
St Albans District Newsletter

Ringling for Haiti

July 2010
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Howard Wastling, Alex Sage, Liz Sage, Neil Evans and Alison Evans. Not pictured: Kath Hardy.

When a devastating earthquake struck Haiti in January of this year, many people will have been moved by the plight of the islanders. Howard Wastling, tower captain of St Michael's, St Albans, was keen to raise funds for the relief effort and came up with the idea of arranging a sponsored quarter peal. The St Michael's band were pleased to support the idea and agreed to ring a quarter peal for evensong on Sunday 28th March.

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Ringing for Haiti (contd)

Members of the band secured sponsorship from friends and colleagues, neighbours and family. We suggested that donations could be based on the number of minutes we took to complete the quarter or the number of changes we rang, and some contributors did choose the latter option, although most people pledged a flat fee. The evensong congregation also contributed via a collecting box in the church porch.

Waiting to begin ringing was nerve-wracking, as there was so much riding on a successful outcome but, in the event, the ringing went very smoothly. The total amount raised came to £922.89 which has now been passed on to the Disasters Emergency Committee. We are enormously grateful to all who supported us.

St Michael's, St Albans

Sunday 28th March 2010 in 47 minutes

1300 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES

1. Kath Hardy
 2. Alison Evans
 3. Liz Sage
 4. Neil Evans
 5. Howard Wastling (C)
 6. Alex Sage
- Rung on the back six

- Alison Evans

New Editor Required

As you may know, I have made the decision to stand down as Editor of this newsletter at the next AGM. This is partly so I can focus my efforts on other projects, and partly because I believe this newsletter will benefit from a fresh perspective.

It has been suggested that I provide some information for anyone who is considering this role.

The main job of the editor is to contact ringers in the district to persuade them to write someone on an event they may have attended. People are more often than not happy to do

this. The next step is to track down any special peals or quarters (I use Campanophile to search on the towers in the district), and combine these with any articles into a newsletter which seems to flow well.

Although some of the recent newsletters have been eight pages or more, this really isn't a necessary length to achieve. You may feel that only a page or two of A4 is sufficient. Or you may wish to become the investigative journalist that I didn't get round to becoming, and hunt down lots of stories and articles yourself! It really is up to you.

The biggest challenge I found was getting it printed. Ben Duke (the previous editor) was happy to help out on occasion, but it really was a time consuming and expensive process. Now, however, I have the use of the print room at work, who can legitimately print it for us and provide an invoice, so the fee can be claimed back from the District. I am happy to continue to use this facility to aid the next editor.

If this sounds like something you'd like to take on, please drop me a line!

- Stephen Penney

District Outing



The District outing this year was held on Saturday 17th April in a beautiful area of countryside in Northamptonshire on a lovely sunny day with hardly a cloud (or indeed an aeroplane) in the sky (it being the volcanic ash season).

The day's ringing started at Burton Latimer, a light ring of 8, where a wide range of methods were rung by the 16 ringers present, including various 'firsts' for different people.

We then moved on to Holy Trinity, Rothwell, where we were first met with a very welcome cup of tea. A 21cwt 10, these were excellent bells, easy to ring and with a wonderful hum to them. Ringing here ranged from rounds and call changes to Surprise Royal with plenty in between. A photo of the full group of 18 ringers was taken in the midday sunshine before we dispersed for lunch.

The first tower of the afternoon (another 8) was in the tiny village of Haselbeck (unknown to many of our sat navs).

The very dark and dusty ground floor ringing room (there seemed to be building work going on in the church) was a huge contrast to the extremely bright sunlight outside. The most memorable incident here was ringing up thinking that the treble was the tenor!

We then drove through picturesque rolling countryside, with fields of sheep and lambs, to the tiny village of Cottesbrooke - another ground floor ring of 8 in a beautiful light and airy church with huge windows and box pews and various interesting family memorials.

Our last tower was Long Buckby (another 8) with a very small ringing room where we shut ourselves in with the trap door. Here again a wide variety of methods was rung with learners and more experienced ringers all getting something of interest.

Finally, at the end of a long ringing day, many of the ringers went for a meal at a canal-side pub, still enjoying the Spring sunshine.

Our thanks go to John Ford for such a well organised outing with some very good rings in beautiful countryside (such a shame that he was unable to be there himself).

