



CANTERBURY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Issue 193

January 2025

Contents

Chairman’s Message	3
Secretary’s Message	4
Ringling Masters’ News	5
<i>Stuart Palin and Jim Attwood recap District ringing over the last quarter and look ahead to upcoming events.</i>	
Cake Inspector’s Yule Log – Autumn/Winter 2024	9
<i>The Cake Inspector gives his verdict on the refreshments provided at each of the meetings in the last quarter.</i>	
A ringside view of the Thanet Ringers’ Outing to Romney Marsh	10
<i>Maureen Cooke reports on a grand day out “south of the border”.</i>	
A ringing quest – Who Do You Think You Are?	13
<i>Isobel Legg relates the story of a mini ringing outing with a genealogical angle.</i>	
Ten in a Day Quarter Peal Challenge	15
<i>Adam Moore describes the adventures of a select group of intrepid ringers in achieving this notable feat.</i>	
Canterbury District Characters	18
<i>In the first of what will hopefully be a series of profiles of local ringers, new District Ringing Master Jim Attwood discusses his own ringing experiences.</i>	
In terra pax – Gerald Finzi and Christmas bells	21
<i>Benjamin Legg explores the story of an enchanting seasonal musical work, which both portrays and was inspired by the festive ringing of bells.</i>	
Obituary – Peter Dadds	25
Minutes of Past Meetings	28
Puzzle Corner	39
District Quarter Peals	41
District Peals	42
Canterbury District Officers	43
District Committee Vacancies	43
Notices	45
120 Club – Update and Joining Information	48
Call Change Competition Entry Information and Rules	49
Forthcoming Events	51

From the Guest 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. Submissions are welcome from any district member and can take a wide variety of forms – tower news, outing reports, articles on bell/tower history, personal accounts of ringing progression, poems etc. – all will be gratefully received. Please send all submissions for the April District Newsletter to the District Newsletter Editor at canterburynewsletter@kcacr.org.uk – it would be appreciated if all submissions are made by **Saturday 29th March**.

Ben

Benjamin Legg
 KCACR Canterbury District
 Newsletter Guest Editor

Cover images

The churches of St Mary the Virgin, Wingham (top left), St Alphege, Whitstable (top right) and St Mary, Teynham (bottom)

Sourced from the Internet

Chairman's Message

Hello,

I hope everyone has thoroughly enjoyed themselves over the Christmas and New Year period, and is looking forward to an exciting year's ringing ahead! My thanks to all who helped to organise last year's meetings, and to those who came to ring – it is always nice to see a good crowd at any District event, the more the merrier! I must apologise that I wasn't able for various reasons to attend many events myself at the tail end of last year, hopefully in this New Year I will be present much more. I hear especially glowing reports of the Christmas Social hosted by Ospringe, so congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to put together such an enjoyable evening!

Having also taken on the responsibility of guest editing this edition of the District Newsletter, I would very much like to thank everyone who has contributed to it – it was interesting putting it all together and I hope that the final product may be an interesting read. We are of course looking for someone to step into the position of District Newsletter Editor more permanently, and having now had a short experience as Editor I can certainly say it is a diverting role, so if it appeals to you do please get in touch!

I look forward to seeing as many Canterbury District members as possible at all our events during 2025, especially those who are new or have not attended many previously, in which spirit, see you at Wingham!

Best regards,

Ben

Benjamin Legg

KCACR Canterbury District Chairman

Secretary's Message

Happy New Year to all, may it bring a year of success in ringing to you and your towers!

I would like to thank you all for your support in my first few months as District Secretary, following my election at the ADM in October. It has been good to meet a few more of you at District events, and I look forward to continuing that this year.

The next quarter has a busy programme of District meetings and practices as always. We have a Quarterly Meeting at Wingham on 11th January, a Bye Meeting at St Alphege, Whitstable on 8th February (and for those wanting a tower grab there'll be evening ringing at Graveney too!), there's then the Call Change Competition on 8th March. Details from the Ringing Masters for District practices are elsewhere in this newsletter.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the process for electing new KCACR members. Once they reach the competency requirements as validated by an Association or District Officer (ringing rounds and ringing down), they are ready to be elected at one of our District meetings – please let me know at least two weeks prior to the meeting so I can ensure a certificate is ready for them! Once they've been elected, they will need to fill in the online membermojo application form – they should please wait to do this until after they have actually been elected.

If there is anything I can help with, please do contact me on canterburysecretary@kcacr.org.uk

See you all soon!

Adam

Adam Moore

KCACR Canterbury District Secretary

Ringling Masters' News

Stuart Palin and **Jim Attwood** recap District ringing over the last quarter and look ahead to upcoming events.

District Ringing – October to December 2024

The ADM saw a number of changes in the District Committee structure with Benjamin Legg moving on to the District Chairman role. I am sure you would join us in thanking Ben for all his work during the years he has served as a District Ringing Master (DRM).

Unfortunately, the ADM did not produce a volunteer to take on the vacated DRM role. While it is possible to operate with only a single DRM it is one of the busier jobs in the District and is directly involved in running District ringing events. As such, it was felt to be very desirable to find someone to fill this vacant post – and we are very fortunate that Jim Attwood (Faversham) has stepped forward and accepted the invitation from the District Committee (you can find an introduction to Jim elsewhere in this newsletter).

Overall, this has proven to be a bit of a disappointing quarter ringing-wise but there were some highlights, and we did at least manage to do something at each meeting and practice.

October – Annual District Meeting: St Dunstan's, Canterbury

The afternoon saw 16 visiting the small tower. In addition to the Rounds and Call Changes we rang some Grandsire and Plain Bob (mostly Doubles), and a couple of touches of Stedman. We rang touches of Plain Bob and Little Bob Minor on the 6, but for the first time in quite a while we did not have a band able to attempt Cambridge, which was a bit disappointing. The ADM also looked to have taken its toll on everyone as there was insufficient interest to make evening ringing possible.

(Rounds+CC 6, Plain H 5, Plain Bob 5 [touch], Grandsire 5 [touch], St Simon's 5 [touch], Stedman 5 [touches], Plain Bob 6 [touch], Little Bob 6 [touch])

October – Surprise Major Practice: Herne

There were 13 ringers at this quarter's Surprise Major practice with Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Rutland being rung, as well as a finale of ringing all four spliced. Again, with the numbers we could afford the time to ring several full courses, including bob-courses of Cambridge and Lincolnshire.

(Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland, 4-Spliced RCYN)

November – Bye Meeting: Godmersham

This seemed quite a busy meeting but with people moving between the tower and main body of the church we did not manage to get a count of who was ringing. We did have visitors from the Ashford District which aided the repertoire of ringing we could do. As usual there was a goodly amount of Rounds and Call Changes, with some Plain Hunt on 5 as well. Method-wise we rang Plain Bob and Stedman on 5, and Little Bob and Cambridge Surprise on 6. Again, the evening saw very little interest in ringing with only a course of Stedman Singles before we let the bells down.

(Rounds+CC 6, Plain Hunt 5, Plain Bob 5 [including touch], Stedman 3, Stedman 5, Little Bob 6 [touch], Cambridge 6)

November – KCACR Evensong: Canterbury Cathedral

This year the KCACR Evensong took place at Canterbury Cathedral. There was a very strong turnout with many from across the county taking up the opportunity to ring at the Cathedral. With the numbers we had there was a great deal of Rounds and Call Changes in order to get the numbers through and give them a chance to have rung on the 12. This did limit the method ringing we were able to fit in, but we did ring two touches of Grandsire Cinques.

(Rounds+CC 12, Grandsire 11)

November – Plain Major Practice: St Stephen's, Canterbury

Numbers registering interest were very low and it took quite some chasing up to make the practice viable – eventually we had 10 attending. It was decided to forego any attempt at Double Norwich Court Bob and focus on some more straightforward methods. The intention was to try and balance gaining further experience of 8-bell ringing for those more used to 6-bell ringing, without method learning becoming a challenge, whilst also providing something slightly different that might interest more established 8-bell ringers. Judging by the studying of lines and the positive reactions after we rang the methods we seemed to have got somewhere close to this.

(Plain Bob, Little Bob, St Clement's, Double Oxford, Kent Little Bob, Spliced Plain + Little, Spliced Plain + Little + St Clement's)

December – Christmas Social: Ospringe

A bit of a quiet end to the year's ringing. We briefly had 8 at the start of the afternoon session before several of the local ringers had to head off to make preparations for the evening's social. Fortunately, the remaining group gave us a degree of flexibility so we were able to entertain ourselves. In addition to ringing rounds for two of the recent recruits at Ospringe we spliced the four St Simon's group of methods and rang a short touch of Christmas Day Doubles (Rev Canterbury + Whittlesford Extreme). We also rang more regular methods but finished with another dip into variations with Salwarpe Doubles (Plain Bob + Rev Canterbury Bob + Grandsire Single).

(Rounds + Call Changes 6/8, Grandsire 5, St Simon's 5 [touch], Spliced Doubles [St Simon's, St Martin's, St Osmund's, Eynesbury], Christmas Day 5, Salwarpe 5, St Clement's 6)

As always do feel free to give feedback and suggestions to the District Ringing Masters or just generally chat about ringing matters of interest to you, and thank you again to all those who have supported District Ringing this quarter and throughout 2024. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone.

Looking Forward – January to March 2025

With the change around in the District Committee, and Jim coming in new to the District Ringing Master role, we are taking another look at what we have been doing with the District Practices. On a broader front, the District Committee is also looking into establishing a District Training Officer role – which may lead to further attention being given to supporting early-stage training.

The general principle for District Practices has been to augment what is available through the general ringing at District Meetings by focusing on something specific. For the past few years we have had a Surprise Major Practice each quarter, and a 10-bell practice at least once a year, with other District Practices covering a broad range of topics.

A limitation of District Practices is that particular topics come up infrequently – even the regular Surprise Major practices result in only 4 practices a year. An advantage that District Meetings have for general ringing practice is that they occur monthly, and we are fortunate that we regularly get sufficient experienced ringers that we are able to ring a range of methods up to Cambridge Surprise Minor – though it must be emphasised that we cater for all levels of experience from Rounds onwards.

Whilst the Surprise Major practices have allowed several members to develop their ringing they have not brought in as many people who are looking to move from Surprise Minor into Surprise Major as we would have liked. Something we could consider would be to make these a joint Surprise Minor/Surprise Major practice.

We would really like to hear from members what sort of practices would help them in developing their ringing or allow them to brush up on underused skills.

The first quarter of 2025 starts with the **Quarterly Meeting** at **Wingham** and a **District Surprise Major Practice** at **Hernhill** in January. February has a **Bye Meeting** at **St Alphege, Whitstable** (and **Graveney**) and a **Call Change Practice** at **Chartham** (tbc). With the Call Change competition (provisionally at **Teynham**) following in March we are planning for the February practice to focus on good striking. In addition to the **Call Change Competition**, March will also have a **Plain Bob & Grandsire Doubles Practice** at **Petham**.

Looking further ahead the **Quarterly Meeting** in April is at **Dover** (tbc) and a **District Surprise Major Practice** is being planned – possibly at **St Peter-in-Thamet**.

Forthcoming District Practices

Date	Tower	Focus
18 th January 2025 7:30-9:00pm	Hernhill (8)	Surprise Major
15 th February 2025 10:00-11:30am	Chartham (6) (tbc)	Call Changes
15 th March 2025 10:00-11:30am	Petham (6)	Plain Bob & Grandsire Doubles
April 2025 (date tbc) 7:30-9:00pm	St Peter-in-Thamet (8) (tbc)	Surprise Major

The following is very provisional information – not all towers, dates and times have been confirmed and the topics are under review. Please do let us know your thoughts.

