



# Rutland Bell-Ringers

## Newsletter

### June 2020

The Guild has a Facebook page, run by the Guild Secretary. 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.

Other sources of information-

PDGCBR <http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk>

CCCBR <https://cccbr.org.uk>

#### CHURCH BELLS on SUNDAY

BBC Radio 4 Sunday at 05.43. Monday 00.45  
[www.bbc.co.uk/sounds](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds)

**7th June** : The Church of St James, Deeping St James, Lincolnshire

This recording comes from the Church of St James, Deeping St James in Lincolnshire. The church based around the now lost twelfth century Benedictine Priory contains a peal of six bells. Bells five and six were cast by Tobias Norris in 1623 and 1624. John Taylor and Company of Loughborough added four further bells in the period 1900 and 1923. The tenor weighs sixteen and three quarter hundredweight and is tuned to the key of E flat. We hear them ringing Double Oxford Bob Minor.

**14th June** : The Church of St John-the-Baptist, Gt Gaddesden, Hertfordshire

The church dates from 1255 and has a ring of six bells, four of which were cast by Anthony Chandler in 1662. They were hung in a new frame by Mears and Stainbank of the Whitechapel Found in 1928. The tenor weights ten hundredweight and is in the note of G. We hear them ringing Grandsire Doubles.

#### CCCBR AGM - due in September

The 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting of the Central Council will be unlike any that has gone before. As with all other large gatherings and meetings we are going to have to manage with an event which is either wholly or largely virtual. We are currently investigating the best virtual platform to use and the degree (if any) to which a physical presence might be appropriate.

One very important item on the Agenda is nominations for the post of Treasurer, because Andy Smith is standing down. Please consider volunteering if you have the necessary skills, or introduce this opportunity to someone you think might be interested.

You might be surprised to see a call for nominations for President when I was only elected in September last year. I have definitely got a few things left to do! This is however because I was elected to fill the vacancy when Christopher O'Mahony had to return to Australia. I would be happy to continue if nominated.

*Simon Linford. President CCCBR*

Meeting papers and other info can be found <https://cccbr.org.uk/2020/05/28/123rd-annual-meeting>

Items for the next newsletter to Sue Webster

by Tuesday 30th June

[suevw@sky.com](mailto:suevw@sky.com)

[www.rutlandbellringing.org](http://www.rutlandbellringing.org)

Webmaster: Peter Furness

[webmaster@rutlandbellringing.org](mailto:webmaster@rutlandbellringing.org)

## BBC News item on bellringing during lockdown

### Ringling In Lockdown

<https://cccbr.org.uk/2020/05/31/bbc-news-item-on-bellringing-during-lockdown>

It can also be viewed at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

There was a news item you may have seen on Saturday night's evening news about ringing in lockdown and the use of Ringing Room. It's a positive piece and if you can share it, please do.

If your band is using RingingRoom, how about following up with an article for your parish magazine or local news sheet? There's probably not a lot going on, they may well welcome something to fill some space!

Or get in touch if you want to try it and are not sure where to start.



### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

#### SUMMARY OF CURRENT CHURCH GUIDANCE AND CC ADVICE ON REDUCING COVID RISK IN TOWERS

##### Ringling and chiming

1. Ringers should not enter the church or tower for chiming, ringing or any other purpose under any circumstances unless they are the one "appointed person" for that church as defined by the guidance from their Diocesan Bishop.
2. Not more than one bell should be rung under current church guidance and only by the "appointed person".
3. Care should be taken to ensure all clock hammers and any external chiming hammers are pulled off before either chiming or ringing.
4. Always refer to both Church of England and local Diocesan guidance for more detail

##### Hand hygiene

For those who are "appointed persons" and wish to chime or ring a single bell:

5. Sanitizer should be applied to the hands and allowed to dry fully before and after ringing activities. No other substance than hand sanitizer should be applied to the hands before ringing, including spitting on or licking the hands

##### Maximum numbers of people in a ringing room

No person other than the appointed person should enter the tower at any time and especially during chiming.

