



St Nicholas' church, Mavesyn-Ridware (Gilly Hanson-Giddings)



Easter daffodils – Lilas Rawling

Newsletter



April 2021

On April 9th the death of HRH, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh was announced and bells were rung across the country as part of a national commemoration, a centuries old tradition. HRH, Prince Philip's funeral took place on April 17th and was similarly commemorated.

March 23rd was a Day of Reflection, a day of thanks and commemoration and remembrance for everyone: families, friends and communities. On that day there were moments of silence and prayer, with the solemnity of bells being tolled throughout the UK, again part of the national response and a familiar aspect of our culture. A very welcome sound with longer term planning beginning to take place.

TREVOR REYNOLDS' PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

A unique collection of photographs taken by a retired electrician from Pattingham has been added to the Historic England photographic archive at Swindon. Containing pictures of an impressive assortment of churches in the British Isles taken between 1944 and 2002 – some 55% of those with "ringing bells". Some of those churches have gone. Others have undergone subsequent changes. Some still stand but in surroundings that have greatly altered.

This one-man visual record of British parish churches through six decades of rapid change came about through the photographer's lifelong passion for bellringing. Now in his nineties, Trevor Reynolds learned to ring as a teenager at St. Luke's, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton. He quickly became proficient and in his early years took part in several full peals to an advanced level.

His passion, though, was for visiting new towers and between 1944 and 2002 he rang in no less than 3071 different churches across the length and breadth of the UK and Ireland. Like most ringers he kept a record of his visits. Trevor went a stage further and personally photographed every single one and placed the prints in albums in the order in which he visited. So all 3071 prints are identified and dated.

When discussing the arrangements to be made for the collection Trevor told us how he had begun taking the photographs very early in his ringing life.





Accompanying photos: two pages from the albums, and the Pattingham ringers on an outing to Monmouthshire in 2002 during which Trevor rang at his last four new towers – he is 2nd from the right.

He used the same camera for several decades, only turning to colour photography in his final album. Talking about his ringing years he still had very clear memories, telling several amusing stories of his adventures. These included escaping from the RAF base to go ringing while on National Service and narrowly catching the last train back to Wolverhampton after a day out in London in 1954.



He was also well informed on current affairs in ringing.

Trevor is proud to have rung at every tower with ringing bells in Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire - and in southern Ireland. He has also rung at all the Cathedrals and his collection includes famous towers such as St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Windsor Castle, Liverpool Cathedral, Manchester Town Hall and the Queen's Tower (Imperial College) in South Kensington. All these are quietly listed in his records and his visits are documented in photographs that he has taken personally.

Ill health brought Trevor's ringing days to an end in 2002 but his ten albums and complete set of all eleven editions of "Dove's Guide" – the ringers' 'bible' – remained treasured possessions. He has always hoped to find a permanent home for them where they will be of value to others. As the collection covers so much more than just his own local area it was hard to know where to send it.

When told about the collection, The Historic England Archive - previously known as the National Buildings Record - showed considerable interest. They recognised the value of the photographs as identified and dated shots of churches all over the British Isles over several decades – a period of significant change. At Swindon they will be available for study by people with a wide range of interests including architectural historians, students of town and village history – and bellringers too.

The transfer has been made possible by a number of people beginning with Trevor and his family who have donated the collection to the archives. Pattingham ringers Geoffrey Dann and John Whittall helped along the way and John created the index to the photographs asked for by the Historic England team. Chris Pickford, a ringer and retired archivist from Kinver, made the arrangements with the archives and delivered the albums to Swindon.

So Trevor's precious collection is now in safe storage somewhere where it will be both valued for its historical significance as a unique record and accessible to anyone who wants to use it. Thanks, Trevor - and thanks, too, to the Historic England archive.

Chris Pickford

Striking Competition Technical support.

On 20th March a brief Society meeting took place followed by a striking competition, made successful because of the technical support and below is how they, Dave Towell and Andy Simmons, co-ordinated it.