Future District Practices

We are in the process of putting a schedule of events together – we have previously received expressions of interest in repeating the Plain Hunt and Raising/Lowering practices and are also considering “Rarer Doubles Methods/Variations”, “Plain Minor”, “Surprise Minor”, “Stedman Triples”, “10-bell Practice”, and “Conducting” as possible focuses.

To contact Stuart and Jim, please email canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk

Cake Inspector's Yule Log – Autumn/Winter 2024

The **Cake Inspector** gives his verdict on the refreshments provided at each of the meetings in the last quarter.

St Dunstan's, Canterbury – 12th October

A generous spread as always at the ADM, with plenty of sandwiches, crisps and different types of rolls. The chocolate cake and tangerine flan were both very popular on our table, washed down with lashings of tea.

Godmersham – 10th November

A fine repast at this country church kindly provided by members of the Committee, for this, the last normal Saturday meeting of the calendar year. There were several types of crisps, many different sandwiches, pizza slices and a selection of very good cakes. The swirly cupcakes were certainly eye-catching and baked to perfection, while the choc orange marble cake was surely deserving of a place in Mr Kipling's own kitchen.

KCACR Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral – 17th November

A lovely spread for the visiting ringers, replete with some of Claire's creations.

Christmas Social at Ospringe – 12th December

Some lovely festive treats beforehand in the church including iced Christmas tree biscuits and various mince pie variants. What a nice idea!

The Inspector sends his thanks to all who have contributed cakes, bakes and refreshments at ringers' social events over this last year, and to those who have assisted with photographs or making covert taste-tests on his behalf!



A ringside view of the Thanet Ringers' Outing to Romney Marsh

Maureen Cooke reports on a grand day out “south of the border”.

I know it's a rather unusual introduction to a report on a ringing outing, but I should like to start by issuing a disclaimer! I was not expecting to write a report when we rocked up at New Romney (spoiler alert! – that was indeed the first tower). I was under the “influence” of strong painkillers and wrote notes during the day using my left hand due to my right arm being in a sling. To describe my writing as spider-like is a disservice to all spiders. To be honest, it looked like some form of shorthand, though sadly it wasn't. It's barely legible – hence my disclaimer. If I have misrepresented anyone or anything then apologies – I blame Mike! It can't possibly be my fault... (see above excuses). Let me take you back to Saturday 28th September...

A group of ringers from Thanet and some friends met at New Romney for their first ring of the day. The local ringers very kindly provided coffee and biscuits which set us up nicely for the day ahead. I headed up the steps hanging onto knobbly bits in the wall with my left hand. This was going to be quite an adventure! The anticlockwise ring caught one or two out to start with, but not for long. Everyone said the bells were lovely and under the watchful eye of David Sheekey the group rang Plain Hunt, Call Changes, Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Triples. I sat and watched!



Sue and Freda with RM Dave Sheekey at New Romney



Mike, Mary and Mick with RM Simon Friend at Lydd

Our next tower was Lydd. More lovely bells, so I was told. Simon Friend took charge of the ringing, which I'm sure was wonderful, but I'm afraid I didn't make a note of what was rung. Apologies to all, but especially to Simon. I do recall that I came down early and Mary and I spent time looking at different plants in the graveyard!

On to Brookland, which Dove describes as a detached wooden pyramid campanile – I couldn't have put it better myself. No stairs! Yippee! Those who hadn't visited here before were quite taken by the structure. A noticeboard was brimming over with thank you cards from ringers hailing from Frittenden to Chipstead and many towers in between. The bells were raised in two sets of three while we waited for reinforcements. Charlie and Joe took charge of the ringing. There were quite a few people visiting the church including two ringers from Redhill. They said we made their day when they were invited to join in with a touch of Plain Bob Doubles. Their friends and other non-ringing visitors burst into a round of applause at the end of the touch. Not something we're used to, but much appreciated. We also rang Call Changes, St Simon's and Cambridge. There was additionally a touch of Grandsire which was called round a lead too early. Perhaps the caller was getting hungry – our next port of call was The Woolpack for lunch. I made a squiggly note that there was some friendly banter following this slight mishap but I don't wish to name names or I might get thrown in the canal in May! Needless to say, I sat and watched!



*RMs Charlie Satchwell and Joe Aust
at Brookland*



St Augustine's, Brookland

As already mentioned, our next stop was for lunch at The Woolpack, Brookland, and what an excellent choice it turned out to be. The staff were friendly and the service was excellent. The food was scrummy. There was a certain amount of hilarity when Sally-Ann sat waiting expectantly for sticky toffee pudding and lemon meringue pie appeared! Thankfully the lemon meringue went down well. Apparently, there was a noisy corner – but I wouldn't know anything about that!

After a wonderful lunch we made our way to Appledore. Most of us went by car, but Sue decided to walk off her lunch. It was a fair distance – well done, Sue! Easily-managed wooden stairs led us to the ringing chamber. Freda organised the ringing which included a touch of Plain Bob Triples, Call Changes, Grandsire Triples (plain course and touch), Rounds, Plain Hunt and Stedman Triples. The treble was a tad flighty. The ropes had a short draught and I really didn't want to be sitting and watching, but I did (sad face!)



The Woolpack Inn, Brookland



The assembled group with RM Freda Parker at Appledore

Our final tower was Tenterden. There were lots of steps to get up to the ringing chamber. I noted the rope was rather flimsy but hey ho! Onward & upward... Ringers of the 5, 6, 7 and 8 needed to stand on boxes increasing in height. You wouldn't want to ring the 8 if you suffered from vertigo! Len marshalled the troops and we rang Rounds, Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Triples, Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples.

Len thanked the Thanet ringers for organising a wonderful outing and inviting us non-Thanet ringers to join them. (Did we get invited Peter, or did we just turn up?) You've guessed it... I sat and watched. But this time next year Rodney... I'll be ringing again. Whoop, whoop!



John Haines and RM Len Huckstep at Tenterden

A ringing quest – Who Do You Think You Are?

Isobel Legg relates the story of a mini ringing outing with a genealogical angle.

Amanda Manning began ringing some years ago at St Alphege, Whitstable and was a regular Sunday-service ringer for a time, but when she took over as Director of Music at the church, she was unable to continue as a member of the band. It was with interest, therefore, that we recently learned from Amanda that her great-grandfather, Frederick Foster, was a ringer at Barham many years ago. He apparently rang there before the Second World War and resumed after the ringing ban was lifted. She was very keen to go and ring at her ancestor's home tower and perhaps find out more about his ringing career, so a plan was hatched for a mini-outing.

A group of us gathered on a rather damp October Saturday morning at St John the Baptist, Barham: five bells rung from an upstairs ringing chamber looking out onto the church. Joining St Alphege ringers were friends from All Saints, Whitstable and a couple of other towers, and we were warmly welcomed by one of the locals. Having raised the bells, we discovered that the newish ropes were all extremely long and we had to adapt our ringing style accordingly. Amanda admitted to feeling a little out-of-practice but was pleased to be able to ring with the band with a little support.



Various touches of Doubles were rung and, while this was going on, the record books kept in the ringing chamber were consulted for any reference to Frederick Foster. Unfortunately, they did not appear to go back far enough to yield any information of interest. However, Amanda had achieved one of her aims and we were only halfway through the morning.

We then travelled on to neighbouring Elham, the weather had cleared, and we were joined by a few more friends. Parking in the village square, we noticed in passing a blue plaque on one of the houses, marking where Audrey Hepburn had attended school as a young child. The church of St Mary the Virgin has eight bells, rung from a spacious, wood-panelled ringing chamber. Some of them were not easy to handle, however, and more-than-usual effort and concentration was required to keep the changes rolling round.



Our reward after all our exertions was a delicious pub lunch in the Black Robin at Kingston, highly recommended. Amanda was glad to have followed in her ringing great-grandfather's footsteps and we may get an opportunity for further research at Barham at another time. Quite apart from our initial quest, our mini-outing gave us all a chance to exercise our skills on some different bells, and to spend time with friends.

Ten in a Day Quarter Peal Challenge

Adam Moore describes the adventures of a select group of intrepid ringers in achieving this notable feat.

On a warm August day, Jim Attwood was reminiscing about the time he had rung ten quarter peals in a day, back in 2017, sponsored for the restoration of the bells at Milton Regis. Claire Stay and I, in our wisdom, thought it was time to try this challenge for ourselves – this time just for fun!

The arrangements began – the date was set Saturday 28th December, the towers were arranged around the Faversham area, ringers organised and methods set. Claire, Jim, Tim Ford and myself rang in all ten, with others joining us for numbers varying from one to nine quarter peals.

Kent County Association
Boughton under Blean, Kent
 St Peter and St Paul
 Saturday, 28 December 2024 in 45m (11–0–6 in F#)
1260 All Saints Place Doubles
 1 Scott Pearce
 2 Jim Attwood
 3 Claire Stay
 4 Tim Ford
 5 Adam Moore (C)
 6 Brian Coleman
 First in method: 3

The day arrived and we met at 8:45am at Boughton under Blean and set about ringing a quarter of All Saints Doubles – this is a relatively straightforward but under-rung method so it was a good choice to start the day with. Safely completed we went quickly on our way down the hill to the car park, and began our journey to the next tower.

Kent County Association
Selling, Kent
 St Mary the Virgin
 Saturday, 28 December 2024 in 41m (5–3–26 in C)
1276 Spliced Minor (2m)
 972 Plain Bob and 304 Little Bob; 2 com
[View composition](#)
 1 James Pearce
 2 Scott Pearce
 3 Claire Stay
 4 Jim Attwood
 5 Tim Ford
 6 Adam Moore (C)
 150th QP as conductor: 6
 50th QP this year: 6

Arriving at Selling, after locating the key and ascending the steep steps we begun the next attempt, this time Spliced Plain and Little Bob Minor which passed relatively uneventfully, and successfully came round after 45 minutes.

Kent County Association
Sheldwich, Kent
 St James
 Saturday, 28 December 2024 in 41m (7–0–26 in B#)
1260 St Clement's College Bob Minor
[View composition](#)
 1 Claire Stay
 2 Jim Attwood
 3 Brian Coleman
 4 Scott Pearce
 5 Tim Ford
 6 Adam Moore (C)
 First in method: 4

We then made the short drive over to Sheldwich, arriving ahead of schedule, which gave us a short break before beginning our quarter peal of St Clement's College Bob Minor. The ringing was good and another success.

Kent County Association
Throwley, Kent
 St Michael and All Angels
 Saturday, 28 December 2024 in 42m (12–1–8 in F#)
1260 Grandsire Doubles
 1 Adam Moore
 2 Kate Bispham
 3 Jim Attwood
 4 Claire Stay
 5 Scott Pearce (C)
 6 Tim Ford

We continued on our way, along the A251 and into the countryside towards Throwley. Again arriving early allowed time for some of the band to have a look at the newly refurbished bells. Here I was given a rest from conducting and we enjoyed an excellent quarter of Grandsire Doubles.

Next, we headed back along the country lanes towards Ospringe, familiar bells for most of the band. Here we were met with some very welcome snacks from a member of the local band. A last-minute change of plan meant we hadn't yet chosen a method for quarter peal number five. After some discussion we settled on eleven doubles methods – after a while discussing

Kent County Association

Ospringe, Kent

St Peter and St Paul

Saturday, 28 December 2024 in 43m (17-1-8 in F#)

1260 Doubles (1p/10m)

60 Stedman; 120 each of Reverse Canterbury, St Nicholas, Winchendon Place, St Remigius, Huntley, Plain Bob, St Simon's, St Martin's, St Osmund and Eynesbury.

