



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 297

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Headlines

- 1 Association AGM - Stroud Branch - 13th April (details attached)
- 2 St George's Day - 23rd April
- 3 May Day Bank Holiday Outing - 6th May (details attached)
- 4 Branch Practice - Mangotsfield - 25th May, 1430-1630

April-May
2024

Editor's Note

My message this month is a plea for articles to go into the newsletter. When I was on the Branch committee I had a pretty good idea of what was going on but that is not the case now. So if you think something might be of interest to Branch members, then please let me know. If no-one tells me, it won't get in the newsletter.

Chris Greef

Striking Competition

The striking competition this year was held at Mathern, an 8cwt 6. Five teams entered and the results were:

- 1 - Scratch team
- 2 - Coalpit Heath
- 3 - Frampton Cotterell
- 4 - Thornbury
- 5 - Bitton.



The winning team - Coalpit Heath

James Joynton from the Wotton Branch was the judge. Congratulations to all who made the effort to take part and the best of luck to Coalpit Heath, who go on to represent the Branch in the Croome Trophy competition at the Association AGM in April.

Tower tours

(Advice from Ecclesiastical Insurance)

Tours present a good way to engage with non-ringers and are part of some churches' everyday activities. Visitors on tower tours are often unfamiliar with church buildings and especially with towers, so extra precautions should be taken to manage the risks of people getting hurt.

Tower tours should always be arranged in liaison with the PCC, and it is their responsibility to ensure precautions are adequate. However, ringers may know the tower better than the PCC and so should be in a good position to help identify risks and suggest reasonable precautions. Things to think about include:

Are there any particularly difficult to access areas - is there an alternative route the tour could take to avoid this problem area altogether? If not, what do you need to do to ensure visitors are safe traversing this area?

Do you need to set a limit to the number of people per tour to ensure safe escape is possible the event of an emergency?

Is there a maximum number of people you can safely have in the ringing room whilst you're demonstrating ringing, to ensure they are all out of the way of the rope?

Consider how many stewards you will need to ensure people don't have to pass on the stairs, for example. You should try to have stewards at each level if possible (roof, bells, clock room, ringing room, bottom of the stairs ...)

Is the tower properly lit? Remember visitors may not be used to climbing steep spiral staircases so may need more lighting than you or I in order to feel safe.

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Are you going to be turning the bells over whilst people are in the belfry? Do you need to provide any sort of ear protection?

How are you going to keep them clear of the bells?

Do you discuss the access with visitors, highlighting any specific hazards. before they commence the tour?

For further guidance visit <https://ecclesiastical.com/documents/church-tower-tours.pdf>.

Thanks to the Ringing World and the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company

Ringing Books Available

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

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

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

Branch Ringing Achievements

(This list is compiled by searching Bellboard under the G&B Association. If you don't put your ringing on Bellboard and attribute it to the G&B I won't find it. Ed)

Abson - 1296 Spliced Surprise Minor (6m)

Rung to celebrate the licensing of Rev Elaine Jones, new vicar for Abson, Doynton, Dyrham, Pucklechurch and Wick, taking place at Doynton this evening.

Frenchay - 5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (9m)

Arranged and rung in memory of Revd David Cawley, whose funeral took place earlier today. David was involved in the installation of the ring at Frenchay and rang in the first peal on the bells.

Almondsbury - 1260 Doubles (4m)

Most methods conducted to a quarter (Marcus Booth).

Big Wilf's Bell muffles

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**The Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association
of Church Bell Ringers
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 13th April 2024
Hosted by the Stroud Branch**

Please join us for the Competitions, open towers throughout the day (all ringers welcome), Church Service and AGM followed by a home-made tea, ending in evening ringing at two lovely towers

Striking Competitions

Croome Trophy Competition (6 bell) - Holy Trinity, Minchinhampton
Penn Trophy Competition (8 bell) - All Saints, Bisley

Towers Open for General Ringing

St Martin, Horsley (8) (10.00 - 12.00}
St. John the Baptist, Randwick (6) (11.30 – 12.30
St. Peter, Haresfield (6) (12.00 - 13.00)
St. Michael and All Angels, Eastington (6) (12.45 - 13.45)
St. Cyr, Stonehouse (6) (13.30 - 14.45)

Service

St. Swithun, Leonard Stanley

Service touch 15.00 followed by service. Sorry, no general ringing prior to the service due to a wedding at the church beforehand.

Meeting and Tea

King's Stanley Village Hall, GL10 3PN (16.15).

Tea follows the AGM, approx. 17.15.

Gluten free options available. *The food will be homemade so we can't guarantee it is allergy free* There will be a £5 charge payable in either cash or card on the door.

Evening Ringing

St. Swithun, Leonard Stanley (6) 18:30-20:00

St. Laurence, Stroud (10) 18:30-20:00

Full details of the arrangements including maps and parking arrangements have been circulated to Tower contacts and are also available on the G&B website

BRISTOL RURAL BRANCH ANNUAL OUTING

MONDAY, MAY 4TH

CAERPHILLY

Michaelston-y-Fedw 8 bells 7cwt 10:00 – 10:45 CF3 6XS Toilet

Machen 8 bells 12cwt 11:00 - 11:45 NP10 8GU

LUNCH – own arrangements – Caerphilly 12:00 – 13:45

Caerphilly 8 bells 13cwt 13:45 - 14:30 CF83 1EJ Toilet

Llanishen 6 bells 3 cwt 15:00 - 15:45 CF14 5LS Ground Floor

St Mellons 6 bells 9 cwt 16:15 – 17:00 CF3 5UR

A visit to South Wales with nothing too heavy to ring and with the first and last towers near to M4 junctions.

Please bring £1 per tower with you to cover donations.

All Welcome!!