



# Rutland Branch Newsletter

2026

# MAY

## 8 Bell RINGING PRACTICE

Hosted by Uppingham with Brooke & Braunston ringers

Wednesday May 6th. 7.30pm.

A practice for ringing on 8 bells - Plain Hunt and Methods

*These practices will then continue on first Wednesday in every month.*

All Welcome

There will be the usual practice at Uppingham on Thursday 7th May. 7.30pm.

This will be aimed at rounds and call changes on 8 bells, progressing to Plain Hunt.

**May Practices** All commence at 7.30pm. Unless otherwise stated.

Mon 4th *tbc* 11th *tbc*. 18th *tbc*. 25th *tbc*.

Mon 11th Edith Weston. 18th Empingham. 25th Edith Weston 7pm start.

Wed 6th *no practice* 13th Brooke. 20th Braunston. 27th Brooke.

Thurs 7th Uppingham. 14th North Luffenham. 21st *no practice* 28th. Lyddington.(6.30pm)

Fridays morning practices at Greetham. 10.30pm. (Beginners at 10.00)

Monday 1st June *tbc*.

Wednesday 3rd June Uppingham *with Brooke & Braunston.*- Open 8 bell.

Thursday 4th June Uppingham

*If planning to visit a practice do check with the Tower Captain before making a journey.  
Occasionally venues have to change at short notice.*

Items for the next newsletter by  
Sunday 31st May  
to [suevw@sky.com](mailto:suevw@sky.com)

[www.rutlandbellringing.org](http://www.rutlandbellringing.org)  
Webmaster: Nigel Barrett  
[Rutland Ringers Newsletters – Rutland Church Bell Ringing](#)

## GUILD SPRING FESTIVAL

The sun shone on eleven teams of the righteous, as the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers held its Spring Festival in Rutland on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. Two closely fought striking competitions were taking place ;at Braunston a nail-biting change ringing contest between six teams from Desborough, , Daventry (2), Rothwell, Rushden and Peterborough Cathedral, ringing 120 changes of a variety of methods for the Weaver Shield, whilst at Brooke five teams of more novice ringers (defined as those who had not completed a quarter peal inside) were poised for a tense call changes competition for the Centenary Trophy .

Rutland was represented in the Call Changes contest by the Edith Weston Ladies team, who were drawn to ring first, fortuitously allowing them to return to the Village Hall at Braunston to serve a sumptuous tea. Competition rules mandated at least ten changes, with three different bells leading. Aply stewarded by ringers from the Guild, the teams had four minutes to practice before launching their test piece.

The High Sheriff of Rutland, Susannah Fish QPM, kindly agreed to present the prizes, and visited both Brooke and Braunston to compare and contrast the striking. New to bell – ringing, she was delighted to try ringing at back stroke under the supervision of Guild Master Jim Bence. She was pleased to be welcomed by so many friendly ringers and added a hint of Rutland sparkle to the event.

Both towers were treated to high quality ringing, and the teams returned to a lavish tea masterminded by Nicky Vickers, at Braunston Village Hall, before listening to the constructive comments of the judges. Competition was fierce, with a single point between each of the top three teams, but the team from Peterborough Cathedral retained the Weaver Shield, ringing Cambridge Surprise Minor, having won it last year for the first time in their history as the Cathedral Company. The Centenary Trophy was won by the Welland Valley team, with Rutland’s Edith Weston Ladies placed a credible third.

The High Sheriff of Rutland gave a short speech, and presented the two trophies, as well as certificates for every team taking part. Jim Bence gave an enthusiastic interview to Rob Persani of Rutland and Stamford Sound.

A Guild meeting then took place, followed by general ringing at Braunston.



The Rutland Branch hosted a very successful and enjoyable Spring Meeting, and many thanks are due to the judges, stewards, all who contributed to the outstanding tea, the High Sheriff Susannah Fish, and all those involved in the organisation of the event, particularly Jim Bence, Alan Wordie, Nicky Vickers, Ian Bell and Richard Beadman.

*Hilary Moore*

*The Edith Weston Ladies team*

## **In Memoriam**

### **JANET INGRAM**

I remember the first time I climbed the many steps to the ringing chamber at Lyddington and was introduced to the band of ringers led by David Couldwell ( tower captain)

This was my first meeting with Janet Ingram. Janet always rang the no. 2 bell with her back to the wall and feet in a rectangular wooden open-front-sided frame.

Janet was blind and was led to her no.2 bell by other band members. If you did not know you would never guess. Her striking was perfect. She rang many methods with ease and was an inspiration to all around her.

She rang 10 quarter peals and 2 full peals. Her last QP was Cambridge Surprise Minor!! How do you dodge so perfectly with the various heavy and light bells without seeing them. It was then, and still is, to me - amazing how Janet rang so much.

One highlight for me was to ring a QP with Janet on 1st October 2004 for the licensing of Jane Baxter to the Lyddington Benefice with its 5 towers of bells.

One of her peals was in Peterborough Cathedral ringing the no.2 bell to Plain Bob Major

Janet was a Lyddington ringer for well over 25 years and could be relied upon for Sunday and special service ringing as well as weekly practice nights

Janet was a wonderful, talented, quietly spoken person and she inspired me. If Janet could ring a QP of Cambridge when blind then so could I.

