

### **SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE MASTER**

2009 was quite a year for the Diocese of Bath and Wells, as it celebrated its 1100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thank you to all the ringers around the Association, who rang on or around 10<sup>th</sup> January as the festivities began and at other times during the year. People joined in the spirit of the year with everything from touches of 1100 changes, quarters, peals and rounds and call changes, to one place where they rang for a little over 18 minutes, each second marking a year of our history. The Bishop was particularly pleased to be greeted by the sound of bells as he made his 'Peter's Progress' around the diocesan boundaries in May and June, before arriving back at Glastonbury on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

One of the highlights of the year for me was the gathering in July of our Honorary Life Members. A little light ringing at Rowberrow was followed by an enjoyable lunch together. The banter and reminiscing, which went on that day was a joy to listen in on. I found it humbling to think of the years of faithful service represented by this extraordinary group of people.

You will see from this year's report that the number of peals rung for the Association has increased significantly, and there are four extra pages of peal records. Of particular note is the band who rang Norman Smith's composition of 23 Spliced Surprise Major at Winford on 31<sup>st</sup> October, an extraordinary feat.

Marking special occasions and ringing peals is, if you like, the icing on the cake. The meat and drink of our work, though, is the regular Sunday service ringing, which takes place in towers across the Diocese week by week. Thank you all for your part in helping this to be achieved. Thank you too, to the officers who help to sustain and encourage the life of our Association, especially at Branch level.

I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting at Wells on Easter Monday.

Happy ringing in 2010!

TIM HAWKINGS