

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE 2011 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

James Taylor - Achievements and contributions to the Bath and Wells and elsewhere

Jim started to ring in 1953 and rang his first peal, which was Bob Doubles, in 1954.

His peal total is 1338, and includes many fine achievements, notably ringing peals in over a hundred methods on all numbers from 5 to 12, a silent and non-conducted peal of Norman Smith's 23 all-the-work, the first peal of Chandler's all-the-work and many peals on notable twelves around the country including St Paul's Cathedral.

National Service, from 1956-1958, was based at Catterick and the War Office, London, which gave Jim plenty of opportunities to advance his twelve-bell ringing skills

Jim was a student at Cambridge from 1958-1961, graduating with a double first in Mechanical Sciences, also being Master of the Cambridge University Guild in his final year. He took up employment with Strachan and Henshaw, specialists in mechanical handling equipment in Bristol, being Head of Research and Development and progressing to Quality Manager.

Jim Taylor served on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers from 1966 until 1994 for the Gloucester & Bristol DACBR. He was then an Honorary Member until 1999 from whence he represented the Bath & Wells DACR. He was a member of the Towers & Belfries Committee from 1984.

Whilst serving on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers Jim set up the Computer Co-ordination Committee in the early days of computers, and later was Chairman of the Towers and Belfries Committee, taking a great interest in Sound Control and the effect of telecommunications masts erected on towers.

In Jim's earlier days in Bristol he worked as Tower Adviser for the Gloucester & Bristol DACBR, later becoming the Bristol Diocese Bells Adviser. From 1998 until 2008 he was Tower Adviser for the Bath & Wells DACR, where all his skills were put to good use and a very efficient system was put in place. He carried out all his inspections with diligence and impartiality, and also organised Tower Maintenance days. For health reasons Jim has had to retire from these duties, but over the years has contributed much to the Bath & Wells DACR, giving good advice and setting high standards for detailed reports to towers.

Alongside all his outstanding work and achievements in ringing, Jim has always been a most loyal and regular Sunday Service ringer, both in Backwell and on the Bristol City circuit.