

Peterborough Diocesan Guild of  
Church Bell Ringers



**NEWSLETTER**

**November 2007**

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Thanks to all contributors. Please send your news for the next missive to:

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by **7<sup>th</sup> January 2008.**

E mail [jillvharvey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jillvharvey@yahoo.co.uk). I always acknowledge your messages, so if you hear nothing please ring me on 01327 340666.

This Newsletter will appear on the PDG website If you would like it mailed to you as a Word file, please ask and it will be done!

### Have you looked up *www.pdg.org.uk* lately?

-  The **calendar** is up to date
-  There is a new section to help with your **tower publicity**
-  There is a copy of the **Guild badge** for documents or posters.
-  There are direct connections to branch websites.
-  There is a **Learn to Ring** contact

## THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Another summer gone and I've enjoyed a variety of ringing and social events and hope you have too. Both the Guild AGM and the 8 bell striking competition were enjoyable occasions. It wasn't a great summer weatherwise, but it made ringing more comfortable most of the time.

Some while back there was a lot of discussion in the ringing world about Child Protection and CRB checks, so I thought it would be a good idea to make sure everyone knows the Diocesan child protection policy on bellringers -

Under who should have a CRB check - all volunteers who work with children or who may come into regular and direct contact with children during their activities; this will include those adult members of mixed age activities, such as bellringers, choirs and servers.

The model Parish Policy on Guidance for Bellringers states:-

We welcome young people from other parishes and value their contribution to bellringing. We recognise our responsibility as bell ringers to create a safe environment in which they are able to learn and practise the art of bellringing with enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Therefore we require:-

- ❖ No adults should work alone with children and young people.
- ❖ Instruction should be given without physical contact except in exceptional circumstances.
- ❖ In an emergency safety overrides all else.

- ❖ All visiting teams must be made aware that the church has a child protection policy and procedures in place.
- ❖ The Tower Captain should hold a copy of the policy and make visiting teams aware of this.

This boils down to - if you have young people in your band the Tower Captain and anyone else who teaches young people need to be CRB checked, probably at least 2 in a band to allow for absences and at least two adults present at all times.

### Treasurer

It is with sadness that I have to inform you that Jason Carter has decided to stand down as Treasurer by the AGM at the latest. A growing family and a more responsible job are two of the reasons among others he feels he must resign.

I am very keen to hear from anyone who feels that they could take this on, perhaps one of our present branch treasurers might feel they could put their name forward.

Brenda Dixon



## **Ringing Roadshow 2008**

The 2008 Ringing Roadshow will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire. This will be the 6<sup>th</sup> Roadshow and promises to be the

biggest yet. with attractions for ringers and non-ringers alike.

We are asked by the CCCBR to include it in our programmes for 2008 and to avoid scheduling any Guild events for either of those days if at all possible.

## WHY ARE THE BELLS RINGING?

At the June Guild AGM, I was elected Public Relations Officer for the Guild. Many thanks! I stood because to me ringing is a super activity but churches, even with active bands, show no information about ringing. Even fewer have anything about bellringing in their magazines, let alone why a quarter peal or peal was rung last week or why one will be rung next month. Ask yourself whether anyone else in your town or village (let alone the rest of your band!) knows why the bells are ringing at an unusual time. If you weren't a ringer, wouldn't you want to know?

I always work on the principle that it is better to give advance notice of ringing, then report it afterwards as well. This greatly helps in dealing with, or indeed preventing, minority complaints, especially about peals.

All ringers can help give bell ringing a positive image. It doesn't take much time to give the general public a positive view of ringing and the social side of your tower through the parish magazine and newspaper. People are attracted to active organisations.

There are two new sections in the Guild website ***www.pdg.org.uk***, one of which is titled "Help with Publicity for Towers"! In this section I have put some porch notices, letters and other items to give you ideas and at the worst just to download, copy, paste and amend. There is also a copy of the Guild badge that can be copied, re-sized and pasted into appropriate documents. If you can't get access, set a youngster on the job!

I can give you contacts for the regional newspapers and radio stations. Don't forget that parish magazines often have very long lead-times, so think ahead!

There are thousands of the splendid free CCCBR Bell Ringing recruiting leaflets available to put in your church, schools and

libraries, but don't forget to put your contact details on the back! Posters are on the way. Contact me!