- 1 James Pearce
- 2 Tim Ford
- 3 Claire Stay
- 4 Jim Attwood
- 5 Adam Moore (C)
- 6 Scott Pearce

the front works of the chosen methods, we began! Reminding each other of the front works along the way another success was achieved, and we made the short trip into Faversham.

Kent County Association

Faversham, Kent

St Mary of Charity

Saturday, 28 December 2024 in 43m (16-0-3 in E)

1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles

- 1 Claire Stay
- 2 Kate Bispham
- 3 Adam Moore
- 4 Tim Ford (C)
- 5 Scott Pearce
- 6 Jim Attwood

By now it was 2:30pm – here we chose to ring the back six and Reverse Canterbury Doubles was the chosen method. The quarter was ably looked after by Tim Ford and was successfully brought round in 43 minutes. Faversham was of course the place with the biggest audience and lots of positive comments were received.

Kent County Association

Newnham, Kent

St Peter and St Paul

Saturday, 28 December 2024 in 41m (7-0-18 in B)

1260 St Martin's Bob Doubles

- 1 Tim Ford
- 2 Scott Pearce
- 3 Claire Stay (C)
- 4 Jim Attwood
- 5 Barry Roberts
- 6 Adam Moore

We then headed off towards our next tower, Newnham. Although not the easiest bells to ring, it was good to ring here as the tower sees no regular ringing. Claire Stay took charge here for a quarter peal of St Martin's Bob Doubles. It was clear that tiredness was starting to set in here, and the striking suffered but it was another success. We headed on our way, now in darkness, through the country lanes to our next tower.

Kent County Association

Frinsted, Kent

St Dunstan

Saturday, 28 December 2024 in 41m (6-1-1 in Bb)

1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles

- 1 Jim Attwood
- 2 Adam Moore
- 3 Claire Stay (C)
- 4 Barry Roberts
- 5 Tim Ford
- 6 Mike Eldrett

Circled the tower to QPs: 2

25th QP together: 2 & 5

Arriving at Frinsted we were met by local ringers, who kindly rung the bells up for us and joined us for a quarter of St Simon's Bob Doubles. The bells at Frinsted are very easy going, but the church is extremely cold. Although many of the band were ringing in coats we were fortunately not put off and an excellent quarter of St Simon's was accomplished.

Kent County Association

Bredgar, Kent

St John the Baptist

Saturday, 28 December 2024 in 43m (9-1-6 in G)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Jim Attwood
- 2 Claire Stay
- 3 Scott Pearce
- 4 Adam Moore (C)
- 5 Tim Ford
- 6 Richard Bushell

425th QP and circled the tower to QPs: 4

Upon arrival at Bredgar we were met with tea and biscuits, a welcome start for the penultimate quarter peal of the day. Jim was now suffering with an injured hand and opted to take the treble here and hand conducting duties back to me. Plain Bob Doubles was the chosen method and this was probably one of the best quarter peals of the day and safely brought round in 41 minutes.

Kent County Association

Wormshill, Kent

St Giles

Saturday, 28 December 2024 in 38m (3-1-15 in E)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Jim Attwood
- 2 Tim Ford
- 3 Jay Ford
- 4 Scott Pearce
- 5 Claire Stay
- 6 Adam Moore (C)

100th QP this year: 5

The final quarter peal of the 10 in a day challenge!

It was now time for the tenth and final quarter peal of the day! We ventured through the darkness to the light six at Wormshill, a last-minute change of band was required, thanks to Jay for stepping in. A quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor was speedily completed in 38 minutes, and the day was over!

During the day 12,616 changes were rung in 6 hours and 58 minutes – we were all rather worn out and looking forward to a rest but it's certainly an accomplishment we

were pleased with! It's not something we want to repeat in a hurry – if we did it would certainly be on a warmer day!

Thanks to all the local ringers who arranged for bells to be rung up and down for us and to the host churches for giving us permission to ring.



The successful ringers of the tenth and final quarter at Wormshill

Canterbury District Characters

*In the first of what will hopefully be a series of profiles of local ringers, new District Ringing Master **Jim Attwood** discusses his own ringing experiences.*



How did you start ringing?

I have been ringing for 44 years on-and-off (the usual career and children distractions) starting as a teenager at Milton-next-Gravesend, roped in (sorry!) by a neighbour who was a ringer looking to replenish the band after a group had headed off to university. A well behaved 8-bell tower was a good place to learn and being in the centre of town had a constant stream of weddings. £1 a wedding was a handy bit of extra income for a student at that time.

After a bit of a break for my career and three children (to my eternal shame none of whom are ringers!) I restarted the band at Rodmersham just outside of Sittingbourne. We managed to get a thriving band going from scratch. Teaching a band of complete learners to Plain Hunt let alone anything else was a challenge, but we got there in the end and after 15 years had developed into a strong group of friends, not just a band of ringers.

I moved to Faversham in 2015 and being 200 yards from the front door of St Mary's I could not resist the urge to go and show my face at practice on a Wednesday night. I eventually had to let Rodmersham go as my base is now in Faversham. I also can be seen at Chilham and Ospringe.

What do you do outside of ringing?

Is there anything else outside of ringing?!

In my "spare" time I run two businesses installing high-voltage electricity cables out to the offshore windfarms, other renewable energy generation sites and building the infrastructure in the UK and overseas – so I'm doing my small bit for the Green Revolution.

I have a Royal Enfield motorcycle, so in the summer get to mix biking to various towers with ringing – what else could you want!

Who was an influential ringer for you?

My biggest influence in my early ringing career was a local ringer, Tony Lewis, unfortunately no longer with us, who used to take me all over northwest Kent on the back of his 125cc Vespa to various towers to make up the numbers at weddings, quarter peals and District Meetings. Looking back, I don't think Safeguarding these days would look too kindly on it, but it was fun and exposed me to many ringing opportunities.

How do you remember your experience of learning to ring?

I look back on my early days of learning to ring and could feel a bit intimidated – I was still trying to master Grandsire and a call for a touch of Stedman Triples at a District Meeting made my efforts feel inadequate.

I have therefore made it my mission as a ringing leader to be as inclusive as possible. Everyone learns at a different pace and has different reasons for taking it up and aspirations for what they want to achieve, but ultimately we are all there for the same reason: to get enjoyment out of ringing the bells with a group of friends and colleagues either on practice night, or for Sunday services, quarter peals or peals.

It doesn't matter what we ring but I am sure that we have all had that feeling of achievement and satisfaction at some point in our ringing careers where the Rounds and Call Changes went well and were well struck, the method ran through without a hitch, you rang your first touch of Surprise Minor or first full peal.

What do you enjoy about ringing?

The main reason I enjoy ringing is that there is no end to what you can achieve. There is always something to learn, improve and move on to. I therefore do see that an important part of the role of District Ringing Master is to encourage, cajole and facilitate the opportunities for ringers of all abilities to get the best out of themselves and to progress and maintain the quality of ringing in the District.

I feel this is important, because like it or not ringing is a very visible (audible?) activity. We may curse the quality of striking or our bad luck when a touch goes wrong in the confines of the tower, but our actions are heard loud and clear across the town or village where we are. It is a very public performance so it should be incumbent on us to take hold with a sense of thoughtfulness to do the best that we can and remember that while we ring for our own pleasure we are a very vocal member of our community.

What is a great ringing memory?

Apart from perhaps the obvious achievements throughout my ringing career one moment that I still recall is from a Rochester District Outing to Oxford in 2016. One of the towers visited was St Mary Magdalen, a 7cwt ten. At the end of the visit, we rang the ten down in peal, my first attempt at such a feat. It went fantastically well all the way down to the chiming at the end. So much so that it led to

spontaneous applause from the assembled spectators, the first and, I think, only time I have been applauded for ringing down!

There is a video somewhere on YouTube or similar so it is recorded for posterity as well, if anyone is interested.

What are you looking to achieve in ringing personally?

On a personal level I have had many years' experience of ringing on six (Doubles and Minor methods) and have recently been expanding my repertoire of Surprise Minor ringing. The next step for me is to be able to more regularly ring on eight and immerse myself into the delights of Surprise Major, though I may regret saying that!

What do you want to say to ringers?

Finally, I would like to say that am really honoured and excited about being offered the role of District Ringing Master – I have always been involved in teaching new ringers and still enjoy that moment when the learner suddenly finds that they are ringing both strokes on their own, it makes it all worthwhile.

In the role of District Ringing Master I am looking to take that forward and assist in the development and encouragement of ringers to maintain and grow the art in the District, so that everyone can achieve and be part of a strong, flourishing and welcoming community.

Having defected from the Rochester District I have not met many in the Canterbury District yet, though that number is growing. I look forward to meeting the rest of you at the District events in the very near future!



In terra pax

Gerald Finzi and Christmas bells

Benjamin Legg explores the story of an enchanting seasonal musical work, which both portrays and was inspired by the festive ringing of bells.

On New Year's Eve 1925, a 24-year-old English composer named Gerald Finzi had an experience that stayed with him for the rest of his life, and which he eventually portrayed in music. The location was Chosen Hill in Gloucestershire – a prominence rich in musical history despite its relatively modest height, as it was also a favourite haunt of the composers Herbert Howells and Ivor Gurney. Having been invited to a party in a cottage upon the hill, in the course of the evening Finzi and his friends walked out under the stars and heard the bells of the ancient parish church of St Bartholomew, Churchdown, built upon the hill's summit, ring in the New Year, in company with many towers in the vicinity. Nearly thirty years later, the composer's memory of the midnight bells ringing out across the frosty Gloucestershire valleys was the principal inspiration for one of his last works, the luminous Christmas cantata *In terra pax* (Latin: "Peace on earth").



St Bartholomew's, Churchdown, built on the summit of Chosen Hill, Gloucestershire

Gerald Finzi was born in London into a Jewish family with mixed European heritage. His father, a successful shipbroker of Italian extraction, unfortunately died when Finzi was seven years old, which was the first in a series of personal tragedies that he endured in his formative years, as before he reached the age of 17 he had also suffered the loss of all three of his older brothers and his influential music teacher, Ernest Farrar. These early sorrows contributed much to his elegiac style of composition. Following Farrar's death in the trenches of the First World War, Finzi studied privately at York Minster with the then organist and choirmaster Edward Bairstow for five years, before moving to Gloucestershire in 1922, where he began composing in earnest – the New Year spent on Chosen Hill took place during this period of his life. Soon after that memorable occasion he moved to London, but never felt at home there. Consequently, after marrying, Finzi and his artist wife Joy relocated to Wiltshire, before eventually settling permanently in Hampshire, where Finzi devoted himself to composing and his other great passion – apple-growing – he is credited with having saved a number of rare English varieties from extinction. During the Second World War, Finzi worked for the Ministry of War Transport, and also lodged German and Czech refugees in his home. Following the return of peace, Finzi received several important commissions and his reputation as a composer grew, but in 1951 he learned that he was suffering from Hodgkin lymphoma and had at most ten years to live, as the disease at that time was incurable. As it turned out, Finzi died five years after receiving his diagnosis of terminal illness, but before his death he was able to complete, amongst other compositions, two final major works – a cello concerto and *In terra pax*.



Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)



Robert Bridges (1844-1930)
Poet Laureate 1913-1930

In terra pax, subtitled *Christmas Scene*, is a setting of the first and third stanzas of the poem *Noel: Christmas Eve 1913* by Robert Bridges, imaginatively framing the familiar story from Luke's Gospel of the angels appearing to the shepherds following Christ's birth. Finzi was a great lover of poetry and set many texts by a wide variety of English poets to music. *Noel: Christmas Eve 1913*, subtitled *Pax hominibus bonae voluntatis* (Latin: "Peace to men of good will"), was published shortly after Bridges's appointment as Poet Laureate, and, like many of his works, reflects the poet's deep Christian faith. In the poem, the narrator walks out upon a hill on Christmas Eve, and hears the sound of church bells ringing – which, of course, bears a striking resemblance to Gerald Finzi's memory of hearing bells on Chosen Hill, excepting that he heard them on New Year's Eve rather than Christmas Eve. In the composer's own words, "the Nativity becomes a vision seen by a wanderer on a dark and frosty Christmas Eve in our own familiar landscape".

