places are for and any special dietary or access requirements.

Please email Jenny Sunter or Clare McArdle directly.







Central Council Representatives' Report:

Richard Andrew and James Ramsbottom

Following on from the momentous changes to the Central Council's constitution at the 2018 annual meeting, it was decided to move the 2019 annual meeting from the late May bank holiday weekend to the first weekend in September, reshape the format to include new events such as a Mini Road Show and generally make the whole programme open to all ringers, not just Council members. The weekend was held from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September on the campus of Goldsmiths College in New Cross, South East London.

Events for the weekend started on the Friday afternoon with open ringing at a number of City churches including Cripplegate, Garlickhythe and St Magnus and other London towers including Southwark Cathedral, Limehouse and Greenwich. There were also guided tours of the ringing room and belfry at St Paul's Cathedral for those who had pre-booked. Events continued into the evening, with a hot buffet supper at Goldsmiths College followed by an informal quiz evening hosted by Phil Barnes, chair of the Kent County Association.

Saturday morning began with a slot devoted to Presentations for Council members and ringers by each of the 5 Council Workgroups covering projects worked on in 2018/2019 and also giving details of future projects planned. It is not possible to give an adequate summary of these in this report, so if you want to find out further details on what each Workgroup is doing, it is best to use the link given in the 'Link to Presentation Material...' section towards the end of this report, which will take you to the relevant page on the Central Council website where you can access each Workgroup's presentation slides in turn. Alternatively, the Ringing World ran a series of articles from issue 5656 (September 20, 2019) onwards summarizing the presentations and reports of each Workgroup.

The Ringing World AGM

The rest of the morning was devoted to the AGM of The Ringing World Ltd, chaired by the Ringing World Chairman, Nigel Orchard, who reported that the quality and range of articles in the RW has continued to improve, and that work is continuing on developing an App which can be used to read an on-line version of the paper. He also said that the question of moving to fortnightly issues of the RW was still being looked at, but as the RW's finances have generally improved, it may well be possible to continue with weekly publication of the paper.

The other major point of interest was the changing of the objectives of the Ringing World. The original charitable objectives had a strong focus on promoting Christian worship, but the board felt that this was at odds with what the RW tended to do, which is promote ringing as a hobby, both to ringers and non-ringers, and focus on communication within the ringing community and to the general public. The new objectives were proposed by the board and, after discussion, were carried by a large majority.

Nigel Orchard had previously advised that he intended to stand down as RW Chairman at the end of the meeting and he offered his successor, David Grimwood of Kent, every success. He also payed tribute to Robert Lewis who was due to stand down in November after a period of 19 years as RW editor. Will Bosworth has now taken over as the new RW editor.

Central Council Meeting

Saturday afternoon was mostly taken up by the annual meeting of the Council, held after lunch and chaired by the President, Christopher O'Mahony. In general, this was a quieter and less contentious Council meeting than in recent years, as no significant motions had been proposed for discussion. As a result of the wholesale changes made to the Council's format following last year's meeting at Lancaster, the section of the meeting devoted to annual reports took up much less time than in previous years, as there are now only the Executive and 5 Workgroups to report back to the meeting instead of the 15 or so committees under the previous structure.



In addition to their annual reports covering the period up to the end of 2018, the Executive and each Workgroup also gave the meeting updates on the work they had been carrying out in the period from January to August 2019. The other significant part of the meeting was the election of 4 Trustees to serve on the Executive of the Council. As Christopher O'Mahony had given notice that he was intending to stand down as President a year earlier than would normally be the case as he needed to return home to Australia, this meant that a new President would need to be elected, alongside the existing Secretary (Mary Bone) and 2 Ordinary Trustees (David Smith and Alison Everett) who were up for re-election.

Our own Guild Master, Simon Linford, was the only nomination for the post of President and his proposer Phillip Barnes and seconder Linda Garton both gave supporting statements to the meeting, highlighting the qualities they felt were essential for a President of Council. Simon himself was unable to be present at the meeting owing to prior commitments at the ART Masterclass being held in Birmingham the same day, so he had pre-recorded a video which was then shown to the meeting in which he summarised how he intended to tackle the post of President. Simon was duly elected unopposed, as were the Secretary and 2 Ordinary Trustees.

Towards the end of the meeting, details were given about next year's Council meeting weekend which will be held on the Jubilee campus of Nottingham University. Mary Bone, the Council Secretary, also gave details of attendance at this year's meeting – apparently a total of 149 Council members were present, which was the lowest figure for a long time and considerably lower than last year's attendance of 163 in Lancaster. Mary said that the Executive will review possible reasons why so many apologies for absence were received this year.

Council Dinner

The annual Dinner of the Council was held in the main refectory of Goldsmiths on the Saturday evening by which time Simon Linford had been able to travel down from Birmingham to be present, as he was due to give the final speech to the Dinner as President Elect. He was handed his badge of office by the outgoing president Christopher O'Mahony.

Mini Road Show

Sunday was taken up with the Mini Road Show. This included a number of exhibitions stands with a good selection of organisations represented, such as Westley Group Bells, the Whiting Society, Central Council Publications, ART, John Taylor and Co., and Avon Ropes. There were also 3 portable rings available, including the Charmborough Ring. There was also a full programme of about 20 speaker events throughout the day, including talks by each of the 5 Council Workgroups, while other talks covered a wide diversity of ringing-related topics, such as "Project Picked Egg – Are you converted yet?", "Insurance and Bellringing – All you Need to Know", "How to succeed with your Bell Restoration Project", "Setting up a youth band", "Building a bell sound – the science and history of bell tuning", "Sound Control – Within and Outside Your tower", "Safeguarding – striking the right balance", and other talks including one on the Churches Conservation Trust and its work, and an entertaining talk by Steve Coleman on "When Ringing Had to Stop" during the Second World War.

Sunday service ringing was also available for those who wanted it at a number of towers in the surrounding area of South East London. Many of the towers don't have regular Sunday ringing and so were opened especially for the weekend.

Link to Presentation Material and Handouts for the weekend

The link below to the relevant page on the Central Council website (headed 'London 2019 – Presentation Material and Handouts') gives access firstly to slides for the Council Workgroup Presentations given on the Saturday morning for Council members and ringers in general on the projects they have been working on over the past year and their plans for the future. The section that follows lower down the page gives the presentation slides from a number of the talks given during the course of the Mini Road Show held on the Sunday: https://cccbr.org.uk/about/annual-meetings/2019-meeting/materials/

Next year's meeting at Nottingham

The Central Council meeting weekend for 2020 will again be held over the first weekend in September (4th-6th) and will be based on the Jubilee campus of Nottingham University about a mile from the city centre. Planned events will be similar to this year's weekend and will include a Tower Open Day, a Mini Road Show and seminars and workshops. It is intended that all these events will be open to all ringers in the same way as this year.

Obituary: Andy Carr



We lost Andy Carr on 28th January 2019 to an illness that robbed him of his desire for life. Tragically he took his own life in St Laurence Church tower where he had been tower captain since 2011.

Andy was an enthusiastic, welcoming and encouraging tower captain. He built the ringing team from a low base of five in 2011 to a committed and cohesive team of ten plus several learners in 2019. He took the role very seriously and set about improving his own skills to be able to lead ringing and teach learners. He taught many ringers to handle a bell and then move on to change ringing. He volunteered at the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing on Saturday mornings. He encouraged visiting ringers from other towers to ring at Northfield at practices and Sundays. He is remembered at both Kings Norton and Selly Oak towers for the help and encouragement he offered when those bands were struggling. He strengthened the Northfield band by involving more ringers in calling changes, methods, running practices and bell maintenance. His infectious personality and sense of humour contributed to the fun and supportive atmosphere in the tower.