I had my ear well bent to get the Guild website up to date. Alan Chantler has installed updates, as well as adding new sections, the second of which is this Guild Newsletter, so please use it. There is also a new "learn to ring" message which contacts me. Alan remains a Central Council Representative for the Guild and is a member of the Central Council Public Relations Committee, chaired by another member, Judith Rogers. The four existing branch websites are now linked both ways to ***www.pdg.org.uk*** except one.

If any branch needs help for a special project, don't hesitate to let me know. We may need to get some exhibition equipment (or even a mini-ring and lots of volunteers?!) that can be moved around as needed. If you have good news that can be spread wider, I'm happy to help.

Use me as the draught excluder to keep out "apathy, which creeps in everywhere like a draught between door and frame" to quote Martin Rowling's lovely phrase in the Spring newsletter!

Geoff Pullin  
01327 871806 [pro@pdg.org.uk](mailto:pro@pdg.org.uk)

## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

### CULWORTH

Apologies for missing the last newsletter deadline. For some reason I had forgotten to put it on the calendar. Jill did send an email and Ian says that he told me, but it was obviously one of those husband and wife conversations where one side doesn't hear.

Maybe my mind was on the guild quiz. It did take a lot of brain time puzzling over it. Three people volunteered to help sell copies. I particularly liked the letter I received with one cheque saying that "I managed to sell the quiz sheets, whether they wanted one or not!"!

I am pleased to say that most of our accident prone invalids are improving. Graham White recently had a carpal tunnel op, and had to stop ringing for a time. However, he couldn't keep away for long, even if it did mean ringing one handed.

Our half annual meeting at Croughton in July was almost a tea lock-out as there was nobody to let us into the village hall to prepare food. However, a key holder was found after an hour of making emergency plans for alternatives. We did come up with a viable plan!

Congratulations to Richard Gail of Marston St Lawrence who recently rang his first quarter of bob minor at Brackley, and to Judith Johnson who rang her first minor at Helmdon earlier in the year.

We are sorry to announce the death of Ted Garrett of Chacombe at the end of September. Ted had looked after Chacombe bells for many years, for most of the time as the only active ringer in the village. However, he successfully recruited (and retained) a new band a few years ago. More recently he spearheaded the fundraising to have the bells re-hung, and work is due to start in July next year. We are all sorry that he didn't live to see the results of his labours, but trust that the resulting easier going bells will be a fitting memorial to him.

Sara Chapple

# DAVENTRY

## MEETINGS

Twenty seven rang and six didn't, including Peter Box and Colin Ashmore (both temporarily unringable), at Bugbrooke in July. Sedgefield Doubles ( - remember, there was a by-election there a few days later) was attempted once but failed dismally! Revd Stephen French, vicar of "Junction 16 Benefice", printed special service sheets for us and gave a talk about dressing up (- he wasn't!). In the evening 23 rang at St Peters', Northampton.

There were 18 at Norton and 30 later at Kilsby in August. Michael Haighton took the service because the rector was officiating at his daughter's wedding at Barby. Margaret Dean was presented with her first quarter peal certificate and also a grant of £400 from the branch bell fund to match the Guild grant for the replacement of the remaining plain bearings at Kilsby. In the evening, Rugby, tower captain John Goddard and our chief visitor enabled a mere six members to ring the eight bells!

Forty gathered in September at Newnham for the fine tea that Ivy had organised. There was a great deal of round ringing and Ipswich S Minor was also rung by the 31 who got up the tower. Afterwards 22 went over the hill into Daventry for evening ringing.

Only thirty made it to Badby in October when the rector practised his harvest sermon about canning and preserving the abundant harvest. The special method of Norfolk S Minor was rung here and later at Staverton despite only eight being present. Janet Bickerton was elected a new member from Everdon. The low numbers were aided and abetted by our committee member Abigail Buck holding her 18th birthday barn dance at Dodford village hall. This led to the third quarter peal being rung there, Bob Minor conducted by Ian Willgress, to welcome the partygoers.

## PEOPLE

Ted Garrett was 80 years old on June 26. The local band found out in time to arrange a quarter peal of Oxford and Kent TB Minor with Ted and Hilda ringing, and drinks at the tower captain's house afterwards.