The two texts that Finzi combined together in the piece are shown below, including the second stanza of Bridges's poem that is omitted from the musical work, but it warrants inclusion due to its depiction of the act of ringing itself:

Noel: Christmas Eve 1913

Pax hominibus bonae voluntatis

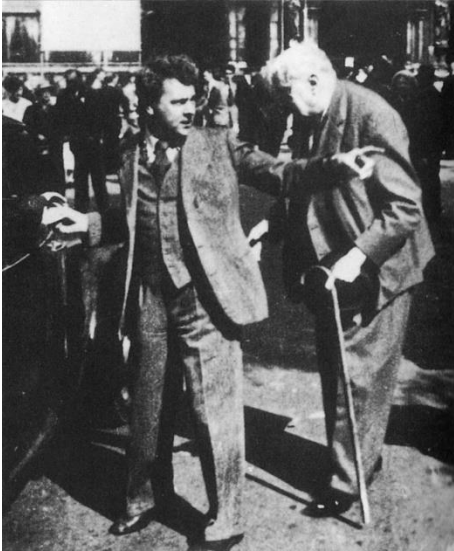
A frosty Christmas Eve
when the stars were shining
Fared I forth alone
where westward falls the hill,
And from many a village
in the water'd valley
Distant music reach'd me
peals of bells aringing:
The constellated sounds
ran sprinkling on earth's floor
As the dark vault above
with stars was spangled o'er.
Then sped my thoughts to keep
that first Christmas of all
When the shepherds watching
by their folds ere the dawn
Heard music in the fields
and marvelling could not tell
Whether it were angels
or the bright stars singing.

Now blessed be the tow'rs
that crown England so fair
That stand up strong in prayer
unto God for our souls
Blessed be their founders
(said I) an' our country folk
Who are ringing for Christ
in the belfries to-night
With arms lifted to clutch
the rattling ropes that race
Into the dark above
and the mad romping din.

But to me heard afar
it was starry music
Angels' song, comforting
as the comfort of Christ
When he spake tenderly
to his sorrowful flock:
The old words came to me
by the riches of time
Mellow'd and transfigured
as I stood on the hill
Heark'ning in the aspect
of th' eternal silence.

Luke 2.8-14 (King James Version)

⁸ And there were in the same country
shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch
over their flock by night.
⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
and the glory of the Lord shone round about
them: and they were sore afraid.
¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for,
behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.
¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall
find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,
lying in a manger.
¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a
multitude of the heavenly host praising God,
and saying,
¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men.



Gerald Finzi and Ralph Vaughan Williams in Gloucester, 1956

Finzi’s original version of *In terra pax*, scored for SATB choir with divisions, soprano and baritone soloists, strings, harp and cymbal was published in 1954. The baritone soloist is the voice of the poet and the soprano soloist takes the part of the angel, while the choir narrates the familiar biblical text. An archetypal pealing-bells motif is utilized throughout, and at the climax of the piece, the sound of the bells Finzi heard on Chosen Hill are captured in the song of the angel chorus. In 1956, Finzi returned to the piece, rescoring it for a performance at the Three Choirs Festival held at Gloucester that year, and it is this version with an expanded orchestra that is most often performed today. Finzi himself conducted the Three Choirs Festival performance and was delighted with the results. Being in the near vicinity, Finzi took the opportunity to revisit Chosen Hill, in company with his friend and fellow composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, who was also attending the festival, telling him, “This is

where I got the idea”. The two men called at the very cottage that had hosted the New Year party of thirty years before – unfortunately however, one of the new tenants’ children had chickenpox, and Finzi, with his immune system weakened by his illness, developed shingles shortly after the visit, which was then complicated by encephalitis. He died in the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford on 27th September 1956, aged only 55.

The rescored version of *In terra pax* was Finzi’s final published work, yet despite his declining health at the time of its composition and the added poignancy of the publication of Bridges’s original poem being swiftly followed by suffering and death on a previously unimaginable scale, with the outbreak of the First World War, it is a far more serene and optimistic work than might be expected from a dying man, uniting personal experience with the familiar events of the Christmas story in a compelling musical narrative. If you would like to experience it for yourself – which I thoroughly recommend – a fine recording is available to listen to on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vq-KHg6wWq0>, performed by the City of London Choir and musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, with Julia Doyle and Roderick Williams as the soprano and baritone soloists respectively, conducted by Hilary Davan Wetton. For me personally, the piece perfectly captures the old-world romance of ringing bells late at night on Christmas Eve for Midnight Mass, particularly if the night happens to be seasonably cold, clear and starry!

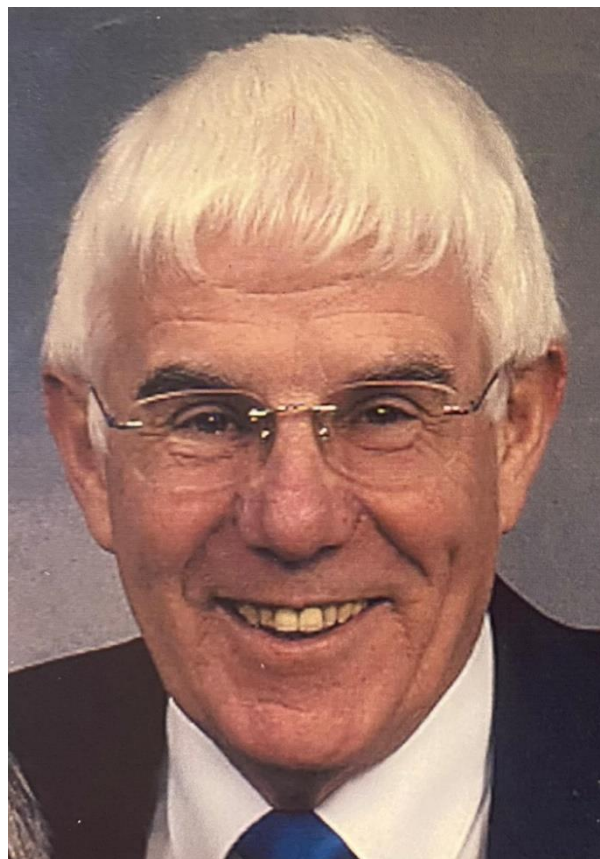


OBITUARY

Peter Leslie James Dadds

22nd October 1935 – 20th October 2024

Peter was born in Margate and was part of a well-established ringing family at the Church of St John the Baptist. Evacuated to the countryside as a young child during World War II, Peter soon became an active ringer upon his return in and around Thanet, following in the footsteps of his father Albert and uncle Robert. He was elected into the KCACR in 1949 and was a lifelong member serving over 75 years. Unfortunately, I have limited knowledge of his early ringing life, however, his name does appear on many peal boards at St Peter-in-Thonet, together with several at St John's. As well as tower bell ringing, Peter regularly took part in musical handbell ringing with his brother Chris and sister Genie and they often performed as a trio in local residential care homes and church events.



I personally have a great deal to thank Peter for teaching me to ring and we shared lots of enjoyable time together in ringing chambers. We rang many quarter peals together and also a peal of Grandsire Triples that marked his 75th birthday.

Following his passing in November, a full peal and two quarter peals were rung at Margate, Birchington and St Peter's in his memory, many dear friends of his taking the opportunity to ring.

Outside of ringing, Peter was obsessed with the sea, whether it was devouring the naval adventures of Alexander Kent's hero Bolitho or C. S. Forester's Hornblower. Every holiday of his included a trip to the nearest stretch of water, whether it was the Atlantic or the Pacific, a river in Devon, canals in Wales or the Norfolk Broads, he insisted on hiring a boat or canoe at the earliest opportunity. Maybe the lure of the sea stemmed from him mending the pedalos in Margate harbour in the 1950s.



The St John's ringers with a 15-year-old Peter on the far left

Remembered for his enthusiasm, he rarely did anything by halves. This included amateur dramatics with the Birchington Guild of Players. In *Peter Pan* he was a dashing Captain Hook, and then Peter Quince, a mechanical from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and perhaps his pinnacle-performance, with his Tommy Steele hair, was Arthur Kipps in *Half a Sixpence*, with his young son Timm as a young Arthur by his side.

Peter trained first as a carpenter alongside his father Bert, but electricity was his passion. Peter spent almost all his working life with E. Saunders (Margate) Ltd. He began as an apprentice, cycling to night classes at the Tech' in Canterbury. He became a qualified electrician working on the tools and ended as a company director. Peter worked alongside Peter Saunders for many years, decades in fact, and Peter eventually encouraged his colleague to start bell ringing and as well as working alongside each other, they also rang together for many years too.

In 1940, a Messerschmitt Bf 109 strafed Byron Avenue in Margate with bullets before crash-landing in the street. Debris fell everywhere, windows were blown in. People were hurt. A newspaper cutting tells how a serviceman on leave saved his son by pushing him to the ground behind a wall and placing his body over his son. Without this single act of bravery and a father's love for his son, so much would've been lost. So much wouldn't have happened, so many stories untold and all of us would not have enjoyed Peter's friendship.

Simon Friend

Tower Captain of St John the Baptist, Margate

Ringing in memory of Peter

Kent County Association

Birchington, Kent

All Saints

Sunday, 27 October 2024 in
40m (8–2–17 in A)

1320 11 V Doubles

120 each: Denton (1 c/f),
Avon (1 c/g), Pennywell (1
c/h), Frome (1 f/g), Nick's got
a screw loose (1 f/h), Vivat
Rex Carolus (1 g/h) Monk's
Habit (1 c/f/g), The Boiling
Well (1 c/f/h), Shropshire
Lass (1 c/g/h), Black Knight (1
f/g/h), 'cos It's Practice Night
(1 c/f/g/h)

- 1 Allan Chandler
- 2 Tim Attride (C)
- 3 Claire Stay
- 4 David Sheekey
- 5 Michael Little
- 6 Reece Carpenter

Rung to remember and
celebrate the life of Leonora
Smale who passed away
25/10/2024; widow of a
former Vicar of the parish,
Rev. Fred Smale.
Also in fond memory of Pete
Dadds, the longest serving
KCA ringer with over 76 years'
membership, who died on
20/10/24.

Kent County Association

Margate, Kent

St John the Baptist

Sunday, 24 November 2024 in
3h 11m (21–2–3 in Eb)

5040 Plain Bob Triples

Composed by Henry Hubbard
& Henry Johnson

- 1 Sarat E R White
- 2 Graham N Scott
- 3 Claire Stay
- 4 Andrew M Hills
- 5 Mark Chittenden-Pile
- 6 Charlie D C Satchwell
- 7 Simon P Friend (C)
- 8 Michael J Little

Rung in memory of Peter L J
Dadds, lifelong ringer at this
tower & member of the
KCACR for 75 years.
First peal 6, first on eight 1 &
first as conductor.

Kent County Association

Broadstairs, Kent

St Peter the Apostle

Friday, 29 November 2024 in
41m (13–2–22 in F)

1260 Mixed Doubles (3m)

600 Grandsire Doubles 180
Reverse Canterbury 480 Plain
Bob Doubles

- 1 Felicity Lewis
- 2 Sue Randall
- 3 Sarat White
- 4 Leonard A Huckstep
- 5 Simon Friend (C)
- 6 Sue Bones

Rung to celebrate the life of
Peter L J Dadds.