Andy celebrated 50 years of ringing in the Summer of 2018 by ringing a quarter peal of Cambridge Royal. In the early part of 2018 Andy announced that this was his ambition. He asked me if I would like to ring in the quarter and we both prepared by joining St Paul's practices to ring Cambridge Royal. We duly rang the quarter peal on August 26th 2018 (please see the 2018 Q3 newsletter article). This achievement meant a lot to Andy and I am proud to have rung with him. The rest of the Northfield ringers also wanted to mark this milestone and show their appreciation for Andy as their tower captain by presenting Andy with a bell shaped "spider" with a commemorative plaque. The spider now graces the ringing chamber – the bell ropes hang from it raised up high out of the way of the public.

Andy spent much of his 50 years ringing providing the Northfield band with a strength and continuity that was invaluable. He also served St Laurence Church in other ways - in the choir, as a handy man, serving communion and as a stalwart of the Church community organising events.

The whole Church community is still mourning his loss. The ringers fondly remember his sayings which include describing the ringing as "tenacious" after a judge's comment about Northfield's performance in a St Martin's Guild striking competition and calling for the band to aim for "75%" - again a reference to striking competition scores. We remember Andy every practice when we use the clip to keep unused bell ropes together out of the way, when we unhook the bell ropes from the bell-shaped spider and when we see his smiling photo on the bell chamber walls. We want to continue what he achieved with a focus on teaching and supporting learners, creating a thriving, friendly band and maintaining close ties with the church. So long, Andy, we miss you and wish you were still with us leading our practices and Sunday ringing, welcoming all comers and making us laugh.

Obituary: Janice Anderson

The sudden and unexpected death of Janice Anderson at the age of 76 on Sunday 8 th September was a great shock to everyone. She had suffered a cerebral haemorrhage the previous day.

Janice was an extremely enterprising lady with very wide interests both during her working life and in retirement. In recent years she had not been an active ringer but her support for John during his long and successful ringing career meant that she had many ringing friends from all over the country and the words 'John-and-Janice' seemed almost inextricably linked. Along with John, she was a loyal supporter of the HJ Dinner and remained a full member of the Guild for over 40 years.



Janice was born and grew up in Yardley, and after school her first job was as a research assistant with ICI, leaving to study for a Cert Ed and degree in sociology. She then taught in various schools until 1992 when she was sponsored to undertake a Masters Degree at Warwick to explore the links between Education and Industry. Afterwards, she continued this work with the CBI, finally setting up her own business as a consultant. After retirement in 2003, she joined the Dorridge Branch of the U3A taking senior roles in its management and development and was an enthusiastic leader and participant until her untimely death.

It was through John's sister Rita that Janice first met John. That was in 1960 and subsequently Janice was taught to ring by John at St Philip's Cathedral along with John McDonald's wife, Margaret. John and Janice were married at the Cathedral in September 1963 and their homes for most of their lives were in the Knowle/Dorridge area except for a brief spell in Scotland. Janice's active ringing was suspended whilst their two children, Liz and Mark, were young but when they became teenagers there was an opportunity at St John's Knowle to develop a shared hobby so under John's tuition, Liz and then Mark were taught, a band was assembled and Janice resumed active ringing, joining the Guild in 1977. She rang only four peals, all for the Guild, but her first, on 8th December 1979, was memorable as it was the first on the renovated bells at Knowle and was also Liz's first peal. It was Grandsire Triples, conducted by Steve Shipley, and is recorded on a peal board in the tower.

Liz went on to become an extremely proficient ringer and was a member of the band ringing the first ever peal of Orion in February 1982 at St Philip's Cathedral, it being only just over two years since her first peal, a remarkable achievement. Janice's other three peals were rung in 1981, Grandsire Triples (Mark's first peal) at Knowle conducted by John, Cambridge Major (inside), again at Knowle and conducted by John and finally a peal of Minor at West Buckland in Devon on a ringer's holiday, conducted by Steve Shipley, who was the only person to ring in all her four peals.

Janice's funeral was held at Robin Hood Crematorium on Friday 20th September, attended by a large number of people including many ringers, some travelling long distances. There were heartfelt tributes from Liz and Mark and from their four grandchildren and the service was led by David Reddish, a minister and long-standing friend in the Dorridge U3A. Afterwards a memorial peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Knowle, conducted by Richard Grimmett. After the peal, John, Liz and Mark were waiting outside the tower having listened to the latter part of the peal and Liz and Mark were persuaded to join us in the tower and take part in the lower in peal. The sight of the peal board recording their Mum's first peal coming as it will be, exactly 40 years ago, encouraged Liz to consider an anniversary quarter peal in December this year. This would be a very fitting tribute indeed to their Mum. We all then retired across the road to the Red lion where we spent a very happy hour in reminiscence and celebration of Janice's much admired and much-loved character.

Tribute by John Fielden.

Obituary: Susan Marshall



Susan Elizabeth Marshall died peacefully, aged 59. The Service of Thanksgiving for her life took place at St Peter's, Kineton, the church brimming full of family and friends, including a great number of ringers, many from the St Martin's Guild. She had been a full Guild Member since the rule change permitted those outside the traditional geographical territory to join and before that a non-resident life Member, as she had been involved in peal ringing at St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham, on and off for nearly 40 years.

Sue's family comprises five generations of ringers and she was taught to ring by her father, David J Marshall, at Long Eaton, Derbyshire. Sue's first passion was horses and she saved up from doing paper rounds, as a teenager, to buy herself a horse, which was a complete surprise to her parents! Sue rang her first peal, Plain Bob Triples, aged 17, and conducted her first peal – same method, same tower almost exactly a year later. By the time she moved to Bristol to study Biochemistry, she had really caught the ringing bug. She rang with the University of Bristol Society of Change Ringers (UBSCR) and was elected its Master. Unfortunately, shortly after going to University, she broke her arm in an accident. Such things did not deter Sue and whilst unable to ring, she 'conducted a peal' from outside the circle – though it was not recognised by the Central Council.

Arm mended and having received her first degree in 1981, she moved back to the Midlands, where she undertook her PhD at Loughborough. Peal ringing escalated, twice being third in the overall national peal ringing lists between 1980 and 1984. Her peal band travelled all over the country, covering great distances to ring peals at as many ten and twelve bell towers as possible. Ringers from Birmingham such as Fran Dodds and Andrew Stubbs were sometimes part of the band – in 'the old days', when both were quite keen on pealringing! The method of choice was Bristol Royal or Maximus. In total, Sue rang peals at 269 different 10-bell towers and 131 different 12-bell towers. Sue was a prolific and meticulous arranger of peals. Dropping out or failing to turn up met with 'zero-tolerance'. She would say 'no matter how bad you feel, you don't give up in a peal until you keel over'. The physical challenge of a peal was measured in the 'number of bananas needed'.

Sue was a very fine ringer – a top class striker, with an instinctive sense of rhythm, not easily disrupted by the striking faults of others. She could ring to the highest standards anywhere in the circle – from treble to tenor. She remains one of only three women to circle the tower on the challenging bells of St Philip's, Birmingham. What she really loved about ringing generally, and peal ringing in particular, was the focus and concentration it allowed her to bring to bear. In this she found enormous mental and physical satisfaction, acting as an engaging distraction from the frustrations of day-to-day living. Wherever she lived, Sue was an invaluable member of her local band and would always have time for and encourage those learning, especially to try a quarter peal and she would often do the arranging and conducting.

