



# Rutland Bell-Ringers

## Newsletter

### April 2020

Please take every government recommended precaution to keep yourself, family, friends, fit and healthy.

**KEEP WELL . KEEP SAFE**

It won't come as any surprise that all planned events are either cancelled or postponed until a future time when life returns to some sort of normal. The next Guild event is the AGM. This is currently scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> in Towcester, but this will be reviewed nearer the time. It may be that the AGM date will need to be moved, if the situation hasn't improved

The guild now has a Facebook presence. This is intended to provide an alternative access to information; the website will continue to be maintained and will be the comprehensive source of guild information.

Facebook page can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/PDGCBR> Please follow & "like" the page to receive updates on events and news within the guild and the wider bellringing community.

#### Online services

With the closing of church buildings, a number of churches are streaming services (see link below) Having been in touch with the [The Diocese of Peterborough](#) diocesan office, they're happy to help churches add some ringing to the start of these services, if we can provide them with some sound clips. That's where you come in - what clips of towers within the diocese have you taken? Can be sound or video. You can share here, message me or e-mail them and we can pass them on to the Communications office.

<https://crosskeysmag.org.uk/?>

[p=3300&fbclid=IwAR3crXDHE42U0gPu1P1r8t3zGcT\\_VcmjctDTZiOdhTZTgerlkcpN-Za0kao](https://crosskeysmag.org.uk/?p=3300&fbclid=IwAR3crXDHE42U0gPu1P1r8t3zGcT_VcmjctDTZiOdhTZTgerlkcpN-Za0kao)

#### Safeguarding

[The Diocese of Peterborough](#) sees safeguarding as everyone's responsibility, and would like all volunteers within the church family (that includes bellringers) to have a basic understanding of safeguarding (level C0). While you can't go to practice, why not make use of the spare time to access the free online training portal and complete it.

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

#### Be like Claire

It's amazing what people get up to when they have time on their hands. This should raise a smile and be a trip down memory lane for those of a certain vintage.

<https://www.facebook.com/claire.stay.148/videos/263064694688722/>

#### Exercise

Ringing is sometimes referred to as "The Exercise". And while that may not have meant physical exercise, it is good for you.

How about taking some exercise? Have a socially distancing walk down to your local church, take some pictures of it and send them in. Your photo can update the branch websites and may be chosen as the Facebook page's cover image in the future. My effort was pretty poor, bet you can do better!

*Helen Allton*

Secretary: Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PDGCBR>

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## Solo ringing during the Coronavirus lockdown

There have been several enquiries as to whether the ringing of a single bell or a set of Ellacombe chimes should be permitted as they are only rung by one person, especially for Easter Sunday.

It is clear from the UK government that we are being asked to stay at home to help halt the spread of coronavirus and that all unnecessary journeys should cease. It is also clear from the Church of England that all churches are to remain closed for the time being:

***“Staying at home and demonstrating solidarity with the rest of the country at this testing time, is, we believe, the right way of helping and ministering to our nation. Therefore, for a season, the centre for the liturgical life of the church must be the home, not the church building.”***

(Letter from Archbishops and Diocesan Bishops of the Church of England to all clergy in the Church of England. 27 March 2020).

We did seek explicit guidance on this point from Lambeth Palace and were referred back to this guidance, and that ***“churches are closed as part of wider legal restrictions.”***

The Central Council Executive does not think this needs to be made any clearer.

Source: [cccbr.org.uk](http://cccbr.org.uk)

## The Ringing World and coronavirus

As ringing activity declines, ringing reports and news will also decline, which will affect the content and format of the journal, but The Ringing World intends to continue production of a weekly printed and online journal despite the coronavirus outbreak.

They have launched a discount for new subscribers and a 6-month online-only subscription option.

New subscriber discount <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/subscribe.php> Use code ‘RW2020’ for 25% off for all new subscribers

Three month subscription, UK £20.00

Six month subscription, Online edition (NEW) £24.00

Six month subscription, UK £35.00

Annual subscription, Online edition £44.00

Annual subscription, UK £64.00

Source: *Ringing World*

Items for the next newsletter to Sue Webster

by Thursday 30th April

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20/03/2020



Dear Participants,

**RE: VE DAY 75 CANCELLATION ADVICE**

I am afraid that the terrible Coronavirus emergency and consequent Government guidance means that we must advise participants to cancel or postpone the majority of the VE Day 75 community celebrations due to take place on the bank holiday weekend of 8th - 10th May. It is right and proper that people should be kept safe and healthy.

My sincere thanks to everyone who registered their events and were looking forward to celebrating VE Day 75. I know how disappointed you will be that these cannot now go ahead as planned. However, we are still encouraging **solo** pipers and town criers to continue to mark the occasion from a safe and suitable location.

I am hoping that all the events you have carefully planned can be moved to the weekend of 15th - 16th August when we will be able to celebrate VE Day and VJ Day, both momentous points in our history. I am in ongoing communication with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport regarding this and hope to be able to give you more news in the coming days.

With my very best wishes,

*Bruno Peek*

Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR  
Pageantmaster  
VE Day 75



## An excerpt from The Presidents Blog 27/03/20

CCCBR [cccbr.org.uk](http://cccbr.org.uk)

With no tower bell ringing going on, and handbell performances restricted to keen (and not so keen) ringing families, many have been turning to Abel, Mabel, Mobel and a range of other tools to try and satisfy their ringing urges. Miscellaneous electronic solo performances have made a brief appearance on BellBoard and may need to find another home. I have not escaped temptation. Something I have meant to ring on handbells for about 18 months will be on the agenda as soon as I am next allowed into the company of five decent and sympathetic handbell ringers.

Topics and presenters are being gathered for a regular series of training webinars to keep ringers interested and active during this shutdown. While many of those who have been ringing all their lives can manage without ringing for a bit, those who are newer to it will miss it much more. However there is still much to be explained and learned while we are isolated and learning how to use WhatsApp, Teams, Zoom, and even House Party. Look out for this over the next week or so.

I have kicked off a small team looking at developing the next generation of mobile belfry which I hinted at in my last blog. One of today's Microsoft Teams meetings was looking at different designs, sizes of bells, transport options, costs, etc. There was no mention of buses, although a skip wagon was an option for consideration (imagine the tower is the skip and it gets lifted off and plonked on the ground, ready assembled)! Is there a ringer who is currently studying civil or structural engineering at university who would like to join the team and maybe even have the project as part of their studies? It would be an interesting opportunity for someone to get involved. Target is to have the new belfry ready for the 2021 festival season.

Stay safe everyone – ringing will be back.

*Simon Linford. President, CCCBR*



### Westley Award for Church Bell Maintenance

You may be interested in this award, for which nominations are now invited for the second year. It is for anyone who has become involved in belfry maintenance in the last 5 years, which can be in a single tower or across a wider area. Please consider nominating someone, or encouraging them to nominate themselves for The 2020 Westley Award for Church Bell Maintenance. Ringers are all dependent on the bells that they ring. Towers and bells in good condition will usually make it easier for ringers to develop their skills and, in particular, help retain new recruits.

So have you or one of your band become involved in belfry maintenance relatively recently?  
If so, then the Westley Award for church bell maintenance is for you!



The Stewardship & Management Workgroup of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is launching the 2020 award for people who are newly involved in belfry maintenance, developing their own skills and those of others. The award will be made at the September 2020 CCCBR annual conference to be held in Nottingham. The winner will receive £100 and a certificate.

Full details and an application form are available from  
<https://cccbr.org.uk/about/workgroups/stewardship-and-management/westley-award-2020/>

The closing date for nominations is noon on May 31, 2020.