Minutes of Past Meetings

The KCACR Canterbury District Annual District Meeting Saturday 12th October 2024 at St Dunstan's, Canterbury

Ringling began at 2:00pm under the guidance of the Ringling Masters. The service at 3:30pm was conducted by Isobel Legg with Susan Record playing the organ. Tea was served by the St Dunstan's ringers in the church hall.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mike Little, Malcolm Barden chaired the meeting. He opened it by welcoming everyone to St Dunstan's.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** were received from Debbie Aris, Dennis Brandrick, Callum Dyson, Philip Elderton, Airlie Fray, Elaine Hartnell, Andrew Hills, Susan Lillywhite, Mike Little, Belinda Moyna, Fiona Sperring, Claire Stay, Debra Stickels, Zoe and Malcolm Storey and Sarat White.
- 2. Minutes of the last two meetings** were taken as read on a proposal from Marilyn Barden seconded by Adam Moore. The Acting Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.
- 3. Matters Arising:** The 120 Club Second Prize in July at Eastry should read Len Huckstep.
- 4. Election of New Members:** From Ospringe, Diana Roberts was proposed by Adam Moore and seconded by Brian Coleman. Diana was elected a member of the Association.
- 5. Presentation of Certificates:** Certificates for Dawn Minard, Jessica Minard and Chris Powdrill were handed to tower colleagues to pass on. Competition certificates were also presented to the first three bands in the Call Change Competition held at Sandwich in March: 1st – St Stephen's, Canterbury, 2nd – Sandwich and 3rd – Lyminge. Certificates for the Striking Competition held at Lynsted in May were presented to 1st – St Stephen's, Canterbury, 2nd – St Dunstan's, Canterbury and 3rd – Sturry.
- 6. The Collection** amounted to £32.50 and all of this was given to St Dunstan's Church following a proposal from Freda Parker seconded by Cathryn Hills.
- 7. Chairman's Remarks:** The Acting Chairman mentioned that Mike Little was standing down as chairman after several years, Tony, Jane, Andrew and Philip were also leaving their posts so the committee will be changing quite a bit this year. Malcolm wished to thank all those people for their work over the years a lot of which is not always obvious to others.
- 8. Secretary's Report:** The secretary reported that it had been another difficult year organising meetings at towers where there are no ringers and the bells are not often rung. In particular, the area around Deal and Dover is a problem area.

On the other hand, in areas where there is a lot of activity bands are doing well on recruitment and we continue to train and subsequently elect new members at most monthly meetings.

After eight years as Secretary, I have decided that it is time for someone else to take over. I have enjoyed my time as Secretary and it is always good to be at these meetings as we try to move around the District and visit all the towers if possible.

Finally, I would like to thank all the incumbents, churchwardens and ringers of the towers visited and also the membership who supported all the events.

9. Treasurer's Report: Cathryn reported that the Treasurer's job has become a doddle these days. Any subs paid to her had been paid into the Association account. Membership is now done centrally on the Membership Database. Claire's bookstall accounts are still kept within the District. As the County appeared to wish to discontinue presenting members with certificates the district had purchased some so that we can still present them to new members at District Meetings.

10. Ringing Master's Report: Our annual ringing schedule of District meetings, practices, and competitions has generally been well supported by the membership, though there is room for improvement. We had a few hiccups along the way that required some last-minute rescheduling of planned events – but fortunately having a list of attendees we were able to contact people to let them know.

We circulate details of District Practices in advance and ask for those interested to let us know via email. Sometimes the responses are a bit lacklustre leading to additional work to chase up responses to avoid having to cancel events. We are grateful to all those who have regularly responded to our emails, even if it is to let us know that they would have liked to attend but are unable on this occasion. This is very helpful in understanding the degree of interest across the District and planning future events. We would very much encourage members to respond promptly to notices – and to let us know what they are interested in.

Details of this past year's ringing have been given in the Ringing Masters' Quarterly Reports in the District Newsletters published during the year, so we will only summarise here.

At all meetings we have regularly been able to undertake a good range of ringing from Rounds and Call Changes to basic Surprise Minor. We tailor the ringing to match the needs and interests of those attending and would very much encourage members of all abilities to join in as the meetings provide a regular opportunity to practise with a stronger band or to ring something that your home tower might not be able to ring.

There is still a marked drop off in numbers coming up the tower for the evening ringing which can mean we struggle a bit to get things started. Again, we would encourage all members to join in and make use of the opportunity to ring with each other.

The busiest meeting of the year was the January meeting at Canterbury Cathedral and despite the pace at which we had to get through the ringing the feedback we received was that members were very pleased to have had the opportunity to ring the bells.

January was also a highpoint for the District Surprise Major Practices as we managed two attempts at Cornwall Surprise, showing some promise. Unfortunately, since then we have not managed to get the numbers to develop that further. That aside there has been steady progress at these practices with several now ringing basic Spliced. It would be encouraging to see more people attending these practices – particularly those looking to move into Surprise Major but lacking the opportunity to do so at their home tower.

The Plain Triples, Doubles Variations and Plain Hunt practices were very popular and members seemed very pleased with what was accomplished. The 10-bell Practice stretched abilities as members looked to gain experience of ringing basic methods on 9 and 10. Although we struggled a bit at the start there was improvement throughout the evening. The Basic Conducting Practice struggled to get numbers – just managing 6 (3 learning, 3 helping) – but this did allow more time to discuss the intricacies of conducting.

The District had another successful County 8-bell Competition with home tower advantage at Quex helping keep us ahead of the Lewisham District. St Stephen's, Canterbury also won the County 6-bell Method Competition at Beckenham, but again there was no District representation in the County 6-bell Call Change Competition.

Thank you to those members who represented the District so well; and to the band at Quex, and other supporting members, who hosted the County competitions on behalf of the District.

Ringers from across the Canterbury District have participated or helped with many of the Kent Young Ringers and Kent MINI-Ringers events during the past year. The District was once again able to enter a full band into the KCACR Youth Striking Competition, held at Chalk on 17th February, and came the closest we have come to winning the competition by being awarded 2nd place. We would like to encourage any towers with young ringers to get involved with Kent Young Ringers/MINI-Ringers – they can meet and ring with others of a similar age and have opportunities to participate in many different events both locally and nationally.

To finish we should like to thank all those who have supported District ringing and hope you will continue to do so. We would also again encourage those who have not participated in District ringing to give it some more consideration. District Meetings in particular are an opportunity for members of all abilities to practice, meet others sharing their interest in ringing, and make new friends.

Malcolm thanked Ben and Stuart for organising all the District Practices.

11. 120 Club Report: Two draws were made as follows:

September

1st	Simon Lockwood (No. 30)	£25	Canterbury Cathedral
2nd	Peter Freeman (No. 20)	£15	All Saints, Whitstable
3rd	Mary Mannings (No. 6)	£10	Len's sister

October

1st	Sarat White (No. 46)	£25	St Peter-in-Thanel
2nd	Judy Petmann (No. 33)	£15	Ash-next-Sandwich
3rd	Claire Stay (No. 43)	£10	Herne

With fewer members the question about whether it was worth keeping the 120 Club going was raised. It had originally been started as a fund raiser for the BRF but this no longer applied. It was suggested that it would be a shame to stop it as it was a bit of fun at the meetings. Maureen Cooke offered to take it on so Len Huckstep proposed her with Jane Huxley seconding. The members voted Maureen in. Malcolm thanked Philip for his efforts as 120 Club Organiser.

12. Report from the County: 2024 has been a busy year for the Association. I have attended all the General Committee meetings on behalf of the Canterbury District, have reported back to the Canterbury District Committee on the salient points after each meeting, and updated the wider membership at our Quarterly Meetings. As an indication of the work involved this year, I have summarised below the main issues which have arisen, together with the outcomes:

Membership Mojo software – this has now been adopted, to manage membership applications and subscription renewals. No significant issues were noted following implementation, with 1200+ subscriptions successfully renewed.

BRF Charity Objects – these have been redrafted and lodged with the Charity Commissioners following their adoption at the EGM at Quex. The changes widen the scope for potential donations.

Safeguarding – the requirements laid down by the Diocese for ringers have proven to be contentious in some areas, and the whole subject is being kept under close review by the Safeguarding Officer and the Chairman. Communication with the DSAs is not easy, but it is hoped that the audit process and outcomes will become clear during the course of this year.

Election of Members – although Membership Mojo allows for membership to be applied for and approved online, following representation from ourselves and other Districts it has been agreed that we are still able to elect members in the usual way at District meetings, and that membership certificates will continue to be made available for new members. These now need to be signed by

the District Chairman and a Vice President, which should obviate the delays we have experienced in the past in obtaining signatures.

Proposed Association rule changes – Stuart Palin and I have had a significant input into redrafting the rules to reflect current legislation and practices, as part of the review which takes place every five years. The final draft was circulated to District Committees and the wider membership for consultation, and is a topic for this weekend's ADM. The final version will be put to the AGM in 2025.

BRF Grants – two grants have been made to towers in the Canterbury District this year – one to Margate (to help with the cost of removing the pigeon debris from the belfry, to allow ringing to recommence), and one to Ash (to help with the cost of repainting the frame, the replacement of the flooring beneath the bells and some remedial work to four of the clappers).

Training – Sue Bassett took up the role of Training Officer after stepping down as General Secretary at the last AGM. Sue is keen to develop training across the county, and her report will be available for our ADM.

This list is not exhaustive, but covers the major issues dealt with this year. I am always happy to take questions on any specific matters of specific interest.

13. Proposed revision of Association Rules: A copy of the proposed rules and explanation of the changes had been sent to all tower contacts in advance of the meeting. Three minor points were raised which it was felt needed clarification.

- 1) Rule 7.9 stated that an EGM would be convened not less than 28 days after a request was received and within 8 weeks of the request. It was felt better to be consistent with days or weeks and not use both in the same sentence.
- 2) Rule 7.2 says that the AGM shall take place between 21st March and 30th June. The 21st March seems to be a random date. It has traditionally been held on Easter Monday and the earliest date for this is 23rd March.
- 3) Rule 4.2 states that only members recorded in the handbook as members of their District are entitled to vote at their District Meetings. This means that any member elected at the meeting immediately following the handbook deadline could have to wait for a year before being able to vote at a District Meeting. Also, what about unattached members?

These points would be brought up at the next county committee meeting.

14. County Training Officer Report: Sue Bassett, the County Training Officer, had sent a report for all Annual District Meetings. It was read out by the secretary as follows:

Since taking on the role of Training Officer at this year's AGM, my mission has been to gain a full understanding of the training work being done by Districts and to be a conduit for learners needing extra help or information. I have invited all members (who opted in to receive KCACR emails) to tell me where they need additional help to improve their ringing journeys. To date, I have received twelve requests and I'm working to generate focused hub sessions for these ringers, as well as to point them in the direction of learning materials that would benefit them. The hub sessions need to be booked by learners, to ensure sufficient experienced teachers are made available to support them. Details are on the Training Page of the KCACR website.

I am a convert to the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) methods for teaching ringing. I hope that many more experienced teachers will embrace and learners will benefit from the ART suggestions. If you have yet to engage with ART, please let me know if you wish to attend a day course, as more can be arranged over the coming winter months. KCACR will even reimburse you the £30 course fee if you wish.

In the past year, there have been at least 30 attendances by KCACR Ringers at the M1 and M2F level ART courses held around the county. Four ringers have been Assessed by me and Accredited by ART for their hard work and practise of ART teaching methods. This boosts the total to 10 ART Accredited teachers in the whole of Kent (that I am aware of). Well done to them all, you are helping to support the future of bell ringing – provided you practise your skills regularly by training learners of course!