##### CC Executive

May 11th 2020

## QUARTER PEALS

### **Peterborough Diocesan Guild**

24 Melton Road., Whissendine

Sunday 17th May 2020. On handbells (Size 12 in F)

### **1296 Double Bob Minimus in 28 minutes**

54 extents

1. Mary C. Poyner
2. Mary C. Poyner
3. Harry Poyner
4. Harry Poyner (C)

A footnote from Harry – rung to prove we are still here!

### **Training Ideas**

How about some handbells? If you've ever wondered about how to ring two bells at once, now might be the time to try it out. The Central Council has a publication that is currently free to download.

<https://cccbr.org.uk/.../the-beginners-guide-to-change-ringing-on-handbells>

No bells? that's not a problem. Ringers have been known to clear pubs and train carriages by ringing handbells "on thumbs" so it might be a useful skill to practice.

If you got really good, maybe it could sound like this clip of 24 handbells at The Ringing World's 100th anniversary event. <https://youtu.be/4-fCRBNTNp0> And there's a YouTube video on the subject.

**Competition Time!** Two competitions this week, your chance to get involved.

### ***Ringers' Tea***

One thing that no ringing means is no ringing teas! In which case, let's have one virtually.

Submit a picture of anything you have made or baked that could form part of a ringers' tea. Savouries (bread, sausage rolls, cheese straws etc) or sweet (large cakes, cup cakes, slices, traybakes etc.)

Does not have to have been produced during lockdown, can be anything you've produced in the past, but it must be your work. No M&S cheating allowed!

Submit pictures of your contribution to the tea by posting to the Guild Facebook page OR by e-mailing the Guild Secretary (e-mail address: [secretary@pdg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pdg.org.uk))

We'll close entries 3 weeks before the AGM (currently 19th Sept, so end August ish) and vote for a winner, which will be announced at the AGM. No prizes, this is for pride!

### ***A Puzzle***

Read the following text carefully. Devised by the Secretary herself, she'll offer a prize if you can solve it. Answers to the Secretary on the same address as above.

"Times for a brain to make a difference. So try Peterborough in surprise; rings out clear. I chose the one that dings not once, not twice. Follow a path in the dance, live on the edge - when the Nine Tailor is rung for your years...

Dorothy was sure the twists was the star turn, other writers fail to match her in ringing the three to the round. And Stand.

A test to gain a prize – SURPRISE!! We seek a book herein in this line, hidden between gibberish. Be brave! Be Lateral! Be Literal! And track and trace down, with a brave spirit, the code to crack; even results may be hard won. The answer does not always run true. Rung for hundred years, more, the method lines order entwines to obvious neglect. Odd on, these linings are not sight unseen, 'tis just ill chances lie they in the midsts of blue directory of our Guild.

Revive itself eventually. This, too, will pass. Until all may ring again this does aim - with something near - a puzzle. This answer may not take you long to solve; all told it took an hour (at least) deriving time. To win the prizes, answers (happily) sent posted to secretary; or e-mails sent by end August; in order for one very smart body to pick up a trophy awarded at AGM ending."

*Helen Allton, PDGCBR Secretary*

## Stewardship & Management Workgroup When We Ring Again

### When we ring again

Our bells have not been rung for many months so it is very important that ringers arrange to undertake appropriate maintenance checks and any necessary remedial work before we start to ring in every tower.

Even though we may be asked or wish to ring at the first opportunity, it is essential that we make sure that it is safe to do so. We do not wish to cause yet more problems for the NHS and emergency services!



Stay at home may no longer apply, but **protect the NHS, save lives** must still be a firm resolve!

In addition, in most areas people in the vicinity of the tower have become accustomed to the unusual quiet – the bells have not been rung, many church chiming clocks have stopped, and traffic, aircraft, building and industry noises have all reduced markedly. This is a good opportunity to alert neighbours through the local media.



