

Bell Ringing Report 2017

"For bells are the voice of the church" - Longfellow The ringers hope that you enjoy hearing the bells welcome you to services and special events.

Fourteen quarter peals were rung. A local band rang in memory of the late Mrs Anne Bradbury, who enjoyed listening to the bells, and left a generous bequest to the tower.

Date touches were rung to mark 2017 and 1972, Sheila and Phillip's 45th wedding anniversary. QPs celebrated the consecration of former Gransden chorister, the Very Rev'd Peter Wilcox as Bishop of Sheffield, successful GCSE results for Alasdair and Andrew, Sheila and David's 40th wedding anniversary, and to welcome our newest addition to the team, Reuben Machin-Autenrieth, born on 29 March. Phillip achieved the notable milestone of having rung 1000 QPs, and Sheila G reached 700. There was one quarter peal by a visiting band. The local band rang to celebrate BBC Music Day.

We rang for one wedding, on a beautiful early summer day, including our traditional "firing" of the bells to help celebrate this happy occasion.

The ringers continue to develop under the tuition of Phillip and Sheila, routinely ringing Plain Bob Doubles, and working on other methods. We have been delighted to welcome returning ringer Hazel Petit, and new recruit Lynn Walton.

"yet stands the Church clock at ten to three?" - Brooke Yes it did, for about two weeks! The clock, which was installed in 1683, stopped shortly before Christmas until after New Year. After repair, the clock and chimes are working, but the underlying problem is unclear and will be investigated further by a specialist company

The "Singers and Ringers" enjoyed a safari supper - thanks to hosts the Foggs and the Fosters. The weather was kind, so for the energetic there was swimming, with Sheila G acting as lifeguard!? The Christmas social was kindly hosted by Sheila and Phillip G, including the traditional quiz with the lucky winners receiving yet more chocolate.

Looking forward, it is essential that we recruit more ringers to sustain the ringing. Anyone from age 10 upwards is very welcome to learn. It is very satisfying, needing strong teamwork to make music for all to hear, and it is fun! Regular updates about the bells and tower activities are reported on the website, <http://gransdenbells.btck.co.uk> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/greatgransdenbellringers/> Have a look, or even better come and give ringing a try!