

CARY BRANCH

Issue 12

Winter 2026



The first Christmas Carol Concert organised by the Cary Branch will be held on Saturday 28th November 4pm.

- ♦ Tower Bell ringing
- ♦ Choral singing by 'The Cary Branch Choir'
- ♦ Congregation carols
- ♦ Readings
- ♦ Handbells
- ♦ Festive snacks
- ♦ Mulled wine and juice
- ♦ The opportunity to get together at this festive time with friends and other ringers

Do come along and join this special evening, bring your family and friends. Entry is free but donations will be welcomed and shared between the West Camel bell fund and Yeovil Street Pastors. There is also still time to join the choir. Contact Toby if you would like to be included.

Upcoming Events

Date	Venue	Time	
October Sat 3rd	Bruton	2.30-4	
Sat 17th	Queen Camel	2.30-4	
Sat 31st	Pitcombe	2-5	AGM
November Sat 7th	Milborne Port	2.30-4	
Sat 21st	West Lydford	2.30-4	
Sat 28th	West Camel	4-6	Carol Service
December Sat 5th	Wincanton	2.30-4	
Sat 19th	South Cadbury	2.30-4	
	Merry Christmas		

The **2026 Branch AGM** will be held on Saturday 31st October, hosted by Pitcombe. Ringing beforehand from 2pm and a bring and share tea. Come and have your say, vote for your committee (some posts are currently vacant) and help shape the future of the Cary Branch. Minutes and Agenda have been sent to your Tower Correspondent.

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.

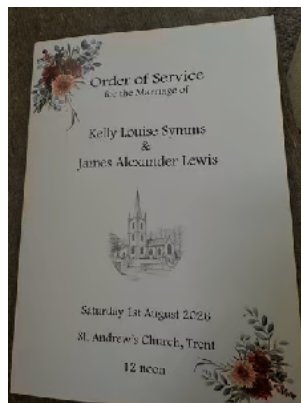
News from the Towers



Milborne Port fete welcomed Peals on Wheels, the 6 bell mini ring run by Matthew Higby. It was a popular attraction and with the tenor weighing only 1cwt, accessible for pretty much everybody, even if some had to stand on the trailer.

The Bell Ringers of Bruton have been busy again, Ringing at the Big Brue festival in September as well as hosting an Open Tower event at St Mary's Church for their Heritage Open Day and ringing for Harvest Festival.

They have also rung to open the Bruton Museum Festival of History and Heritage month. Congratulations to their newest recruit Matt who has now rung for Sunday service and taken part in his first event ringing.



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Saturday, 1 August 2026

Trent, Dorset

St Andrew

Tenor: 18 in E

Rounds and Grandsire Doubles

Grandsire Doubles

1 Simon Tremewan

2 Emma Ceely

3 Geoff Batson

4 Toby Doar

5 Edward P Reeves (C)

6 Alistair McLaren

Rung to celebrate the marriage of Kelly Symms and James Lewis today. Kelly is a regular ringer with the whole band and we wish them every happiness.

Congratulations to Kelly Symms and James Lewis on the occasion of their wedding



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 January please. carybranch.news@bath-wells.org

Paul Andrew Reeves (1947–2026)

Tower Captain, Queen and West Camel

Paul Reeves, who has died aged 79, was Tower Captain at Queen and West Camel for 56 years and a stalwart of the Cary Branch and of ringing in South Somerset for more than six decades.

Taught to ring at St John's, Yeovil, at the age of 12, Paul joined the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers in 1965 and rang alongside his father, brother and uncle at the Camel churches. Following the death of his father, Frederick J. Reeves, he became Tower Captain in 1970 - a role he held for the rest of his life.



Paul opening up Queen Camel

The Reeves family connection with the tower runs deep. Using church records, Paul traced his lineage in Queen Camel to the 1630s, and a photograph of the "Queen Camel Ringers 1895" hangs in the ringing chamber, showing his grandfather Robert Reeves. Paul was proud to be custodian of what he considered the finest ring of six bells in the world.

An accomplished ringer of heavy bells, Paul rang and conducted peals and quarter peals on some of the heaviest rings, including at East Pennard, Wells Cathedral and Sherborne Abbey. He was also pleased to have rung a Quarter or a Peal in nearly every tower in the branch.

He taught dozens of novices and was always ready to help others develop their bellringing skills. He held several Branch offices, including Ringing Master, and was instrumental in establishing the Cary Branch's Osbourne Trophy for young ringers.

Away from the tower, Paul ran the family construction firm, F. J. Reeves & Sons Ltd, carrying out much work at St. Barnabas and other local churches - including a rewire in 1972 when he installed the distinctive Charles Hopkins light fittings. He was also involved in the augmentation at West Camel in 1977 and at Pitcombe in 2013. He was proud to be in the band ringing the first peal on the 'new sixes' at both towers.



