

A new Vice-President writes

Greatness is, once again, thrust on me – having had the privilege of being Master for a number of years I now have the honour of having been made a Vice-President, for which my grateful thanks. However, such things tend to come with strings attached, hence being asked by our worthy Secretary to pen a few lines for this Annual Report – as if I had not said enough over the years!

Chatting in the Globe the other Monday, after our weekly practice, I asked the other ringers present what they thought I should write about. One point that came out, and it is stating the obvious, was the importance of supporting the Association. This immediately poses the question 'what should be the nature of that support?' It seems to me that the first of the four objectives of our Association gets to the heart of the matter – 'Recognition of the true position of ringers as church volunteers and the encouragement of ringing for divine service'. Our ringing on Sundays, as part of the worship of the Church, is what really matters; it's our prime area of support; and everything else, tower grabbing, peals, quarters, outings etc. etc. are optional extras. However, having said that, I suggest such extras have their own importance, an importance that lies in the fact that such things create added interest, keep our enthusiasm alive and help us to improve our ringing skills. Yes, all that we do as ringers has value, but none more so than fulfilling our Sunday Service obligation enshrined in the first objective of our Association. So, keep it up and as you read this Annual Report for 2009 I hope that you will find in it much of encouragement.

God Bless
Christopher Marshall