She rang in the first ladies peal of Orion Surprise Maximus and was proud of ringing in a unique fathers and daughters peal of Bristol Surprise Maximus at Towcester in 2003 for the Ancient Society of College Youths, including her and her dad, David, and her daughter, Rebecca, and her dad, Simon Melen (Guild Members: Eleanor Linford and her dad, Chris Kippin, and Andrew Wilby and his daughter, Hannah, also took part in this landmark peal). In total Sue rang 2,027 peals; 172 of these on handbells (including Stedman Cinques) and conducted 60 peals. Of this total, 655 were rung on ten bells, 525 on twelve bells and 29 on fourteen or sixteen. 297 were rung for the St Martin's Guild and St Philip's, Birmingham was her most popular and favourite peal venue, with 181 peals there spanning five decades.

Sue's enthusiasm for ringing was TOTAL and not at all limited to peal ringing. She is believed to be one of only two people to have rung 2,000 quarter peals, 2,000 peals and rung in more than 5,500 towers! She had rung at 5,690 different towers, which is an extremely high total and it was out tower-grabbing that she met her last husband, Graham Nabb. She moved down to Kineton, Warwickshire to live with Graham, who is a leader within the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART), which is responsible for the 'Learning The Ropes' teaching scheme used by the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing. Sue went to work at Warwick School, having trained to be a teacher, when her three children (Rebecca, Hollie and Tristan) had reached a suitable age, and she was very good at it. However, she never let teaching get in the way of ringing or, indeed, her enjoyment of outdoor activities and nature. Having retired early, she seemed to be busier than ever - exercising a friend's horse, long cycle rides, completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge and the Cotswold Way, many holidays with Graham, as well as tending to her now outstandingly beautiful garden, where sometimes she seemed to work from dawn until it was time to go ringing!

In late 2018, Sue was given the devastating news that she was terminally ill with stage 4 breast cancer and it looked as though the planned University of Bristol ladies peal of Cambridge Maximus at St Stephen's, Bristol in October 2018 would be her last. The news knocked her for six, but after confiding in friends and family and learning from the experiences of others, she decided to turn down chemotherapy in favour of living life to the full for however much time she had left.

On 12 January 2019, a peal day was organised in Birmingham where many of her friends and family gathered to ring (and listen to) two peals and a quarter peal. This was followed by celebrations in a local café where many of her friends and family shared amusing anecdotes of her life and stories and how her inspirational attitude had touched them. Sue absolutely loved the day and said it was 'like being at her own wake'. This day galvanised Sue - she was determined to fight back and set to work on a number of lifestyle changes. She reflected on all the things she wanted to achieve and created a bucket list, which came to be known as the 'Pink Fizz' list, since every time she ticked something off, she would raise a glass of her favourite pink bubbles to celebrate. Of course, many of the items on the list involved bell ringing and on 12th March 2019 she successfully rang her 2000th peal: 41 Surprise Minor.

Despite stubbornly rebelling her whole life, her younger daughter Hollie along with her fiancé finally started 'learning

the ropes' and thanks to some fantastic tuition from Graham, Sue and their friends, they both scored their first quarter peals on Mothering Sunday. The Pink Fizz list also included a family quarter peal at Long Eaton covering three generations (including her father, sister and all three of her children), as well as her son, Tristan's first peal: Bristol Surprise Major at Kineton. In the first half of 2019, Sue was busier than ever and sometimes ringing eight or nine peals in a week! It was almost impossible to believe there was anything wrong with her, most healthy people wouldn't have stood a chance of keeping up with her energetic lifestyle! With the first Pink Fizz list fully completed, another and then a third were drawn up.

In her final few weeks, Sue spent time at Warwick Hospital before moving to Myton Hospice, compelled to accept that her health was declining, seven months after the initial diagnosis. She loved it at the Hospice – it was peaceful and quiet with beautiful gardens, fantastic supportive staff and close to home. Sue was so in demand, that she needed a diary to ensure she wasn't swamped with visitors! The Pink Fizz lists had completely captured the imagination of her friends and the wider ringing community via Facebook. As Sue moved to her final resting place, she left to the sound of Pink Fizz Alliance Major on Kineton bells – this was one of the few details of the occasion that she had not planned or specified herself.

There were 28 peals, 38 quarter peals and other performances rung in memoriam of Sue. Two of the peals rung for the St Martin's Guild are particularly memorable: Bristol Maximus, which was her daughter, Rebecca's, 100th peal and Stedman Cinques, the composition having been specifically commissioned by Sue from Mark Eccleston for the occasion, both at St Philip's. As a permanent memorial to Sue, the bells of Radway, Warwickshire (within earshot of her final resting place) are due to be augmented to six with a new treble, cast by John Taylor & Co before Christmas, to be known as 'Sue's bell'. Unfortunately, the installation has been delayed and the first peal on the new ring – due to have taken place on the first anniversary of her death – will, no doubt, be a further casualty of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Her indefatigable spirit and determination to live life to the full was encapsulated by the Pink Fizz lists and her children are in the process of completing the unfinished third list. She was an inspiration to all she rang with and to the wider community where her spirit touched so many people. She will be missed but always remembered for her passion, ambition, focus and down to earth, compassionate nature.

Tribute by Stephanie Warboys.

Obituary: John Conduct



John Conduct learnt to ring at Erdington in 1943 and went on to ring 27 peals for the Guild in the 1950s and 1960s. He died in December 2019, and his obituary, below, has been written by Louise James, a ringer from Devon. John's obituary was published in the Guild of Devonshire Ringers' newsletter: 'Ringing Round Devon'. We have permission from Louise, and the GDR newsletter editor, Ian Campbell, to republish this.

Many of you may not have heard that John died on 9th December, a few days short of his 90th Birthday. Mention his name to anyone who knew him and the response is always 'such a kind man', 'a lovely man, modest, helpful', 'a brilliant striker'. A well-respected ringer from Cornwall once said that it was such a pity that because the striking competitions included a raise – something that John's health could not entertain – one of the best strikers in the county could not take part.

John learned to ring in 1943, on muffled bells, at Erdington. His father also rang there and they were both in the choir. He later went on to become tower captain. He regularly attended the 43ers reunions until they stopped due to dwindling numbers. When he was courting Jean he told her not to expect to see him in the week as he would be out ringing. When he and Jean married, he rang before the service, linking the two great loves of his life. Jean became a ringing widow while they lived in Birmingham, as John was off most Saturdays ringing as well as Sundays for services and a couple of practice nights in the week. His records show that he rang 91 peals (conducted one) and 259 quarter peals (44). He was happy on all numbers. He was always interested to hear where I had rung on my travels, and would quite often relate details of peals he had rung there, who was in the band and the conductor. He rang quite a bit in the early years with the Beresfords. He could not have known that he would be ringing with them and the next generations in more recent times.

The family moved to the West Country in the late 60s, ringing at Stratton with Harry Stacey, Charlie Sanguine and Henry Trewin amongst others. As well as ringing, he inscribed several peal boards for Stratton — calligraphy being one of his many talents. His daughters, Susan and Debbie, learned to ring at Stratton but gave up after a couple of years. John was thrilled that Debbie took it up again more recently at Alphington. By this time, John and Jean had moved to Oxford but they still visited Devon from time to time, and John was happy to go ringing with Debbie, but sorry that he could only sit and watch on recent trips.

John was keen to help learners progress and had a way of explaining things that everyone understood. He enjoyed conducting too and always had his little book to hand, often passing you a piece of paper with a touch that he thought we would enjoy. He particularly enjoyed calling Stedman. He was always happy to travel for some good ringing, and was a regular in the St Brannock's Society quarter peals, but he still hankered to ring one more peal while his health would tolerate it. For Jean's birthday in October 2008 he chose four-spliced at Bridgerule (where he and Jean were living). We were all relieved when it came round. After they moved to Oxford he rang for a while at Radley until the walk up the church path became too much for him.