The Central Council research towards Bellringing in 2030 (with its controversial new logo) could be seen as a gloomy forecast. If existing ringers do nothing positive to teach new people to learn and enjoy the art of bell ringing, that forecast may well become reality. Ringing as we know it today, could then become a shadow of its former self. It's down to each and every one of us to help bring in and teach new learners well and to ensure that they don't give up when it becomes difficult.

As we know, it is hard and dedicated work to ensure that new learners receive good and frequent practical teaching sessions. All too often learners give up after learning to handle a bell, if proper bell control is not taught or practised sufficiently well, before introducing call changes or change ringing. Many then give up, finding the next stage too hard, without the necessary ongoing support. Experienced ringers and officers can all do their bit by giving signposts to useful articles in *The Ringing World*, or websites such as ART, Central Council and The Whiting Society. They all provide useful publications to provide step-by-step support to make a learner's ringing journey fun with simple exercises to hone bell control, a sense of place amongst others and to gain the elusive "ropesight". If you're unsure where to start in your own ringing teaching journey, then make contact with me!

15. Election of Officers for 2025:

Post	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Benjamin Legg	Adam Moore	Freda Parker
Secretary	Adam Moore	Cathryn Hills	Len Huckstep
Assistant Secretary	Isobel Legg	Stuart Palin	Adam Moore
Treasurer	Cathryn Hills	Len Huckstep	Felicity Lewis
Ringing Masters	Stuart Palin	Adam Moore	Marilyn Barden
District Representative	Malcolm Barden	Len Huckstep	Stuart Palin
Youth Coordinator	Benjamin Legg	Adam Moore	Stuart Palin
120 Club Organiser	Maureen Cooke	Len Huckstep	Jane Huxley
Newsletter Editor			
Committee Members	Claire Stay	Cathryn Hills	Benjamin Legg
	Felicity Lewis	Maureen Cooke	Jane Huxley

This left vacancies for a second Ringing Master and a Newsletter Editor. Ben Legg offered to guest edit the January newsletter then someone needed to be co-opted to continue after that.

The District Youth Coordinator had not been on the list above. Ben Legg has been doing this and was re-elected on a proposal from Adam Moore seconded by Stuart Palin.

It was suggested that a monthly newsletter with bullet points from the District meeting be sent to all towers.

The Webmaster had offered to add an extra page to the District section of the website which could be used for District news or exchange items.

The Acting Chairman thanked everyone who had agreed to be a member of the Committee.

16. Towers for 2025/26: The following programme had been suggested by the Committee at their meeting in July:

Month	Tower	Meeting
January 11 th	Wingham	Quarterly Meeting
February 8 th	St Alphege, Whitstable	Bye Meeting
March 8 th	Teynham	Call Change Competition
April 12 th	Dover	Quarterly Meeting
May 10 th	Sturry	Striking Competition
June 14 th	Minster	Bye Meeting

July 12 th	Throwley	Quarterly Meeting
September 13 th	Goodnestone	Bye Meeting
October 12 th	St Dunstan's, Canterbury	ADM
November 8 th	Newnham	Bye Meeting
December 13 th	St Peter-in-Thanel/St Laurence-in-Thanel	Carol Service and Social
January 10 th 2026	Elham	Quarterly Meeting
February 14 th 2026	Preston	Bye Meeting
March 14 th 2026	Deal	Call Change Competition

Len proposed that the Striking Competition be held at Goodnestone not Sturry and Susan seconded this idea. The May and September meeting venues were therefore changed over. Likewise, the February and March meeting venues in 2026 were changed around.

The result was that the Striking Competition will be at Goodnestone on May 10th 2025 with Sturry hosting the meeting on September 13th 2025. On February 14th 2026 the Bye Meeting is planned for Deal with March 14th 2026 at Preston. At present only Wingham had been approached. It was proposed that a District Outing be organised for August 2025.

17. Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 19th October – District Surprise Major Practice at Herne from 7:30 to 9:00pm. Please contact the Ringing Masters for more information.

Saturday 9th November – Bye Meeting at Godmersham. Ringing from 2:00pm, service at 3:30pm followed by tea and meeting. Names for tea to namesfortea@gmail.com as soon as possible please.

Saturday 30th November – District Plain Major Practice at St Stephen's, Canterbury from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. Members were asked to let the Ringing Masters know if they were likely to attend.

Saturday 14th December – Carol Service and Social at Ospringe. Ringing from 2:00 to 3.30pm. Service at 3:30pm followed by hot food and festive fun at Painters Forstal Village Hall. Tickets £15. Please book with Claire Madina. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Please let Claire know by 30th November if you wish to come. Members were asked to take posters to their home towers.

Saturday 11th January – Quarterly Meeting at a venue to be confirmed. Ringing from 2:00pm, service at 3:30pm followed by tea and meeting. Names for tea to namesfortea@gmail.com as soon as possible please.

Saturday 18th January – District Surprise Major Practice at Hernhill from 7:30 to 9:00pm. Please let the Ringing Masters know if you are likely to attend.

18. Any Other Business: Malcolm announced that on Saturday 17th November the Evensong service in Canterbury Cathedral at 5:30pm will mention ringing. This started as a remembrance service at Rochester Cathedral for those ringers who has passed away during the year. It has moved to Canterbury and there will be some general ringing from 4:00pm with tea provided in the café next to the shop.

Ben asked for ideas for District Practices. The Ringing Masters are open to suggestions from towers who have a particular need for help. Stedman and good striking had been mentioned. It seems as though some members forget good striking as they try to ring more complicated methods.

Cathryn said that Andrew was happy to continue completing membership certificates but would like details by the Sunday before the District meeting at which the new members were being proposed.

19. Vote of Thanks: Malcolm gave the vote of thanks to the vicar and churchwardens of St Dunstan's for use of the church, church hall and bells, Isobel for leading the service, Susan for playing the organ and the St Dunstan's ringers for the tea.

The KCACR Canterbury District Bye Meeting Saturday 9th November 2024 at St Lawrence the Martyr, Godmersham

Ringing took place from 2:00pm under the guidance of Ringing Master Stuart Palin. The service was led by Denise Barker with Toby Huitson playing the organ. Tea was served in the church by the District Committee.

Malcolm Barden opened the meeting and said that he had been asked to stand in for the Chairman, Benjamin Legg, who was unable to be here today.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Benjamin Legg, Jim Attwood, Zoë Story, Malcolm Story, Dennis Brandrick, Elaine Hartnell, John Paramor, Callum Dyson, Sarat White, Becky Holliday, Isobel Fray, Airlie Fray, Mike Little and Stephen Marsh.

2. Election of new members: The following 3 members were proposed for membership of the Association, all were returning ringers:

Mark Davies of All Saints, Whitstable, proposed by Peter Freeman and seconded by Maureen Cooke.

Nathaniel Graham of Sturry, proposed by Jo Horton and seconded by Stephen Marsh.

Christopher Wachter of Sturry, proposed by Jo Horton and seconded by Stephen Marsh.

They were elected by the members present and welcomed to the Association.

3. **Presentation of Certificates:** No certificates were available to present but the above three new members were presented with a 2024 KCACR Handbook by the Acting Chairman.
4. **Collection:** The collection amounted to £47.81. It was agreed to donate this to Godmersham church. Freda Parker proposed that any excess tea money after expenses be given to the host church, this was seconded by Marilyn Barden, those present voted in favour. The excess from the tea amounted to £40.
5. **Forthcoming Events:** The following forthcoming events were noted:

KCACR Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral – Sunday 17th November 2024

Malcolm Barden outlined the timings for the event, there will be refreshments from 3:15pm in the community studio, ringing from 4:00pm and the service begins at 5:30pm.

District Plain Major Practice – Saturday 30th November 2024

Stuart Palin outlined details for the practice which was to be held at St Stephen's, Canterbury, from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. Methods such as Plain Bob, Little Bob, St Clement's, Single Oxford, and Double Bob Major could be rung, for the more experienced Double Norwich Court Bob Major may be attempted. If you are planning to attend please let the Ringing Masters know.

District Christmas Carol Service and Social – Saturday 14th December 2024

Adam Moore spoke regarding the Christmas Social being held at Ospringe, he said that hopefully members had received a poster from Ospringe ringers earlier in the afternoon. The programme for the afternoon would be ringing at 2:00pm, service at 3:30pm, then adjourn to nearby Painters Forstal Village Hall for a quiz and food. Members should contact Claire Madina to book their tickets by 30th November.

District Quarterly Meeting – Saturday 11th January 2025

Malcolm Barden said that the next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Wingham, the format was as usual ringing from 2:00pm, service at 3:30pm followed by tea, meeting and further ringing. Names for tea to namesfortea@gmail.com by the Wednesday before.

District Surprise Major Practice – Saturday 18th January 2025

Stuart Palin spoke briefly regarding the next Surprise Major Practice, outlining what may be rung but further information would follow around Christmas time.

District Bye Meeting – Saturday 8th February 2025

Malcolm Barden said that the next Bye Meeting will be held at St Alphege, Whitstable, the format was as usual ringing from 2:00pm, service at 3:30pm followed by tea, meeting and further ringing. Names for tea to namesfortea@gmail.com by the Wednesday before.

- 6. 120 Club Draw:** The Acting Chairman extended his thanks on behalf of the District to Phil Elderton for running the 120 Club in the past.

Maureen Cooke led the November draw, results as follows:

No. 25 – Becky Holliday – 1st Place

No. 4 – Andy Brett – 2nd Place

No. 14 – Ann Martin – 3rd Place

The chair shared that the 120 Club was lacking members – he encouraged tower members to join should they wish to.

- 7. Any Other Business:** The Acting Chairman advised that following the ADM the Committee have co-opted Jim Attwood to the post of District Ringing Master. Stuart Palin gave a brief rundown of Jim's experience and what he will bring to the District.

The Acting Chairman shared the details of a face-to-face safeguarding training session that the association was running in Basic Awareness and Foundation. Enid Dixon and Denise Barker stated that Canterbury Diocese didn't accept a group session as a pathway to Leadership. It was also suggested that training run by the Diocese of Rochester is not transferable to Canterbury. The view was expressed that the Leadership training was not aimed at ringers and it would be better done as a group session for ringers. Malcolm Barden said that he will clarify these points at the upcoming County Committee Meeting in his role as District Representative.

Claire Stay advised that the bookstall was available at the back of the church, do go and have a look.

Stuart Palin spoke of Sue Bassett and Neil Jones's quest to find out more information about who are ART Trainers in Kent. If you are an ART Trainer please let Sue Bassett know. Felicity Lewis commented that she had passed onto Sue Bassett details of the trainers and learner hub in Thanet. Sarat White runs the sessions every first, second and fourth Saturdays at St Peter-in-Thanet and Freda Parker every third Saturday at St Laurence-in-Thanet from 10:00 to 11:30am.

Stuart Palin reported the death of Peter Dadds of Margate. He will be remembered at the Quarterly Meeting in January.