Janet died on Monday 27th April at home in Lyddington and will have heard the QP rung marking the retirement of Jane Baxter 21 plus years after she rang for her licensing.

A funeral service will be held at Lyddington church on Tuesday May 26th at 2pm.

*Alan Wordie*

### **TIM (John) HOLT**

Tim was a long time member of the band at Great Casterton and Eloise also learnt to ring there.

His granddaughter is away for six weeks, in Australia, so the memorial service at Great Casterton church will take place after her return. The service will take place at 12.15 on Tuesday 19th May.

A service will be held at Peterborough Crematorium at 11.00am on the same morning.

Tim died on Easter Monday, 6th April.

May they rest in peace.



## QUARTER PEALS & PEALS

### **Peterborough Diocesan Guild**

**Gt Casterton**, Rutland

St Peter & St Paul

12 February 2026 in 43m (5–1–18 in A<sup>2</sup>)

**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1. Sam Ryder
2. Lois Webb
3. Ann Archer
4. Charlotte Peacock
5. Jim Bence (C)
6. Sarah Bence

First 1/4 peal 1

Rung for Sam's Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

### **Peterborough Diocesan Guild**

**Brooke**, Rutland

St Peter

Saturday, 11 April 2026 (8–1–2 in A)

Call Changes

Striking competition Rounds and call changes

Composed by Hilary Moore

1. Tracey Lawson
2. Toni Wilkin
3. Lynn Lane
4. Nicky Vickers
5. Sarah Lunn
6. Hilary Moore (C)

First striking competition for ringers 1 to 5.

First composition and calling at a competition for tenor ringer.

### **Peterborough Diocesan Guild**

**Lyddington**, Rutland

St Andrew

Sunday, 26 April 2026 in 43m (12–3–0 in F)

**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

1. Tracey Lawson
2. Matthew Mack
3. Alan Ellis
4. Jonathan Gibbs
5. Louis Totaro (C)
6. Nicky Vickers

To celebrate the retirement of Rev Canon Jane Baxter as Rector, her birthday, and the retirement of Jeremy Rider as Churchwarden.



**CALDECOTT Operation Pigeon** AT LAST this saga has ground to an end, we hope.

Many thanks to Brian, Ted and Gus who did the final clean up and re-rope the bells in time to ring for our farewell to Revd Canon Jane Baxter at the end of her almost 22 years of ministry here; there were some enthusiastic compliments from residents on hearing them ring out again.

It has been a nightmare as originally no one wanted the job; 300k of guano were removed and then the clean clock room floor revealed damage and woodworm which had to be treated.

We have been immensely grateful for generous grants from Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust and The Patston Trust who made this work possible.

It is hoped that we can now rejoin the regular Monday Practices and welcome visiting ringers.

*Mary Davidson*

## **RUTLAND BRANCH STEWARD**

As announced at the AGM in January, I would like to formally recognise the appointment of Gus Lawson as the Rutland Branch Steward, as I am stepping down from that role.

Please join me in welcoming Gus to the position, and I thank everyone for the help and assistance given freely during my tenure - it has been fun and I have learned a lot! *Ted Phillips*

To get in touch with Gus [Gus.lawson64@gmail.com](mailto:Gus.lawson64@gmail.com) Or message 07773 427772

Thank You Ted, for all the hard work and help you have given to keep our Rutland bells in good order.

## **The history of the Rutland Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers**

Recently, I was given the chance to examine a couple of minute books from the early days of the Rutland Branch. The inaugural meeting was in Empingham on November 11th, 1933. Towers represented included: Uppingham, Langham, Glaston, Wing, Wymondham, Cottesmore, Oakham, Empingham, Preston and Whissendine.

Annual and Quarterly meetings were held from then on, with annual summaries of activities and membership. Looking briefly through the minutes, it is notable that the Clergy are well represented, and that ringing is a large part of the meetings, along with a service. A major feature of these meetings appears to be the excellent Teas, but it is also noteworthy that visitors were welcomed from both the Diocese and further across the UK.

Notably, the 6th Annual meeting was on April 6th, 1940, whereupon meetings (and ringing) were suspended due to the war. The next meeting being on January 29th, 1944, at Oakham, when ringing was resumed ...

The last entry in the first book is the annual report for 1957, the meeting being held at Uppingham on January 19th, 1958, when we had 41 ringing members.

The first entry in the 2nd book is for the meeting at Langham on June 7th, 1958, at Langham.

An extra-ordinary meeting was called on the 11th of April 1959, as the Branch existence was in doubt. The meeting was held at Oakham, where the resolution to continue was debated and approved.

Much further on in the records, some familiar names start to appear. The last entry is for the AGM in January 1974, the 50th anniversary of the Guild, where a group photograph was being planned of every member – I wonder if anyone has a copy of that?

*Ted Phillips*

The books are available if anyone would like to browse through them themselves.

**MORE PHOTOS FROM THE SPRING FESTIVAL**



*The Edith Weston team with  
Rutland High Sheriff  
Susannah Fish*

The winners of the Rounds and Calls competition were  
The Welland Valley Benefice team.  
The High Sheriff of Rutland, Susannah Fish,  
presented the Centenary Trophy.

