



The bells at Frampton Cotterell were rehung in 1963 after a period of silence. So, having discussed it with the PCC, we decided to mark their golden anniversary by attempting to ring 50 quarter-peals in 2013.

There are ten regular ringers at Frampton. Two of them had never rung a quarter and two others had rung very few. So, clearly, we would need help! And we wanted to share the event with as many people as possible. Messages were sent to the Branch and the Association, and to friends further afield.

We thought we should also raise some money for the church, so we asked the congregation and community if they would sponsor our ringing to mark their special occasions. We rang for birthdays, baptisms, wedding anniversaries and in memoriam.

All the quarters and peals have been recorded in a "Frampton 50" book.

One ringer, and her mum, made commemorative bookmarks for each quarter, for ringers and sponsors.

The year began well, the local band ringing the first on New Year's Day, but continued slowly; by late March only seven had been achieved. We feared that we had bitten off more than we could chew. But it got better.

In May we had a special branch practice and celebration, with a service and tea, to which we invited over 100 former Frampton ringers; the furthest travelled from Lytham St Annes. Two quarter-peals were rung, one by Association officers, one by Branch officers.

On November 10th members of the local band rang number 50, half-muffled for Remembrance.

Finally, two quarters were rung on New Year's Eve; all available members of the local band were involved. This brought the total to 56.

Two peals were rung in the year, one by a band of the Ancient Society of College Youths, including a Frampton ringer, and one on October 5th, the actual date of the dedication in 1963, and the 39th anniversary of the first peal on the bells in 1974. The latter included a member of the 1974 band and the son and grandson of another. Twelve quarters were rung by visiting bands, eight entirely by the home team, and another twenty by bands with at least half Frampton ringers. Two first quarters were rung, several "first-in-the-methods" and there were some firsts for conductors.

We are grateful for all the help and encouragement that we've had from members of the Association and the Branch. And we must thank the parishioners and residents of Frampton Cotterell for their support. Fortunately most of them are well-disposed to bells; many favourable comments were received. We had only one complaint, and that quite gentle!

Sponsored ringing has proved successful, by raising funds and in engaging with the congregation and villagers and raising the profile of the church and ringing. Sponsorship and donations contributed £1,100 to church funds; we shall continue to ring sponsored quarters for this purpose.

We shall probably continue to ring quarter peals because.... well, because we've got into the habit!