



MARCH

8 Bell Ringing Practice Thursday 20th March 7.30pm. Uppingham

*This practice is not suitable for trainees, but open to all who can ring call changes competently.
Call changes, Plain Hunt,- Plain Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples if possible*

Second Saturday Sessions for 2025

(<https://pdg.org.uk/events/second-saturday-events>) for any updates.

March 8th 2025, 15:00 – Bell Maintenance at Great Oakley

This is aimed at those who are interested in the mechanics of the bells and would like to learn a bit more, especially about how to keep the bells and fittings in good working order. It will be a mainly practical session held up in the belfry and would suit new recruits as well as existing ringers, it will also cover looking after ropes and stays; learning how to change a rope and stay, how to adjust the length of a tail-end, and how to splice a broken rope.

If interested please contact (master@pdg.org.uk).

April 12th 2025, 10:30 – Leading Up and Down in Peal at Grafton Underwood

This will cover the additional skills needed to allow a band to raise and lower the bells safely and tunefully. It should be of particular interest to those who get called upon to carry out this task but are uncertain about how to make it work successfully.

If interested please contact (master@pdg.org.uk)

Ringling Practice Times

February Practices All commence at 7.30pm. Unless otherwise stated.

Mon 3rd Gretton. 10th Gt Easton. 17th Caldecott (tbc) 24th Harringworth 31st Seaton

Mon 3rd ,10th, 17th, 24th. All at Edith Weston (7pm). 31st Empingham (7pm)

Wed 5th Braunston. 12th Brooke. 19th Braunston. 26th Brooke.

Thurs 6th Uppingham. 13th Nth Luffenham. 20th Uppingham. 27th. Lyddington.

Items for the next newsletter
Monday 31st March
to suevw@sky.com

www.rutlandbellringing.org
Webmaster: Nigel Barrett
webmaster@rutlandbellringing.org

Echoes of Courage: The Bells of Ypres

SS Peter and Paul Market Overton

6.30 pm Saturday 5th April 25

Join us as Alan Regin MBE shares the remarkable story of the Rolls of Honour, a poignant memorial to the fallen bellringers of the Great War, of and the installation of bells at Ypres and project 2018 - a scheme that saw bells tolled for every person that died during the war. A fascinating talk, covering World and local history, modern and past...

**Tickets £5. Available from 5th March £5. From Market Overton Store,
or Martin Wintermeyer markochurchwarden@outlook.com 077 925 920 27**

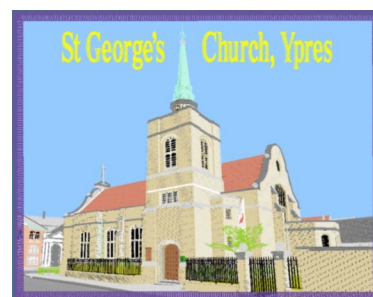
Bells for St George's Ypres

In 2017 a new set of 8 change ringing bells were cast at the bell foundry of John Taylor & Co of Loughborough. The bells were destined to be hung in a new frame in St. George's Memorial Church Ypres, close to the Menin Gate.

A target sum of £195,000 was needed for casting of the bells and their subsequent transportation to Belgium, The fundraising was a resounding success.

Rutland bellringers had their own target, to raise £647 to reflect the 647 soldiers who fell in WW1, as identified and recognised by 'Rutland Remembers'. This sum was achieved with fundraising and donations from Rutland bellringers.

On 29th July 2017 Taylor's of Loughborough held an Open Day, an interesting and informative day which included seeing the casting of new bells. But, the highlight of the day was seeing the new Ypres bells on display before commencing their journey to Belgium.



A recording of the bells being rung can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Enjeiv5Xbw>

The original is on the website. <https://www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com/>

Recent Events.....

Plain Hunt Workshop

On Saturday 1st March five ringers from across the branch attended a practice session at Preston church for learning / improving their ability to plain hunt. The session began with a look at the theory of plain hunt followed by the practical ringing part.