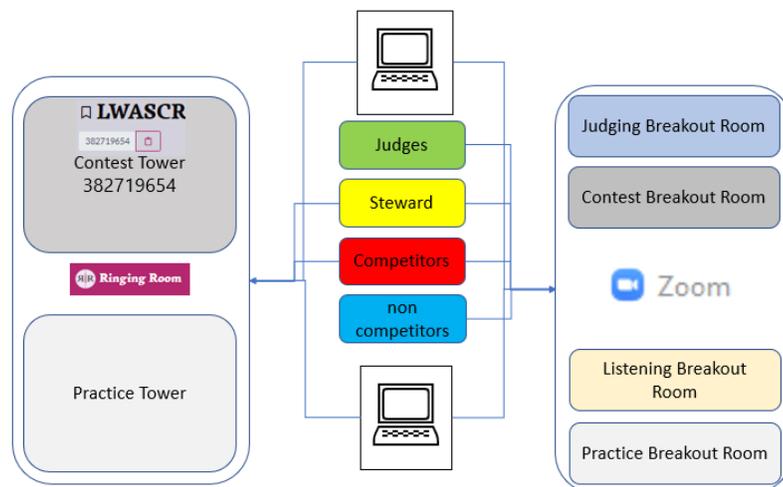
'Last autumn we realised we probably weren't going to get back to ringing in even medium sized groups, so we had to master on-line meetings. We'd managed committee meetings, easy with 8-10 attendees, as long as not everyone talks at once. How would we manage a lot more, we have over 350 members? If they all joined in, would it crash? We tried it for the AGM in November and it worked; we tried it in the January & February meetings too and we managed to involve some ringing as well, with some mixed success on the sound front. We needed to test what could work and what wouldn't. We needed a video conferencing platform and a ringing platform, both running at the same time. **(Image right - Andy at work on the day.)**

Zoom and RingingRoom seemed to fit the bill and most people seem to have some experience of those, so it wouldn't be unfamiliar technology. What we did know was that if you have microphone & speakers turned on, the sound from RingingRoom comes through on the zoom call and echoes around the internet system so ringers would hear at least two "dings" for each stroke, very off-putting. That meant a strict microphones-on-mute policy while ringing, which wouldn't be conducive to what's supposed to be a social occasion. You couldn't have all the ringers crowding in to the (virtual) ringing room all at once – it'd be digital and audio chaos.



The solution came from a planning evening (on zoom) in early March. Only the competing team would be in the RingingRoom tower and we'd organise a sound relay to zoom. That needed a spare (and silent) computer logged in to both and set up to share sound. Zoom also has the facility to set up "breakout rooms" as satellites from the main meeting. This would enable us to set up somewhere for the judges to listen without distraction. It would also allow us to have somewhere for the rest of the members to be able to chat without interfering with those that wanted to listen to the ringing. Some bands might also want to polish their RingingRoom skills before competing, which needed a practice area.

We ended up needing a Zoom meeting with at least three breakout areas, plus the RingingRoom site and at least two spare audio relays between the two platforms. It was complicated but we benefitted from Andy Simmonds' involvement. As an IT technophile he was able to lay his hands on a couple of spare laptop computers, knew how to link them between RingingRoom and Zoom and how to jump in and out of breakout rooms quickly to check that all was actually working, and to compete in one of the bands as well! On the day, we needed we three co-hosts in the Zoom meeting to monitor progress, keep an eye on the chat function, and help anyone struggling with the technology. One band preferred to use a telephone link during their ringing (which worked); at one point we were worried we had accidentally lost the judges, but ultimately it all seemed to work. We forgot to work out was how to do an electronic draw for ringing order, so names on slips of paper and a hat on the secretary's desk were the order of the day.



As for the ringing itself, we knew that RingingRoom isn't necessarily an easy technology to master. To be sure, all you have to do is press the space bar to ring, but with no physical feedback from the rope and no eye contact with fellow ringers, it's very easy to wander off course. The likelihood of every band getting to 120 rows was far from certain, therefore to make the contest as inclusive as possible we simplified the rules to simply ringing 100 rows, including at least 40 changes (a plain course of Bob Doubles). If a tower wasn't confident to enter as a team then we would allow mixed tower bands from interested individuals. On the day we had five competing bands, including the 3 Spires young ringers' team and 30-40 individuals. It wasn't the biggest contest we've run*, but it worked. We got a result.

Abbots Bromley was the most successful team, with fewest faults, adopting a philosophy of keeping it simple. The real winners were all those that took part on the day but it wouldn't have been possible without Andy Simmonds, or Lucy and Clive Smith who judged the contest. Thank you to everyone who took part and especially to **Clive & Lucy Smith** who judged the contest in the most unusual of circumstances. We all hope that next time we'll be back in the tower – so much easier.'