Thank you too for organising such lovely weather!

- Katherine and Deborah Butler

New Members

Welcome to the following new members - Ann Weston of Barnet and Richard Hayes of Sandridge as full members, and to Roger Monson, Simon Cripps and Mary Hollebone all of Harpenden as probationary members

Peals and Quarters

St Albans, Hertfordshire

Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban
Tuesday, 9 March 2010 in 48m (23-2-11)

1260 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES

1. Brenda Redfearn
2. Geoffrey Dodds
3. Brian C Watson
4. Deirdre R Watson
5. Janet L Penney
6. David Redfearn
7. Stephen W Penney (C)
8. David Hodgskin

Rung in memory of Ian F Galpin, for many years a ringer at this tower.

St. Albans, Hertfordshire

Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban
Saturday, 27 March 2010 in 52 minutes (23-2-11)

1320 GRANDSIRE CINQUES

1. Geoffrey Dodds
2. Alan M Shepherd
3. David A Cornwall
4. Richard A Horne
5. James M Hills
6. Ann Evans
7. Jennifer V Johnson (C)
8. Rosemary E Sales
9. Alan G G Smith
10. Roger I Kendrick
11. Richard Sales
12. Charles F Pocock

The last quarter on the old twelve, and final piece of published ringing

Ken Newman



Died 11th June 2010 aged 69 years. Dearly loved husband of Susan, proud father of Joanna, Richard and Michael and a loving grandfather of eight.

Ken revealed a new heaven and a new earth to many people. His time as captain of the bellringers, either formally or informally, has spanned four decades. When he and Sue came to the village in 1970, there were no ringers. And so he started teaching and Judith Scott, was in his first class. This last year, he calculated that he had taught 63 people and that a third of them were still ringing, a rich gift to the world of ringing, to the church and to the individuals and their families. When my family and I came to Kimpton in 1977, Tuesday evening practice soon became part of the lives of our two children, Jane and Timothy. As Vicar, it was a great gift to have a tower captain of such expertise. In his time among the best ringers in the country. He had been a member of the team at St. Martins in the Fields and he had rung by invitation at Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. In Kimpton, he was at the centre of great activity, great respect and great affection. He taught young people: ringing every Sunday and for special services was guaranteed, there were quarter peals and there was the Kimpton Cup. In addition, there was the summer outing. Mary and I usually went along on the Saturday. There were patronal festivals with barn dancing on the Vicarage lawn, where Ken organised the bar. There he was, always at the centre of a group of people who were enjoying life, who enjoyed being with him and, to put it plainly, who

loved him. In those days, he had his pipe but not yet his beard.

In the late 1970's, he came to me with a proposal to add two new bells. With eight bells, he said, you can do so much more than with six. The bellringers, with an extended team of helpers, had the expertise to do it, a replacement iron frame was available from a redundant church and the sale of the oak frame would pay for the new bells. Thus began an adventurous project, which he said to me recently, no local team would now be allowed to do. The six ancient bells were lowered through the ringing chamber, the mediaeval oak frame was dismantled and sold at a high price, outside Church House the replacement iron frame was assembled and generally a host of people got involved. Along with others, Bill Watts raised money by carving oak artefacts which still grace many of our houses. Then the time came for the team to go and see the new bells being cast.

At some late stage in process, probably long after the deadline for the faculty, it was remembered that the bells needed naming and inscriptions. To name a bell is a very rare privilege for a vicar. I can only liken it to the point in the baptism service where a father is asked to name his child. It is an indelible moment. Deciding on the names of the two bells was not difficult. The church is named after St. Peter and St. Paul and there was no Peter or Paul among the existing bells. The inscription for Peter was also straightforward. It had to be that moment where Jesus says to him, "And you, who do you say that I am?" Peter replies with the words which were subsequently seen as the foundation of the church, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." Paul was more problematic, for there was not one phrase that was obvious to me. I read through his Epistles and immediately recalled that he wrote about "putting off the old man", that is the person who we are in this world, the person we are before conversion. He goes on to speak of "putting on the new man", the person we become in faith, the person who is renewed by grace, the person who is the image of what we shall be, when we shall see face to face. The phrase was a gift, just as Ken was a gift. And so the inscription on the second bell reads, "I am

the new man.” Within the words of St. Paul, Ken’s name is inscribed. The oldest bell in the tower dates from the 1300’s. There is no reason why our bell, embracing the name of our dear friend, and by extension the names of all those who have served like him, should not live another 700 years, ringing out each Tuesday evening, every Sunday morning, for every wedding and funeral and every time a visiting team rings a quarter peal.