John was a member of several ringing groups in Devon and Cornwall, so when arranging the quarter peal in his memory it seemed only right to include ringers from those groups and the towers where he had been a regular helper: Ancient Society of College Youths, Guild of Devonshire Ringers, Truro Diocesan Guild, St Brannock's Society, Taw, Torridge & Tamar Midweek Group, Marhamchurch and the northern branch of the Truro Diocesan Guild. We were delighted that Jean and Debbie were able to listen to the ringing. In his last letter to me he said, 'Oh I do miss my ringing'. Not as much as we will miss you, dear friend.

Tribute by Louise James.

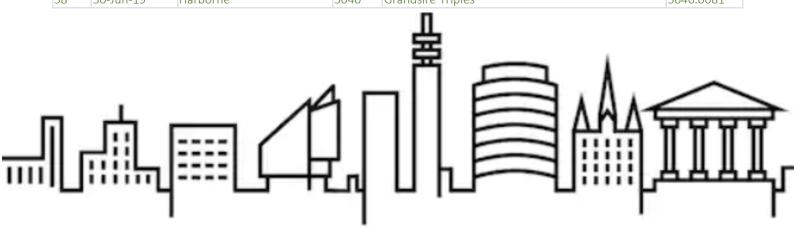
Guild peals rung during 2019

No	Date	Place	Rows	Method(s)	RW ref
1	07-Jan-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (6m)	5623.0111
2	10-Jan-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5623.0112
3	17-Jan-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5624.0133
4	21-Jan-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5088	Orion Surprise Maximus	5624.0135
5	24-Jan-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5624.0136
6	25-Jan-19	Edgbaston	5040	Stedman Triples	5624.0135
7	30-Jan-19	Honiley	5760	Spliced Thirds Place Delight Minor (42m)	5625.0159
8	04-Feb-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5088	Spliced Surprise Maximus (4m)	5626.0183
9	11-Feb-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (6m)	5627.0206
10	14-Feb-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5627.0207
11	15-Feb-19	Edgbaston	5040	Stedman Triples	5627.0206
12	23-Feb-19	Wednesbury, St Bartholomew	5040	Cambridge Surprise Royal	5629.026
13	26-Feb-19	Birmingham, St Martin	5136	Bristol Surprise Maximus	5629.026
14	28-Feb-19	Shawell	5040	Spliced Fourths Place Delight Minor (35m)	5629.026
15	28-Feb-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5629.0251
16	04-Mar-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5079	Stedman Cinques	5630.0283
17	07-Mar-19	Sutton Cheney	5040	Spliced Fourths Place Delight Minor (35m)	5630.0283
18	09-Mar-19	Edgbaston	5760	Spliced Thirds Place Delight Minor (42m)	5631.0306
19	09-Mar-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Spliced Treble Bob Minor (29m)	5631.0306
20	09-Mar-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Spliced Fourths Place Delight Minor (35m)	5631.0306
21	09-Mar-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5760	Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)	5631.0306
22	11-Mar-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5088	Orion Surprise Maximus	5633.0355
23	14-Mar-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5632.0332
24	15-Mar-19	Honiley	5040	Spliced Fourths Place Delight Minor (35m)	5631.0309
25	21-Mar-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5634.0379
26	25-Mar-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5088	Spliced Treble Dodging Maximus (4m)	5634.0378
27	28-Mar-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5634.0379
28	01-Apr-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5040	Bristol Surprise Maximus	5634.0378



Guild peals rung during 2019

No	Date	Place	Rows	Method(s)	RW ref
29	08-Apr-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5042	Bristol Surprise Maximus	5635.0404
30	12-Apr-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5760	Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)	5636.0428
31	25-Apr-19	Honiley	5040	Spliced Treble Bob Minor (29m)	5638.0487
32	29-Apr-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5136	Rigel Surprise Maximus	5638.0487
33	06-May-19	Edgbaston	5040	Spliced Major (11m)	5640.0537
34	09-May-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5640.0538
35	10-May-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Spliced Delight Minor (62m)	5640.0537
36	12-May-19	Edgbaston	5004	Variable Cover Stedman Triples	5642.0584
37	13-May-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5001	Stedman Cinques	5644.0641
38	16-May-19	Stretton on Dunsmore	5040	Spliced Treble Bob Minor (29m)	5641.0559
39	17-May-19	Edgbaston	5006	Spliced Triples & Major (2m)	5642.0584
40	19-May-19	Edgbaston	5040	Spliced Variable Cover Triples & Major (3m)	5642.0584
41	23-May-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5641.056
42	28-May-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Spliced Delight Minor (35m)	5642.0584
43	30-May-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5642.0585
44	31-May-19	Edgbaston	5184	Spliced Surprise Major (7m)	5642.0584
45	02-Jun-19	Birmingham, St Martin	5088	Orion Surprise Maximus	5642.0584
46	03-Jun-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5040	Spliced Surprise Maximus (3m)	5643.0607
47	05-Jun-19	Shifnal	5040	Stedman Triples	5648.0719
48	08-Jun-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Stedman Triples	5648.0719
49	10-Jun-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5088	Bristol Surprise Maximus	5651.0807
50	11-Jun-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Stedman Triples	5644.0631
51	11-Jun-19	Birmingham, St Martin	5016	Stedman Caters	5648.0719
52	14-Jun-19	Edgbaston	5040	Spliced Major (11m)	5644.0631
53	15-Jun-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5024	Double Norwich Court Bob Major	5644.0631
54	17-Jun-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5004	Stedman Caters	
55	17-Jun-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5040	Bristol Surprise Maximus	
56	20-Jun-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5647.0703
57	23-Jun-19	Wistow, Leicestershire	5040	Surprise Minor (7m)	5646.068
58	30-Jun-19	Harborne	5040	Grandsire Triples	5646.0681



Guild peals rung during 2019

No	Date	Place	Rows	Method(s)	RW ref
59	01-Jul-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5032	Stedman Cinques	5647.0703
60	12-Jul-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Stedman Triples	5665.1136
61	15-Jul-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5042	Orion Surprise Maximus	5665.1136
62	29-Jul-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5022	Stedman Cinques	5665.1134
63	30-Jul-19	Birmingham, St Martin	5001	Stedman Sextuples	5651.08
64	12-Aug-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5000	Bristol Surprise Royal	5653.0848
65	27-Aug-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Spliced Delight Minor (42m)	5655.0897
66	02-Sep-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5184	Spliced Maximus (8m)	5659.097
67	13-Sep-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5760	Spliced Delight Minor (42m)	5657.0944
68	16-Sep-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5076	Stedman Caters	5662.1067
69	20-Sep-19	Knowle	5040	Grandsire Triples	5659.097
70	04-Oct-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5010	Spliced Triples & Major (8m)	5665.1136
71	06-Oct-19	Birmingham, Northfield	5040	Stedman Triples	5664.112
72	07-Oct-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5059	Stedman Cinques	5665.1136
73	08-Oct-19	Birmingham, St Chad	5040	Stedman Triples	5666.1159
74	14-Oct-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5088	Bristol Surprise Maximus	5665.1136
75	21-Oct-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5030	Spliced Cinques & Maximus (4m)	5663.1088
76	26-Oct-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5080	Stedman Cinques	5666.1159
77	11-Nov-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5015	Spliced Cinques & Maximus (3m)	5667.1185
78	16-Nov-19	Birmingham, St Martin	5009	Stedman Cinques	5667.1183
79	18-Nov-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5040	Avon Delight Maximus	5668.1221
80	21-Nov-19	Honiley	5760	Spliced Delight Minor (42m)	5668.1212
81	21-Nov-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5667.1184
82	25-Nov-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5016	Spliced Maximus (6m)	5676.014
83	02-Dec-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5003	Stedman Cinques	5669.1251
84	05-Dec-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5669.1252
85	09-Dec-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Cambridge Surprise Royal	5688.044
86	12-Dec-19	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5671.0014
87	13-Dec-19	Birmingham, St Paul	5760	Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (147m)	5671.0013
88	16-Dec-19	Birmingham, St Philip	5040	Bristol Surprise Maximus	5672.0036



