



Canterbury District

Newsletter

Issue 185

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From the Editor

The Newsletter is distributed by email every three months, and is also available to view on the Association website (www.kcacr.org.uk), in the **Canterbury District** section.

If you have any ringing-related news from your tower that you would like to feature in the newsletter, please send them to me at cantdistrictnews@gmail.com, or have a word with me if you see me at a meeting. It would be appreciated if all items could be with me no more than a week before the next Quarterly Meeting

Jane

Chairman's Message

Hi everyone!

I hope you all are doing well and had a happy Christmas and New Year.

I'm happy to say that things are getting back to normal.

Once again would like to thank the organisers of the social at Birchington and especially Peter Russell for putting together the service and writing the pantomime. I would also like to thank those who took part and for Dave Sheekey and Jo Horton for the food which was delicious. Lastly to all who attended, I think it was a good evening.

Our meetings have been well attended and my thanks goes to our ringing masters who run these and all the extra practices.

I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings during 2023 and hope that we can encourage more ringers to join in.

So, see you at Chartham

Best wishes

Mike

Secretary's Message

Several years ago the district committee of the time decided to hold winter meeting in the morning to try to boost the numbers attending during the cold weather.

This does not seem to have made much difference, so the committee has felt the need to re-think this idea. Then covid appeared and we were locked down for what seemed to be a long time.

We are hopefully past all that now and can look forward again. With this in mind the committee suggested that winter meetings should start at 1pm instead of 11am.

This was discussed at the ADM in October and members decide that all meetings should start at 2pm, winter or summer, beginning with the November meeting at Littlebourne.

You should find a copy of the proposed programme elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please note that the call change competition has been moved to March with the striking competition remaining in May.

There is also a programme of District Practices for this year in the newsletter.

If you wish for any sort of help with progressing the ringing in your towers please contact the ringing masters. canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk

Best wishes to all

Tony

Ringling Master's News

District Ringing – October-December 2022

Stuart Palin / Ben Legg

Aside from the November District Call-Change Competition being cancelled at the last minute (only one entry) we have had a fairly reasonable turnout for District Ringing events during this quarter.

October – ADM: (St Dunstan's) Afternoon ringing at St Dunstan's attracted a respectable crowd (around 12 from recollection) and the ringing went from rounds and call-changes to Cambridge S Minor. The bells were a bit of a challenge which made good, consistent, striking difficult even given the bell's rather loud volume - there was also St Dunstan's rather compact and bijou ringing room to deal with.

With some cajoling 7 (+ 1 part-timer) were persuaded to go back up the tower after the meeting as the bells needed to be lowered. Before that we managed to ring several courses of London S Minor - generally improving as we went along. The monotony was broken by a touch of 3 splice Plain Minor (Plain, Little, St Clements).

November – Bye: (Littlebourne) Disappointingly the Call Change Competition only attracted one entry - well done St Stephen's, Canterbury. Changes are afoot in the Call Change Competitions so hopefully we will have better success next time.

This did mean that we had a hastily arranged Bye-Meeting, adopting the new start time of 14:00 agreed at the ADM. We had a fair turn-out (11) which allowed us to cover a range of ringing from Rounds and Call Changes up to a touch of Cambridge S Minor. Enough people were persuaded to stay on for ringing after the meeting allowing us to complete touches of Plain Bob, Cambridge S and spliced Plain & Little Bob.

(Rounds+CC * 4, Grandsire 5 * 1 touch, Stedman 5 * 2 touches, Plain Bob 6 * 2 touches, Little Bob 6 * 1 touch, spliced Plain & Little Bob 6 * 1 touch, Cambridge S 6 * 1 + 2 touches)

November – S Major Practice: (Sheldwich) We managed to get 11 come along (unfortunately 3 more had to cancel plans to attend) which allowed us to complete a useful practice. We rang both Cambridge and Yorkshire – with a greater demand for Yorkshire. The ambition to also ring Bristol was not practical with the band available, but we did get a half-course of Superlative as a consolation. The practice provided several ringers the opportunity to knock some rust off after the hiatus of the past couple of years and we hope we can build on this promising start.

(Cambridge S * 2, Yorkshire S * 2 + 2*0.5, Superlative S * 1*0.5)

December – Plain Hunt/Plain Bob Practice: (Sandwich) This attracted a strong turnout (something like 20+) so we were glad of the space that the tower at Sandwich gave us and very appreciative of the welcome from the Sandwich ringers (which included some refreshments). We had a range of abilities from basic plain hunt 5 to those coming to grips with touches of Plain Bob, and the numbers meant we had quite a busy practice – though this also meant people spending a while waiting their turn. We mostly alternated between courses of Plain Hunt 5 and Plain Bob 5, but also managed a touch of Plain Bob 6.

December – Social: (Birchington) We had a modest start but numbers picked up a bit later. We were greatly assisted by Simon and Sue Meyer visiting from West Sussex and managed to ring a mix of things on 6 and 8 including finishing with a bob course of Cambridge S 6 rung at a cracking good pace fully complying with "Just a Minute" rules (without deviation, repetition or hesitation). Unfortunately our hour was up all too soon.

(Rounds 8 * 1, Plain Hunt 7 * 1, Plain Bob 5 * 1 + 1 touch, Grandsire 7 * 1 + 1 touch, Cambridge S 6 * 1 + 1 touch)

Thank you to all those who have supported this District Ringing and we hope that with your help we can build on this in the coming year – see our other article on possible ideas for future ringing events and let us know what you would like to see.

Have a Merry Christmas everyone and here's to a Joyful New Year. Here are a couple of YouTube handbell change-ringing videos for you to enjoy over Christmas; even if you have seen them before they are worth a revisit. (The second one really does demonstrate the musical aspects of change-ringing).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDpryTeR3IE> (Cambridge Youth Utrecht Festival)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-A1guNUSDg> (24 Handbells Lycett)

Stuart Palin / Ben Legg, Canterbury District Ringing Masters

email: CanterburyRingingMaster@kcacr.org.uk

District Ringing – Looking Forward

Stuart Palin / Ben Legg

Hold on before you turn the page thinking District Ringing is not for you – the whole point is that there **should** be something in it for everyone. So pour yourself a Christmas sherry and take an extra minute or so to read on – and **do something about it**.

Introduction

Before getting into things I should introduce myself: I am Stuart Palin and I am pleased to be joining Ben Legg as one of the Canterbury District Ringing Masters for the coming year. Having been involved with District Ringing since the 1980s I am probably known to many, but for those who don't know me here is a brief introduction.

I learnt to ring at Faversham/Ospringe way back in the 1970s and recently marked my 50 Year KCACR Membership anniversary. Ospringe is my home tower - though I also ring at Canterbury Cathedral. Many years ago I held posts on the District Committee (Ringing Master, District Rep, OCM) - but I think we are facing quite different challenges at the moment. Ringing-wise I have rung several peals and QPs up to spliced Surprise, and have also taught several people to ring (but I pre-date ART) – however regular practice nights are usually a mix of rounds, call-changes, Plain Bob, Grandsire, and Stedman.

I aim to mingle at the District Meetings to further introduce myself and find out more about your own ringing, but do feel free to come and have a chat if you have something you would like to share. Likewise, in the tower, if there is something you are interested in ringing do mention it. Unfortunately, the numbers and abilities available might not always make it practical to ring what you would like, but it is still useful in developing an appreciation of where people's interests lie.

Working with Ben, and yourselves, I hope we are going to be able to provide something for all levels of ability over the coming year. The best way to contact us is by email (see below).

Aims of this Article

The various restrictions imposed over the past couple of years have had a profound impact on ringing at all levels. Many bands, the Canterbury District, the wider KCACR, and nationally (CCCB) are affected - ringing activities are still reeling.

There are things being planned or undertaken at various levels (and at some point I hope to write a bit more about them and how they can link in to our own ringing) but here I want to focus on things at the Canterbury District level.

For those who have not been to any District events before I would like to emphasize that it is not all about serious-minded ringers ringing complex methods; all levels are welcomed and we would very much like to see you there.

I very much understand that there can be a reluctance to step forward and ring when you are uncertain of your abilities and everyone else seems so much more accomplished and knows everyone else. Trust me, we have **all** been there! But if you make the effort to join in you will discover that there are many others just like you, and that ringers at all levels are sociable and familiar with the challenges faced by those starting out in ringing.