On July 23, Bob and Maureen Sinclair were among the 7,500 guests at Buckingham Palace for the Royal Garden Party to celebrate the Caravan Club's centenary. Then on July 31 it was their silver wedding!

Beryl Williams left Whilton and moved back to Wales in July.

Harriet Piner learned to ring at Badby with Richard, her father, in 1997. On August 22 Harriet died, from cystic fibrosis aged 20. It was a sad practice that night but we rang open as requested and Richard and Heather rang as well. Harriet's funeral on August 31 was preceded by open ringing with 17 ringers. Afterwards, the record congregation of 297 mostly made their way to the village hall for refreshments. On the following Monday a good fast quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles, conducted by Bob Sinclair and with Sarah Pullin on the tenor, was rung whilst Harriet's ashes were interred in the nearby cemetery, next to Vic Maull.

Hugh Johnson got as far as the operating theatre on September 3 to find that the skin on his right knee was not thick enough, so was sent home with thickening cream and was due back on October 14. Mary Wenham's prolonged trouble with her knee looks to be on the mend at last after a further operation by a sports injury specialist plus a knee hinge repair.

Ron Fonge's 80th birthday on September 30, was marked by a surprise quarter peal of Cambridge, conducted by Ian Willgress, at Flore on the previous Thursday, which he witnessed in the ringing room, being unfit to ring due to shingles. Afterwards there was a gathering of many of

Ron's ringing friends including those from Flore, Harpole, Heyford and Northampton. The rest of the evening was spent enjoying the refreshments and reminiscing over the memories of more than forty years ringing.

## **DINNER**

Twenty nine returned to Barby Sporting Club, now free of all smoke of course, for a dinner on October 6. Alice was in good form, stayed upright and coped with the apple crumble with custard as well as a sample of Michael's cheese!

## **PRACTICES**

A new batch of year 6 Staverton schoolchildren started training in September on Tuesdays as part of their curriculum. Back on July 1 Staverton bells were rung for normal Sunday service for the first time by a practice night band. For the school's end of term service on July 19, the ringers included Amber, Annie, Demi and Lauren. Thursday evening practice nights have kept going with Richard Hartley's organising zeal. With similar encouragement, the Lambfold benefice Monday morning practices continue to visit a variety of towers.

Braunston Monday Group continues to flourish, with a repertoire spanning from rounds to some brave souls attempting Stedman - and sometimes succeeding.

Helidon's new ringers are progressing during their Tuesday morning practices and they had eleven to ring for harvest service in October!

## **FIRST SUNDAY QUARTER PEALS AND SUMMER FESTIVAL**

In July Plain Bob Major at Whilton was conducted by Ian Willgress. It was John Neale's first on eight "inside". James Grennan asked for it be rung to mark his native Canada Day. In 27°C August Jim White conducted Stedman Triples at Weedon in 44 minutes. The September

quarter was Grandsire Triples at Crick conducted by Ian Willgress as a practice for this year's Guild inter-branch 8-bell striking competition. It was successful, and the same band, with one necessary change, came first. "Good enough to fall to sleep to" said the judge. The trophy is back in Daventry belfry after a year at Kettering and will be exhibited in Daventry Library throughout December.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following for pushing their frontiers forward with more "firsts" in quarter peals!

July 16: Mike Harvey - Pudsey S Major, at Long Buckby conducted by Colin Lee.

July 23: Val Hartley - Kent T B Minor at Flore, conducted by Ian Willgress.

August : John Neale - Grandsire Triples at Long Buckby, conducted by Rosemary Hemmings.

September 27: Colin Anderson - Plain Bob Minor at Moreton Pinkney, conducted by Graham Nabb.

September 29: Jim Grennan - Cambridge S Minor at Great Brington, conducted by Ian Willgress.

## UP THE TOWERS

At Dodford, the first quarter peal for many decades was rung on June 25 by the first of two bands invited by Richard Hartley as having helped the restoration in some way. The quarter was dedicated to the hard work that he and Harold Thompson put into the job by the band who rang Cambridge S Minor in 48 minutes, conducted by Paul M Mason on an extremely windy night. Afterwards, Richard checked out the frame movement and found no change. The second quarter of Cambridge, conducted by Colin Lee, was rung on July 23 and coincided with churchwarden John Day and Jane's 30th wedding anniversary.