ASTON, SS Peter & Paul (SP082899)

Bells: 12, 24-2-18 in D PN: Thursday 19.45-21.00

SR: 10.15–10.45 Contact: Don Finnemore,

0121 386 2361; 07831 295246; donaldfinnemore@yahoo.co.uk

AUSTREY, St Nicholas (SK296063)

Bells: 5, 13-2-00 in F

PN: Wednesday 19.30-21.00 (1st only)

SR: none

Contact: Heather Cooke

01827 830548; cookes.austrey@tiscali.co.uk

BARSTON, St Swithin (SP207780)

Bells: 6, 5-2-3 in C PN: Thursday 18.45-20.00

SR: none

Contact: Mary Daymond

01676 523951; randmdaymond@hotmail.com

BICKENHILL, St Peter (SP188824)

Bells: 6, 9-2-0 in A PN: none

SR: none

Contact: The Vicar

BIRMINGHAM, RC Cathedral of St Chad (SP070877)

Bells: 8, 15-3-6 in F

PN: none

SR: 12:00 (approx)–12.45 Contact: Andrew Stubbs

0121 704 1638; alanburbidge@btinternet.com

BIRMINGHAM, St Paul, Jewellery Quarter (SP065875)

Bells: 10, 12-2-13 in F# PN: Thursday 19.30-21.00

SR: 17.45-18.30

Contact: Angie Wakefield; stpaulbhamringersec@gmail.com

BIRMINGHAM, St Martin (SP073866)

Bells: 16, 39-1-19 in C

PN: Tuesday (1st & 3rd) 19.30–21.00

SR: 10.00–11.00 Contact: Clare McArdle

07810 544949; claremcardle151@gmail.com

BIRMINGHAM, Cathedral of St Philip (SP070870)

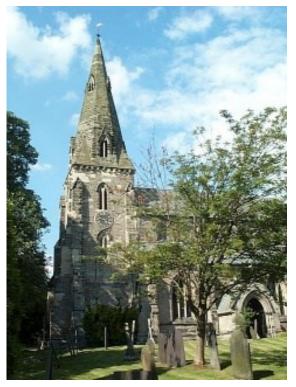
Bells: 12, 31-0-21 in D

PN: none

SR: 08.30-09.00; 2nd & 4th 10.15-10.55

Contact: Gill Postill

0121 744 6217; gill42@hotmail.com



Austrey, St Nicholas



Birmingham, RC Cathedral of St Chad

BOLDMERE, St Michael (SP109938)

Bells: 8, 13-3-14 in F PN: Wednesday 19.45–21.00

SR: 17.15–18.00 Contact: David Reeves

0121 354 6264; d.reeves@talktalk.net

BOURNVILLE, St Lazar (Serbian Orthodox) (SP034809)

Bells: 3, 9-1-23 in Ab

Tuning: 1, 3, 5 of 5; no stays or sliders.

Contact: The Church

CASTLE BROMWICH, SS Mary & Margaret (SP142899)

Bells: 8, 10-3-14 in Ab PN: Wednesday 19.30–21.00

SR: 09.30–10.00 Contact: Ben Sassons

07786 030413; bimsassons@gmail.com

COLESHILL, SS Peter & Paul (SP201891)

Bells: 10, 14-0-0 in F PN: Tuesday 19.30–21.00 SR: 10.00–10.30

Contact: Sue Rogers

01675 462272; john.suerogers46@btinternet.com

CURDWORTH, St Nicholas & St Peter ad Vincula (SP177928)

Bells: 3, 7½cwt in A

Contact: Revd Matthew Rhodes

The Rectory, Glebe Fields, Curdworth, B76 9ES 0121 323 4906; catmat30@hotmail.com

EDGBASTON, St Bartholomew (SP057848)

Bells: 8, 10-0-14 in G

PN: Weds 19:30-21:00 (check out of term-time) SR: 09.45–10.30; 17:45–18.30 (check out of term-time) Contact: Nicola Hibbert; nicolaehibbert@gmail.com

ERDINGTON, RC Abbey of SS Thomas & Edmund (SP112923)

Bells: 8, 15-3-16 in F PN: Friday 19.30–21.00 SR: 10.10–10.30 Contact: Paul McEvilly

0121 3533942; 07973 952213; paulmcevilly46@gmail.com

ERDINGTON, St Barnabas (SP110917)

Bells: 8, 15-1-15 in F PN: Tuesday 19.30-20.30

SR: 10.00

Contact: David Hill-Ilderton

07730 191329; nasus-caerulus@live.co.uk



Coleshill, SS Peter and Paul



Edgbaston, St Bartholomew



Erdington, RC Abbey of SS Thomas and Edmund



Hampton-in-Arden, St Mary



Harborne, St Peter

GRENDON, All Saints (SP287009)

Bells: 6, 11-2-14 in F#

PN: none

SR: by arrangement Contact: Michael Allsop

01827 830086; michael.allsopp1@btinternet.com

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN, St Mary (SP203808)

Bells: 8, 12-0-22 in G PN: Monday 20.00–21.00

SR: 10.30-11.00

Contact: Bridget Osmond

01564 778847; bridget.osmond@gmail.com

HANDSWORTH, St Mary (SP055904)

Bells: 8, 15-2-22 in F

PN: Wednesday 20.00-21.00 (visitors phone to check)

SR: 10.40-11.00

Contact: Rosemarie Seadon

0121 357 3280; rosemarie.seadon@gmail.com

HARBORNE, St Peter (SP028839)

Bells: 8, 12-3-24 in F# PN: Monday 19.00–21.00

SR: 09.15-10.00; 17.45-18.30 (usually Quarter Peal)

Contact: Tamsin Lane

07760 100107; tamsin_lane@hotmail.com

KINGS NORTON, St Nicolas (SP048790)

Bells: 10, 17-1-6 in E PN: Tuesday 19.45–21.00

SR: 09.45-10.30

Contact: Catherine Taylor; 07749 519033; c.r.taylor@bham.ac.uk

KINGSBURY, SS Peter & Paul (SP215963)

Bells: 8, 17-1-00 in E PN: Friday 19.30–21.00 SR: Variable (please check)

Contact: Elaine Lane; 01827 873810

KNOWLE, SS John the Baptist, Lawrence & Anne (SP183767)

Bells: 8, 9-3-7 in G PN: Monday 19.30–21.00

SR: 08:45-09:15 (Last Sunday: 10.15–11.00); 17.00–18.00 (usually Quarter Peal)

Contact: William Mills; 01564 770227; w.h.mills@btinternet.com

LAPWORTH, St Mary (SP163711)

Bells: 6, 10-1-2 in G PN: Thursday 20.00-21.00

SR: 10.25–11.00 Contact: John Cranmer

01564 782425; john.cranmer@b@nternet.com



Moseley, St Anne



Northfield, St Laurence

LEA MARSTON, St John the Baptist (SP204927)

Bells: 3, 6-1-8 in B

Contact: The Vicarage, Nether Whitacre, B46

MIDDLETON, St John the Baptist (SP176984)

Bells: 3, 8-3-1 in G

Contact: Revd Matthew Rhodes

The Rectory, Glebe Fields, Curdworth, B76 9ES 0121 323 4906; catmat30@hotmail.com

MOSELEY, St Anne (SP074836)

Bells: 6, 7-0-5 in Bb PN: Tuesday 19:00-20:15

SR: 10.30–11.00 Contact: Stella Tew

07759 223832; stellatew@yahoo.co.uk

MOSELEY, St Mary (SP077832)

