Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers



Chew Branch



Newsletter: October 2026

Welcome to this autumn edition of the newsletter, keeping you up to date with what's going on in the Chew Branch.

Forthcoming Branch Events

Saturday 21st November

3.00pm

Branch AGM

St Andrew's, Clevedon

BS39 4HP. 8 bells; tenor 14-1-20



Following the ringing, which will, as usual, cater for all abilities, there will be a business meeting in the Church Hall. This will start soon after 4.30pm. We will hear reports for 2026 and elect our officers for the coming year.

Branch Bookstall with a range of books designed to help you progress in your ringing abilities, from basic to advanced

There will, of course, be tea and cake!

All welcome

Saturday Branch Practices

Our regular Branch Practices are held on the third Saturday of most months. Ringing is aimed at all levels of ability, from rounds and call changes to Surprise, and whenever possible we provide tea, coffee and cake after ringing, giving opportunities for socialising as well as ringing.

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Saturday 19th December

3.00pm – 4.30pm

Branch Practice

Ubley

BS40 6PJ

6 bells; tenor 12-2-10; ground floor

Our final practice of the year, so there may well be mulled wine and mince pies.
And almost certainly Christmas jumpers!

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10–Bell Practice

7.30pm – 9.00pm

on the 1st Saturday of each month

alternating between
Wrington (36cwt) – November, January
and **Backwell** (17cwt) – December, February

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Surprise Major Practice

7.30pm – 9.00pm

Yatton

on the 2nd Saturday of each month

from Cambridge to Spliced Surprise

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Wrington Improvers Practice

7.30pm – 9.00pm

on the 4th Thursday of each month

simple Triples and Caters

Association News

The Association Striking Competitions were held on Saturday 26th September at Ilton and North Curry. St Peter's, Ilton, in the Crewkerne Branch, has a ground floor ring of 6, tenor 12-0-18. St Peter and St Paul, North Curry, is in the neighbouring Taunton Branch and has a ring of 8 with a tenor of 14-3-10.

6-bell competition

Nine teams from across the Association entered this competition. Bands could ring any method, doubles or minor, of their choosing. The judge did not announce marks although he said the top 3 teams all rang extremely well and achieved close scores.



St Peter's Church, Ilton

1st	Portishead (Chew Branch)
2nd	Chew (yellow)
3rd	Frome
4th	Taunton
5th	Bath
6th	Glaston
7th	Fiddington (Bridgwater Branch)
8th	Ashcott (Bridgwater Branch)
9th	Crewkerne



Congratulations to the Portishead band on retaining the trophy



And to Chew (Yellow) for coming second

8-bell competition

This was judged by John Martin and Charlotte Boyce. The test piece was Plain Bob Triples.

Position	Faults	Branch
1st	56½	Frome
2nd	65	Bath
3rd	68½	Taunton
4th	73	Chew (Blue)
5th	74½	Chew (Red)
6th	112	Bridgwater
7th	125	Glaston



Chew (Blue)



Chew (Red)

Congratulations to . . .

Alison Pemble on ringing her first quarter peal of Major on an inside bell (Plain Bob Major; Backwell; 11th October)

Lynne Purcell on ringing her first quarter of minor on an inside bell (Plain Bob Minor; Backwell; 31st August)

Will Rogers on ringing his 250th quarter peal. (Plain Bob Minor; Worle; 19th September)

John Snawdon on his return to quarter peal ringing after a break of over 25 years.

Russell Toogood on ringing his first quarter of St Clement's College Bob Minor (Dundry; 4th October)

Tower News

Stanton Drew

We welcomed over two dozen ringers from the Axbridge area on Saturday 25 July who rang for an hour. After leaving St. Mary's, Stanton Drew, they walked to Pensford, a very pleasant flat walk taking about 25 minutes at a leisurely pace. Conveniently the footpath brings you out next to the Rising Sun pub. St Thomas a Becket Church in Pensford is now a residential home but the tower, in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, is open to pre-arranged tours which the group enjoyed. Next was a short walk to the Church of All Saints, Publow, where the group were able to ring.



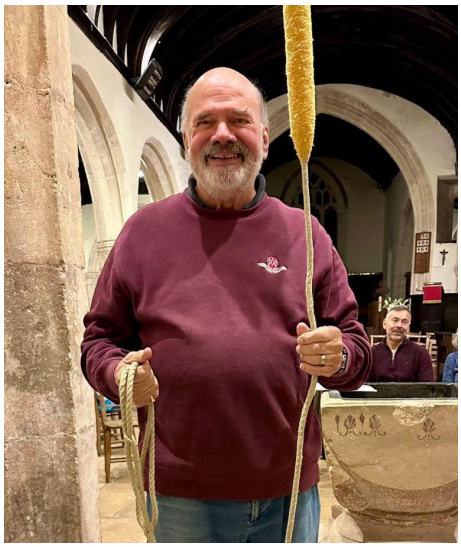
When we have struggled to make up the necessary numbers for Sunday service, we have much appreciated assistance from several members of the Chew Magna group which has had the added benefit of improving our overall ringing. We also recently welcomed two visitors from Leicestershire for Sunday service ringing who were staying nearby and enjoyed their assistance and contribution.

We now have a large TV screen installed in the ringing chamber which was kindly donated by a member of the ringing team. A camera has been placed in the belfry so visitors are able to see the bells ringing without having to climb the ladders. The camera came out of an old bird box. It was very helpful to have the bells on the TV during tower tours to help demystify it all for our visitors during the Stanton Drew flower show.