*Was this the only such ringing competition?

The Results Table is the last article in the Newsletter.

Dave Towell

Xanthe Simmonds rang in the Three Spires Team and the Abbots Bromley team for the ringing competition, and she's also planning for the future

I ring with Stuart at Abbots Bromley and I am a member of the Three Spires youth ringing team. I am also a Young Leader and Ranger with Girlguiding. I joined Guiding as a Rainbow when I was five and haven't left! Now I help lead Abbots Bromley Rainbows.

I have had lots of opportunities through Girlguiding such as taking part in an Army Leadership day and an engineering day with AMEY in Stafford. Of course, I have been to lots of camps and residential events as well. I was able to link my two hobbies when I showed my Guides around the tower and told them about bell ringing.

My biggest and most exciting challenge to date is coming up. I am proud and very fortunate to have been selected to represent Girlguiding Staffordshire, as a member of a team travelling out to Kenya in February 2022.

In Kenya I will be carrying out a service project in a remote village just outside Mombasa and I know that I will face many new and demanding challenges and have many unique experiences. Along with a team I will be carrying out summer school sessions for children at school from 3 - 15 years, we will be painting and making some bookcases among many other activities. I will meet members of Girlguiding and Scouting from Kenya and learn about their culture, life and faith.

It will also be an opportunity for me to develop many life and personal skills, to share my knowledge and skills with others and to make international friends.

To experience an international event in another country is a wonderful, and possibly once in a lifetime, opportunity for me as a member of the largest organisation for girls and young women in the UK and as a member of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) which is a worldwide movement of 10 million girls, young women and adult leaders in 145 countries.

Before I can go, I have to raise nearly £3,000 so 2021 will be a busy year! I have already been busy selling mistletoe before Christmas, making and selling bird boxes, tables and bee boxes and have also got plans to make Christmas Cakes next Christmas. When we begin to meet again as ringers, I might occasionally bring fundraising activities to our monthly meetings – I hope you will enjoy seeing and maybe consider supporting them.

Xanthe :)

Image right – Andy Simmonds' bird table: £25.00



Check It Out Before You Ring

I know that a few towers have resumed ringing but many may not have rung their bells for over a year. With the easing of all restrictions scheduled for June now is the time to do those safety checks on your bells and tower.

Here is a check list of things to look for and check in your tower. Every tower is different so some may not be relevant. Perhaps this should be carried out on a regular basis.

1. **ACCESS** For those with spiral staircase access to the ringing room and/or bells
 - a) check the handrail is secure.
 - b) Clean away stone debris from the stairs. Trips and falls are the main H&S hazard.
 - c) Check all lights are working.

For those with ladder access.

- d) Check ladder is securely fixed to the wall and all rungs are secure.
2. **BELFRY**
 - a) Does the lighting work? Perhaps it's time this was improved to avoid accidents.
 - b) Look up. Any holes appeared in the roof?
 - c) Wall around the frame and examine the louvres. Are they securely fixed or have they come away from the stonework?
 - d) What about the wiring on the louvres? Are there any holes which may let in birds?

Now examine each bell

- e) Has anything fallen into the bell pit which may stop the bell revolving?
- f) Is the wheel tight on the headstock?
- g) Are all the nuts tight especially on the wheels?
- h) Does the rope pulley spin around easily?
- i) Does the clapper move freely and is it loose and need tightening?
- j) Lift up the bell rope. Is there wear where it goes through the garter hole into the wheel or through the pulley or floor?

You need someone to ring each bell up individual while you watch. Ear defenders a must! Observe as each bell is rung up

- k) When chime hammers are pulled off from downstairs in the ringing room do the hammers actually come away far enough from the bells to allow them to swing?
- l) Any unusual noises when the bell is rung up? Does the clapper travel straight across the bell?
- m) Look at the wheel. Is it warped?
- n) When the bell sets look at the length of the stay. Is it the correct length? Especially important with hasting stays on Taylor rings.
- o) What did the person ringing the bell think? Anything unusual?