The Sunday after celebrating Ted's birthday, the tenor crown staple at Nether Heyford snapped. On Tuesday Ted took it to Loughborough and Ian collected it on Friday. Heyford practice had been moved to Cold Higham, whilst Jim White and Ian reassembled the clapper, carefully drilling the split pin hole in the right place. Working in a very restricted space, it took them 2½ hours before they could join the others in the Foresters' Arms.

For most of the Summer, Harold and Richard have been climbing Ashby St Ledger tower weekly mainly to carry out wheel reconstruction with materials from Whites of Appleton. They expect them to be ringing for Christmas. Ron, Zoë and Fabia from the village are learning to ring at Braunston.

On July 24, Richard and I met the churchwarden at Brockhall to see the current state of the three bells and provided him with a report and future options.

Taylor, Eayre and Smith have been busy in three towers. The change of bearings at Kilsby started on September 6 and was completed on October 4. At Flore and Kislingbury the clappers were refurbished during the Summer, but Kislingbury 2nd bell then had a gudgeon problem at the end of September.

Peter Wenham reports that after a lightning strike at Braunston last year, the Abel two-reflectors-per-bell system (hand-built by John Gwynne but burnt out by the lightning) was replaced with David Bagley's tailor-made one-reflector system, still using Abel on a PC. This has proved 100% reliable and also allows ringing up and down in peal on the simulator, albeit with a rather frantic start/finish. Buying the system ready-made also saved many hours work with a soldering iron!

## OPEN DAY

Our "Rare Towers" open day on August 18 was made complicated by our desire to encourage Charwelton (still in Culworth Branch, I hasten to add!), Dodford, Farthingstone and Stowe IX Churches PCC's to embrace their bells by asking visitors for larger donations than usual to ring them. These four were made up to twenty on a single route with a tower opening every 20 minutes, but were open twice as long as the other 16. This gave people choices for a pick and mix day out. It seemed to work well. We raised £1498 (plus refreshment income at Charwelton and Dodford). We can trace 96 different visitors and had £1200 signed up for Gift Aid tax recovery by the Guild. Not bad! Many thanks to the 44 stewards who helped make it work!

The only casualties were the treble clapper at Dodford where the ball slid off the shaft (!) and broken ropes at Norton. All Norton ropes had their top ends turned and spliced back, and one tail replaced as soon as the access key returned from holiday! We aim to have an Open Middle-Day for the "rare" towers plus Ashby on May 3, 2008 for visitors to build into a day out.

## BIRMINGHAM OUTING

Thirty one set off on Alison Buck and Graham White's outing to Birmingham on September 1 aboard the Claydon Fox. In Birmingham the first visit was the new light ten at St Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter and there was astonishment to see Chris Woods, he of spiral-stair phobia, in the ringing chamber after his longest ascent yet. Then a walk to St Philip's Cathedral to sample the fine 31cwt twelve. Ringing was mainly rounds and call changes but we did ring Grandsire and Plain Bob Triples with five tenors! After eating we met at the RC Cathedral of St Chad. Here the long draught to the splendid Taylor eight, especially to the three bells on the upper frame, proved challenging. Back on board to go to Sheldon, an ancient church surrounded by mid C20 housing and where the old four have recently been made into a six. Next was

Bickenhill, the parish of the NEC, which posed a further challenge to our handling and finally to Hampton in Arden, a fine eight where brain fatigue set in to upset method ringing! Thanks to the organisers for a good day out.

Geoff Pullin

## KETTERING

Well, with our current correspondent off to university I have stepped in to the breach for the last offering this year. The branch has held a few events since the last newsletter and here is roughly what we have been up to.

September saw us back to our usual evening meetings following our break in August for the holiday period. This was one of those occasions where things did not quite go to plan. Originally we were looking to visit two towers namely Ashley and Medbourne. Due to a wedding reception taking place next to the church we were asked if could not ring at Ashley; this was followed by a no from Medbourne as well, so two new towers were needed. Following a few phone calls Stoke Albany and Brampton Ash were drafted in as replacements. Despite a small turnout at Stoke Albany numbers increased at Brampton Ash and some good ringing took place.