### What to do as we prepare to ring again

First, it must be remembered that the majority of bells are the property of the church, so the Tower Captain should confirm with the incumbent that they agree to ringing recommencing.

We strongly advise that all ringing societies ensure that the conditions in every tower are checked.

This includes those towers where there are few or no ringers since for these towers, the correspondents may just be a key holder and they may well not be aware that checks should be undertaken or what to look for. We need to avoid the risk that they could let ringers into a tower many weeks or months after

we start to ring again, without any checks being done.

Even though this should have been the case, no one will have been aware of what may have occurred – for example:

1. The louvres and bird netting may have been dislodged so that birds have entered the tower and built up what can become very large piles of twigs! (see The Ringing World, issue 5631, March 2019)
2. Somebody may have entered the tower for some reason, legitimate or otherwise, and left something or removed something such that the conditions in the tower are no longer safe.
3. Something may have broken or become dislodged during the period since the tower was last visited and could now be in a dangerous state.
4. If the bells were left mouth up, then something may have fallen into a bell, for example rainwater. (**IMPORTANT** – checks in the bell chamber with bells up will only be feasible in towers where it is safe to move around without any risk of injury while the bells are up.)

For the relatively few towers where bells are usually left mouth up all the time, this may be an ideal time to undertake fuller inspections and any maintenance, whilst the bells are still down and before being rung again.

*Continued →*

The schedule is taken from the CCCBR Manual of Belfry Maintenance 2017 (available here <https://cccb.org.uk/product-category/maint-rest/>) It is essential that the Weekly, Monthly and Quarterly checks are completed.

Also the Annual checks if those have not been done since about September 2019. Once complete, add these checks to the tower maintenance records, as advised on Page 110 of the Manual. If you do not have people who have the necessary skill and expertise to complete the checks, then ask for assistance from your local ringing society (<https://cccb.org.uk/about/members/>)

This is also the time to alert local residents that the bells will be ringing again. This can be on the church website, posters on the church notice board, church newsletters and even notes through letter boxes in the surrounding area. Take the opportunity to remind them of normal service and practice times, along with other extra ringing that may be proposed. Invite them to see the ringers in action – it may be the time to recruit some new recruits!

Alison Hodge  
Stewardship & Management Workgroup Lead.  
[smlead@cccb.org.uk](mailto:smlead@cccb.org.uk)

## FROM THE BRANCH STEWARD

The previous article was published by CCCBR on how to prepare for ringing again, whenever that may be ... see: <https://cccb.org.uk/2020/05/29/stewardship-management-workgroup-when-we-ring-again/> for the original piece and more.

Our Bells are quite simple machines, but there is always the possibility of a failure, or breakdown, and we mitigate against such a problem by inspecting and checking at regular intervals. That way any incipient faults can be identified and rectified before they become an issue - and we all know that the potential dangers when ringing can be very serious.

A sustained period of inaction is one potential cause for concern in any system, but this period has also seen quite an exceptional hot, dry spell, and the nesting season for birds, small mammals etc. Combine this with completely unoccupied Churches, and it can all multiply the risks of a incident when we want to resume ringing. None of our normal checks have been done, and handling changes may not be noticed as easily as when we ring regularly. Tidying and cleaning are also useful by products of such activity, and can be undertaken by almost anyone.

Please read the article, plan as a Band some time for maintenance checks and ensure that your Tower is safe to ring well in advance of any resumption of ringing. Ensure that you follow the basic safety guidelines at all times, and remember that part of the process is keeping a record of these checks and any work done, so please don't forget the paperwork ...

You can call or email me or any of our experienced ringers if you want to talk it through - and if time and the lockdown rules allow, I may also be able to help in a more practical way.

Thanks

*Ted Phillips, Rutland Branch Steward*  
[ted\\_norway@hotmail.com](mailto:ted_norway@hotmail.com)