The second way in which a new heaven and a new earth was opened up to me was through sailing. Having done a few training courses, I found myself receiving invitations to join Ken’s extended crew. For me and for my family, as for so many people - from the bell-tower to the Golf Club, from his sailing crew to the Bridge Club which he founded, Ken opened up a door into a new life.

For 12 years now, we have known that a shadow has hung over Ken. Many times we have hoped. Some times we have feared. But we have always kept on hoping. However, the past year has been threatening, the past months have been anxious and the past weeks have evoked tears. But Ken throughout has been himself: the same voice, the same easy way, the same determination, the same courage, the same humility and the same generosity.

When he was in hospital last year, apart from seeing him, I wrote to him a few times and treasure his replies in which he signed himself off, “With very great affection, Ken.” Now that he is no longer in this world, there seems no reason why I should not continue to write to him. Perhaps there is all the more reason for doing so.

“Hello, Ken,

Thank you for telling us not to be gloomy. It’s hard, but it sometimes works. I hope you weren’t around the other evening when they tried to ring you a quarter peal. The rope broke. But maybe you knew that. Or maybe even you had a hand in it. When it happened, I was hoping that you had found your way to the local golf course. In your newly found Elysian fields, there must be a good links course, a championship one.

We’re all a bit cut up here, of course. We know what stormy seas you’ve had to weather this past year. But being Ken, you’ve shown us a bit of the other side of things. New heaven, new earth, wiping away all tears - all that sort of thing. So we’re afloat, not run aground. Not like that time when.....Oh well, that’s something for another conversation.

But to go back to that quarter peal. It wasn’t missing at all. I actually heard it. I heard it all. I took my coffee outside and went up on deck. Most extraordinary quarter I have ever heard. They were ringing along quite merrily, at full gallop I would say. You’d think they were chasing the Gold Cup, when they suddenly stopped. Froze on the hoof. They all shied at the same fence. Except the tenor. He didn’t flinch. Took it at a single bound. Then rang on and on, all by himself. On and on he went.

Then I realised what was happening. They’d stopped to let him ring the years of Ken’s life. 40, 50, 60. And then I gave up counting, for the years don’t count now, do they. Then they started ringing down but there was one bell missing. It was the tenor and he was behind them all, keeping his own quite different time. And when they had rung down, the third above it rang and then the tenor. It happened twice. I heard it quite distinctly. They were saying, “Good bye. Good bye.” Then the tenor continued ever so gently. Never heard a tenor rung down so gently. It was so natural. And then there was silence. But in the silence I could still hear it.

It was you, Ken, wasn’t it. You were saying you had put off the old man and you had put on the new.

And you’ve been saying something like that all these years. It’s just I didn’t realise it. But now it’s now clear. Clear as a bell. I heard it, I saw it and I understood.

Rev. Canon Dr. Peter Liddell
Vicar of Kimpton 1977-82.

Woolford Cup

<i>Team</i>	
1 st	St Peter's
2 nd	St Peter's
3 rd	North Mymms
4 th	Sandridge

Unfortunately post competition it was discovered that North Mymms had not in fact rung the required number of changes. As a result Sandridge were placed 3rd.



The winning band from St Peters, left to right:
 1. Judith Mack, 2. Katherine Butler,
 3. Deborah Butler, 4. Edward Mack,
 5. Barry Mack (C), 6. Richard Sales.

St Albans District Ringing Programme 2010/11

Ringers of ALL standards are welcome at ALL events.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
July 17 th	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Ringing	Lemsford
August 21 st	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Ringing	St Peter's, St Albans
September 18 th	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringing, Tea & Business Meeting	Essendon
October 16 th	10.00am - noon	Ringing	Welwyn
November 20 th	7.00pm - 8.30pm	Ringing	Kimpton (tbc)
December 18 th	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringing, Carol Service, tea & Nomination Meeting	Harpenden
January 15 th 2011	3.30pm - 8.30pm	Ringing, service, tea, ADM, ringing	Radlett (tbc)