3. RINGING ROOM

- a) Does the lighting work? Do bulbs, strips need replacing. Time to clear shades?
- b) Do the electrical sockets work? Has the electrics in the tower been checked recently by a qualified electrician along with the rest of the church electrics or has it been overlooked?
- c) Has the fire extinguisher been serviced in the last 12 months, as is required, or again has the tower been missed?
- d) Has any plug in electrical equipment been PAT tested during the last 12 months?
- e) Check seating to see whether it is safe to sit on.
- f) Have you a first aid kit? Are its contents in date?
- g) Have you got the postcode, 3 word code or grid reference of the tower prominently displayed in case of an emergency?
- h) Have you warning notices display about touching the ropes or taking off chimes? Do they need renewing? A spider to lift ropes out of harm's way?
- i) Now is the time to dispose of the paper and other junk that accumulates in towers before you restart. Do you really need that pile of 1961 Ringing Worlds?
- j) **Look at the ropes.** Any wear showing? Does a rope need splicing or replacing?

Maybe the height of the sallies needs adjusting. Good time, if you have that extra person there.

I'm sure that you can think of other things that need checking that I've not mentioned. But that is the point. It's got you thinking about how to ensure you can safely start ringing again without a mishap.

If anyone doesn't feel confident about doing these checks I'd be glad to come over and look for you. Contact me on belladvisor@lwascr.org.uk

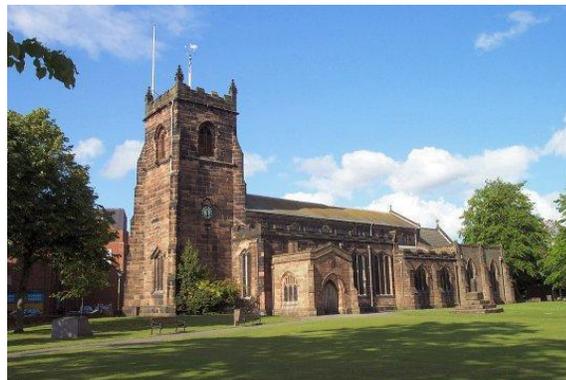
John Mulvey

Cheer Up A Treasurer!

For the last 20 years I have been the Treasurer of St Luke's, Cannock and feel that the financial difficulties of churches during COVID are not being highlighted enough. The recently completed accounts show that our bank balance reduced by over £50,000 in 2020 with the loss of hall bookings, church fete and tree festival, café, and with significant reductions in weddings, baptisms and, particularly, regular and one-off giving. There were some savings in heating/lighting and we were able to partly furlough our office staff, but the major expense of any church, the Parish Share payable to the Diocese, still needs to be found. This equates to £86,000 p.a. for Cannock. We also have to maintain the building and the extensive grounds around the town centre church and pay for gardening, rodent control, tree maintenance and waste disposal. This presents a daunting prospect to a dwindling and relatively elderly congregation.

Some ringers will be part of the Envelope Giving scheme at the church where they ring, and others may contribute by Standing Order. I suspect, however, that the majority of ringers make little, or no, contribution to their church financially. If churches are to remain open longer term, everyone who uses a church must be persuaded to contribute. Members of groups who use our hall are expected to make individual contributions and I would argue that ringers should not be an exception. We may feel that we have a free hobby but practice nights cost money in heating and lighting, and bell maintenance isn't always covered by ringers' funds.

Please consider a donation to your church at this difficult time. Most churches will almost certainly have a web site which lists the different methods of payment and may well have a JustGiving site for one-off contributions. Even better, set up a standing order. As a band, consider a collection box with a small donation at every practice towards church costs. A regular donation cannot harm relations between church authorities and their ringers. **Geoff Pick**



Handbells outside Lichfield Cathedral on Easter Sunday

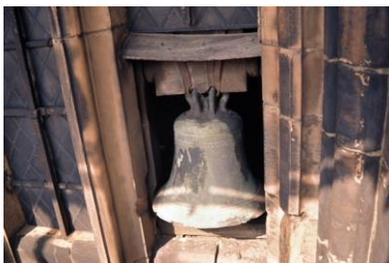


It was an icy cold and windy day but lovely to be able to see each other and ring together – while staying within required limits. Rounds and plain bob major were rung.



Lichfield Cathedral Tantony bell.

In the Midlands, Lichfield Cathedral suffered terrible damage during the three sieges of the Civil War. The central spire was demolished and much of the roof stripped away. In 1661 Hacket was consecrated as bishop of Lichfield and Coventry and set about restoring the cathedral.