October found us in a dash – a four counties dash to be exact in the shape of the branch’s mini outing. Due to the meeting of the county boundaries in the Stamford area it is possible to ring in four different counties without travelling huge distances.

Initially we started off with the light five at Thornhaugh in Cambridgeshire. It was certainly a dash as far as this tower was concerned as road closures and a missing key caused us to start there a little late. Everyone got a go though on these nice bells

and the first county was crossed off the list. Next it was a short drive up the A1 to Easton-on-the-Hill and in to Northamptonshire.

No key problems this time and some pleasant ringing took place on the six bells. A quick trip through the town of Stamford saw us arrive in the village of Ryhall in the county of Rutland. These bells had been unringable for many years and it was many peoples first visit to this tower since they were restored to a ringable condition.

It was then back to Stamford itself in the county of Lincolnshire. Many people took the opportunity to consume their picnic teas down by the river and despite the number of ducks in close proximity everyone's sandwiches remained un-pecked! Following tea it was only a short walk to All Saints' Church and the ring of eight bells it contains. So finished the day and we completed what we set out to achieve with four towers and four counties visited. The attendance was good with 21 people attending. A small profit was made on the day which will go towards the Guild Bell Fund.

The beginners' practice sessions held at Rothwell during the afternoons prior to the evening meetings continue and are generally well attended. If you want to improve you basic ringing skills it is well worth a visit. They usually take place between 2.00pm and 4.00 and entrance is gained through the small door on the south side.

Next time you should be hearing from a new correspondent which will all be decided in our AGM in January. So, may I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year and enjoy your ringing!

Nick Churchman

## NORTHAMPTON

A quarter peal was rung in July at St Benedict's for several reasons: for the Patronal Festival, to welcome Sylvia Coles as curate, to celebrate Anne's Silver Wedding Anniversary and to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hallowing of the bells. This was Elliot Purdy's first quarter, so our congratulations to him. Other ringers were Hilary Aslett, Anne England, Geoff Brown, Liz Hodges and Paul M Mason doing the conducting.

St Andrew's, Harlestone hosted a ringers' picnic back in the Summer (what Summer?). Maureen would like to thank the participants.

The Branch Annual Dinner will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The Beer and Skittles Evening in June, competing for the Cecil Swann Trophy was very successful. Teams representing Abington, Boughton, Cogenhoe, Dallington, Duston, Hardingstone, St Benedict's and St Giles attended, some showing that luck and guile scored higher than mere skill in the earlier rounds, which were closely fought.

The final was again closely contested with fortunes fluctuating both ways before Nick and Trevor finally showed that age can overcome youth even at sport!! Cecil promised to present the trophy when he is able to get it back from the 2006 winner Gill Pepper!!

An enjoyable evening for all who attended, and the challenge is again made for 2008 for another competition. So get practising all you cheese throwers!!

Trevor Jarvis (trev\_jarvis@hotmail.com)

## THRAPSTON

Our monthly meetings have continued to be well supported by a small but reliable bunch and we have enjoyed some well struck courses of a range of methods. Our initiative to declare a method of the month has been well received especially by those who are sometimes limited at their own towers and it is hoped to continue this practise into the New Year.

We were all pleased to celebrate the wedding of our branch organist, Nigel Buckby to Molly in July. Raunds' "wedding of the year" (according to the Vicar) was accompanied by suitably excellent ringing before and after the service. We all send Nigel and Molly our best wishes for a long and happy life together.

On a different note, we were shocked and saddened by the news of Jenny Bradshaw's death in June. Jenny had rung at Twywell for many years and was always pleased to help out local towers when the need arose. We miss her friendship and support and our thoughts are with her family.

Several of our churches have been targeted by lead thieves over the past weeks - in the case of Lowick three times within a month (so far). We know that this is a problem throughout the country but if anyone has any (legal) advice on how to deal with or discourage it, I have no doubt many would be interested to hear your ideas!

Lastly we are looking forward to hosting the Guild Quiz at Brigstock on 17 November at 7.30pm. The venue is easy to find and well appointed(!) so please support this entertaining event and prove that you are all as clever as you know you are! Look out for details in your tower.