What we would like to do as District Ringing Masters is to organize District events that interest and help you all. To do that we **need your help and input**. Below you will find some ideas we have been thinking about to start a more active conversation that will allow us to tailor District events to match what you all would like to see.

Please have a read, think about it, and let us know your thoughts and ideas.

District Meetings

The District Meetings take place each month (2nd Saturday) and following the discussion at the ADM we have just moved to a new time that has ringing starting at 14:00. Some of the meeting dates are special events such as the Call Change and Striking Competitions, but at the Quarterly and Bye-Meetings there is general ringing for all-comers.

In theory ringing takes place before the Meeting Service and after the Business Meeting is completed. The evening ringing has often attracted no interest – possibly people have been rushing home to prepare dinner. Hopefully the revised timing of meetings might give people more opportunity to ring afterwards – and this is something we would like to work on since we should have most people present at that point.

Getting the afternoon ringing going relies on people (you) turning up and coming up the tower. We are going to try encouraging that by making the best use of the people we have available to get some good ringing for everyone. Provided we have the people we would always hope to be able to ring:

- Rounds and Call-Changes,
- Plain Hunting,
- Plain Bob (Doubles, Minor, Triples, Major)
- Grandsire (Doubles, Triples)
- Stedman (Doubles, Triples)

Further methods would also be rung depending on the ringers present. If we can get a consistent turnout for ringing meetings it should become practical to suggest further methods for people to come prepared for (such as Little Bob, St Clements, Kent TB, Cambridge S).

It would be **helpful to know if there are other things that we could do to encourage people to come along** to Meetings and join in the ringing.

District Practices

In the last Newsletter (Oct-2022) an outline for some regular District Practices was presented. This included some ideas on what those practices could cover – but really **we could do with some feedback** on what people would like and what would help them. The published calendar of events had some ideas – but we can adapt these to better suit people's wants as they become clearer.

The scheduling of the practices within each month is currently somewhat irregular in both dates and timing. Up to this point, our thinking has been to try and arrange District Practices so that they generally take place

not too close to District Meetings, and at times that are convenient for the host towers, but a more regular approach may have advantages. What are people's preferences – **should we be trying to settle on a particular day/time? What would work for you?**

Below are some of our thoughts to get the conversations started - they are talking points, not a fully fleshed out plans set in concrete: some might turn out to be impractical to run. Some of the topic areas are very broad and to cover all of the points would need several independent sessions. **What do you think about these ideas, what would interest you, what have we missed?**

Ringling Call Changes - at the moment this seems like an activity best addressed within local towers (see below) as it requires frequent and regular practice to attain the basics – something the monthly District Practices would be unsuited to. Call-changes **are** supported at District Meetings.

Plain Hunt / Plain Bob - aimed at people who are competent bell-handlers and call-change ringers, ideally with some prior experience of hunting (or Plain Bob). At its basic level this would be targeted at Doubles and Minor, but if there is demand Triples, Major or even higher could be addressed for more experienced "Happy Hunters". Opportunity for more sustained ringing with a strong band and receiving feedback and guidance.

Basic Doubles - aimed at people who are competent ringers of at least one Doubles method and looking to develop their range or move into touches. Covering methods with simple structures such as Plain Bob, Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury, Antelope, All Saints. Ideally some prior experience of ringing the method. Opportunity for more sustained ringing of the method with a strong band and receiving feedback and guidance.

Advanced Doubles - aimed at people who are competent ringers of touches of Plain Bob/Grandsire and looking to develop their range into methods with more complex structures such as Erin, Stedman, St Simon's, St Martin's, St Nicholas. Winchendon. Opportunity to ring the method with a strong band and receiving feedback and guidance.

Doubles Splicing and Variations - aimed at people who are competent ringers of touches of Plain Bob/Grandsire and/or St Simon's/Winchendon and are looking to develop their range into splicing methods or ringing with alternative calls (such as April Day, Pink). At this level it is anticipated that ringers would be more capable of independently learning methods – though there would still be opportunities to get guidance and feedback.

Plain Minor - aimed at people who have experience of ringing Doubles Methods and are looking to extend into Minor equivalents such as Plain Bob, Double Bob, Little Bob, St Clements, Single Oxford. Opportunity for more sustained ringing with a strong band and receiving feedback and guidance.

Plain Triples and Major - aimed at people who have experience of ringing Doubles and Minor Methods and are looking to extend into basic Triples and Major methods such as Grandsire, Plain Bob, Little Bob, Erin, Stedman, Single Oxford. At this level it is anticipated that ringers would be more capable of independently learning methods – though there would still be opportunities to get guidance and feedback.

10-bell Ringing - aimed at people who are experienced in ringing Triples and Minor Methods and are looking to extend into basic Caters and Royal methods. This will be a focussed practice session with opportunities to get guidance and feedback.

Surprise Minor - aimed at experienced method ringers who are looking to extend their range into Surprise methods such as Cambridge, Ipswich, Norwich, Beverley, Surfleet, London, Wells. This would include touches of methods and could extend into ringing spliced. This will be a focussed practice session with opportunities to get guidance and feedback.

Surprise Major - aimed at experienced Surprise Minor ringers and basic Surprise Major ringers who are looking to extend their range in Surprise Major. This would include touches of methods and could extend into ringing spliced. Methods from the Standard 8 would be the key element of the practices, though special methods would be added as experience grows. This will be a focussed practice session with opportunities to get guidance and feedback.

Raising/Lowering in Peal - aimed at those who are competent at raising and lowering a bell on its own or have had limited experience of raising/lowering in peal. This would provide a tower practice session focussed on this aspect of ringing. Opportunity for extended practising and receiving feedback and guidance.

Listening Workshop - aimed at all levels of ringer who are interested in practising and developing their critical listening skills to aid in good striking. This would be a “classroom” style event using IT resources to generate ringing of “varying quality” and opportunities for questions and sharing experiences.

Conducting Call-Changes - aimed at competent Call-Change ringers who wish to learn and practice making the calls. Explanation of the different calling methods, planning the changes, making the calls and keeping an eye on things. Opportunity to practice calling with a strong band and receiving feedback and guidance.

Conducting Basic Methods - aimed at competent method ringers, experienced in ringing touches of methods, who wish to learn and practice calling touches. Explanation of how touches are written out, how to learn the touch, making the calls, and keeping an eye on things. Opportunity to practice calling with a strong band and receiving feedback and guidance.

Handbells Workshop - One positive of the COVID lockdowns was a resurgence in handbell ringing (methods – not tunes) with several groups forming across the District. This workshop aims to give these groups an opportunity to meet, sustain, and build on their abilities. Individual teams will be able to benefit from pooling their experience to develop their method range.

Tower Leaders Workshop - aimed at those who lead the running of their local tower or ringing. The purpose is for these leaders to meet their fellow leaders (and members of the District Committee) and share knowledge about the ringing they are doing, their challenges and successes, help they might need or be able to offer. This workshop should help develop cooperative assistance between bands and help direct District Ringing to better meet the needs of our ringers. We would also hope to get some ringing done.

Tower Keepers Workshop - aimed at those who maintain the bells in their local tower or have an interest in doing so. The purpose is to meet fellow maintainers (and members of the District Committee) and share knowledge about the state of the bells in their towers, the challenges they are having, and help they might need or be able to offer. We would aim to get input from the KCACR BRF team. This workshop should help develop cooperative assistance between bands in maintaining their bells and help keep the District and KCACR BRF aware of issues. We might also get some ringing done.

Teaching Workshop – not an ART course, though those who have taken their courses are very welcome. Aimed at those who already teach others to ring – we are not proposing to reproduce the ART courses. The purpose is to meet fellow teachers and share experiences and challenges you face. Opportunity to share practical techniques to dealing with teaching matters, explore different approaches, and identify help needed or able to be offered.

Quarter Peal Week/Month

A period of coordinated efforts involving ringers across District to provide the opportunity to ring first Quarter Peals, or a Quarter Peal in a method you have learnt to ring, or to call a Quarter Peal. This would aim to consolidate work done in earlier ringing activity, such as District Practices, and provide a distinct accomplishment. Previous District Quarter Peal weeks have been arranged at various times of year during the past, although in recent years it has been scheduled for the February school half term week. Is this a suitable week, or are there better alternatives? Should we extend the event to a District Quarter Peal Month?

