

**Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change**  
**Ringers**  
**Taunton Branch.**



**Branch Ringing Outing 2010**  
**Three Counties, Bucket & Spade Outing, Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>**

Our intended program is -

Depart Taunton 8.30a.m.  
Arrive Honiton 9.30 a.m.

1. 9.30 – 10.30a.m. **St Paul, Honiton. Devon.** 8 Bells. 12cwt. F#
  2. 11.00 – 12 Noon. **St Nicholas & St Giles, Sidmouth. Devon.** 10 Bells. 18 cwt. E.  
12.00 – 1.30pm. Lunch at 'Dukes' Restaurant, Sidmouth.
  3. 2.00 – 3.00p.m. **St Andrew, Colyton. Devon.** 8 Bells. 24 cwt. D.
  4. 3.45 – 4.45pm. **Blessed Virgin Mary, Thorncombe. Dorset.** 8 Bells. 20 cwt. E flat.
  5. 5.15 – 6.15p.m. **St Mary, Chard. Somerset.** 8 Bells. 23 cwt. E flat.  
6.00 – 6.30p.m. Tea in Chard
- Depart Chard 6.30 p.m.  
Arrive Taunton 7.00 p.m.

All timings, **except 8.30am departure**, are approximate.

The Coach will depart from, and arrive back in, Taunton, at the bus-stop lay-by behind Sainsbury's/Halfords at the Hankridge Farm retail park, as in the last few years. Please be punctual. Time lost at the start is very hard to recover. Car parking is generally easy and free in front of the shops here, or in the B&Q car park.

The intention is to allow about an hour or so of leisurely ringing at each of the five towers. Lunch will be taken at the excellent 'Dukes' Restaurant in Sidmouth, from where there is an ample view of the sea; main course prices from around £6–12. Do not forget your buckets and spades for a light diversion on the sand after lunch, although it will be high tide at about 15.30. (UT +1Hr).

A light tea will be available at the end of the day at around £3-4. This will be in Chard Church Centre provided by the Chard Branch MU.

Please let me know, as below, who will be coming, by April 30<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Bookings are on a 'first come, first served' basis. A £10 booking deposit is required, non-refundable after 26<sup>th</sup> April, unless the place is otherwise filled before departure. The cost is expected to be around £14, which includes tower fees but excluding lunch, tea and any personal refreshments.

Latecomers can only be accommodated if there may be cancellations or spaces still not taken. A maximum of 30 'ringing' places are available. Non-ringing friends and relatives, spouses, girl/boyfriends, uncles, aunts and cousins by the dozens are also very welcome, space permitting on the 41 seat coach, for what promises to be an interesting, scenic, very varied and, hopefully, leisurely and enjoyable ringing excursion.

Details of the churches chosen have been researched by Martin and are included with images on the following page; there is great interest here historically and architecturally.

**Please bring this leaflet with you on the day as a reference for your own interest.**

Martin Cursham and Tom Harris

**To reserve a place please reply to –**

Tom Harris

Higher Yarde Farm, Staplegrove.

TAUNTON. Somerset. TA2 6SW. 01823 451553. E-mail to [TauntonBranch.PressOfficer@bath-wells.org.uk](mailto:TauntonBranch.PressOfficer@bath-wells.org.uk)

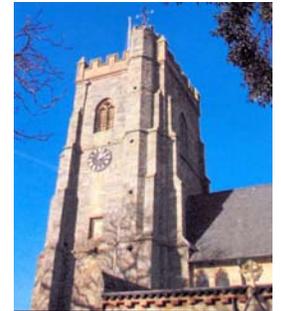
**B&WDACR Taunton Branch - 3 Counties Bucket & Spade Outing**  
**Saturday 8th May 2010**

## The Churches

The parish church of St Paul, **Honiton** was designed in the Norman style with rounded arches and built in 1835. The architect was Charles Fowler who was also responsible for Covent Garden in London. The tower is a conspicuous landmark. It is 104 feet high and houses a clock made by Matthew Murch of Honiton. There are 6 bells taken from the Chapel of Allhallows School. Two more were added in 1949, one a gift of Charles Parson Slade and the other bears the words *An Easter gift from the people of the Church they love*.



The parish church of St Giles and St Nicholas, **Sidmouth**, on hallowed ground for at least 800 years, was rebuilt in 1450 and again in 1860. St Giles the holy hermit, who had a hind as a pet, was the first patron. St Nicholas, patron saint of sailors, was later added for the fishermen of the town. The west window was given by Queen Victoria in memory of her father, the Duke of Kent, who died while staying in the town. The tower contains a very fine ring of 10 bells.



The church of St Andrew, **Colyton**, is Norman in origin but built on the site of a succession of Saxon churches dating back to 700 AD. From the 14<sup>th</sup> century, successive extensions were built outwards from the tower base. In 1769 and again in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the two side aisles were enlarged. Prior to the Reformation the octagonal lantern was superimposed on the square Norman tower: the inspiration for this unusual feature was said to be the tower of Bruges Town Hall, likely to have been familiar to the wool merchants of Colyton. The fine ring of six bells were augmented to eight in 1998, the first new bells for over 200 years.



What is it about the parish of **Thorncombe**? It was in Devon and the Diocese of Exeter up to 1843, at which time it was then incorporated into Dorset and the Diocese of Salisbury. It remains in Dorset but became part of Bath & Wells in 1982. The original church was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1239 AD. This old church stood about 50 yards to the south of the present church, which was built in 1886. When first hung the bells in the old church were the second heaviest ring of 5 in England, the total weight being almost 3 tons. The tenor bell recast in 1936 bears the inscription *I to the Church the living call, And to the grave do summon all*. The bells were re-hung in 1962 and increased to eight.



St. Mary's Church **Chard** was built entirely in one period and as a result has a feeling of wholeness. It was commenced in the year 1400 and finished in 1445. The fine oak roofs of the transepts, with their magnificent bosses, are particularly noticeable. There is evidence that the Church suffered severely at the hands of Chard's Puritans in the 17th century, particularly in the transepts and the chancel. Few Churches can boast so many grotesque gargoyles. The tower has a fine peal of eight bells, re-hung in 2003, and a clock which chimes out each quarter hour in a setting often known as 'Chard Times'.

