

# CARY BRANCH

Issue 7

Autumn 2025

## Easter Ringing

The bells rang out for Easter services across the Cary Branch, at Henstridge, Bruton, West Camel, North Cadbury (complete with Easter bunny), Batcombe, and Wincanton. In Charlton Horethorne, the ringing bells called a family into the church even though there was no service that day, showing that the bells really do call people to service.



Paul, Kate, Ellen & Christine in Henstridge

Well done to Kate who rang on a Sunday for the first time!



Sue, Adrian, Bruno, Jeannette & Paul in Batcombe



Catherine, Syra, Petra, Harry G, Roy & Joe in Bruton



Paul, Kelly, Hannah, Kev, Ed & Alistair in West Camel



Emma, Mary, Kev, Katy, Andrew & Julia in North Cadbury



Emma, Robin, Janet, Adrian, Chrissie, Richard & Jim in Wincanton

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Audrey Riley on 18th June. Audrey was a big influence in the Bath and Wells Association, and especially within the Cary Branch. We invite you to send in your memories of Audrey for publication here next time.



On the 8th May 1945 bells rang out across Britain as the nation took to the streets in celebration of Victory in Europe Day. Eighty years later, ringers nationwide, and across the Cary Branch rang to celebrate this

momentous occasion and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might live in a free world. Ringers across our Branch made a real effort to ring in as many towers as possible with many people ringing at more than one tower during the event.



West Lydford rang after a short service around the War Memorial that attracted at least 70 people, followed by bacon butties: Jo Wallwork, Viv McHale, Jane Frampton, Mel Higgs, Tom O'Brien, Kevin Rowbottom, Neill Thomas & Ralph Berry



Call change Peal in Yeovilton, followed by tea and cake: Christine Barraclough, David Barraclough, Viv McHale, Emma Ceely, Simon Tremewan & Rick Pollard



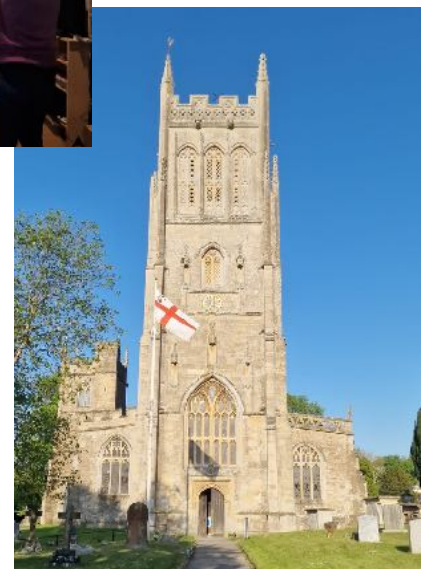
Call Change Peal at Barton St David: Simon Tremewan, Christine Thomas, Viv McHale, Georgina Muir, Janet Lowe & Rick Pollard



Pitcombe

Ringers from Bruton joined those from Pitcombe to ring at both towers: Christine Dunn, Karen Dunn, Harry Good, Harry Mills, Roy Taylor, Tom Power, Petra Dowell, Anna Joyce & Joe Wheller

Well done to Harry Mills for tolling the 25cwt tenor 80 times!







A Quarter Peal in South Cadbury: Kelly Symms, Paul Reeves, Kev Newport, Geoff Batson, Ed Reeves & Emma Ceely

Charlton Horethorne:  
Anna Joyce, Jane Watkins,  
Liz Snell, Catherine  
Mathew, David Clark &  
Richard Cressey



Wincanton: Adrian Chiplen, Janet Lowe, Richard D'Arcy, Chrissie Rose, Robin Wickenden, Jim Ebner & Aaron Moreton



West Camel: Kelly Symms, Geoff Batson, Kev Newport, Stan Redmond, Charlie McLaren & Paul Reeves



North Cadbury: Mary Gruner, Nigel Chambers, Julia Ingram, Susan Gilbert, Andrew Moore, Katy Wilde & Richard Whitehead



Batcombe rang for the village VE Day celebration on BH Monday. Sue Wade, Adrian Amiri, Bruno Cristofoli, Jeannette Smith, Paul Merron & David Sage



Charlton Mackrell and Charlton Adam ringers combined to ring at Charlton Mackrell:

Mike Whitaker, Phil Trevethan, Wendy Poole, David Fraser, Roux Viljoen & Pauline Whitaker

## New for 2025: Branch Rounds Striking Challenge!

Keep the date free....Saturday 11th October 10:30-12:30

More information in the next edition



# News from the Towers



Robin, Janet, Les, Mark, Pippa & Emma at Cucklington

There have been lots of reasons to ring recently, from Easter, to St George's Day and for the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day as well as in memorial for Pope Francis and Bell Sunday. Wedding season is also now in full swing. 3 Wincanton ringers were called to Cucklington for a May wedding, complete with tea and cake for the ringers during the service!



• • • • •  
• To celebrate "Bell Sunday", the Bellringers  
• of Bruton opened up the West Tower of St.  
• Mary's Church to visitors. Running several  
• groups during the afternoon, visitors got to  
• learn about the history of the bells, how  
• they worked, and see the bells themselves -  
• including Bell No. 4 which was cast in  
• 1528, nearly 500 years ago. Thanks to  
• the fantastic weather, visitors were also  
• treated to spectacular views from the  
• roof of the tower.  
• • • • •



Wincanton was the location for a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Major in memory of His Holiness Pope Francis.