District Competitions

The district call change and method striking competitions are run by the District Competition Secretary and these determine the qualifying bands for the corresponding KCACR County Competitions. As a call change

competition at county level has recently been introduced, possible changes to our district call change competition rules or perhaps splitting the competition into two categories may be put forward for the district membership at large to consider, so watch this space and please provide feedback. The District Ringing Masters are responsible for organizing the Canterbury District team for the KCACR County 8-Bell Competition – this team is usually drawn from ringers across the District depending on the method to be rung and people's availability. The District Ringing Masters are also responsible for organizing a Canterbury District team for the KCACR County 10-Bell Competition, should a challenge be issued to the holders (currently the Lewisham District). Ben, as District Youth Coordinator, is responsible for arranging a Canterbury District team for the KCACR Youth Striking Competition.

Local Help

The foundations of ringing are in the regular tower practices and the bands that keep the bells ringing. District Ringing aims to complement this allowing ringers to progress beyond the limits of their own band and use the experience gained to help develop their band. District Ringing can assist in linking those looking for help with those able to provide that help.

Local level help is potentially the most difficult to arrange because it needs to be tailored to each band's needs, and requires regular commitment.

Ringling Recovery/Return to Ringing initiatives have been started at national (CCCBR) and Association level to assist and we hope that at a District level we will be able to coordinate with these initiatives. But this needs to be a two-way street – local ringers will need to be encouraged to come out of their home towers if they are looking to improve. A particular case is Young Ringers – at the KCACR County level Jen Thomas (and her cast of helpers) has been doing sterling work in getting Young Ringers ringing together giving them a quite different experience of ringing.

Several of the topics covered above in District Practices also aim to help coordinate assistance at the local level. **What more might be done?**

What Next

Well thank you for getting this far. **We very much want to hear your views and ideas** so get in touch with us using the Canterbury District Ringing Master email address below.

We also want to improve the tempo and immediacy of communication on District Ringing matters. That will include more frequent emails from us – initially we will use tower contact addresses, but if you would like to get direct emails on matters related to District Ringing let us know and we will add you to our contact list. We also intend to make more use of the KCACR (www.kcacr.org.uk) News Feeds (also linked to from www.twitter.com/kcacrofficial), and the Canterbury District's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/CanterburyDistrict - you do not need to sign up to Facebook to read the messages). Are there any more channels of communication that you would like to see utilised?

There are also ideas for future Newsletter articles related to District Ringing and ringing in general. We look forward to seeing you at the next District Meeting

*Stuart Palin / Ben Legg, Canterbury District Ringing Masters
email: CanterburyRingingMaster@kcacr.org.uk*

Forthcoming District Practices		
Date	Tower	Focus
28 th January 2023 7:30-9:00pm	Elham (8)	Surprise Major
11 th February 2023 10:30am-12:00 noon	Sturry (6)	Plain Minor
TBD March 2023 TBD	Waltham (6)	Basic Doubles
29 th April 2023 7:00-8:30pm	Boughton under Blean (8)	Surprise Major

Future District Practices (tentative information)		
Date	Tower	Focus
20 th May 2023 10:00am-12:00 noon	St Laurence-in-Thamet (10)	10-bell ringing
June 2023	Herne (8)	Conducting call changes
15 th July 2023 7:30-9:00pm	St Stephen's, Canterbury (8)	Surprise Major
26 th August 2023	Waterloo Tower, Quex Park (12)	Social ringing and barbecue
September 2023	Teynham (6)	Conducting basic methods
October 2023	Throwley (8)	Surprise Major
25 th November 2023	Lyminge (8)	Plain Triples
January 2024	Selling (8)	Surprise Major
February 2024	Littlebourne (6)	Doubles Variations
23 rd March 2024	Monkton (6)	Surprise Minor

District Book Stall

“The Canterbury District is the only district to still have the book stall.

Why not start the New Year off by purchasing some of the wonderful teaching aids we have on offer. There are books for all levels, from learning to handle a bell, understanding basic methods, all the way through to calling peals.

Email me, our librarian, at claire.stay@mac.com and I will help you find the best books for you.

All books are very cheap, and any money raised goes straight back into our district.”

Claire Stay

Striking Competitions – What do YOU want?

It is felt by the County Committee that the current rules for the **County 6-bell Call Change Striking Competition** (introduced in 2020, although the inaugural competition has not yet been held) are not entirely satisfactory. As it stands, the competition seems to have two contradictory aims – (1) giving novice ringers an opportunity to participate in competitive ringing while (2) enabling very experienced ringers to enter, with the consequent expectation of high standards. After much discussion about county competitions, including a proposal to introduce two categories of call change competitions – “Novice” and “Advanced”, it was decided to ask for feedback from the six districts about what the Association’s members *actually want*. Feedback will be presented at the next County Committee meeting on 25th February 2023.

There will be an opportunity to express your opinions at the Quarterly Meeting at **Chartham** on **Saturday 14th January**. Alternatively, written feedback can be submitted to Malcolm Barden (malcolmbarden@aol.com) as Canterbury District Representative, or, if you speak separately with any of the District Committee, we will endeavour to pass your thoughts on to Malcolm before he attends the next County Committee meeting. The main focus for discussion will be the call change competition(s), but if anyone wishes to raise any points relating to the method competition, they can of course do so.

Just to be clear, there will be no changes to the existing rules for **THIS** year’s **District Call Change Competition** in March, but it is likely that changes will be introduced for future editions, which will be dependent on what is eventually decided at county level. Below are some possible points for consideration:

Current Situation

- There are two County 6-bell Striking Competitions – **Method** and **Call Change**.
- The rules for both competitions state that the tower representing each district **shall normally be the tower that has won their district striking competition**.
- Currently, both competitions have the same eligibility requirements i.e. ringers must be **KCACR members** and **regular Sunday service ringers at the tower they are representing**.
- Our Canterbury District Method Competition rules match those for the County Method Competition.
- However, our current District Call Change Competition rules are quite dissimilar, in particular, bands are limited to a **maximum of three ringers who have rung a peal** – a measure adopted to try to ensure that inexperienced ringers get a chance to participate.

“Novice”, “Advanced”, or Both?

- One proposal is that, if there was sufficient demand, there could be two county call change competitions – “**Novice**” and “**Advanced**”, perhaps with one or both competitions also taking place at district level.
- What would be the fairest way of categorising a “Novice” ringer?
 - By not having rung a peal? (as is currently the case with our district competition rules)
 - By having been ringing for less than a certain amount of time? (e.g. less than five years)
 - By having not rung a quarter peal or peal on an inside bell?
 - Any other ideas?

How should Call Change Competitions be organised?

- Should District Call Change Competitions be organised as a competition between towers, or between bands made up of ringers from a number of different towers (e.g. “The Stunning Strikers”, “Bob’s Beginners”, “Grandsires United” etc.)?
- Should the winning tower/band at district level represent the district in the county competitions, or should the District Ringing Masters select ringers for the county 6-bell competitions? (as they do for the County 8-bell Method Striking Competition)
- If there was a “Novice Competition” and an “Advanced Competition”, should they be organised differently? For example:

- Have an “Advanced Competition” between towers, with similar eligibility rules to the method competition, along with a “Novice Competition” for bands comprised of novice ringers, who could come from several different towers?
- Only have a “Novice Competition” at district level, and have the District Ringing Masters select an elite band to compete in a County “Advanced Competition”?

Format

- What should teams have to perform? (for “Novice” and “Advanced” competitions, if two categories of competition were adopted)
 - A set test piece, published in advance?
 - Ringing a set number of rows (e.g. 80 whole pulls), with requirements to move a certain number of bells (e.g. four) and a maximum number of whole pulls between calls (e.g. making a call at least every six whole pulls)?
 - Requirements to include certain set changes (e.g. 135246)?
 - Simply ringing for a certain length of time (e.g. ten minutes)?
 - An option that a team is permitted to have someone count rows and/or call from outside the ringing circle? – as is the case for some existing youth competitions (this might be particularly relevant to a “Novice Competition”)

Plenty of food for thought there – we look forward to receiving your feedback!

Ben Legg

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end.