Ubley

The Ubley Ringers are progressing nicely, having now moved on from Plain Hunt to Grandsire Doubles. The last few months have been exciting as we have a freshly repainted frame, four new ropes, a new set of muffles and a wireless simulator about to be installed. But more importantly, we have John back.

Even a major heart operation could not keep John Simcock away from the bells for long. After a valve replacement on 19 August, he was out of hospital a day later and back ringing by mid-September. John is one of Ubley's great characters: a plain-speaking northerner who tells it as he sees it



John Simcock

Aged 40, he took up ringing at Compton Martin in 1982, and continued ringing there for 24 years. When he moved to Ubley in 2007 there was sadly no active band. That changed in 2024, when a new band formed under the guidance of Andrew Ball, Sally Monkhouse, Martin Sperring and Tish Jeffery. John eagerly joined and found that, although rusty, his ringing skills were still there. The band has since been strengthened by experienced ringers Lester and Pat Yeo, who have moved into the village. They joined enthusiastic local learners Ronan Dorvillers, Ian Goldsmith, Jane Haley and Christie Peacock.

For John, much of the joy of ringing lies in the friendship and banter, and being in the company of a diverse group of fellow villagers and local ringers.

Reports of Branch Events

Some 18 members attended the Branch Practice at Backwell on Saturday 19th September. Much of the ringing was on the back 8, with the less experienced members having plenty of opportunity to ring rounds and call changes, while a variety of methods were rung for those who wanted something slightly more advanced. After ringing, tea and a good selection of cakes were served in the adjoining hall. The book stall did a brisk trade, taking orders for Ringing World diaries, calendars and the new design of Christmas cards.

Welcome

Five ringers were elected to Branch membership at the Branch Practice at Backwell on Saturday 19th September.

Jenny Coulman
Mike Crafer
Fiona Harper
Annette Milton
Jane Swyer

all from St Michael's, Dundry

Branch Bookstall

There is still plenty of time to order Ringing World seasonal items via the Branch bookstall. We receive a 15% discount on orders over £100 – the profit goes to the newly established Branch Fund. So far we have placed orders for well over £300.



2027 Ringing World Calendar
A4, landscape
£13

2027 Ringing World Diary
With hundreds of methods and touches
Pocket size. 294 pages
Standard: **£15**
With pencil: **£16**











New design Christmas cards

The message reads: *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*
Pack of 12 (3 each of 4 designs):
£8.50

Wrapping Paper
2 A1 sheets of quality paper and 4 gift tags: **£4**



Please place your orders with Lionel Smith:
lizandlionel43@gmail.com

Payment on delivery, by cash or bank transfer

Other News

How many people are actively ringing? How often do they ring? Where are the new ringers joining? The Ringing Census 2026 aims to build the clearest picture of the ringing community for nearly 40 years.



Census week is 16th - 22nd November

The census is for ALL ringers, of every age, wherever you live and whether you ring every week, at one or more towers, or just occasionally. The more people who respond, the more representative the results will be.

The questionnaire should only take around 15 minutes to complete.

In addition to the questionnaires completed by individual ringers, towers will also be asked to complete a short survey.

To find out more go to the website of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers:
cccbr.org.uk/census

Do please consider taking part

Some Ringing Statistics

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) recently published some statistics about peal and quarter peal ringing during 2025, largely based on the information available on *Bellboard*.

Quarter Peals
The number of quarter peals had increased: 18,431 in 2025 against 17,420 in 2024.
Somerset was the leading county for quarter peal ringing in 2025, with 908 recorded during the year. This was 855 tower-bell* quarters and 45 on handbells. Tower-bell quarters were slightly down on 2024 (880 in 2024) while handbell quarters were up (18 in 2024). Whilst there are undoubtedly enthusiastic quarter peal bands right across the county, ringers from the Chew Branch certainly played their part in achieving these high numbers. Somerset was also the leading county in 2024.

(* This presumably includes mini-rings)

Peals
The total number of peals was also slightly up: 3,756 in 2025 against 3,586 in 2024.
Peals are recorded by the Society they were rung for, rather than by county. Of the territorial societies, Bath and Wells was in second place for tower-bell peals with 120, beaten only by the Yorkshire Association with 191. Four handbell peals were rung for the Association 3 of which took place within Chew Branch, although not exclusively with Chew Branch members.

Customised Clothing



Clothing with the Bath & Wells logo, and your tower name embroidered above if you wish, can be ordered from Jan Wyatt.

Many colours and sizes available.

Polo shirts £19,
sweatshirts £25,
hoodie £28,
Regatta Fleece £33

Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

£1 from each garment sold goes to the Association.

Checkout: Linela Embrodery Ltd

Contact Jan for more information and payment details: **janwyatt@live.co.uk**

Always display the
POSTCODE
for the church in the ringing room

It will be required
by the emergency services
should you ever need to call them

DOVE

a new printed edition of
Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers
is being prepared

Please ensure the entry for your tower
is up to date
dove.cccbr.org.uk

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published in early December, bringing you reports of the Branch Quiz and the AGM.

Whenever you have some news from your tower, please send it to the editor: it will be kept on file until the next newsletter is compiled.

The newsletters are now available on the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association website: see under *Branches - Chew*

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