- 8. Vote of Thanks:** Tony Martin gave the vote of thanks to Douglas Pavey, Churchwarden, for use of the church and bells, Denise Barker for leading the service, Toby Huitson for playing the organ and the committee for the tea. Members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

Puzzle Corner



Wordsearch

T	Z	P	R	H	D	L	E	K	O	R	T	S	D	N	A	H
W	S	U	X	P	L	A	I	N	H	U	N	T	Z	Q	R	T
P	Y	G	R	W	I	R	V	D	F	D	D	Y	C	M	E	T
H	G	D	W	P	R	E	D	E	I	N	P	T	U	Y	T	G
A	E	Q	A	J	P	P	M	F	L	E	S	E	W	B	S	X
U	F	H	E	C	H	P	I	S	A	L	B	K	H	O	A	Y
F	B	D	C	U	N	A	K	R	D	I	C	P	E	B	M	S
F	O	E	N	K	I	L	L	C	W	A	U	G	E	N	G	A
R	Z	X	O	S	S	C	W	W	O	T	M	N	L	I	N	L
P	Z	L	L	E	B	H	N	R	K	T	X	J	I	A	I	L
X	X	N	X	T	Z	H	E	R	O	D	S	E	Q	L	G	Y
D	N	A	T	S	K	W	A	Y	G	T	F	D	I	P	N	F
H	R	W	A	N	O	M	U	E	B	O	B	F	A	R	I	N
O	W	T	D	T	C	G	Z	K	F	E	P	I	S	E	R	I
O	B	A	C	A	L	L	C	H	A	N	G	E	S	C	H	Y
E	K	O	R	T	S	K	C	A	B	S	S	D	N	U	O	R
Y	F	R	D	S	Q	A	W	E	R	O	P	E	F	X	Q	H

- bell tower ringing master wheel call changes plain hunt
 rope headstock bob clapper stand plain bob
 handstroke backstroke tail end sally rounds

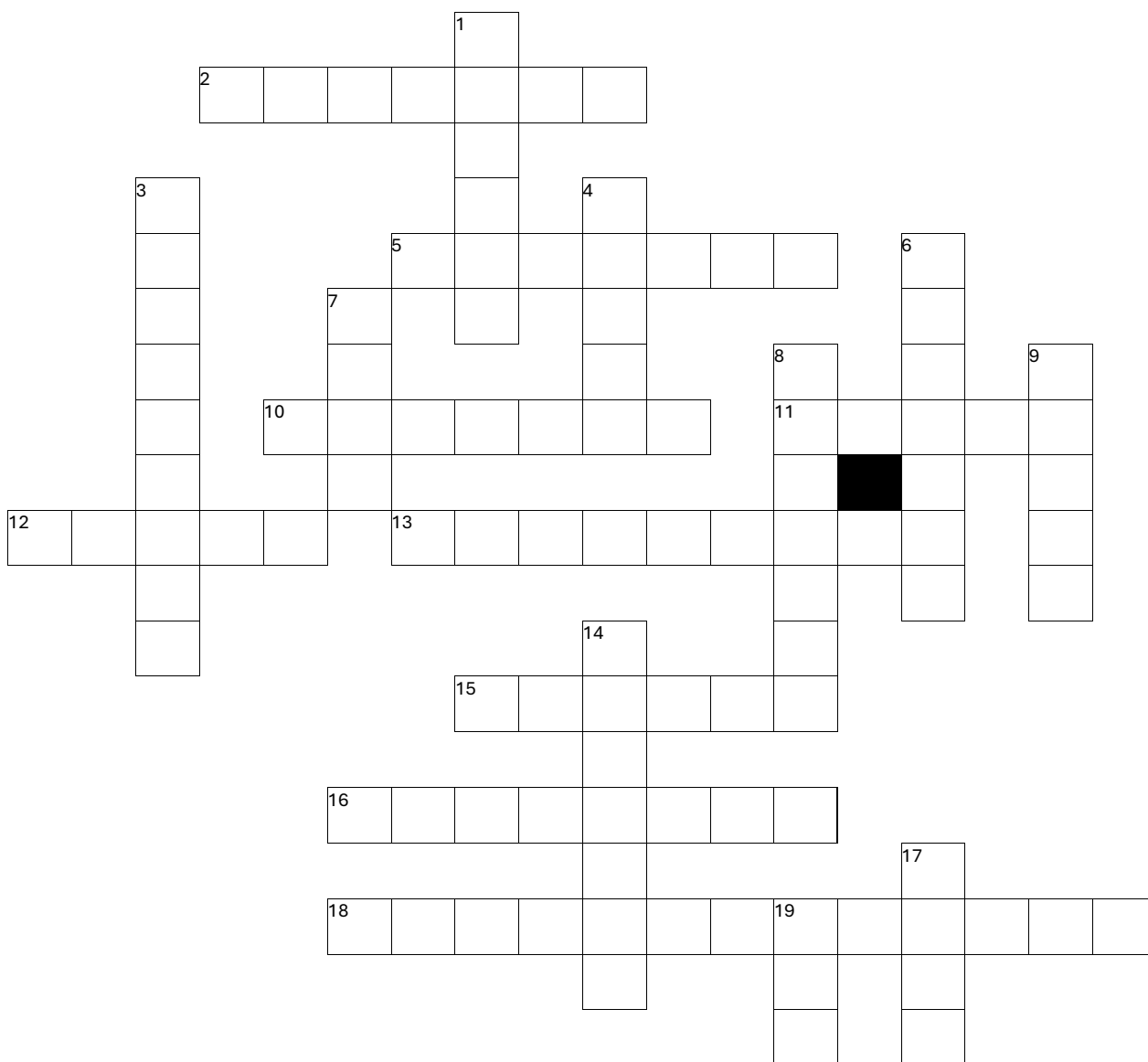
Methodoku

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

Fill in the grid. Every row must contain all six bells. A bell can move a maximum of one place left or right between rows (no “jump” changes). The completed grid is a lead of a plain Minor method.

Solution on page 42

Ringling Crossword



Across

- 2. Slats for the sound
- 5. It hits the bell
- 10. Most number of bells in any existing ring
- 11. Heaviest bell
- 12. How one might get up to the bells
- 13. Over the River Cam
- 15. A difficult surprise
- 16. Learn to make practising easier
- 18. Plain on ten

Down

- 1. The highest note
- 3. Very popular method
- 4. Further up a tower
- 6. What are rung
- 7. The end of the rope
- 8. A reliable man's favourite
- 9. Bells are all in this
- 14. Where change ringing started
- 17. How bells end up
- 19. A great bell

Answers on page 42

District Quarter Peals

Quarter peals rung from 1st October to 31st December 2024 are as follows:

Date	Dedication	Place	Duration	Changes	Method	Conductor
4.10.2024	St Peter and St Paul	Ospringe	43m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Adam Moore
5.10.2024	Holy Cross	Goodnestone	42m	1260	Doubles (9m/v/p)	Andrew M Hills
5.10.2024	St Mary the Virgin	Chislet	44m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Claire Stay
6.10.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Reverse St Faith Doubles	Tim Attridge
6.10.2024	St Dunstan	Canterbury	43m	1320	Plain Bob Minor	Andrew M Hills
6.10.2024	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	39m	1260	Doubles (2m/p)	Leonard A Huckstep
6.10.2024	St Nicholas	St Nicholas-at-Wade	43m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Michael J Little
13.10.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	51m	1260	Plain Bob Royal	Thomas Hooley
16.10.2024	St Mary the Virgin	Dover	45m	1260	Windsor Platinum Place Triples	Andrew J Corby
17.10.2024	Holy Cross	Goodnestone	40m	1260	Doubles (11m/v/p/)	Jane E Huxley
18.10.2024	St Michael and All Angels	Throwley	44m	1260	All Saints Place Doubles	Adam Moore
20.10.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Doubles (6m/v)	Tim Attridge
20.10.2024	St Dunstan	Canterbury	42m	1300	Doubles (11m/v/p/)	Andrew M Hills
26.10.2024	St Peter and St Paul	Newnham		1296	Ipswich Surprise Minor	David Ridley
27.10.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	40m	1320	Doubles (11v)	Tim Attridge
27.10.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	53m	1277	Stedman Caters	Andrew J Corby
27.10.2024	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	39m	1260	Doubles (7m/v)	Paul N Davis
1.11.2024	St Peter and St Paul	Ospringe	40m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Claire Stay
2.11.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	53m	1277	Grandsire Caters	Mark Chittenden-Pile
3.11.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Doubles (11m/v)	Tim Attridge
3.11.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	50m	1344	Plain Bob Major	Andrew J Corby
3.11.2024	St Dunstan	Canterbury	43m	1260	Doubles (7m/v/p)	Cathryn M Hills
3.11.2024	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	42m	1260	Plain Bob Triples	Leonard A Huckstep
8.11.2024	All Saints	Petham	42m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Leonard A Huckstep
10.11.2024	St Dunstan	Canterbury	41m	1260	Doubles (11m/v/p/)	Andrew M Hills
10.11.2024	St Peter and St Paul	Ospringe	43m	1260	Plain Bob Minor	Adam Moore
12.11.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Iggy Doubles	Tim Attridge
12.11.2024	All Saints	Petham	38m	1260	Grandsire Doubles	Philip Bedford
13.11.2024	St Dunstan	Canterbury	42m	1260	Doubles (5m/v)	Andrew M Hills
17.11.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	36m	1260	As You Like It Doubles	Tim Attridge
17.11.2024	St Dunstan	Canterbury	42m	1260	Doubles (11m/v/p/)	Andrew M Hills
21.11.2024	Holy Cross	Goodnestone	41m	1260	Doubles (11m/v)	Claire Stay
22.11.2024	St Mary of Charity	Faversham	48m	1272	Spiced Minor (2m)	Adam Moore
23.11.2024	St Peter the Apostle	St Peter-in-Thanel	49m	1260	Grandsire Doubles	Charlie Satchwell
24.11.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	David Manger Doubles	Tim Attridge
24.11.2024	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (11m/v/p/)	Jane E Huxley
29.11.2024	St Michael	Hernhill	42m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Tim Ford
29.11.2024	St Peter the Apostle	St Peter-in-Thanel	41m	1260	Mixed Doubles (3m)	Simon Friend
1.12.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Advent 1 Doubles	Tim Attridge
1.12.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	51m	1282	Cambridge Surprise Royal	Andrew M Hills
1.12.2024	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	41m	1260	Grandsire Doubles	Leonard A Huckstep
3.12.2024	The Waterloo Tower, Quex Park	Birchington-on-Sea	37m	1260	Doubles (4m)	Ollie E P Watson & Lucas J Owen
4.12.2024	St Mary the Virgin	Dover	42m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	David Robinson
5.12.2024	St Andrew	Wickhambreaux	43m	1260	Mixed Doubles (3m)	Leonard A Huckstep
7.12.2024	St Peter and St Paul	Boughton under Blean	43m	1280	Spiced Treble Dodging Major	Andrew M Hills
7.12.2024	St Peter the Apostle	St Peter-in-Thanel	46m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Sarat White
7.12.2024	St Nicholas	Sturry	42m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Claire Stay
8.12.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Advent 2 Doubles	Tim Attridge
8.12.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury		1311	Stedman Cinqes	Andrew M Hills
8.12.2024	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (11m/v/p/)	Jane E Huxley

