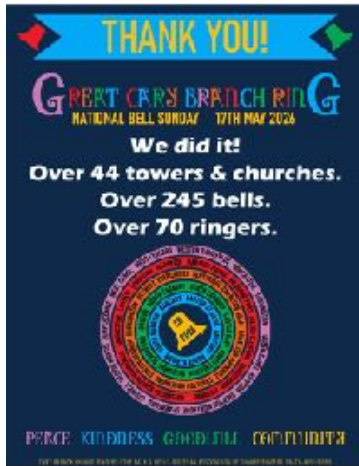


CARY BRANCH

Issue 11

Autumn 2026

You'd better bell-ieve it! - Joe Wheller



The Great Cary Branch Ring 2026 was a big success on this year's Bell Sunday.

107 ringers successfully raced to ring 252 bells in 48 towers across the Branch. It was a fantastic day to celebrate our bells, ringers, and all that's good in our community.

We had chimers aged <10, ringers in teens, twenties, and all the way through to 80+. It is a rare activity that can bring so many different people together. Indeed we had ringers who took part from across the "border" in Mere, Bristol, and all the way down from Inverness! The Great Cary Branch Ring was covered in national, regional, and local media which has helped us spread the word about ringing to new audiences.

We had huge support from churches, clergy, wardens, congregations, and key-keepers on our way around - providing access, moral support, applause, cake, tea, and even prosecco!

Finally, a huge thank you to all the ringers, bands, and leads who made it possible to sound out our incredi-bells across our Branch and communities.



This year's Strictly Come Striking event was held at Horsington. Well done to all who came along and had a go and congratulations to the band from Wincanton who managed to hold on to their title. Thank you to Rosemary who co-ordinated all the tea and cake and Fran for her support of all things ringing. Save the date for next year, 6th March 2027!



News from the B&W AGM: there has been a change to the rule regarding junior membership. Ringers are now eligible for junior rates up until they are 25 as long as they are in full-time education.

News from the Towers



Ringers from all over the Branch came to help out for the Open Day at **North Cheriton** with a demo and trial for new people. Several people tried their hand at backstroke and one lapsed ringer has made a date to come to a practice and get back into it after ringing here.



Janet, Emma and Ollie from **Wincanton**, with help from Toby, Anna and Michael showed students from King Arthurs around the ringing room . They looked at a model bell and all had a go at chiming. Some of them went on to ring backstroke and we hope to welcome them back another time.



Association Striking Competition: If anyone is interested in joining a band for the 6 bell or 8 bell competition on 26th September, please contact Toby.

Improvers Practice

Wincanton hosted the inaugural Improvers Practice with 6 learners from 3 towers and 13 helpers and teachers. Rounds were rung and the start of Call Changes for some. Since then, the Improvers have visited Charlton Horethorne and Evercreech and have made great progress with their ringing.



Bruton has been busy during the past few weeks starting with a Rogation Walk on the 6th Sunday of Easter, traditionally when clergy, farmers and townsfolk walked the benefice asking for the blessing of the land. This time, no clergy or townsfolk but they were met by Harry the donkey.

Then during Bruton Boost, Joe and his band hosted an Intro to Ringing with a surprise visitor (thanks Simon Percy) and 7 potential new ringers who had were given a demo and all had a go at chiming and ringing backstroke.

Bell Sunday was especially busy for the Bruton ringers who helped to cover several towers, Joe managing to ring at 8 towers on the day and concluded the day with a quarter peal at South Cadbury.

What's happening in your tower?

Do you have anything you would like included in the next newsletter? Would you like to write a short article about a workshop or ringing experience? Photos and copy to be with the editor by 5th October please. carybranch.news@bath-wells.org

Presentations



The Wincanton Ringers would like to thank Janet Lowe for her decades of captaincy. She has taught many learners with great skill and huge amounts of patience. Thankfully, she is continuing to ring and support the rest of us. She was presented with a framed photo of the Wincanton church at a small gathering in May.

Congratulations to Jenny Alderson who was presented with her 50 year long service certificate by the Master, Rev Guy Scott himself, and also to Stan Redmond who also achieved his 50 year milestone membership of the Bath and Wells Association.



Jenny Alderson



Stan Redmond

7 new members were elected in May including two juniors. Welcome to Katie (unattached), Jo from Wincanton, Andy, Frazer and Christine from Henstridge, April and Yari from North Cadbury.

