

Bell Ringing Report 2016

The ringers are proud and privileged to make their contribution to worship, ringing before Sunday services and also for special festivals and events in the church and village calendar. This included ringing for five weddings, always a joyous occasion, with the opportunity to “fire” the bells. More poignantly, we also rang half muffled for the funeral of Victor Hughes, retired long term organist and bell ringer at Gransden, and for the service celebrating the life of Helen Catmur, who was involved in many aspects of church and village life.

Some of the highlights this year included:

- Phillip and Sheila George and Sally Mew ringing handbells at the Crown and Cushion acoustic music afternoon – very well received! This can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/IFrUH1hawI0>
- Ringing for the Revellers Time Travellers promenade plays
- Ringing before the Church Fete in the garden of Rectory Farmhouse
- Ringing as part of the church gift day

Practice on Thursday evenings is always lively and enjoyable, with around ten local ringers, all making good progress in the Learning the Ropes scheme, under the tuition of Sheila and Phillip George. Awards were made to Susanne Autenrieth and Matt Machin who achieved Level 1, and Alasdair Catmur, Andrew Lawrence, Sheila and David Prest Level 3. New ringers of all ages are welcome, training is provided from complete beginners upwards.

Other notable achievements were first quarter peals for Alasdair Catmur (consequently completing his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award skills section) and Matt Machin. Altogether there were ten quarter peals, taking us to 250 on the bells, and one handbell quarter peal. Visiting ringers are always welcome at the tower, this year included ringers from the Faraday Guild, the Roving Ringers and the Rambling Ringers. All remarked on the high standard of facilities and quality of the bells.

The ringers enjoyed several social events, starting with a splendid “Singers and Ringers” summer party, kindly hosted by Phillip and Sheila, and ending with the Christmas party hosted by David and Sheila P. The social highlight was a weekend ringing trip to Durham, including the great privilege of Sunday morning service ringing on the 10 bells at Durham Cathedral. As well as ringing at five churches and one pub, we also visited the Rail museum at Shildon and Beamish open air museum. A rather tiring but very enjoyable weekend!

Full information about the bells and tower activities are reported regularly on the website, <http://gransdenbells.btck.co.uk> Have a look, or even better come and give ringing a try!

David Prest

Deputy Tower Captain