As for bells at Lichfield Cathedral it seems safe to say any bells which remained in the tower in 1652 were taken down and broken up for scrap in 1653, and it is likely that the small "Tantony bell" which now hangs in the louvres on the south side of the central tower was first hung in the early 1660's when the Cathedral was otherwise without bells. This bell has a plain initial cross and it bears an unintelligible black-letter inscription of three words, these features suggest that it is of late fifteenth century date. It is said to be of secular origin, having at one time belonged to the Dyott family, although recent research suggests this might not be the case; it is



safe to say though that its origins are unknown. The Cathedral fabric rolls for 1666-7 include a payment of £1 2s. 3d. for "hanging the little bell", and this may well relate to the hanging of the bell in its present position.

The "Tantony" bell alone rang out from the Cathedral on the occasion of the great rededication service in 1669, and it may well have been the pitiful sound of this little bell that drove Bishop Hacket to take on the task of replacing the bells which perished in the Civil War and Interregnum.

Born 1st September 1592 in the Strand, near Essex House in the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. John Hacket was educated at Westminster and Trinity College, Cambridge.

Ordained in 1618 Hacket enjoyed a distinguished ecclesiastical career. He held the livings of St. Andrew's Holborn, Cheam (south London), was Archdeacon of Bedford, a Prebendary of Lincoln, and a residentiary canon of St. Paul's. Although deprived of most of his preferments during the Civil War, Hacket continued to hold the living of Cheam where he resided throughout the Civil War and

Protectorate.

In 1649 Hacket was elected as a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, member number 39.

Despite many changes at the Cathedral the Tantony Bell has survived and is still rung before every act of public worship. Suspended in the open window, exposed to weather, it is now showing its age and work is planned to restore it to health. The bell has at some time past been quarter turned and is now heavily indented again. Permission has recently been obtained to remove the bell and fully conserve it in order it can continue to sound out across the City for many more years. Soundwelding will be carried out to restore the sound bow, the rusty cast in crown staple will be carefully removed and a new clapper provided. The wooden headstock is cracked and will be replaced. With cleaning, it may be possible to read the inscription. The frame is loose in its attachments to the building; this will be resecured avoiding the eroded stonework. Once the bell is removed the glazing above can be assessed and repaired; it was damage to this glazing which was prompted an inspection disclosing the bell being loose on its headstock and the frame loose in the window – movement of the frame had caused damage to the window.

Follow the link to hear Canon Gregory Platten in conversation with Clare Townsend as part of a series "Treasure of the Month":

<https://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/education/treasure-of-the-month>

Obituaries.

David Herschel

David was born on 26th October 1944, his ringing career started at the age of 14, when he was taught to ring at Epsom Common in Surrey.

Within a year of learning to ring he rang his first quarter peal at Nutfield, Surrey (Plain Bob Doubles 'inside'). The following year he rang his first peal (Plain Bob Minor 'inside') at Buckland, Surrey and in 1961 he conducted his first peal (Plain Bob Minor in 7 different extents) at Christ Church, Mitcham, Surrey.

1964 he was elected as a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths of which he was quietly proud especially as he was proposed for membership by his mentor, the late Pat Cannon of Dorking, Surrey.

In 1965 he featured in the *The Ringing World* as part of the *Up-and-Coming Youngsters* series and later that year he conducted a peal Plain Bob Royal.

He was elected Master of the Leatherhead District of the Guildford Guild from 1965 – 1967. During his term of office, he set himself a target to have all 15 towers in the District regularly ringing for Sunday service and he was about 80% successful with this project.

Also, in 1965 he successfully 'called' 192 Double Norwich Court Bob Major on the Carter Ringing Machine (demonstrator/instructor: Douglas Hughes).

In 1983 he researched and wrote a 5000-word article entitled Francis Edward Robinson (1833-1910) His early life and background to coincide with the 150th anniversary of his birth. (Rev F E Robinson was the first ringing cleric to ring 1000 peals).

From the beginning of 1997 David commenced the weekly *From the archives...* column in the *Ringing World* which he continued for several years.

David rang over 50 peals up to Cambridge Surprise Royal and conducted 7 of the peals He also rang over 260 quarter peals, and conducted at least 100 up to Grandsire Cinques.

Ringing composition was always important to David when he was conducting and he often wrote out the place notation and the composition to ensure he brought up his favourite changes of Queens and Titums and hand stroke homes.

David always enjoyed teaching new recruits and helping them progress and he obtained great satisfaction from getting a ringer through their first quarter or peal especially if it was someone he had taught.