Make Sure to check out the District Facebook Page at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/canterburydistrict/>

District News

St Peter's Bekesbourne

We have 4 new ringers who are applying to join the KCACR at the beginning of 2023, having been passed as proficient ringers. One, Amy even rang at her own wedding back in the summer.

We also have three new learners and a possible fourth. Three who are ringing independently and hopefully will be able to join the ringers for services and weddings in the future.



We held our AGM in December in the church with wine and nibbles. Looking to the year ahead for more ringing and fun.

Wendy Durell
Bekesbourne Secretary

Hidden Christmas

On the darkest December night
We walk across the field
Something's ahead, unclear
Still waiting to be revealed

Dressed in layers that keep us warm
Ahead an eerie shape takes form
A building black with a spire so high
Blurs the outline from land to sky

No noise to hear but rustling trees
A coastal wind brings an icy breeze

Then from the darkness voices are heard within
As people chat and bells begin

Shadows form across the belfry's faded painted walls
The bells changing seamlessly with every bob or single called

Our ringing at an end, we move to the side room
where candles illuminate the space
There's great anticipation for the sausages in crusty rolls
And more than one glass of mulled wine to embrace

The grand finale is lots of singing
with unusual versions of carols that's lots of fun
Embers from the fire glow red as we pack away
The countdown to Christmas has begun

Farewell this hidden Christmas that we find behind the door
For this happy band of ringers will be back next year for more



Waterloo Tower @ Quex Park Birchington on sea
First wrote this poem in 2007 and have reworked it for
Christmas 2022

Becky Holliday

Christmas social at last

On Saturday 10th December we were made welcome at All Saints Birchington for a Christmas service starting at 4. The carol concert did not disappoint us, with the church being illuminated by the many candles raised above each pew giving everything a warm glow.

The Reverend Peter Russell took the service and was also seen swiftly moving to the church organ and doubling up as our organist. Members of the district read the lessons, although Mike Little had to be asked to step down as he started to read his lesson prematurely, much to our delight.

The service made us feel in the Christmas spirit, so we made our way down the path to the church hall to be welcomed by the local ringers and settled down to some lovely French stew and mash (my favourite) followed by apple pie and custard. David Sheekey and Jo Horton did us proud as usual, and Mike mentioned they had been cooking for the socials for 30 years.

The finale to the evening was the first (and some would say last performance), of the much-anticipated pantomime of Puss in Boots, performed by members of the All-Saints Band and other members of the district who had no choice in the matter, so they say!

That said the melodic journey with narration from Peter, took us through the fantastical and humorous and frankly strange life of Puss in boots. And the icing on the Christmas cake came when Stuart Palin enhanced the play, (if that were possible) by wearing a multi-coloured wig and pretending to be the mother of someone. To be fair I can't remember the rest of the story from laughing.

Many thanks to all concerned it really made the start to my Christmas.



Becky Holliday

District Outing – date for your diaries

We have not had a District outing for a few years now, but 2023 we are bringing that back.

This year we will be going to Surrey for the day. You won't need a passport, visa or a covid test to go to Surrey and it's not as far away as you think.

More details on towers will follow nearer the time, but please can you keep Saturday 12th August 2023 free.

A wonderful pub lunch will also be included in the day and a menu will be distributed nearer the time."

Claire Stay

Obituary: Joan Johnson

Joan Johnson, known and loved by many ringers in the Canterbury District, died peacefully on Christmas Day 2022, aged 96. Already in her early seventies, Joan answered the national recruitment drive to bellringing ahead of the 'Millennium'. She joined the band at St Dunstan's, Canterbury, where she was taught to ring by Len Huckstep. She became a regular at the Friday evening practices and Sunday ringing. She spent hours studying the methods at home, and during her 15 years or so of bellringing, she became competent at ringing touches of Plain Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, Reverse Canterbury Doubles and Stedman Doubles. She continued to ring until both the physical and mental demands of ringing caused her to decide to withdraw gracefully.

Joan was a popular member of the ringing community because of her warmth, good humour, and determination to master the methods. She adored Len, not only for his guidance, but also for his patience and kindness in regularly ferrying her to and from weekday practices in Petham, Waltham and Chislet. Joan helped in the kitchen at the Annual General Meetings and was always game for outings and social events.

During her ringing years, Joan suffered some reverses. In particular, in 2003 her husband Teddy died, and in 2008 her son Nick died, both of whom had their funeral service at St Dunstan's. During the Quarter Peal that was rung for her husband, the muffle slipped on the Five, causing the Quarter to sound a little odd. When Joan came up the tower at the end and was told what had happened, she laughed and said, "That'll be Teddy making a bit of mischief". Ringing helped her get through those periods of loss, and gave her a sense of purpose and community.

Throughout Joan's final years, she always spoke fondly of her bellringing days. Looking back over her life, invoking sunny memories from long ago, she would often say "Do you know, I think those bellringing years were the happiest years of my life".

Adrian Hackford



The Ash Dash

Over the years the Ash band have had many bell ringing outings, known throughout the District as “The Ash Dash”, where we visit a number of different towers over the course of a day. This had not been possible over the past two years due to Covid restrictions, but the decision was taken earlier in the year to revive the tradition. October 22nd was decided upon, and I took on the task of organizing it. After consulting the map and taking into consideration what we are able to ring, I chose a circular route of 6-bell towers just south of the A20 on the edge of the Weald.



We were joined for the day by two friends from the Maidstone District, and a total of 10 ringers, 2 non-ringers and 2 dogs met at 9.30am. at our first port of call, Little Chart – a very neat, brick-built church which is now sadly closed. We were met by a local ringer, and some very respectable ringing was enjoyed on the bells, which are much lighter than our own, and handle very differently.

Our second tower Egerton posed a very different challenge. We had to contend with heavier bells, bigger wheels, and the tower is one of the few where the bells are hung for ringing in an anti-clockwise direction – rather like driving on the Continent, which caught a few people out! There is no local band here anymore, not a lot of ringing takes place, and the belfry was a little unkempt - lots of dust and dead bugs, and an almost eerie kettle in the corner, covered in cobwebs but surprisingly

accompanied by a full tea canister! Signs of a more active era, no doubt, although we decided against using the facilities.

On to Ulcombe. The final stairs to climb of the day brought us to a well-kept belfry. The bells again were a bit of a challenge. Here we attempted to ring a method called Erin Doubles, which had been designated as homework for the more experienced ringers to learn for the day. It was very quickly obvious that more revision was necessary, and a resolution was made to stick to what we know! This being the last of the morning towers, lunch was calling.

We had chosen to have a picnic lunch at Boughton Monchelsea, our first tower of the afternoon, where the churchyard overlooks a deer park, with splendid views across the Weald, in the glorious autumn sunshine we had front row seats for some very noisy displays by the stags, although, much to the stags' apparent disappointment, the hinds did not appear to have received the message that October is the peak of the rutting season!



With lunch over, we enjoyed our first ground-floor ring of the day – no more stairs to climb for the rest of the day. The bells are rung from the aisle between the choir stalls, after removing the first two rows of pews! The ropes were very long here, which made ringing the bells tricky for some. Boughton Monchelsea is home to the artist Graham Clark., and for the Millennium he designed a backlit stained-glass window, illustrating the story ‘Bethlehem to Boughton’, which is also set to music. We were fortunate to be given a special viewing of this, accompanied by tea and biscuits provided by the locals. There are also beautiful wood carvings in the church by the same artist.

Having been a little delayed by the Millenium presentation, we moved on to Chart Sutton. A very well-kept church and pleasant bells, but alas our ringing was starting to deteriorate a little by now. It's hard work ringing bells up, ringing them and then ringing them down again over a whole day, and our stamina was waning.

Having enjoyed such lovely weather most of the day, we were met with a very heavy shower when we arrived at our last tower of the day, East Sutton, which sits adjacent to the Open Prison. It's not a big church, but it has a lovely interior, and we found the bells to be the most easy-going of the day. While we ringers were busy in the tower, our 2 non-ringers took themselves off to gather chestnuts and walnuts - we found out later that they had strayed into the prison grounds, but fortunately no charges were made, and the contraband made it safely back to Ash !

After a great day out, it was time to return to Ash. There were some very weary people at the end of the day, but everyone had thoroughly enjoyed the ringing, and each other's company.