The participants rang plain hunt doubles on their bell of choice surrounded by five experienced ringers and with one experienced ringer standing beside them. All five ringers made excellent progress during the course of the morning. Ringing master Ian Bell would like to thank all those who took part for their commitment and enthusiasm. A number of ringers were unable to attend on this date and if you would like another session to be arranged later in the year, please let Ian Bell or Sue Webster know. *Sue Baker*

Rutland Branch members visit Taylor's of Loughborough



On Wednesday the 19th of February, several members of the Rutland Branch took a trip to Loughborough to visit the Bell Foundry, Workshops and Museum. We all met up with our guides at the Museum before viewing a short film on the history of Taylors, then taking a detailed tour around the site, examining Bells and associated hardware at various stages of (dis)repair! The details of the task being undertaken were explained as we went along, including carpentry, for Stays, pulley blocks, sliders etc; metalwork for the headstocks and frames, and casting for the bells and the larger structural elements of the frames. We didn't actually see any casting being done – maybe next time.

One fascinating area was the tuning workshop, where we saw a few sets of bells in progress. Those with perfect pitch were able to distinguish the quality of the work - not me though!

We didn't see any ropes being made, as that is on a separate site.

One highlight was seeing the Greetham bells on the workshop floor ready for their refurbishment, having been removed from the Tower in mid-January.

A last visit to the education room for a cuppa (those who could find a cup ...) and a second short film, then we finished off with a short ring on their internal Tower - with some very light bells, a fitting end to a great visit.

Our thanks must go to Sue Baker, Branch Secretary, who made the arrangements and made the group visit possible. *Ted Phillips*

Ringling at Peterborough Cathedral

Sunday 2nd March proved to be something of a red letter day for some Rutland ringers. As part of Peterborough Cathedral's Evensong Service for Rutland, ringers were invited to come and have a go and, as it's been an ambition of mine for a little while I was eager to join in.

The adrenaline carried me up the many stairs without too much huffing and puffing, into a large Hogwarts-esque ringing chamber. There we were put through our paces on 8, then 10, then 12 bells, closely observed and very much supported by a host of more proficient ringers.

It was a truly exhilarating experience, and one I'll never forget. Perhaps next time I'll be able to hold up a bit better at backstroke on the lighter

We all felt very grateful to have had the privilege of ringing such fabulous bells, and grateful too for the warm welcome and support from our hosts. *Nicky Vickers*



The Band at the Cathedral

Edith Weston - Commemorative Ringing

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Edith Weston, Rutland

St Mary

Tuesday, 4 March 2025 in 49m (7-0-13 in A)

1440 Plain Bob Doubles

Six extents rung in whole pulls

1. Clara Pedersen
2. Jane Robinson
3. David Banks
4. Jon Ardron
5. Stuart Weston (C)
6. Julian Burton

Rung half muffled to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the loss of Lancaster PD431 with all her crew.

<https://aircrewremembered.com/truskett-terence-george.html>

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Edith Weston, Rutland

St Mary

Tuesday, 4 March 2025 in 20m (7-0-13 in A)

General Ringing

General ringing - half muffled rounds

1. Hilary Moore
2. Geraldine Durrance
3. Toni Wilkin
4. David Wilkin
5. Sarah Lunn
6. Nicky Vickers

Ringling at 4pm to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Lancaster crash in Edith Weston at 4pm 04/03/1945.



The ringers with Rutland High Sheriff, Richard Cole

Ring Out in Celebration – VE Day 6.30pm – 8th May 2025

On the 8th May 1945 bells rang out across Britain as the nation took to the streets in celebration of Victory in Europe Day.

Eighty years later we celebrate this momentous occasion by inviting you to recreate that moment at 6:30pm local time and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might live in a free world.