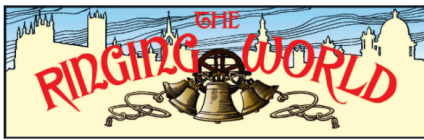
Queen Camel Ringers 1895

Paul's funeral at Queen Camel on 3rd August drew a crowded church, followed by the first half-muffled peal on these bells; 5040 doubles in 23 m/v, the most methods ever rung to a peal in the tower. The family were touched by the affection shown for Paul and would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended and those who sent messages of condolence.

He is very much missed by his family and by the many friends he made across the ringing community.

H. Thomas R. Reeves G. Steer J. Farthing F. Parsons

W. Vincent H. Windsor J. Thomas J. Morris G. Morris F. Perrett



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Sunday, 2 August 2026 in 20m

Queen Camel, Somerset
St Barnabas

Tenor: 36-3-7 in C

Call Changes and 120 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Anna M Marsden (C)
- 2 Edward P Reeves (C)
- 3 David R Reeves
- 4 Frederick C Reeves
- 5 Arthur Reeves
- 6 James S Reeves
- 7 Christopher J Reeves

The bells were rang half-muffled to the memory of Paul Andrew Reeves. Wonderful Father and Uncle to the to the all family band.

Paul was the tower captain of this and West Camel Church from April 1970 and taught all the band to ring.

Also present in the tower and wishing to be associated with this ringing:- Will Reeves, Emma Reeves, Honor Reeves, Nicole Dubras, Michelle Reeves, Saoirse Reeves, Oisín Reeves, Dan Reeves and Tom Reeves.



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Sunday, 2 August 2026 in 65m

Queen Camel, Somerset
St Barnabas

Tenor: 36-3-7 in C

1380 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Frederick C Reeves
- 2 David R Reeves
- 3 Anna M Marsden (Reeves) (C)
- 4 Christopher J Reeves
- 5 Edward P Reeves
- 6 Arthur Reeves

A half-muffled Quarter Peal

rung in Memory of Paul Andrew Reeves.

Uncle to 1, 4, & 6 and Father to 2, 3 & 5.

All family Quarter Peal, and the first being just one generation of Reeves'.

Paul shall never be forgotten and will always be in our hearts and especially when we hear the bells ringing at Queen Camel.

Celebrating a beautiful life well lived with fondest love.

A dear Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather and Uncle.

"...called home to rest at last."



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Monday, 3 August 2026 in 3h 35

Queen Camel, Somerset
St Barnabas

Tenor: 36-3-7 in C

5040 Doubles (23m/v)

New, Huntspill, St Vedast, Blaisdon, St Simons, Eynsham, St Martins, St Leonard, St Osmund, St Ninian, Eynesbury, St John Baptist, Plain, April Day, St Nicholas, Lapley, Winchendon, St John, Huntley, Obediah, Reverse Canterbury, Cliffords Pleasure, Grand-sire.

- 1 Phill J Payne
- 2 Robert Perry
- 3 Jody A Wood
- 4 Nigel R Woodruff
- 5 Tim E Rose (C)
- 6 Sam Shead

Rung half-muffled after the funeral of Paul A Reeves, Mr Queen Camel himself.

Believed to be the first half-muffled peal on the bells.

Most methods rung to a peal on these bells.



Paul receiving his 60 year membership certificate of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers

26 performances to date have been dedicated to the memory of Paul Reeves. As a member of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers since 1965, he enjoyed a lifetime of ringing at towers throughout the UK and around the world. Those who knew him will remember his commitment to ringing, his friendship, and his encouragement of others. Ringing in his memory has taken place in 19 different towers, with 4 Peals, 11 Quarter Peals and 3 Call Change Peals as well as general ringing and shorter touches with approximately 103 different ringers.

This gives some idea of the breadth of Paul's influence and the many people whose lives he touched through his ringing. From those who rang alongside him regularly to ringers he met on his travels, Paul made connections that have endured and are now being reflected in the many tributes rung in his memory.



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Monday, 13 July 2026 in 47m

South Cadbury, Somerset
St Thomas a Becket
Tenor: 13-1-22 in F

1260 Grandsire Doubles

Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Emma Ceely
- 2 Georgina Muir
- 3 Maureen Gardiner (C)
- 4 Geoff Batson
- 5 Roy Taylor
- 6 Toby Doar

Rung in memory of Paul Reeves who was a regular at this tower and is very much missed.



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Thursday, 16 July 2026 in 38m

North Wootton, Somerset
Great Orchard Campanile
Tenor: 2-0-9 in F#

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Penelope I Hooper
- 2 Leslie E Perry
- 3 Lawrence C Bignell
- 4 Patrick C Tucker
- 5 Margaret J Bignell
- 6 Beverley Perry (C)
- 7 David P Hammonds
- 8 Patricia Tucker

50th quarter peal in 2026 - 2. 175th together 2 & 7.