Bells: 10, 18-0-9 in F PN: Monday 19.30–21.00

SR: 09.15–09.55 Contact: Trish Everett

0121 449 1088; 07968 362501; trish_evereh@hotmail.com

NETHER WHITACRE, St Giles (SP231924)

Bells: 6, 12-0-0 in G PN: Thursday 20.00-21.30

SR: 10.30-11.00

Contact: Hazel Fellows; 01676 542697

NEWTON REGIS, St Mary (SK279074)

Bells: 3, 9-0-5 in G

Contact: Revd Stephen Banks, New Vicarage, Main Road, Austrey, Atherstone, CV9

3EB; 01827 830254

NORTHFIELD, St Laurence (SP025794)

Bells: 10, 14-1-13 in F# PN: Friday 19.45-21.00 SR: 09.25-09.55

Contact: Graeme Lanfear

07973 866862; lanfearbg@aol.com

PACKWOOD, St Giles (SP170728)

Bells: 8, 6-3-14 in Bb PN: Friday 20.00–21.30 SR: 10.30–11.15 (except 1st) Contact: Clive Taylor

01564 772573; clive.taylor1953@b@nternet.com

PERRY BARR, St John the Evangelist (SP068920)

Bells: 8, 13-3-22 in F PN: Monday 19.30–21.00 SR: 09.45–10.25

Contact: Matthew King

07762 710094; matthewking_@live.co.uk

POLESWORTH, Abbey of St Editha (SK263024)

Bells: 8, 11-2-11 in F# PN: Monday (check advised) SR: 09.15–10.00

Contact: Father Philip Wells

01827 892340; polesworthabbey@aol.com

ROWLEY REGIS, St Giles (SO970874)

Bells: 8, 10-1-0 in G#
PN: Monday 19.45–21.00
SR: 09.45–10.15
Contact: Alan Roberts
7 South Avenue, Stourbridge, DY8 3XY
01384 376622

SALTER STREET, St Patrick (SP123749)

Bells: 5, 8-0-21 in A PN: none SR: by arrangement Contact: Barbara Philp 07734 228500

SECKINGTON, All Saints (SK260074)

Bells: 4, 5-3-24 in A# PN: none SR: by arrangement Contact: Anne Bufton-McCoy 01827 830053

SELLY OAK, St Mary (SP037822)

Bells: 8, 12-1-17 in G PN: Wednesday 19.45–21.15 SR: 09.00–10.00

Contact: Christina Ebrey

0121 458 2739; 07837 401889; christinaebrey@virginmedia.com

SHELDON, St Giles (SP152847)

Bells: 8, 8-1-8 in Ab
PN: Friday 20:00-21:00
SR: 09.30–10.00
Contact: Terry Nicholls

0121 743 2639; www.st-giles-sheldon-bells.co.uk



Perry Barr, St John the Evangelist



Salter Street, St Patrick



Shirley, St James the Great



Smethwick, Old Church

SHIRLEY, St James the Great (SP119788)

Bells: 8, 6-1-1 in Bb PN: Thursday 19.45–21.15 SR: 09.15–10.00

Contact: Colin Baugh

0121 744 1361; colinbaugh@blueyonder.co.uk

SHUSTOKE, St Cuthbert (SP243910)

Bells: 6, 12-0-0 in G# PN: Tuesday 20.00–21.00 SR: 09.30–10.00

Contact: Maurice Woodward; 01675 463358

SMETHWICK, Old Church (SP020877)

Bells: 8, 7-1-1 in B

PN: Thursday 19.45-21.00

SR: 09.45–10.15 Contact: Janet Horton

0121 429 1918; janet.horton@virgin.net

SOLIHULL, St Alphege (SP153792)

Bells: 12, 21-1-11 in Eb PN: Tuesday 19.30-21.00

SR: 10.15-11.00; 17.30-18.20 (Quarter 1st Sunday)

Contact: Mrs C Dodson

0121 705 3744; cynthiadodson@yahoo.co.uk

SUTTON COLDFIELD, Holy Trinity (SP121963)

Bells: 8, 23-1-17 in Eb PN: Wednesday 20.00-21.00

SR: 17.00–17.30 Contact: Paul McEvilly

0121 353 3942; 07973 952213; paulmcevilly46@gmail.com

TANWORTH-IN-ARDEN, St Mary Magdalene (SP113705)

Bells: 8, 12-1-25 in F#

PN: Tuesday 19.45-21.00 (irregular)

SR: 10.00-10.30

Contact: Alan Hartley; alan.easemor@gmail.com

WISHAW, St Chad (SP177945)

Bells: 3, 6-0-6 in Bb PN: Thursday 19.00–20.00

SR: 09.00-09.30

Contact: Brenda Thomson; 0121 323 2137; jeff178thomson@yahoo.co.uk

YARDLEY, St Edburgha (SP135863)

Bells: 8, 12-2-26 in F# PN: Wednesday 20.00–21.15

SR: 10.00–10.30 Contact: Mr S E Adams

0121 786 1242; simon@spireviews.fsnet.co.uk

Guild members for 2019

Members are listed by date of election. The three columns next to each member's name records the number of peals they have rung for the Guild during the year, their total peals for the Guild, and the number of peals they have conducted for the Guild.

1955	Richard J Cann	_	8	_
1956		_	487	25
1956		-	59	-
1959	Donald T Finnemore	-	98	3
1959	Andrew N Stubbs	_	451	_
1960	Colin D Baugh	_	37	1
	9			
	Maurice F Edwards	1	1273	14
	Christine Mills	6	409	-
1961	Charles A S Webb	14	630	5
	B Gillian Fielden	_	109	_
		_	58	_
	Paul L McEvilly			
1969	David B Flint	-	58	2
1969	Paul W Webb	-	25	-
1971	Margaret A Edwards	_	139	_
	Frances Dodds	4	943	60
		-		
1972		4	515	211
1974	Helen M Crosby	-	2	-
1974	Cynthia Dodson	-	-	-
1974		_	25	2
1974		_	128	_
1974		-	3	-
1974	Stephen R Shipley	1	94	15
1975	Paul E Bibilo	38	1108	46
1977		-	4	-
1977		10	139	2
1977	Sarah L Vernon	1	20	-
1978	Richard L Jones	4	358	4
1978		_	59	_
1979		4	620	7
				/
1979		-	9	-
1982	Simon E Adams	-	98	-
1982	Janet A Horton	3	65	_
1982		9	164	2
	•			
1983		-	11	-
1983	Mary T Pipe	-	120	-
1983	Philip J Sealey	2	94	-
1983		2	241	43
1984		_	_	
				-
1984	O .	-	6	-
1984	Gillian M Postill	-	24	-
1985	John H Cranmer	_	4	_
1985	Paul Needham	22	907	43
		22		43
1986	Alan F Cottrell	-	-	-
1986	William G R Davies	-	1	-
1986	Terry R Nicholls	-	1	-
1986	Matthew Turley	_	_	_
1987	Julie A Adams	_	10	_
1988	David G Hull	1	361	120
1989	Julia R Cater	6	137	2
1989	Anthony M Daw	_	287	_
1989	Jill Erskine	_	2	_
	H Ann Smart		9	
1989		-		-
1990	Gwen Albrow	-	4	-
1990	Margaret Burling	-	-	-
1990	Anthea S Edwards	2	381	_
1990	John H Fielden	6	207	14
1990	E Anthea M Tinline	-	9	-
1991	Sandra J Cooper	-	3	-
1992	Christopher A Duckett	_	5	_
1992	Rosemarie Seadon	_	1	_
1992		23	600	120
	Michael P A Wilby			138
1994		1	46	1
1994	Michael Rigby	-	16	1
1994	Peter Sharpe	-	-	-
	•			