Upload your VE Day ringing to: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=19733>

For further information about the VE Day 80 Celebrations please visit: www.VEday80.org.uk



GUILD 100 Club

The Guild 100 club has over 180 members and three of those people are lucky enough to be drawn as winners of a monetary prize every month. The remainder of money goes into the Guild Bell Fund which awards grants for restoration and maintenance work across the Guild.

The winners so far in 2025 have been -

Claire Bowles, Sue Groom, Blisworth Tower, Richard Johnson, Andy Smith and Sandra Lewis.

Exciting news! - there will be four (rather than three) winning numbers drawn for the PDG 100 Club every month from March 2025 onwards. So the four winners for March are Sue Jones, Hannah Conlon, Sandra Lewis and Nick Elks. There are more chances for winning but only if you are a member of the club.

To join, or for more information, please contact Cathy Dixon 100_club@pdg.org.uk.

Subscription is £1 per month, usually paid annually as a sum of £12.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due now for 2025

Full Membership - £10.00

Juniors and Students - £5

Members above the age of 75 are not required to pay a subscription, but are invited to make a donation.

Rutland Branch Bank Account - The details are :

**Account Name : Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers - Rutland
(PDGCBR Rutland for short)**

Bank : Lloyds Bank

Sort Code : 30-99-50

Account Number : 58639962

We have a new Treasurer this year, elected at the last month's AGM.

Jonathan Gibbs jonathan_gibbs@me.com

The easiest way to pay is by bank transfer to the account above. Please use your Surname and Tower as reference. If on-line banking presents difficulties for please contact the Branch Treasurer on the email above.

GUILD NEWS

Guild Report

One last reminder that if you want a copy of the Guild's Annual Report, you need to let me know by the end of the month. For the Centenary we're ringing the changes and having a full colour printed cover. It will certainly stand out from the usual report. Mail me with your requests, if you haven't already. Otherwise requests will be charged at £5, as for non-members.

Fundraising

The Treasurer has written a piece on how to take advantage of your online shopping habit to raise money for the Guild, using EasyFundraising or Give as you Live. In either case, you go through the site to your usual shopping website and the retailer gives either an amount or a percentage of your spend to the Guild. The details are on the website. <https://pdg.org.uk/latest-news/online-shoppers-a-call-to-arms>

First Peal

On Saturday Pattishall rang the first peal on the augmented 8. They went to 8 from 6 bells just prior to Christmas 2023 and were helped with a grant from the Guild's Bell Repair Fund. The band was a mostly local band with a first on 8 and a first of Grandsire as conductor. Congratulations to all concerned. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1823627>

Books for sale

Charlotte Eley is downsizing her substantial book collection. The list of what is available, and prices can be found on the website. Please contact Charlotte direct to discuss further. <https://pdg.org.uk/latest-news/books-available>

More books for sale

At the Kettering branch AGM, Jim & Sarah Bence held their first popup shop of the CCCBR books that they are managing. You may have seen a smiley picture of them in a recent Ringing World, advertising the fact that they have taken this on. They have a large range of books for sale and regularly have bundle offers, so keep your eyes on the shop <https://shop.cccbr.org.uk/> and their social media profile. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61569273783797>

Dates for the Diary

Guild 10 bell Saturday 8th March Kettering 10:30 – 12:30.

And Branch events.

Kettering Branch Practice Saturday 8th March 2:00 Arthingworth 3:15 Kelmarsh

Wellingborough Surprise Practice Saturday 15th March 10:30 Orlingbury

Wellingborough Branch Practice Saturday 15th March 7:00 Finedon

Daventry Branch Practice Saturday 15th March 3:00 Kislingbury 6:30 Northampton Holy Sepulchre

Rutland 8 bell practice Thursday 20th March 7:30 Uppingham

Towcester Branch Practice Saturday 22nd March 10:00 Calverton, 11:15 Cosgrove

Helen Allton

Secretary: Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

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