Marilyn Barden

Cake Inspector – late 2022

Tues 26 July, Waltham

At the kind invitation of Wendy McCane, many ringers who had attended the short memorial service in memory of Brian Law at Waltham church enjoyed refreshments at the Grange, a fascinating house made from old farm buildings with some very old, exposed beams. The house is in a delightful setting deep in the countryside outside Petham. Drinks, finger buffet, even pizza. Juicy strawberries too. Knitted pumpkins hiding on a shelf, waiting for the autumn. Simply delightful.

Sat 8 Oct, St Dunstan's Canterbury

Always a highlight of the refreshment calendar, the St Dunstan's ringers never fail to produce a wonderful spread for the AGM. Excellent (pun intended) egg mayo and cress sandwiches, with a plate full of veggie spring rolls and samosas etc providing an interesting side-line. Very good shortbread fingers too, hand-made with care, with a nice crumbly texture. Those on my table who sampled the chocolate mousse cake all decided that using a spoon was de rigeur. Jam tarts and small cupcakes also found a place on many plates, and the Inspector was certainly not the only one taking away a doggy bag. The small plates meant that everyone simply had to go back for more...

12 Nov, Littlebourne

We were welcomed with a steaming hot cup of tea on a day which was supposed to be mild but which felt distinctly late autumnal, so extra brownie points were earned straight away. The sandwiches were a real highlight - plenty of choice, and the hand-made egg mayo ones cut into squares were today's Inspector's Choice, a real delight. Ginger cake and a selection of treats too - and more tea!

ST MARY, CHARTHAM – The Church and Bells

Centuries have passed since people first tramped along what we know as the A28 Ashford road and looked down on the village of Chartham with its stately parish church. It presides over a village full of surprises with its village green overlooked by picturesque and interesting old houses, the barn beside the railway and the recently Listed signal-box. Down by the river is the sadly disused paper mill with a cluster of 18th century cottages. From that grand church tower there rings out over village and river valley the oldest *complete* ring of Bells in Kent.

St Mary's can be pretty accurately dated – it is recorded that in 1294, King Edward I made a donation "towards the works of this church begun by him". The tower is perhaps a couple of centuries newer in its present form. There was a bequest in 1495 "to the steeple when it is begun".

If you stand under the great arch of the tower, you are rewarded with a spectacular sight, this great cruciform church, with its original timber roofs still surviving. Especially noteworthy are the diagonal arches spanning the crossing. Don't miss the oak-leaf boss in the centre.

The glory of the church is the chancel, with its array of stained glass, almost entirely original of 1294. Each side matches the other, displaying *grisaille* patterns. The other great feature of the church is the collection of monumental brasses, the earliest and largest – indeed, one of the largest and oldest existing – is that of William de Septvans, who died in 1323. Again, not to be missed.

The tower, at 16 feet square inside at bell chamber level, was clearly designed to hold Bells from the start. At the time of its building, founders were casting much larger Bells than before – locally, the Canterbury founder William le Belyetere cast the 5th at St Dunstan's (at 10 ½ cwt his largest known), the tenor at St Peter's and the 3rd at St George's. Perhaps he cast some of Chartham's earlier Bells. By 1553, when Edward VI's inventory of church goods was made, Chartham had "iiij bells and a wackerell (sanctus bell)". Four was a large number for a village church, even one as grand as Chartham. The size of the present back five (45 cwt as cast) which succeeded them suggests that the old Bells were an impressive ring.

Then in 1605 it was decided to replace the old Bells with a new ring, and to increase their number to five. The "new kid on the block" was Joseph Hatch, whose father Thomas had set up a foundry at Ulcombe, near Maidstone. In 1599, Thomas had cast a treble for St Margaret, Canterbury, and four years later they cast what is now the 5th at Waltham. Someone must have noticed them, for Joseph cast between then and 1639 (when he died) over 120 Bells which survive today and many which do not. There are only two *complete* rings, all the original Bells cast at the same time, Chartham (1605) and Mersham (1612): the additional trebles have been subsequently added in each case. As cast, Chartham's tenor weighed 14 cwt 18 lb: it lost 3 qr 7lb by tuning in 1926. The ring was increased to six with a treble cast in 1728 by Samuell Knight, who at the time was operating from a foundry in the Cathedral precincts, where he had cast the eight largest of the Cathedral's new ring.

By 1880, when the KCACR was founded, Chartham was listed as "Bells not rung". In 1923 they were inspected by Mears & Stainbank who found them "badly in need of quarter-turning...the fittings are very old and in too poor condition for use. The framework is probably as old as the Bells and there is much decayed timber...the frame is so tall. It is so designed that the ropes fall anti-clockwise in the order 125346." In 1926, the Bells were taken to Whitechapel, tuned and rehung with all new fittings in a fine timber frame of Jarrah. The tenor now weighs 13 cwt 1 qr 25 lb, note E.

The Bells are inscribed:

Treble

2nd 3rd 5th & Tenor

Fourth

JOHN MOATE o THO = GEORGE o THO = PEARCE o S. KNIGHT 1728

IOSEPH HATCH MADE ME (*Hatch foundry stamp*) 1605

THOMAS DENCE C W AUSTEN HOMWOOD C W (*stamp*) 1605

Revd David Cawley

Minutes of Past Meetings

The KCACR Canterbury District Annual District Meeting

Saturday 8th October 2022 at Canterbury, St Dunstans

Ringling began at 3pm under the guidance of the ringling masters. The service at 4.30pm was conducted by Jenny Walpole with Susan Record playing the organ. Tea was served by the St. Dunstans ringers in the church hall.

The Chairman, Mike Little opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to St. Dunstans.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Sue Bones, Dennis, Brandrick, Sally-Ann Bullock, Mick Cairns, Andrew Corby, Peter Dale, Callum Dyson, Jean Easley, Becky Holladay, Felicity Lewis, Belinda Moyna, Lindsay Powell-Williams, Debbie Stickels and Zoe and Malcolm Storey.

2. Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read on a proposal from Rev. David Cawley seconded by Ben Legg. The chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

3. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

4. Election of New Members. From Herne, Kate Willis was proposed by Susan Record and seconded by Keith Record. Kate was elected a member of the Association.

5. Presentation of Certificates. There were no members present to receive membership certificates. However 50 year membership certificates were presented to Enid Dixon and John Paramor. The members congratulated both on this achievement.

6. The Collection amounted to £40.00 and all of this was given to St Dunstans Church.

7. Chairman's Remarks. The chairman did not wish to say anything apart from the fact that it was good that we were getting back to some sort of normality and thanked the committee and all members for their support over the last two years.

8. Secretary's Report. It has been an up and down year for the district. With the lifting of lockdown in July last year the committee put together a programme of visits to towers with ground floor rings. Following the ADM at St Dunstans in October the first meeting was a bye meeting in November at All Saints Whitstable.

Unfortunately, the situation in the country deteriorated and we reluctantly decided to cancel the Christmas Social at Birchington. The quarterly meeting in January was also cancelled.

St Peters restarted the programme with a meeting in March and we have got back to regular meetings since then. There was a quarterly meeting at Sheldwich in April. The Striking competition was held at Monkton on a bright sunny day in May. In June we visited Boughton and in July went to St Nicholas at Wade.

With the death of her Majesty the Queen, two days previously, it was felt that the September meeting should be postponed to a later time. We hope to hold this in January.

The district entered a band in the county eight bell competition at Goudhurst in June and came out victorious, congratulation to them. The county six bell competitions were due to be held at Saltwood on September 9th but were postponed until October 29th due to the death of the Queen.

Attendance at meetings has slowly picked up this year and we hope this continues. Ten new members have been elected since March and there are some more in the pipeline. It would be good if we could encourage those towers whose members don't attend to come along and see what the district is all about.

Thanks must go to all the members and incumbents of the towers at which meetings were held during the year and also those members who supported these events. Thanks are also due to the committee for attending committee meetings and keeping the district running smoothly in trying times.

9. Treasurer's Report. Cathryn had little to report. All subs sent to her had been passed on to the county treasurer. There was some money from collections which should go to the county. It was proposed by Marilyn Barden that as collections at Monkton, St Nicholas at Wade and St Dunstons had been given to the churches why not repay that money to the churches where it had been collected. This was seconded by Bro Austin and passed by the membership. It was suggested that next year members should decide at the ADM what to do with any money collected by the district.

Cathryn asked members to pay their subs as soon as possible next year.