David passed away in the early hours of Tuesday 2nd February, David had a stroke just before Christmas last year and was making good progress on recovery but unfortunately succumbed to pneumonia and Covid 19.



Margaret Jones

Margaret was born in near Wrexham in North Wales, the only child of Gwyllam and Peggy Jones, on 13 August 1948, being one of the earliest babies born on the NHS. She spent the first 3 years of her life here before moving to Stoke-on-Trent where her parents had first met so that her father could find work.

After her A-level studies at Brownhills Grammar School Margaret went to Keele University on a four year course gaining a degree in physics and chemistry. It was whilst at Keele that Margaret learnt to ring and spent a great deal of time at university ringing at local towers in the area.

After graduating in 1971 Margaret moved to Stafford where she got a job teaching science at Riverway Girls' School. She joined the local Stafford band and took part in the first peal by a local



band (Yorkshire Major).

Margaret met Selwyn at a mutual friend's party in Birmingham in 1973 and it wasn't long before she persuaded Selwyn to learn to ring. Margaret went abroad for the first time with Selwyn to see his brother who was working at Dar-es-Salaam University in Tanzania. The trip cemented their relationship and the couple married in January 1974 at Christ Church, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent – because it had bells!

The couple set up their first home together in Northfield, Birmingham as Margaret was starting a Cert. Ed. Course at Shenstone College, Bromsgrove and Selwyn was working at Birmingham University. Whilst living there they rang at Harborne. Margaret taught science for four terms at Bartley Green School in Birmingham but moved back to Stafford when Selwyn got a job in Wolverhampton. Margaret got a job teaching at Walton High School in Stafford teaching physics and science subjects. Ringing was Margaret's main pastime, ringing her first peal of doubles at Keele in 1970. In total Margaret rang 394 peals, 347 were rung for the North Staffs Association and 16 for LAWASCR/Stafford Archdeaconry. 369 of them were with Selwyn. Brian Burrows and Selwyn called 87 each of these peals. 228 of these peals were on 8, mostly surprise, including 5 peals of 23 spliced all the work. From 1980 onward Margaret organised monthly peals at St Peter's, Broughton and she rang a total of 107 peals here. Margaret was also an active member of the North Staffs Association and was its secretary for 16 years and also its ringing master for 3 years. She organised 12 bell practices at Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Apart from ringing Margaret also had a passion for breeding Abyssinian cats. She showed her cat at cat shows and this included entering the Supreme Cat Show – the cat equivalent to Crufts.

Margaret also liked walking in scenic places like the Peak District and Cannock Chase and enjoyed gardening and cooking. She enjoyed watching Rugby Union and would always support Wales in the international matches. Margaret enjoyed foreign holidays as long as there were places of interest to see. Apart from many European destinations Margaret went to the USA, China, Australia, Jordan, India, Zambia and South Africa.

The trip to South Africa was to celebrate her and Selwyn's Ruby wedding in January 2014. Shortly after that trip, Margaret was diagnosed with lung cancer and given 6 months to live. Fortunately she was able to have drug treatment which kept the cancer at bay. She kept quiet about this as she didn't want people make a fuss and outwardly nobody would know any different. Recently Margaret started to have co-ordination issues and she reluctantly gave up ringing. The last major piece of ringing was for Gordon Banks' funeral at Stoke Minster in March 2019.

In February 2021 Margaret was taken to hospital with a brain seizure. An MRI scan showed her to have a brain tumour. She spent the last days of her life in Katherine House Hospice in Stafford where she passed peacefully away on 12th March. Her funeral took place at Stafford Crematorium and as only 30 people were allowed in a few had to remain outside. The service was conducted by Father Richard Grigson, rector of St.Mary's Stafford where Margaret rang. Phil Gay, who knew Margaret from her time at Keele, gave an eulogy and there was a reading of *In Memoriam* (Alfred Lord Tennyson) read by Warren Griffiths of Eccleshall. The only reference to bells in the Bible (Exodus 28.35) was read by Pat Jones.

Margaret will be remembered for her ringing abilities and good striking. She was also a great encouragement to new and developing ringers. She was not able to hear the new Stafford 12 due to the pandemic delaying the installation, but her legacy lives on in one of the new bells for their augmentation to 12. A memorial service will be held for Margaret later in the year at St Mary's Stafford.