1994	Linda M Whitehead-	_	_	
1996	Lynda Cranmer		1	
1996	Diane M Hooper	_	1	_
			_	-
1996	Clive Taylor	-	-	124
1996	John S Warboys	21	311	134
1996	Stephanie J Warboys	45	314	4
1998	William E Dargue	-	-	-
1999	Tamsin S Lane	-	1	-
1999	Jill R E Ramsay	-	2	-
2000	Steven Maddox	-	-	-
2000	Sharon L Wall	-	1	-
2002	David G Blick	-	2	-
2002	Thomas W Griffiths	10	305	6
2002	Martin B R Parry	-	1	-
2003	Alan S Burbidge	18	539	147
2003	Clive Day	_	_	_
2003	Mark R Eccleston	53	817	320
2003	Susan J Healy	1	170	4
2003	Triona Jowett	_	_	_
2003	Seymore Lee	_	_	_
2003	Rosemary Watts	_	_	_
2004	Andrew D Clark	_	5	_
2004	Luke Daniel	_	4	_
2004		_	5	_
2004	Matthew D Hardy	1	74	-
2004	William H Mills	_	1	-
2004	Rev Richard Postill	_	_	-
2004	John Davis	_	_	_
2005	Margaret Griffin	_	_	-
2005	Victoria J M Wilby	3	152	-
2005	Ann Davies	- -	47	-
2006	Clifford Davies	_	105	
2006	Joan Garner	_	-	_
2006	Jen Hickman	_	_	_
2006	Rebekah G W Horton	_	4	_
2006	Eleanor J Linford	3	108	1
2006	Simon J L Linford	24	206	58
2006	Lesley Phillips	-	-	-
2006	Keith D Whitehead	_	_	_
2007	Muriel Higgs	_	_	
2007	Susan E Marshall	11	291	
2007	Emily Tamhne	-		_
2007	George R Harrison	_	5 1	
2008	Stacey A Howard	_	7	
2008	David Reeves	_	1	
2008	Jean Willis	_	_	
2009	Gordon R Birks	11	192	
2009	Catherine F Smith	-	-	
2009	Robyn Tighe	_	_	_
2010	Oliver Bouckley	_	-	-
2010	Simon P Felton	-	_	-
2010	Jack P Gunning	3	88	2
2010	Arthur J Reeves	4	53	4
		-		4
2010	Tracy Stevens	-	10	-
2011	Hilary Bloxsom	-	-	-
2011	Gillian Campbell	-	-	-
2011	Hannah Campbell	-	-	-
2011	Kathryn Campbell	-	-	-
2011	Jonathan Hale	-	-	-
2011	Steven Harper	-	-	-
2011	Thomas M W Horton	1	1	-
2011	Matthew J R King Adam Lubin	1	2	-
2011 2011	Ethel Lubin	-	_	_
7011	COURT COUNTY			

Guild members for 2019

2011	Jonathan M P Thorne	3	31	_
	Ian Wharton	_	_	_
2012	Carl Jenkins	_	_	_
2012	Graham R Kelly	4	21	_
	Richard Lewis	_	_	_
2012	Malcolm J Paulson	-	1	-
2012	Stuart Stanton	-	-	-
2012	Judith Taylor	-	-	-
2012	Michael Taylor	-	-	-
2012	Brenda Thompson	-	-	-
2013	Christine Barnell	-	2	-
	Nigel Crowther	-	-	-
2013	Roy Followell	-	1	-
2013	John W G Gwynne	1	1	-
	Andy Hardy	-	-	-
	D Rose W Horton	6	18	-
	Paul Lindley	-	-	-
	Diane Meacham	-	-	-
	Alan Munday	-	-	-
	Wendy Munday	-	-	-
2013		-	-	-
	Rio Peynado	-	-	-
	Bethan Pinnock	-	-	-
	Catherine Pinnock	-	-	-
	Richard Pinnock	-	3	-
	Robert Pinnock	-	-	-
	Philip A Ramsbottom	-	6	-
	Steve Sharp	-	-	-
	Anne Snaith	-	-	-
2013		-	-	-
	Jeffrey B Thompson	-	-	-
	Ruth Wilson	-	-	-
	Alistair J Cherry48	154	9	
	Trish Everett	-	-	-
	Eileen Keeble	1	1	-
	Michael Keeble	1	1	-
	Sophie M Keeble	-	1	-
2014	James P Ramsbottom John Rogers	18 -	129	10
	Stella Tew	-	-	-
	Brian Wevill	-	-	-
	Ruth M Border	-	- 286	-
		-		-
2015	Daniel T Calvert Gillian Cottam	-	12 -	-
	Gillian Eastwood	_	20	1
2015		_	-	-
2015		_	_	_
2015		48	169	61
2015	Sue Rogers	-	-	-
2015	Angela D Wakefield	_	6	_
2015	Aligera D Wakerrera		U	
	Emma Clewlow	_	_	_
		-	-	_
2016	Leo Fielding	-	-	-
2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster	-	-	-
2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster	-	-	-
2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew	-	- - -	-
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton	- - -	-	- - -
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton Sallie Morgan	- - -	-	- - -
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton Sallie Morgan Bernadette O'Dwyer	- - - -	-	- - - -
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton Sallie Morgan Bernadette O'Dwyer Kunal Pal	- - - -	-	- - - -
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton Sallie Morgan Bernadette O'Dwyer Kunal Pal Richard Priestley	- - - -	-	- - - -
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton Sallie Morgan Bernadette O'Dwyer Kunal Pal Richard Priestley Thomas Priestley	- - - -	-	- - - -
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton Sallie Morgan Bernadette O'Dwyer Kunal Pal Richard Priestley Thomas Priestley Steve Pugh	- - - - - - -	-	- - - -
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton Sallie Morgan Bernadette O'Dwyer Kunal Pal Richard Priestley Thomas Priestley Steve Pugh Annie Smith	- - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - -
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton Sallie Morgan Bernadette O'Dwyer Kunal Pal Richard Priestley Thomas Priestley Steve Pugh Annie Smith Chris Baker	- - - - - - -	-	- - - -
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton Sallie Morgan Bernadette O'Dwyer Kunal Pal Richard Priestley Thomas Priestley Steve Pugh Annie Smith Chris Baker David C Bassett	- - - - - - -		- - - -
2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016	Leo Fielding Pauline Forster Andy Foster Colin Frew David Hill-Ilderton Sallie Morgan Bernadette O'Dwyer Kunal Pal Richard Priestley Thomas Priestley Steve Pugh Annie Smith Chris Baker	- - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	- - - -

