

Peter J. Leigh

Peter Leigh, well known ringer in the Bridgwater area of the Bath & Wells Association, died after long illness on August 8th 2008, aged 49. His funeral at St Peter and All Hallows church West Huntspill was attended by many friends and ringers from all over the diocese. The following tribute was given by Barbara Wylde, Bridgwater Branch Ringing Master.

Brian and I first met Pete, or Peter as he still allowed me to call him, when we came to Bridgwater in 1963. He was a lad of 4 and came to St Mary's Bridgwater with his mum, dad, and grandad George Burge, captain of the ringers. He later learned to ring, and became a talented and competent ringer. With an interest in maths and numbers, he had an innate ability to learn complicated methods on 8, 10, and 12 bells to the amazement of experienced ringers. As a member of the Bridgwater Branch of Ringers, he rang all over the diocese, and was well known as a dependable and loyal ringer. Whilst living in Westonzoyland we got to know him well, and he joined us for many social activities. Three of his favourite towers were West Huntspill, Banwell and South Petherton, but I'm sure he went regularly to many more. He was always helpful and polite. When asked which bell he would like to ring, he would say "I'll have what's left".

Another great gift he had was drawing, and he did many beautiful sketches of the Bridgwater area. Since his illness was diagnosed he had written to me regularly letting me know of his progress. He was always positive, and looked forward to being back amongst his ringing friends. Earlier this year he was thrilled to tell us of the birth of his neice and nephew, Harriet and Rafferty, brother and sister to Thomas. He was pleased a few weeks ago that Richard and Martine brought them to the hospice whilst we were visiting, so we were able to see them.

A true Christian and loyal friend, Peter will be missed greatly by his mum, Jean. by Tony, members of the family and all who knew him.

May he rest in peace.

BRIAN WYLDE