Selwyn Jones

Harry Thornton

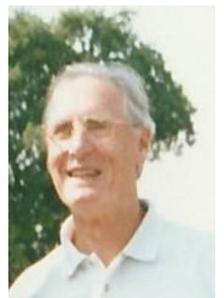
The Rugeley Ringers are sorry to announce that one of their ringers, Harry Thornton, passed away in Stafford Hospital on 21st January 2021. He joined the Society in 1982 and was a faithful Sunday service ringer until the last couple of years when increasing frailty prevented him from managing the stairs. Harry was a member on the Landor Society, the Rugeley local History group and was very knowledgeable about local history and had done lots of work on the church bells over the years. He was a lovely man and will be greatly missed; may he Rest in Peace.

Simon Ferguson

Colin Houlgrave

We were both into our fifties when Colin and I started ringing at Kings Bromley All Saints Church (six bells) around 1988/89 when our neighbour Henry Fox recruited likely ringers from houses in Lanes Close. Dave Bolton was also recruited. Tower captain at that time was Henry's brother Jim. Imagine the scene on a Sunday morning:- Henry and myself walking along Lanes close, doors opened and we were joined by Colin and then Dave. When we reached the end of Lanes close we were joined by Maurice "poetry in motion" Wilkes, and when we got to the cross roads Jim Fox joined us. Six ringers walking to the tower.

Under Jim's leadership we were taught the basics of ringing, call changes and grandsire doubles and grandsire



doubles and grandsire doubles! In order to progress, Colin and I regularly went to the Mavesyn Ridware (six bells at that time) practice night under the captaincy of Cyril Collins, ably assisted by the Ogden Family. We progressed quite rapidly learning plain bob and associated methods. We also started going regularly to the Abbots Bromley (eight bells) practices learning more methods with tower captain Stuart Hutchieson. In our prime, if we had one, we went to the North Staffordshire day band and visited many towers in Staffordshire.

Colin took over the captaincy of Kings Bromley after Jim Fox. I remember the Sunday morning of August 31st 1997. As we walked to the tower together for an early morning ring we discussed ringing half muffled. That was the morning of Princess Diana's death! Much too early to get any advice from anyone and so we took the decision to put the muffles on and ring half muffled. "Turned on" villagers who heard the half muffled ringing realised that something important was afoot!

As with many towers, when the number of ringers, was low we rang minimus methods and Colin used to spliced them together. Colin was also involved in other village activities. His main claim to fame was the village millennium sign which he designed after winning the competition organised by the parish council.

We went to many towers together. Thanks for your company Colin.

Alan Whitfield

Elizabeth Day

Elizabeth Day rang at Stafford, Colton, Truro, St Buryan, Penzance and across Suffolk, passed away 19th January 2021 aged 82. Donations in her memory to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Stafford is sorry to announce that Elizabeth Day passed away on 19 January aged 82. Elizabeth had an unusual childhood being brought up in South America.

Learning to ring in England while at school, she showed considerable promise, ringing her first peal at Spalding in 1956. Elizabeth said she did not do much with the University society when she was at Birmingham, though she did ring in a peal with them at Packwood conducted by Rod Pipe in 1960.

Elizabeth first appeared at a practice in Stafford in the mid 80's after a "ringing gap" of around 20 years. Her remarkably successful return to ringing meant an experienced person became available and she was much in evidence in quarters and peals. Starting around 1987, she went on many tours led Kevin Price and continued these for as long as she was able. Largely as a result, she raised her peal total to over 250. Her top towers for peals were Stafford, Monewden, Crimplasham, Inveraray and Penzance - more of Cornwall below. In the mid 1990's Elizabeth moved to Cornwall with her husband John. Any trepidation that she might not continue with her ringing was quickly dispelled as she became involved with the Truro Guild. Returning to Stafford about a decade later she kept on ringing – but still liked to return to see her Cornish friends. On one of these return visits Elizabeth completed her ambition to ring 100 quarters at St Buryan.

Elizabeth was very helpful and willing to support towers on practice nights and was seen locally, for example at Colton until lockdown intervened. We will miss her.

Tim Hine

March 100 Club winners:

1. £51.00 Lilas Rawling
2. £25.50 Penn Tower
3. £12.75 Rachel Wheeler
4. £12.75 Brenda Harper

Team	Faults
Lichfield Cathedral 8-bell	18*
Walsall	46
Abbots Bromley	16 ½
Lichfield Cathedral 6-bell	34 ½
3 Spires	19
*The internet might have caused some faults	