10. Ringing Master's Report. Since our last Annual District Meeting, the schedule of district ringing events has gradually returned to a state that more closely resembles the pre-pandemic pattern. In addition, there were many special ringing performances throughout the district associated with both Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the summer and her death and funeral just recently. The district's ringers and indeed the bell ringing community in general responded admirably to the appeal for special ringing to mark these occasions – the late Queen's death in particular necessarily resulted in arrangements for commemorative ringing having to be made at very short notice.

Several young ringers from the Canterbury District participated in the KCACR Youth Striking Competition last November, with Dylan Thorley being a member of the team that achieved the best score. Congratulations are also due to Joe Aust, who was a member of the Kent Young Ringers teams that represented the Association commendably at the South East England Youth Striking Contest in April and the Ringing World National Youth Contest in July.

District Practices focusing on specific aspects of ringing will shortly be returning, so we hope they will be both useful and enjoyable, but if any district ringers have suggestions for special district-wide events, or would like some help holding special local events, please do get in touch! As ringing continues to bounce back from the Covid-19 pandemic, we hope the increased participation at meetings and practices will be sustained throughout the coming year.

The chairman thanked Ben for what he does throughout the year.

11. 120 Club Report. Philip reported that numbers had dwindled over the last two years to the point at which it was not viable to continue. He asked if it should be wound up or did members wish to continue. If it helped towers could have a number rather than individuals. If it carried on he would relaunch it in January but he asked where the money should go as the BRF had plenty of money at the moment.

Jan Thomas said that the Tonbridge district had proposed splitting their proceeds one third to the BRF, one third to training and one third to the Kent Young Ringers. It was suggested that members think on this, and a vote will be taken at the January quarterly meeting at Chartham.

12. Report from the County Committee Meeting. In the absence of the district representative there was no report. However county youth officer, Jen Thomas, pulled up the salient points and minutes from the kcacr website. The AGM next year will be on Easter Monday in the Maidstone District. There is a vacancy as publicity officer. Rupert Cheeseman is the new training officer. A Mini ring is being given to the association. Congratulations were given to the Tonbridge District for the Festival of Ringing organised in June at Goudhurst. Next year it will be held in the Ashford District. There is to be a choral evensong in Rochester Cathedral in November.

13. Competition rules. The county committee was introducing a county call change competition but the rules were different to those of the district call change competition. It appears that the county competition is meant to be for the best call change ringers not for learners. The district competition has always been for learners but entries are hampered by the exclusion of peal ringers.

Jen Thomas mentioned that Simon Lindford (CCCBR) was wishing to set up a national call change competition to encourage all ringers to ring call changes as well as they do in Devon.

Stuart Palin felt that the objectives of both competitions were different and that the district competition was not a qualifier for the county competition. This led to a question of how to get a band to take part in the county competition with suggestions of an amalgamated band entering this year.

It was decided that the district committee should discuss all this and also whether the rules of the district competition should be changed after the first county call change competition had taken place which was due to happen on October 29th.

14. Safeguarding and Training committee posts. It was pointed out that there were three people on the district committee with no specified jobs and the question was asked should there be a district training officer and a district safeguarding officer? Ben had proposed a programme of monthly district practices, which would cover all aspects of ringing, and had put together some ideas. This would help with training. It was pointed out that every church has a safeguarding officer and there was also a safeguarding officer at county level. It was therefore felt that a district officer was not needed.

15. Election of Officers for 2023.

Post	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Mike Little	David Cawley	Marilyn Barden
Secretary	Tony Martin	Philip Elderton	Andy Brett
Assistant Secretary	David Cawley	Tony Martin	Len Huckstep
Treasurer	Cathryn Hills	Andy Brett	Stuart Palin
Ringling Master 1	Benjamin Legg	Jane Huxley	Malcolm Barden
Ringling Master 2	Stuart Palin	Len Huckstep	Mike Little
District Rep 1	Jo Horton		
District Rep 2	Malcolm Barden	Marilyn Barden	David Cawley
120 Club Organiser	Philip Elderton	Cathryn Hills	Marilyn Barden
Newsletter Editor	Jane Huxley	Mike Little	Enid Dixon
Extra Three	Len Huckstep	Samuel Keeler-Walker	Cathryn Hills
Extra Three	Michael Keeler-Walker	Samuel Keeler-Walker	Cathryn Hills
Extra Three / Books Stall	Claire Stay	Samuel Keeler-Walker	Cathryn Hills

Malcolm said he was committed to being the district rep and would be attending county meetings.

The chairman thanked everyone who had agreed to be a member of the committee.

16. Towers for 2023. The following programme had been suggested by the committee at their meeting in June.

Month	Tower	Meeting
January 14th	Chartham	Quarterly Meeting.
March 11th	Northbourne	Bye Meeting.
April 15 th	Faversham	Quarterly Meeting.
May 13th	Chislet	Striking Competition.
June 10th	Great Mongeham	Bye Meeting.
July 8th	Lyminge	Quarterly Meeting.
September 9th	Thanington	Call Change Competition.
October 14th	St Dunstans	ADM.
November 11th	Wickhambreaux	Bye Meeting.
December 9th	St Peter-in-Thamet	Carol Service and Social.
January 13th 2024	Cathedral & St Paul	Quarterly Meeting.
March 9th 2024	Sandwich	Bye Meeting.

No towers had yet been approached.

17. Time of Meetings. Members did not like the idea of having the call change competition in November. It was felt that September was not suitable as it was too soon after the school holidays and people were still going on holiday. In November it clashes with remembrance so it was decided to try holding it in March next year.

The move of meetings during the winter months to 11am starts had not improved attendance figures and the committee were suggesting trying 1pm in future. The membership felt 2pm would be better and it was decided to move all meetings to a 2pm start time from November 2022. This would include competitions.

18. Forthcoming Events.

Saturday 12th November - Bye Meeting at Littlebourne Ringing from 2pm, service at 3.30pm followed by tea and meeting. Names for tea to namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible please.

Saturday 10th December - Carol Service and Social at Birchington. Ringing at 4pm, Candlelit Carol service at 5pm followed by hot food, fun and 'Puss in Boots' panto at 6pm in the church hall. Tickets £15 were available from Mike Little or Tim Attridge.

Saturday 14th January - Quarterly Meeting at Chartham. Ringing from 2pm, service at 3.30pm followed by tea and meeting. Names for tea to namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible please. This replaces the meeting planned for Wingham.

The chairman was to organise a quiz at Birchington on Saturday 19th November at 7pm. The cost would be £7 per head, which included nibbles, with a maximum of 8 people per team.

The District ringing masters were proposing a series of District practices focusing on different aspects of ringing each month. They were looking for helpers. The next two were planned as Surprise Major at

Sheldwich on Saturday 29th October from 7.30 to 9pm and Plain Hunt and Plain Bob at Sandwich on Saturday 3rd December from 10.30am until 12 noon.

19. Any Other Business. Jen Thomas said that there were not many younger ringers in the Canterbury District. She had also visited Lynsted who needed help teaching some new people.

Moving on to the next age group, 19 - 23 years old, efforts were being made to revive the Canterbury Colleges Society of ringers. This included students at UKC, Canterbury Christchurch College and Canterbury College.

Claire Stay had the bookstall at the back of the hall.

On Saturday 22nd October there was to be the Ash Dash from Great Chart to Boughton Monchelsea.

20. Vote of Thanks. Mike Little gave the vote of thanks to everyone involved in organising the Annual Meeting.

The KCACR Canterbury District Bye Meeting

Saturday 12th November 2022 at St Vincent, Littlebourne.

Ringling began just after 2pm under the guidance of ringing master Stuart Palin. The service at 3.30pm was conducted by Rev. David Cawley with Susan Record playing the organ. Tea was served at the back of the church by the Littlebourne church members.

1. Apologies for absence. Received from Ben Legg, the SLiT band apart from Freda Parker and the SPiT band apart from Sarat White and Mary Bridges.

2. Election of new members. There were no new members to elect.

3. Presentation of Certificates. There were no members present to receive their certificates.

4. The Collection. This amounted to £23.00 all given to Littlebourne church to help with repairs to the roof.

5. Forthcoming Events

Saturday 19th November. District Surprise Major Practice at Sheldwich from 10.30am - 12.00. Please email the ringing masters if you wish to attend.