2017	Guy E Darvill	_	8	_	
2017		_	1	_	
2017	Graeme Lanfear	_	_	_	
	Dickon R Love	29	111	1	
2017	Susannah A Moore	_	_	_	
2017	Jonas Munoz	_	_	_	
2017	Jenny G Robertson	_	_	_	
2017	Neil Taylor	_	_	_	
2017	Jonathan B Townsend	5	10	_	
2017		_	_	_	
2017	Judy Yates	_	_	_	
2018	David Baker	_	_	_	
2018	Anthony J Barnfield	_	_	_	
2018	-	1	57	_	
2018	Graham M Bradshaw	16	34	-	
2018	Andrew V Brown	1	17	-	
2018	Elaine Cheeseman	-	-	-	
2018	Philip J Day	-	4	-	
2018	Max Earthquake	-	-	-	
2018	Alison L Edmonds	-	3	-	
2018	Andrew E Else	-	5	-	
	Graham G Firman	-	16	-	
	Katharine J Firman	-	12	-	
2018	Michael Gregory	-	-	-	
2018	David Horspool	-	-	-	
2018	Eliza M A Hull	-	-	-	
	Ewan G A Hull	1	2	-	
2018	Paul Jopp	13	74	-	
2018	Antony R Kench	-	8	-	
2018	Charlotte D Linford	-	-	-	
2018		-	-	-	
2018	Timothy M Martin	-	1	-	
2018	Beverley McAllister	-	-	-	
2018	Tony McAllister	-	-	-	
2018	Paul McNutt	23	229	-	
2018	Simon C Melen	11	46	-	
	Holly Pyke	-	-	-	
2018		-	-	-	
	David L Smith	-	-	-	
	Julie A Tarling	_	-	-	
2018	David M W Threlfall	5	39	-	
2018		-	-	-	
2018	Clare L S Townsend	-	-	-	
2018	Colin Wright	-	-	-	
2019	Jane Morris	-	-	-	
2019	Karen Bowley	-	-	-	
2019	Jonathan Newey	-	-	-	
2019	Lex Earthquake	-	_	-	
2019	Jane Aykroyd	-	-	-	
2019	Rob Lynock	-	_	_	
2019	Elaine Cheeseman	-	_	_	
2019	Denise Carr	-	-	-	
2019	Jeffrey Carr	-	-	_	
2019	Robert Mayne	-	-	_	
2019	Kay Foley-Davies	-	-	-	
2019	Sarah King	-	-	-	
2019	Sara C Paulson	_	-	-	
2019	Alex Ross		- 27	-	
2019			,,	2	
2010	Martin J Whiteley	- 1			
2019	Lucy J T Gwynne	1	1	-	
2019	Lucy J T Gwynne Michael R Harrison	1 -	1 1	-	
2019 2019	Lucy J T Gwynne Michael R Harrison Margaret Whiteley	1 - -	1 1 17	- - -	
2019 2019 2019	Lucy J T Gwynne Michael R Harrison Margaret Whiteley Luke G Groom	1 - - 30	1 1 17 40	-	
2019 2019 2019 2019	Lucy J T Gwynne Michael R Harrison Margaret Whiteley Luke G Groom Timothy J Barnes	1 - - 30 -	1 1 17 40	- - -	
2019 2019 2019 2019 2019	Lucy J T Gwynne Michael R Harrison Margaret Whiteley Luke G Groom Timothy J Barnes Jeremy C Bates	1 - - 30 -	1 1 17 40	- - -	
2019 2019 2019 2019 2019	Lucy J T Gwynne Michael R Harrison Margaret Whiteley Luke G Groom Timothy J Barnes	1 - - 30 -	1 1 17 40	- - -	

Life Members of the St Martin's Guild

1955	Richard J Cann		8	
1956	David R Ingram		59	
1959	Donald T Finnemore		98	3
1960	Colin D Baugh		37	1
1961	Maurice F Edwards	1	1273	14
1961	Christine Mills	6	409	
1961	Charles A S Webb	14	630	5
1962	B Gillian Fielden		109	
1964	Paul L McEvilly		58	
1971	Margaret A Edwards		139	
1972	Frances Dodds	4	943	60
1974	Michael Dodson		25	2
1974	H T Keith Haslam		128	
1974	Stephen R Shipley	1	94	15
1975	Paul E Bibilo	38	1108	46
1977	Clare McArdle	10	139	2
1977	Sarah L Vernon	1	20	
1979	Jonathan P Healy	4	620	7

Any SMG Full Member can become a Life Member, subject to the submission of an application from two existing Full Members to the Secretary and approval at the next General Meeting.

In making its decision the meeting shall take into consideration the length of membership or service of the prospective Life Member.

Practice nights

Monday

Hampton-in-Arden (8) Harborne (8) Knowle (8) Moseley St Mary (10) Perry Barr (8) Polesworth (8) Rowley Regis (8)

Tuesday

Bickenhill (6)
Birmingham St Martin (16)
Coleshill (10)
Erdington St Barnabas (8)
Kings Norton (10)
Moseley St Anne (6)
Shustoke (6)
Solihull (12)
Tanworth in Arden (8)

Wednesday

Boldmere (8)
Castle Bromwich (8)
Edgbaston (8, term-time)
Handsworth (8)
Selly Oak (8)
Sutton Coldfield (8)
Yardley (8)

Thursday

Aston (12)
Barston (6)
Birmingham St Paul (10)
Lapworth (6)
Nether Whitacre (6)
Shirley (8)
Smethwick (8)

Friday

Brierley Hill (8)
Erdington Abbey (8)
Great Barr (6)
Kingsbury (8)
Northfield (10)
Packwood (8)
Sheldon (8)

Public Liability Insurance

The Guild has Public Liability insurance for itself and its members. The policy covers 'legal liability for injury to the public or damage to their property'. Such liability could occur for instance if a learner under instruction by you is injured due to your negligence. It would cover injury to non-members while travelling on a ringing trip, e.g. taking learners on an outing (if not covered by a motor policy). It would cover the cost of defending an allegation of abuse. It would cover damage to a building, e.g. a church hall caused by a Guild event, or members damaging a church they were visiting to ring.

It is not a Personal Accident policy, so it does not cover injury to yourself (which is normally covered by a household insurance policy). The indemnity limit is £1,000,000 any one claim, with an excess of £250.

The Policy is the 'Community Group Connect' policy from Ansvar. Ansvar is a general insurer specialising in insuring not-for-profit organisations and connected individuals. It is a business division of Ecclesiastical Insurance.



Membership

The St Martin's Guild is an individual membership organisation. Although the Guild is not a territorial association, the majority of our activities are focused in Birmingham and the surrounding area.

Affiliated towers:

Aston (12) Austrey (5) Barston (6)

Bickenhill (6)

Birmingham, St Chad (8)

Birmingham, St Martin (16)

Birmingham, St Paul (10)

Birmingham, St Philip (12)

Boldmere (8)

Bournville (3)

Brierley Hill (8)

Castle Bromwich (8)

Coleshill (10)

Curdworth (3)

Edgbaston (8)

Erdington Abbey (8)

Erdington Parish (8)

Great Barr (6)

Grendon (6)

Hampton-in-Arden (8)

Handsworth (8)

Harborne (8)

Kings Norton (10)

Kingsbury (8)

Knowle (8)

Lapworth (6)

Lea Marston (3)

Middleton (3)

Moseley, St Anne (6)

Moseley, St Mary (10)

Nether Whitacre (6)

Newton Regis (3)

Northfield (10)

Packwood (8)

Perry Barr (8)

Polesworth (8)

Rowley Regis (8)

Salter Street (5)

Seckington (4)

Selly Oak (8)

Sheldon (8)

Shirley (8)

Shustoke (6)

Smethwick (8)

Solihull (12)

Sutton Coldfield (8)

Tanworth in Arden (8)

Wishaw (3)

Yardley (8)

Join Us

By subscribing you are supporting the work of the St Martin's Guild and also our Bell Restoration Fund. All new members receive a certificate of membership, a Guild pin-badge and, more importantly, you will be covered by the Guild's Public Liability Insurance.

Guild members have access to a range of practical and theoretical training opportunities, as well as a cycle of social events throughout the year including walking tours and ringing outings.

To find out more contact smgcbr@gmail.com or visit our website: www.stmartinsguild.org

There are three types of St Martin's Guild membership: full, associate and life.

Benefits of Full membership:

- attendance at and participation in, free of charge, all Guild practices, training and development workshops and networking opportunities
- access to templates and guidance documentation produced by the Guild in relation to safeguarding and tower stewardship
- promotion of your tower's own achievements, events and celebrations, through the Guild social media accounts and Annual Review
- input into deciding future priorities for the Guild.



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Website: www.stmartinsguild.org