Circled the ring 28 times - 6.

In fond memory of Paul A Reeves of Queen Camel.



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Saturday, 18 July 2026 in 45m

Sandford Orcas, Dorset
St Nicholas
Tenor: 11-1-11 in F#

1380 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Janet Lowe
- 2 Emma Ceely
- 3 Anna M Marsden (C)
- 4 Toby Doar
- 5 Geoff Batson
- 6 Edward P Reeves

Rung in fond memory of Paul Reeves who enjoyed ringing at this tower.

THE PURPLE PAGE



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Wednesday, 5 August 2026

Ditcheat, Somerset
St Mary Magdalene
Tenor: 24-0-4 in E♭

128 Enhanced Roller Coaster Triples Call Changes
Owen J Borlase

- 1 Christine Thomas
- 2 Emma Ceely
- 3 Viv McHale
- 4 Janet Lowe
- 5 Anna M Marsden
- 6 Richard Pollard
- 7 Simon Tremewan (C)
- 8 John Dunford

Rung in fond memory of our friend, Paul Reeves.
Pleased to be joined by Anna Marsden, Paul's daughter, ringing her first Call Change Peal.

Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Wednesday, 5 August 2026

Pitcombe, Somerset
St Leonard
Tenor: 9-0-23 in G

120 Reverse Peal No 1 Call Changes
A D Elliot and J A Purdey

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

Dedicated to our friend, Paul Reeves (RIP).
First as conductor.



Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

On Wednesday, 5 August 2026

West Camel, Somerset
All Saints
Tenor: 11-3-13 in F#

66 Sixty on Thirds Call Changes

- 1 Christine Thomas (C)
- 2 Viv McHale
- 3 Emma Ceely
- 4 Anna M Marsden
- 5 Simon Tremewan
- 6 Richard Pollard

Rung in fond memory of Paul Reeves, who was tower captain here.

We are pleased that Anna, his daughter, was able to ring with us today.



Twenty All Over

123456	Rounds
213456	1 to 2
231456	1 to 3
234156	1 to 4
234516	1 to 5
324516	2 to 3
342516	2 to 4
345216	2 to 5
345126	2 to 1
435126	3 to 4
453126	3 to 5
451326	3 to 1
451236	3 to 2
541236	4 to 5
514236	4 to 1
512436	4 to 2
512346	4 to 3
152346	5 to 1
125346	5 to 2
123546	5 to 3
123456	5 to 4

Most of us are used to ringing methods, but head down to Cornwall and you'll find a rather different style of ringing. Call changes are a big part of the Cornish tradition, with the conductor calling the bells into different orders rather than ringing a set method. It's all about listening, good bell control and working together ... and it can produce some wonderfully musical ringing.

If you can't get to grips with method ringing or you just like the sound of Call Change Ringing, come to one of the events run by Simon, who in recent months has arranged outings to Pitcombe, Ditcheat and West Camel with more planned for this month.

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

A Different Kind of Ringing: Bell Ringing in Valencia - *Emma Ceely*

During a recent trip to Valencia, I was lucky enough to spend time with Francesc and experience the city's unique bell ringing tradition on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Valencia has one of the most distinctive bell-ringing traditions in Europe. Unlike English change ringing, which developed around changing the order of striking, Valencian ringing evolved as a way of communicating with the whole community. Different ringing patterns announced feast days, funerals, civic celebrations, prayers, emergencies and even the passing of time.

The heart of this tradition is the famous cathedral bell tower, El Micalet, which was built between 1381 and 1420. The tower contains a remarkable collection of historic bells, including 'Caterina', cast in 1305 and still rung today. As in many Spanish towers, all the bells have names.



For an English ringer, the style is fascinatingly different. Valencian ringing combines rhythmic striking patterns (repiques), simultaneous striking of several bells (trancs) and full-circle ringing (volteos). The aim is not to produce methods or changes, but to create recognisable signals and impressive soundscapes for particular occasions.

One of the most interesting things I learned was that the ringing is much less formal than our own tradition. Rather than following a set method, ringers work within traditional patterns and rhythms. To English ears it can sound almost improvised, but there is a great deal of skill and experience behind it and the bells are rung directly from within the bell chamber rather than at a distance using ropes.

Like many ringing traditions, Valencian bell ringing declined during the twentieth century as towers were mechanised. However, a group of volunteers formed the 'Gremi de Campaners Valencians' in 1988 to revive the historic manual ringing traditions. Thanks to their work, manual ringing is once again heard at major festivals and celebrations across the region.

Today, Valencian manual bell ringing is recognised as an important part of Spain's cultural heritage and has been recognised by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage and declared a protected cultural treasure, and offers a fascinating reminder that, while our traditions may be very different, bell ringers everywhere share the same commitment to preserving and passing on their skills.