Another 4 members were elected in June. Welcome to Anthony, Alex, Jane and Jo, all from Milborne Port.

Congratulations to Yari, Ollie and April, who were presented with their Young Ringer Awards

Bonnie, Arabella and Jack also received their Young Ringer Award certificates



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Paul Reeves, Tower Captain at Queen Camel, and great ringer and friend to so many. He passed peacefully with his family around him.

His funeral will be held at Queen Camel on Monday 3rd August at 11.30am.

Branch practices & Training

Upcoming Events

Date		Venue	Time	
July	Sat 4th	Charlton Mackrell	2.30-4	
	Monday 13th	West Lydford	7-8-30	Evening Practice
	Sat 18th	Stoke Trister	2.30-4	
August	Sat 1st	Charlton Horethorne	2.30-4	
	Sat 15th	Cucklington	2.30-4	
September	Sat 5th	Henstridge	2.30-4	
	Sat 19th	Barton St David	2.30-4	
October	Sat 3rd	Bruton	2.30-4	
	Sat 17th	Queen Camel	2.30-4	
	Sat 31st	Pitcombe	2-5	AGM



Charlton Adam Branch Practice

Branch Practices have been fairly consistently well attended with around 12 people at each. Some towers in the Branch are less frequently visited and this has been a great opportunity for ringers to tick them off and gain some experience on some sometimes tricky bells at the same time.

Call Changes have featured at each one, alongside a variety of methods for those who are able to, including Minimus, Doubles, Minor and Triples methods. Encouragement and support have been very much in evidence and a little bit of teaching has really improved the quality of ringing. At Marston Magna, we even managed to ring the first two lines of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, cleverly disguised as a bell handling exercise. Batcombe welcomed us with drinks and cake (thank you Paul and Sue) and a new method to most, New Grandsire.



CONTACTS:

Toby Doar: 07786 511710

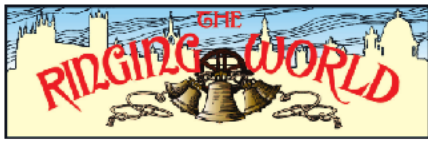
Anna Joyce: 07828 217504



West Camel

Red pathway practices continue by invitation. Can you already ring Cambridge? Are you able to ring other Surprise Minor Methods but never get the chance? Please contact Cathy if you would like to be included for Red Practices: catherine.civill@btinternet.com

There are also now Surprise Major Practices running monthly within the Branch. Contact Toby or Chris Thomas if you would like to be involved.



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Tuesday, 12 May 2026 in 19m

Marston Bigot, Somerset
St Leonard

Tenor: 7-0-21 in B

120 St Leonard's Doubles Call Changes

- 1 Richard Pollard
- 2 Viv McHale
- 3 Helen Donnelly
- 4 Ralph Berry
- 5 Simon Tremewan (C)
- 6 Toby Doar

Composition chosen to commemorate the saint to whom the church is dedicated.

The recent outing to Marston Bigot proved to be an enjoyable and encouraging day of ringing, with a great spirit of support, good humour, and willingness from everyone to have a go at something new. It is particularly pleasing to see confidence developing across the group, both in calling and in general striking and the steady improvement in listening and rhythm throughout did not go unnoticed.

Congratulations go to those who successfully called *30 Sixty on Thirds* — perhaps next time we can aim for a full course! Special mention must also go to Viv for tackling the first part of *Reverse Peal No. 1*. By the second attempt, the calling was notably smoother and more confident, leaving the band well set up for the second half had time allowed. Another challenge for next time.

The group also persevered with *120 St Leonard's Doubles Call Changes*, a new composition for many involved. After a slightly tentative start, the ringing settled into a much more rhythmical and consistent performance, resulting in a successful and enjoyable achievement that has now been recorded on BellBoard.

Chris' absence was keenly felt, particularly during the ringing up and down, and there was general agreement that a future outing dedicated to practising these skills — ideally with Chris back at the helm — would be warmly welcomed.