Saturday 3rd December. District Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Practice at Sandwich from 9.30-11am. This is aimed at people who have had some experience and can have a strong band to support them. Please email the ringing masters if you wish to attend

Saturday 8th December. Carol Service and Social at All Saints Birchington. Ringing from 4pm. Candlelit Carol service at 5pm followed by supper and the social. Tickets £15 can be obtained from Mike Little or Tim Attridge.

Saturday 14th January. Quarterly meeting at Chartham. Ringing at 2pm, service at 3.30pm followed by tea, meeting and further ringing. Names for tea to namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible please.

Saturday 28th January. District Surprise Major Practice at Elham from 7.30 - 9pm. Please email the ringing masters if you wish to attend.

Saturday 11th February. District Plain Minor Practice at Sturry from 10.30 - 12 noon. Please email the ringing masters if you wish to attend.

Saturday 9th March. Call Change Competition at Northbourne. Draw at 2pm, then ringing, service at 3.30 followed by a short meeting at which the results will be announced. Tea will be served throughout the competition. Names for tea to namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible.

The chairman asked everyone to encourage their towers to enter a band. Mention was made that it is difficult to do so because of the rule regarding peal ringers.

6. Any Other Business. Malcolm Barden mentioned that the competition rules are on the agenda of the county committee meeting at the end of the month. There seems to be a problem amongst members about competitions in general. Ash could not enter a band because of the rule about peal ringers.

The central council are trying to get more call changes into ringing in the way that Devon ring changes. The district striking competition has been a qualification for the county competition but the call change competition does not lead on to anything but has been aimed at novice ringers. The district could therefore do what they wish. Could we suggest that combined bands be able to enter or a band from a shared benefice.

A summary of the minutes of the county committee meetings is published on the KCACR website and could be circulated to towers and members.

Philip Elderton was to re-launch the 120 club in January. He will be at the social in December with his book. Members could renew at any time. So far there were 32 members and we need 85 for the club to be viable.

David Cawley asked if the call change competition cup had been returned to the committee. It was thought that Jo Horton has it. David suggested that as the only band to enter the competition today was St Stephens they should be asked to hold it as winners by default.

Claire Stay had the bookstall at the back of the church. She was in the process of compiling a catalogue of books held which will be sent to towers when complete.

It was mentioned that Graham Cuthbert was asking for help at Lynsted on Friday evenings to teach a group of youngsters between 7.30 and 8.30pm.

7. Vote of Thanks. Freda Parker gave the vote of thanks to the churchwardens and PCC for the use of the church and bells and everyone involved with organising the meeting. Members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

District Quarter Peals

Quarter Peals rung from 1st October to 31st December 2022 are as follows:-

Date	Place		Time	Changes / Method(s)		Conductor
02/10/2022	St Stephen, Hackington	Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (8m/v/p)	Leonard A Huckstep
02/10/2022	St Dunstan	Canterbury	42m	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	Andrew M Hills
08/10/2022	All Saints	Birchington	38m	1260	5m Doubles	Michael Little
09/10/2022	St Stephen, Hackington	Canterbury	42m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Leonard A Huckstep
09/10/2022	Canterbury Cathedral	Canterbury	51m	1360	Kent Treble Bob Royal	Andrew M Hills
09/10/2022	All Saints	Birchington	38m	1260	Pottery Wedding Doubles	Tim Attridge
14/10/2022	St Mary	Teynham	44m	1260	Plain Bob Minor	Adam Moore
16/10/2022	St-Nicholas-at-Wade		42m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Michael Little
16/10/2022	St Stephen, Hackington	Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (4m/p)	Tony J Martin
16/10/2022	St Dunstan	Canterbury	41m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Cathryn M Hills
16/10/2022	All Saints	Birchington	38m	1260	Platinum Wedding Doubles	Tim Attridge
17/10/2022	All Saints	Birchington		1280	Plain Bob Doubles	Tim Attridge
20/10/2022	Canterbury Cathedral	Canterbury	46m	1250	Cambridge Surprise Major	Andrew M Hills
22/10/2022	All Saints	Birchington	40m	1320	Pink's Doubles	Tim Attridge
23/10/2022	St Mary	Teynham		1260	Doubles (5m)	Barry Roberts
23/10/2022	All Saints	Birchington	38m	1260	Paddington Bear Doubles	Tim Attridge
30/10/2022	All Saints	Birchington	40m	1280	China Wedding Doubles	Tim Attridge
05/11/2022	Canterbury Cathedral	Canterbury	45m	1264	Plain Bob Major	Mark Chittenden-Pile
06/11/2022	St Dunstan	Canterbury	41m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Cathryn M Hills
06/11/2022	All Saints	Birchington	37m	1272	Plain Bob Minimus	Tim Attridge
06/11/2022	St Mary the Virgin	Ashford	47m	1260	Plain Bob Triples	Mark Chittenden-Pile
09/11/2022	St Vincent	Littlebourne	42m	1320	Plain Bob Doubles	Neil Garner
11/11/2022	St Michael and All Angels	Throwley	46m	1260	Plain Bob Triples	Adam Moore
02/12/2022	Canterbury Cathedral	Canterbury	45m	1260	Plain Bob Triples	Cathryn M Hills
03/12/2022	St Mary and St Ethelburga	Lyminge	44m	1280	Spliced Surprise Major (5m)	Andrew M Hills
03/12/2022	St Mary	Chilham	44m	1260	Grandsire Triples	Adam Moore
04/12/2022	St Stephen, Hackington	Canterbury	42m	1340	Doubles (4m/p)	Paul N Davis
04/12/2022	St Dunstan	Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (8m/v/p)	Andrew M Hills
04/12/2022	All Saints	Birchington		1260	St John Baptist Doubles	Tim Attridge
05/12/2022	St Clement	Sandwich		1280	St Osmund Bob Doubles	Tim Attridge
07/12/2022	St James	Sheldwich	42m	1260	Stedman Doubles	Philip H Larter
08/12/2022	St Mary the Virgin	Chislet	43m	1260	Grandsire Doubles	Michael Little
09/12/2022	St Peter the Apostle	St Peter in Thanet	41m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Mike Little
09/12/2022	St Mary the Virgin	Selling	47m	1344	Plain Bob Major	Adam D Moore
11/12/2022	Canterbury Cathedral	Canterbury	49m	1259	Grandsire Caters	Mark Chittenden-Pile
11/12/2022	All Saints	Birchington		1260	Elford Doubles	Tim Attridge
12/12/2022	All Saints	Birchington	39m	1280	Eynsham Doubles	Tim Attridge
14/12/2022	St Nicholas	Sturry	40m	1260	Grandsire Doubles	Leonard A Huckstep
17/12/2022	Canterbury Cathedral	Canterbury	44m	1296	Stedman Triples	Andrew M Hills
18/12/2022	Holy Cross	Goodnestone	39m	1260	Doubles (8m/v/p)	Andrew M Hills
18/12/2022	All Saints	Birchington	37m	1260	Austrey Doubles	Tim Attridge
20/12/2022	Canterbury Cathedral	Canterbury	51m	1408	Spliced Surprise Major (3m)	Andrew M Hills
21/12/2022	St Mary the Virgin	Dover	44m	1260	St Alkmund Bob Triples	Andrew J Corby
23/12/2022	Canterbury Cathedral	Canterbury	52m	1253	Grandsire Cinques	Andrew M Hills
24/12/2022	St Dunstan	Canterbury	42m	1260	Plain Bob Minor	Andrew M Hills
24/12/2022	Canterbury Cathedral	Canterbury	49m	1260	Plain Bob Royal	Cathryn M Hills
24/12/2022	All Saints	Birchington		1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Michael Little
25/12/2022	St Dunstan	Canterbury	42m	1320	Doubles (18m/v/p)	Andrew M Hills
26/12/2022	St Stephen, Hackington	Canterbury	45m	1260	Grandsire Triples	Andrew M Hills
31/12/2022	All Saints	Birchington	38m	1260	St John Divine Doubles	Tim Attridge

District Peals

Peals rung from 1st October to 31st December 2022 are as follows:-

Date	Place		Time	Changes / Method(s)		Conductor
11/11/2022	St Martin	Great Mongeham	2h 38	5040	Surprise Minor (11m)	John B Keeler
01/12/2022	St Mary	Chartham	2h 58	5040	Surprise Minor (11m)	John B Keeler