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Tuesday, 22 April 2023 in 47m

Wincanton, Somerset

St Peter and St Paul

Tenor: 15-1-1 in F#

1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

- 1 Margaret J Bignell
- 2 Patrick C Tucker
- 3 Cathy Civill
- 4 A C John Davis
- 5 Patricia Tucker
- 6 Susan Irvine
- 7 Susan E Cave
- 8 Lawrence C Bignell (C)

First inside of Surprise Major 6

In Memoriam of Pope Francis

## Visitors

I wanted to give a special thank you to those ringers who visit other towers for practice nights, for Sunday ringing and special events. You can be the difference between being able to ring a plain course of something or a touch. Your presence can allow someone to stand by to help a ringer learn something new, sometimes it is you that enables a practice to take place at all. It is hugely appreciated.

Everywhere I have rung, without exception, there has been a warm welcome and encouragement. Consider going along to a different tower and be the person that makes the difference.

South Cadbury ringers have been across the border to ring a quarter peal at St George's in Bourton for St George's Day. A first visit to that tower for the whole band. Congratulations also to Paul Reeves who was presented with his certificate to celebrate 60 years of membership to the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.



## What's happening in your tower?

Are you ringing somewhere new while on holiday? Send your photos in. Copy for the next newsletter to be with the editor by 20th September please. [carybranch.news@bath-wells.org](mailto:carybranch.news@bath-wells.org)

# Why have a social media page?

Joe Wheller from Bruton

We have to face facts; bellringing is a niche activity. People love to hear the sound of church bells. But, for most people, they are the sound of nostalgia, an appreciation of the past, a sense of 'This England'. They don't feel personally 'connected' to the bells.

People don't know about the history. They might not even be aware that their town has a bell that's been ringing for them for 500 years. They might not realise people still ring; they assume everything is automated these days. And, they might not know anything at all about the practice of ringing, so it is not even considered as a pastime to take up.



It isn't the public's fault. The bells are unseen, up a tower. The ringing chamber is often tucked away inside the church and, facing another fact, most people just don't go to church anymore. So, how would they know anything about bellringing?

Whether we like it or not then, the onus is on us to help our communities understand bellringing and help them become connected with the bells.

In the past, the church itself acted as a 'social network'. Whole communities gathered there at least once a week, often more. People would meet, talk, discuss, and hear news about what's going on – including news about the bells and the ringers. Bellringing played a key role in that, the bells called the community to church.

That doesn't happen now. But, we do have new types of 'social networks'. These are online and can reach the whole community and beyond. These are the places where people now 'gather', where they get news and are updated on community activity; so, this is where bellringers also now need to have a presence.

Setting up a Facebook page or an Instagram account allows you to connect with individuals, community organisations, and local businesses in an easy way. Through these platforms, people can, once again, become reacquainted with the bells.



Image: Joe Wheller

Some ringers might worry that this is a whole new world and be concerned about it. However, don't think of it as new. Bellringers have been at the heart of their community's social network for centuries. It is only in recent years that this hasn't been the case. Think of creating a Facebook page like installing a new rope for an old bell. Yes, there's some stretch, it doesn't feel quite the same, a few adjustments need to be made – but pretty soon, you're back to ringing the old bell just as before.



So, start a new Facebook page. Yes, there's a bit of stretch, a bit of getting used to it. But before you know it, your tower and bells will be back to being part of community, just as it has always been. In turn, the community will be open to supporting you, through learning to ring or helping to support fundraising.

#Bellringers of Bruton

#Bellringers of Wincanton





The band clockwise from front right.  
Image: Simon Tremewan



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Wednesday, 9 April 2025

Wincanton, Somerset

St Peter and St Paul

Tenor: 15-1-1 in F#

102 Queen's Variation Triples

Owen Berclase, arranged by Simon Tremewan

- 1 Simon Tremewan, (C)
- 2 Janet Lowe
- 3 Jenny Alderson
- 4 Viv McHale
- 5 William Hall
- 6 Cathy Civill
- 7 Miranda Penhaligon
- 8 Richard Follard

After a couple of restarts, a band consisting of some local ringers and a visitor from Cornwall successfully rang a Call Change Peal in Wincanton in April. Simon is keen to integrate more ringers into ringing Call Change Peals especially those who struggle with Method ringing. If you would be interested, watch out for emails advertising Purple Practices or contact Simon directly.

Having tried this style of ringing for the first time myself, I can confirm it isn't quite as daunting as I thought it would be and actually, good fun.

## Branch practices & Workshops

Ditchheat hosted the Branch practice for 15 ringers in April for Call Changes, Plain Hunt and Bob Triples.



With fewer attendees at Horsington for the May Branch practice, everyone got a good amount of rope time. Great practice for Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob and Call Changes.

June was the 8 bells of Wincanton which was really well attended. Perhaps it was the promise of cake or perhaps the opportunity to ring Triples methods., as well as Call Changes.



The May and June workshops were very successful with great progress made by all who attended.

The workshops are taking a break for the summer but watch out for more information in the autumn.

### UPCOMING BRANCH PRACTICES

July

**12**

West Camel 2.30-4

August

**9**

South Cadbury 2.30-4

September

**13**

Pen Selwood 2.30-4

**Red pathway practices** continue by invitation. Please contact Cathy if you would like to be included: [catherine.civill@btinternet.com](mailto:catherine.civill@btinternet.com) A prerequisite of these practices is to be able to ring Cambridge.