Congratulations to everyone involved for making the day such a positive and rewarding occasion. - Simon Tremewan

THE PURPLE PAGE

If you are interested in Call Changes, and would like to be added to the Call Change Collective Whatsapp group run by Simon, please get in touch with him at simon.tremewan@gmail.com



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Thursday, 9 April 2026 in 23m

Somerton, Somerset
St Michael and All Angels
Tenor: 20 in E

128 Enhanced Roller Coaster Triples Call Changes
Owen J Borlase

- 1 Christine Thomas
- 2 Georgina Muir
- 3 Viv McHale
- 4 Helen Donnelly
- 5 Steve Davis
- 6 Richard Pollard
- 7 Simon Tremewan (C)
- 8 William Hall

First Call Change Peal 5.

First on eight 2 and 4



Call Change Day Out, photo from Somerton
9th April



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Thursday, 11 June 2026 in 25m

Longburton, Dorset
St James

Tenor: 7-3-26 in Ab

120 Reverse Peal No1 Call Changes
A D Elliot and J A Purdey

- 1 Christine Thomas (C)
- 2 Viv McHale
- 3 Janet Lowe
- 4 Richard Pollard
- 5 Simon Tremewan
- 6 William Hall

First as Conductor.



Call Change practice at
Glanvilles Wooton



Raising and lowering at Leigh



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Wednesday, 22 April 2026 in 46m

Barton St David, Somerset

St David

Tenor: 9-3-10 in A♭

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Nicola S Boyd
- 2 William L Hall (C)
- 3 Viv McHale
- 4 Rick Pollard
- 5 Roy Taylor
- 6 Ralph Berry

First Quarter Inside (4)

Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Friday, 1 May 2026 in 50m

Batcombe, Somerset

Blessed Virgin Mary

Tenor: 17-1-9 in E♭

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Sue Wade
- 2 Emma Ceely
- 3 Ed Reeves
- 4 Roy Taylor
- 5 Simon Tremewan (C)
- 6 Toby Doar

Rung to celebrate May Day.

The band sends our best wishes to Paul Reeves for a quick return to ringing with us again.

Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Sunday, 17 May 2026 in 48m

South Cadbury, Somerset

St Thomas a Becket

Tenor: 13-1-22 in F

1260 Doubles (2m/1p)

60 Stedman, 600 Grandsire, and 600 Plain Bob

- 1 Michael C Pearce
- 2 Simon A Percy (C)
- 3 Toby Doar
- 4 Emma Ceely
- 5 Geoff Batson
- 6 Joe Wheller

First Quarter Peal - 6

Rung for Bell Sunday, where all towers in the Cary Branch of the Bath and Wells Association were rung during the day.



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Tuesday, 19 May 2026 in 43m

Compton Dundon, Somerset

St Andrew

Tenor: 10-1-21 in F♯

1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles

- 1 Penelope I Hooper
- 2 Anna Joyce
- 3 Beverley Perry (C)
- 4 Robert Backus
- 5 Leslie E Perry
- 6 William L Hall

First in method - 4. Circled tower - 3.



BELL BOARD



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Monday, 22 June 2026 in 45m

Pitcombe, Somerset

St Leonard

Tenor: 9-0-23 in G

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Margaret J Bignell
- 2 Lawrence C Bignell (C)
- 3 Geoff Batson
- 4 Emma Ceely
- 5 Toby Doar
- 6 Georgina Muir

1st as cover 6

40th Quarter Peal 4

Congratulations to Georgina who finally achieved her tenor quarter after several attempts (through no fault of her own).



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Saturday, 13 June 2026 in 47m

Wincanton, Somerset

St Peter and St Paul

Tenor: 15-1-1 in F♯

1260 Doubles (9m)

Stedman, Grandsire, Plain Bob, Kennington, April Day, Salwarpe, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place, Southtrepps, Clifford's Pleasure,

- 1 Janet Lowe
- 2 Emma Ceely
- 3 Sam Shead (C)
- 4 Roy Taylor
- 5 Toby Doar
- 6 Aaron Moreton

Rung remembering Roger Lowe, whose 80th birthday would have been today. This is, very appropriately, Janet's 80th quarter peal.

Most methods to a quarter : 2



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Monday, 29 June 2025 in 45m

Barton St David, Somerset

St David

Tenor: 9-3-10 in A♭

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Cathy Civill
- 2 Jenny Alderson
- 3 Emma Ceely
- 4 Roy Taylor
- 5 Toby Doar
- 6 William L Hall (C)

To mark the engagement of Tom Dear (son of 5) and Lucy Fielding.

Emma's first Quarter on 6 bells.