Canterbury District Officers

As of the 2022 Annual District Meeting, the officers of the Canterbury District currently stand as follows:

Chairman	Mike Little	01843 791117	quexmaster@hotmail.com
Secretary	Tony Martin	01227 769686	canterburysecretary@kcacr.org.uk
Treasurer	Cathryn Hills	01795 533809	(No calls after 8pm please)
Assistant Secretary	Rev. David Cawley	01227 479871	davidl.cawley@btinternet.com
Ringling Master 1	Ben Legg	07818 434350	canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk
Ringling Master 2	Stuart Palin	01795 531418	canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk
District Rep	Malcolm Barden	07771 975423	malcolmbarden@aol.com
District Youth Co-ordinator	Ben Legg	07818 434350	canterburyyouth@kcacr.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Jane Huxley		cantdistrictnews@gmail.com
120 Club Promoter	Phil Elderton	07916 586471	120clubcanterbury@gmail.com
Extra Three	Len Huckstep	01227 362733	lenhuckstep@gmail.com
Extra Three	Michael Keeler-Walker	01227 720121	mckeeler@hotmail.co.uk
Extra Three	Claire Stay		claire.stay@mac.com

Forthcoming Events

District Practice – Surprise Major

Saturday 28th January at Elham. Surprise Major 7.30 – 9pm

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District Practice – Plain Minor

Saturday 11th February at Sturry. Plain Minor 10.30 – 12 noon.

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Call Change Competition

Saturday 11th March at Northbourne.

Draw at 2pm, Service at 3.30 followed by a short meeting at which the results will be announced. Tea will be available throughout the competition. Names for tea to namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible please.

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District Practice – Basic Doubles

March at Waltham. Basic Doubles.

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Quarterly Meeting

Saturday 15th April at Faversham (10).

Ringling from 2pm, service at 3.30pm followed by tea, meeting and further ringling if requested. Names for tea to namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible please.

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Hi Everyone,

After a couple of years without the 120 Club running for obvious reasons, the time has now come for me to start the draws again. First draw will be at the January 2023 meeting.

We currently have 44 members but need to get many more. So, everyone is welcome to join.

For those that do not know about it, it costs just £10 per number, which is entered into 10 draws during the year. There are 3 prizes each draw, £35, £20, and £10. The super draw at the Christmas social has a first prize of £100. So, we pay out £715 in prizes each year. Any surplus goes to the BRF. So, we need at least 72 members to break even.

So to join either fill in form below and post back to me with a cheque for £10 per entry.

Send by bank transfer to KCACR Canterbury district 120 club.

Sort code	30-92-93
Account	68654660

If do this, please also email me 120clubcanterbury@gmail.com

Phil

Name

Address

Phone number

Email.....

Cheques payable to KCACR Canterbury District 120 Club

Post to

Phil Elderton, 53 Wilfred Road, Ramsgate, CT11 7RD

Programme of District Meetings for 2023/24

2023

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Saturday 14th January	Chartham (8)	Quarterly Meeting	2pm
Saturday 11th March	Northbourne (6)	Call Change Competition	2pm
Saturday 15th April	Faversham (10)	Quarterly Meeting	3pm
Saturday 13th May	Chislet (6)	Striking Competition	2pm
Saturday 10th June	Great Mongeham (6)	Bye Meeting.	2pm
Saturday 8th July	Lyminge (8)	Quarterly Meeting	2pm
Saturday 9th September	Thanington (6)	Bye Meeting	2pm
Saturday 14th October	Canterbury St Dunstons (6)	Annual District Meeting	2pm
Saturday 11th November	Wickhambreaux (6)	Bye Meeting	2pm
Saturday 10th December	tba	Carol Service & Social	tba

2024

Date	Venue	Event	Time
Saturday 13th January	Cathedral (12)	Quarterly Meeting	2pm
Saturday 9th March	Sandwich (6)	Bye Meeting	2pm

Not all of these towers have yet been approached for these meetings.

Programme of District Practices for 2023/24.

2023

Date	Venue	Focus	Time
Saturday 28th January	Elham (8)	Surprise Major	7.30 - 9pm
Saturday 11th February	Sturry (6)	Plain Minor	10.30 - 12 noon
March	Waltham (6)	Basic Doubles	tba
Saturday 29th April	Boughton u Blean (8)	Surprise Major	7 - 8.30pm.
Saturday 20th May	St Laurence in Thanet (10)	10 bell ringing	10 - 12noon
June	Herne (8)	Conducting call changes	tba
Saturday 15th July	St Stephen's, Canterbury (8)	Surprise Major	7.30 - 9pm
Saturday 26th August	Quex Park (12)	Social ringing and BBQ	tba
September	Teynham (6)	Conducting basic methods	tba
October	Throwley (8)	Surprise Major	tba
Saturday 25th November	Lyminge (8)	Plain Triples	tba

2024

Date	Venue	Focus	Time
January	Selling (8)	Surprise Major	tba
February	Littlebourne (6)	Doubles Variations	tba
March	Monkton (6)	Surprise Minor	tba

The Kent County Association of Change Ringers Canterbury District Call Change Competition

The 2023 Call Change Striking Competition will be held on
Saturday 11th March
at Northbourne.

The draw for the order of ringing will take place at 2pm. Competition ringing to start thereafter with the service at 3.30pm followed by a short meeting at which the results will be announced. Tea will be available during the competition.

1 2 3 4 5 6
2 1 3 4 5 6
2 3 1 4 5 6
2 3 4 1 5 6
2 3 4 5 1 6

The Assistant Secretary must be notified of teams wishing to take part by Saturday, 4th March and any team that is unable to attend for the whole competition should inform the Assistant Secretary as soon as possible.

3 2 4 5 1 6
3 4 2 5 1 6
3 4 5 2 1 6
4 3 5 2 1 6

The test piece for this year will be as shown to the right. Full copies of the rules are available from the District Secretary on request and in the newsletter.

4 5 3 2 1 6
5 4 3 2 1 6
5 4 3 1 2 6
5 4 1 3 2 6

Please complete the entry form and return it to the Assistant Secretary, David Cawley, Flat 2B, St John’s Hospital, Canterbury CT1 1BG, Tel: 01227 479871
davidl.cawley@btinternet.com

5 1 4 3 2 6
1 5 4 3 2 6
1 5 4 2 3 6
1 5 2 4 3 6
1 2 5 4 3 6

Names for tea to namesfortea@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01227 720121 as soon as possible please.

1 2 5 3 4 6
1 2 3 5 4 6
1 2 3 4 5 6

<u>KCACR Canterbury District Call Change Competition 2023</u>	
<u>Entry Form</u>	
Tower	
Team Organiser	Telephone: <hr/>
	E-mail
Team Members	

All entry forms **must** be returned to the Assistant Secretary by Saturday, 4th March, 2023.

KCACR Canterbury District

District Call Change Competition Rules

(Adopted at the ADM in October 1990, amended at the ADM in October 1998, further amended at the ADM in October 2006 and further amended at the ADM in October 2014).

1. Each competing band shall comprise of six persons who ring regularly at a tower in the Canterbury District of the KCACR.
2. No more than three ringers in any entry may have rung a peal.
3. No person may ring for more than one entry.
4. If necessary up to two ringers may be from another tower in the District.
5. The changes may be called by a person other than those who are ringing.
6. Two minutes trial rounds and changes will be allowed before the test piece at the end of which the bells shall be set. A whole pull is to be rung on the treble to indicate to the judges that the band is ready.
7. A set piece of at least 20 changes will be provided in advance and this must be rung by all entries.
8. The competition organiser may halve the length of the test piece stated in rule 7 if
 - a) More than 12 teams have entered the competition
 - b) The competition is unduly delayed.In event that the test piece length is altered due to a delay after the competition has started then the bands that have rung the full length shall only be judged on the first half of their test piece and any marked rounds.
9. There shall be at least four whole pulls between each change and after the final change before stand is called.
10. A band may ring up to ten whole pulls of rounds, which will not be marked, before starting the test piece.
11. Judging will begin at the first change of the test piece or after 10 whole pulls of rounds. All subsequent rows will be marked.
12. Bells failing to stand at the end of the test piece will not incur faults.
13. There shall be two judges whose decision in the case of doubt will be final.