Jo Boyers

## **WELLINGBOROUGH**

It was on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2007 when approximately 16 members and visitors set off for the half day car outing, which was this year organised and directed by John and Sue Beresford. Tim was too busy this year; he had a wedding to go to later in the summer!!!!.

The first visit was to Tadmarton in Oxon for their ring of 6. That was the easy part, getting to the ringing chamber was via 2 flights of steps and a very steep ladder. The rings of Cambridge, Stedman and St Clements were easy in comparison. Having negotiated the long drop down it was off to Long Compton just over the border in Warwickshire for another ring of 6. This church presented the longest draughts of the day. The interior of the church had undergone major refurbishment and had been very tastefully modernised. On display in the church were a number of cross stitch pictures depicting many of the properties within the village. It was then off to the 8 at Bloxham where a creditable ring of Yorkshire was amongst the repertoire. This Church also had an interesting display of cross stitch pictures representing the village by depicting organisations, companies, buildings etc.

After this, there was time for a quick tea before returning to Northants for the evening ring of 8 at Ayhno. Here, we were

made most welcome as we were offered tea and home made drop scones - which were delicious. It was noted that some ringers were not seen in the ringing chamber until all 4 trays of scones had gone !!!!!.

The evening concluded with the usual liquid beverage in a local pub and as it was one of the few good summer evenings the party were able to get some fresh air.

July 18<sup>th</sup> saw the striking competition take place at Ecton. It was good to see another increase in teams entering to 8. Special mention must be made to Yardley Hastings who entered a team after an absence of many years with a team of relative beginners. Well done, hope to see you there next year. This year, Rushden were clear winners with 13 faults and the second place went to Finedon with 35 faults, followed by Moulton with 38.

The recent branch events of training and business meetings have been well supported and a number of visitors have added to the diversity and quality of the ringing. They have given the opportunity to all abilities for progress to be made. The surprise major practice which is normally held on the third Saturday would benefit from additional ringers. The regular band is keen to emphasise that it is also a training opportunity for surprise minor; so don't be put off. The practice for November is on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Irthlingborough followed by December 15<sup>th</sup> at Rushden. You will be made most welcome.

Social date for your diary is the branch quiz which is on December 8<sup>th</sup> at Earls Barton. Get your team organised now - as Christmas will soon be here.

Congratulations to the members of the Wellingborough Branch who came third in the 8 bell striking competition at the Summer Festival held on September 15<sup>th</sup> at Holy

Sepulchre Northampton.

Tim Samson was married on August 4<sup>th</sup> at Orlingbury and the branch wishes him and Carly every happiness on this occasion. A quarter was rung to mark the event.

## **Tower News**

A quarter peal was rung at Wollaston on 23 September of 300 Grandsire and 960 Bob Doubles by a band of local ringers. The tower captain John Beresford believes this is the first quarter by a local band since before the Second World War. Unfortunately, the local team will shortly be bidding farewell to both Alan Faiers and Jo Bevan who are moving out of the village. The team consisted of 1. Kate Inchley 2 Elaine Hooper 3 Alan Faiers 4 Jo Bevan 5 John Beresford C 6 Jean Rose.

Finedon bells are currently out of action, but should be back to normal before Christmas whilst repairs totalling some £11000.00 are carried out. The head stock is being refurbished on the tenor and all the bells are to have their wheels re-shrouded and the clappers refurbished. The work, when completed should make for easier ringing on these heavy bells.

The branch wishes all its friends and acquaintances in the Guild a happy Christmas and a Healthy 2008.

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A bell ringers joke -  
Quasimodo

After Quasimodo's death, the bishop of the Cathedral of Notre Dame sent word through the streets of Paris that a new bell ringer was needed. The bishop decided that he

would conduct the interviews personally and went up into the belfry to begin the screening process.

After observing several applicants demonstrate their skills, he had decided to call it a day - when an armless man approached him and announced that he was there to apply for the bell ringer's job.

The bishop was incredulous. "You have no arms!"

"No matter," said the man, "observe!" And he began striking the bells with his face, producing a beautiful melody on the carillon. The bishop listened in astonishment, convinced he had finally found a suitable replacement for Quasimodo.

But suddenly, rushing forward to strike a bell, the armless man tripped and plunged headlong out of the belfry window to his death in the street below.

The stunned bishop rushed to his side. When he reached the street, a crowd had gathered around the fallen figure, drawn by the beautiful music they had heard only moments before.

As they silently parted to let the bishop through, one of them asked, "Bishop, who was this man?" "I don't know his name," the bishop sadly replied, "**but his face rings a bell.**"

And there is more

The following day, despite the sadness that weighed heavily on his heart due to the unfortunate death of the armless campanologist, the bishop continued his interviews for the bell ringer of Notre Dame. The first man to approach him said, "Your Excellency, I am the brother of the poor armless

wretch that fell to his death from this very belfry yesterday. I pray that you honour his life by allowing me to replace him in this duty."

The bishop agreed to give this man an audition, and, as the armless man's brother stooped to pick up a mallet to strike the first bell, he groaned, clutched at his chest and died on the spot. Two monks, hearing the bishop's cries of grief at this second tragedy, rushed up the stairs to his side.

"What has happened? Who is this man?" the first monk asked breathlessly.

"I don't know his name," sighed the distraught bishop, **"but he's a dead ringer for his brother"**.

Tanya Clayton and Ivor Dickin (who wrote the joke???)

## **GUILD SUMMER FESTIVAL**

Northampton Branch did us proud on September 15. Firstly by hosting the event when it was Peterborough Branch's turn and secondly entering a band at 15 minutes notice to fill the gap left by Rutland! Guild Master, Colin Lee, had innovated so that the order of ringing in this eight-bell inter-branch striking competition was decided by ballot ten days in advance at the central Northampton practice and teams knew when they had to ring. An orderly procession of bands assembled in the clear sunshine in Holy Sepulchre churchyard, Northampton then proceeded to ring the fine bells.

A shortened version of evensong was taken by Revd Yvonne Chapman, who learned to ring whilst at St

Benedict's, with Johan DeBoer at the organ. A good tea followed in the church hall. Derek Jones organised the draw for the 100-Club, started in this hall 21 years ago, and the first prize of £46 went to no. 29 M. Coleman. The Master introduced the judge, Tony Bulteel, who learned to ring at Bilton and was a regular visitor to Staverton practices a few decades ago, and is now ringing master at St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. Tony gave comments on each team and then announced the results in reverse order and presented each with a certificate whilst the Master announced the name of the branch. The results were:

6th	Northampton	97 faults
5th	Guildenbury	55
4th	Kettering	42 ½
3rd	Wellingborough	31 ½
2nd	Towcester	28 ½
1st	Daventry	19 ½

Colin made the point that the last team were 6th out of ten and thanked them for taking part at short notice. It was only the third time that Daventry have won! The winning band was 1. Geoff Pullin, 2. Gwynneth White, 3. Shirley Waterhouse, 4. Alison Willgress, 5. Ian Calvert, 6. James White, 7. Ian Willgress, 8. Carole Pullin.

The splendid model of a bell, fittings and frame - the Harry Wooding Memorial Trophy was handed by Tony to Carole Pullin, branch ringing master and Ian Willgress, conductor. It will be kept in Daventry ringing chamber and is due to be displayed in Daventry Library during December.

Afterwards there was well attended and, of course, well struck, ringing on the 2005 ring of six at Abington.

## RINGING IN CENTRAL NORTHAMPTON

Practices during November and December 2007 will be as follows:

Wednesday 7th November - All Saints, George Row.

Wednesday 14th November - Holy Sepulchre, Sheep Street.

Wednesday 21st November - St Giles, St Giles Terrace.

Wednesday 28th November - St Peter, Marefair.

Wednesday 5th December - All Saints, George Row.

Wednesday 12th December - Holy Sepulchre, Sheep Street.

Wednesday 19th December - St Giles, St Giles Terrace.

Wednesday 26th December is Boxing Day and there will be no practice.

All practices begin at 7.45pm.

Contact Bridget Paul 01604 832291 or Colin Sampson 01604 471088 in case of queries.

If you are likely to be or are late arriving at All Saints or St Giles and the door is locked let Bridget know on 07748 864566 and someone will let you in. A door will be opened at 8pm and 8.15pm anyway for latecomers.