Date	Dedication	Place	Duration	Changes	Method	Conductor
8.12.2024	St Laurence	St Laurence-in-Thamet	45m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Freda Parker
13.12.2024	St Nicholas	Sturry	41m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Leonard A Huckstep
15.12.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Advent 3 Doubles	Tim Attridge
15.12.2024	St Dunstan	Canterbury	41m	1260	Doubles (5m/v)	Andrew M Hills
15.12.2024	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	41m	1260	Doubles (6m/p)	Leonard A Huckstep
18.12.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	47m	1344	Plain Bob Major	Andrew J Corby
18.12.2024	St Mary the Virgin	Dover	44m	1260	Grandsire Triples	Andrew J Corby
19.12.2024	Holy Cross	Goodnestone	40m	1260	Doubles (4m/p)	Leonard A Huckstep
20.12.2024	St Mary	Chartham	46m	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	Adam Moore
22.12.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Advent 4 Doubles	Tim Attridge
22.12.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury		1260	Plain Bob Royal	Thomas Hooley
22.12.2024	St Dunstan	Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (4m/p)	Leonard A Huckstep
22.12.2024	Holy Cross	Goodnestone	40m	1260	Doubles (5m/v)	Cathryn M Hills
23.12.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	50m	1277	Grandsire Caters	Mark Chittenden-Pile
23.12.2024	St Nicholas	St Nicholas-at-Wade	43m	1260	Mixed Doubles (2m)	Claire Stay
24.12.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	52m	1440	Cambridge Surprise Minor	Andrew M Hills
24.12.2024	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	48m	1344	Stedman Triples	Andrew J Corby
25.12.2024	St Dunstan	Canterbury	42m	1260	Doubles (11m/v/p/)	Andrew M Hills
26.12.2024	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	46m	1260	Plain Bob Triples	Andrew M Hills
28.12.2024	St Peter and St Paul	Boughton under Blean	45m	1260	All Saints Place Doubles	Adam Moore
28.12.2024	St Mary the Virgin	Elham	47m	1250	Yorkshire Surprise Major	Anne Deebank
28.12.2024	St Mary of Charity	Faversham	43m	1260	Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles	Tim Ford
28.12.2024	St Peter and St Paul	Newnham	41m	1260	St Martin's Bob Doubles	Claire Stay
28.12.2024	St Peter and St Paul	Ospringe	43m	1260	Doubles (1p/10m)	Adam Moore
28.12.2024	St Mary the Virgin	Selling	41m	1276	Spiced Minor (2m)	Adam Moore
28.12.2024	St James	Sheldwich	41m	1260	St Clement's College Bob Minor	Adam Moore
28.12.2024	St Michael and All Angels	Throwley	42m	1260	Grandsire Doubles	Scott Pearce
29.12.2024	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	The Old Year Now Away Is Fled Doubles	Tim Attridge

District Peals

Peals rung from 1st October to 31st December 2024 are as follows:

Date	Dedication	Place	Duration	Changes	Method	Conductor
18.11.2024	St Bartholomew	Waltham	2h 54m	5040	Spiced Surprise Minor (14m)	John B Keeler
24.11.2024	St John the Baptist	Margate	3h 11m	5040	Plain Bob Triples	Simon P Friend

Methodoku solution: St Clement's College Bob Minor

Ringling Crossword answers:

Across

2. Loures 5. Clapper 10. Sixteen 11. Tenor 12. Climb 13. Cambridge 15. London 16. Blue line

18. Plain Bob Royal

Down

1. Treble 3. Grandsire 4. Spire 6. Changes 7. Tail 8. Stedman 9. Frame 14. England 17. Down

19. Bow

Canterbury District Officers

As of the 2024 Annual District Meeting, the Officers of the Canterbury District currently stand as follows:

Chairman	Benjamin Legg	07818434350	canterburychairman@kcacr.org.uk
Secretary	Adam Moore	07961812361	canterburysecretary@kcacr.org.uk
Assistant Secretary	Isobel Legg	01227 264203	isobellegg@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Cathryn Hills	01795 533809 (No calls after 8:00pm please)	
Ringling Masters	Stuart Palin	01795 531418	canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk
	Jim Attwood	07736694285	
District Representative	Malcolm Barden	07771975423	malcolmbarden@aol.com
Youth Coordinator	Benjamin Legg	07818434350	canterburyyouth@kcacr.org.uk
Newsletter Editor			canterburynewsletter@kcacr.org.uk
120 Club Promoter	Maureen Cooke	07745126853	canterbury120club@kcacr.org.uk
Committee Members	Claire Stay	07879276002	claire.stay@mac.com
	Felicity Lewis	07815990976	fliclewis@hotmail.com

District Committee Vacancies

As detailed in the minutes of the ADM above, we were unable to elect a District Newsletter Editor for this year. In addition to being elected Chairman, I took on the responsibility of being Guest Editor for this edition of the Newsletter, but we would very much like to find someone to take on the role of District Newsletter Editor on a more permanent basis. Also, the District Committee would like to appoint a District Training Officer, as it has become apparent that there is a real demand within the District for more help in teaching the early stages of learning to ring.

The District Committee has the power to co-opt members, and has already exercised this power since the ADM by inviting Jim Attwood to become one of the District Ringing Masters. We would therefore be very pleased to do the same to fill these vacant roles. The role descriptions below detail the responsibilities of both posts, but we would wish to give plenty of scope for any incoming District Officers to bring their own ideas to the positions. Please contact me (or anyone on the District Committee) if you would be interested in filling either vacancy!

Benjamin Legg
 KCACR Canterbury District Chairman

Role Description – KCACR Canterbury District Newsletter Editor

1. Edit the District Newsletter for quarterly publication at the beginning of January, April, July and October.
 - The District Newsletter customarily includes sections on district ringing, district and tower news, communications from the General and District Committees, minutes of the last quarter's District Meetings (supplied by the District Secretary), notices of forthcoming events and lists of the quarter peals and peals rung in the district during the last quarter (compiled from BellBoard).
 - Entry information for district competitions, 120 Club joining information and nomination forms for District Officers are also included in appropriate issues.
 - Articles on bell or tower history, other ringing-related topics, obituaries, poems etc. may also be included.
 - The Newsletter Editor may contribute content of their own if they wish to do so.
2. Communicate with District members via email to encourage submissions to the Newsletter and to distribute each quarterly Newsletter when finalised.
3. Liaise with Association and District Officers about reports and announcements to be included in the Newsletter.
4. Attend District Committee Meetings as a member of the Committee and support the work of the other District Officers.

Role Description – KCACR Canterbury District Training Officer

1. To lead the development of District ringing activities aimed at early-stage ringers (bell handling and basic skills for Rounds, Call Changes and method ringing).
2. To provide a focal point for early-stage ringers seeking assistance with tuition and practice.
3. To coordinate early-stage training events with the District Ringing Masters.
4. To provide the principal point of contact between the District and the work of the Association Training Officer, and coordinate District activities with wider Association initiatives.
5. Attend District Committee Meetings as a member of the Committee and support the work of the other District Officers.

Notices

KCACR Membership Renewal

- Practising and Associate members' subscriptions expired on 31st December, so therefore everyone who wishes to remain a member now needs to renew their membership, if they have not already done so.
- If you are a Practising Member or Associate Member, you can renew your membership and check that your personal details are up-to-date by signing in to your profile on the KCACR membership system at <https://membermojo.co.uk/kcacr>
- Individual members are responsible for renewing their own membership and keeping their personal details up-to-date – it is **not** the responsibility of tower secretaries to do this on a collective basis. However, any efforts that tower secretaries make to monitor and encourage the timely completion of the renewal process by all their tower's members are appreciated!
- If members are unable to renew their membership online, a printable Membership Renewal Form is available on the KCACR website – members who require one should ask their tower secretary to provide them with a form.
- The membership of Life Members (pre-2019) and those aged 80 or above automatically renews each year, however, checking that personal details and communication preferences are correct ensures that the membership database is kept up-to-date and communication with members remains reliable.
- For members' names to appear in the 2025 Handbook, they need to have renewed their membership **no later than Sunday 2nd March 2025**. Any renewals after 2nd March **will not appear in the Handbook**.
- People who were KCACR members at one time but have lapsed on their subscription renewals are perfectly able to pay their arrears and resume their membership. For this purpose and any other enquiries related to membership renewal, please contact the Association Membership Secretary, Doug Davis, at membership@kcacr.org.uk It is probably not a good idea to leave any enquiries to the last minute!

KCACR 2025 Handbook – tower updates and requests for printed copies

- In order that tower information published in the upcoming 2025 Handbook is accurate, all tower secretaries need to ensure, if they have not already done so, that the information on their towers is correct and up-to-date on the KCACR website, as this information will be duplicated in the Handbook when it is published. An email from the District Secretary explaining how to update information and provide notices (obituaries/births/deaths/announcements) for the Handbook has been sent to all tower

secretaries – please contact Adam at canterburysecretary@kcacr.org.uk if you are a tower secretary and have not received this information.

- Tower updates and notices for the Handbook need to be submitted **no later than Sunday 2nd March 2025**.
- All towers will automatically receive one printed copy of the 2025 Handbook. If any member would like their own printed copy (the digital version will be available to all members via membermojo), they can be requested on the KCACR website at this page: <https://kcacr.org.uk/association/kcacr-handbook/2025-handbook-request/> Each member is entitled to request one printed copy for free – any additional printed copies need to be paid for. Requests for printed copies of the Handbook must be made **no later than Sunday 30th March 2025**. This is to allow time to get the final number required to the printer so they can produce and ship in time for the AGM on 21st April.

KCACR Young Ringers' Inter-District Striking Competition

This year's KCACR Young Ringers' Inter-District Striking Competition is being held at **Oxford** (TN14 5PD) in the Tonbridge District on **Saturday 1st March** from 1:45pm to approximately 5:00pm. We have been able to enter a team wholly comprised of young ringers from the Canterbury District the last two years, so it would be great to do so again in 2025 - we might even manage two full Canterbury District teams, which would be fantastic!



The rules of the competition can be found online at <https://kcacr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/KCACR-KYR-Striking-Competition-Rules-2024.pdf> KCACR membership is not required and the only restriction on entry really is that ringers must be under 25 on the day of the contest. It is possible to ring either Call Changes or a method - what we decide to do will naturally be confirmed at a later date when we have a clear idea of numbers and experience. Please remember that this competition is primarily supposed to be for fun while spending time in the company of other young ringers, so no-one should feel that they may not have sufficient experience or skill to participate.

All communications expressing interest in participating in this competition, or about Kent Young Ringers/Kent MINI-Ringers activities in general are warmly welcomed, so do get in touch! Please contact me by emailing canterburyyouth@kcacr.org.uk – more information can be found on the Kent Young Ringers page on the KCACR website at <https://kcacr.org.uk/kent-young-ringers/news/>

Benjamin Legg

KCACR Canterbury District Youth Coordinator

SLiT Quiz Night

Some news from over here in not-so-sunny Ramsgate – if you don't already know, we are raising money to restore our clock. We have four clock faces on our tower which are all in need of quite a lot of TLC, and the clock mechanism is not too good either.

So, over the last couple of years or so we have been holding events to raise money for this, and I thought you might like to know of an event that we have coming up:

On Saturday 18th January we have a Quiz Night – always a lot of fun. It's **6:30pm for a 7:00pm start**, in the **Parish Hall, High Street, St Lawrence**. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tickets are **£5.00** per person. Tables of up to eight people. To book a table contact **Freda Parker** on **07732864076**.

If you can help support this event it would be great to see you there.

Also, just a quick reminder that we have a 10-bell practice at St Laurence-in-Thamet (SLiT) on the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30pm-9:00pm. If you can make it, we would love to see you there – the more the merrier!

Sally-Ann Bullock



Make sure to check out our District Facebook group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/canterburydistrict>



If you would like to join our 120 Club for 2025, or renew your current numbers, please pay £12* (per number) into the following account:

KCACR Canterbury District 120 Club

Account number: 68654660

Sort code: 30-92-93

Please add your name as a reference.

Please let me know you have made payment by emailing me at

canterbury120club@kcacr.org.uk

Also, please let me know if you'd like to keep the same number(s) if it is a renewal. I will confirm your number(s) as soon as I am able to confirm payment on the account. If you would prefer to pay by cash, please come & find me at our January Meeting at Wingham and I'll make sure your number(s) are included in our January draw.

Thank you and Good Luck!

*£1 per monthly draw except August when we take a little break, BUT we have double money prizes for our December Christmas draw! Ho Ho Ho!

Below is the list of prize winners for the draws from June to December 2024:

June 2024

1st	Adam Redgwell (No. 9)	£25
2nd	Clare Stay (No. 45)	£15
3rd	Becky Holliday (No. 21)	£10

July 2024

1st	Austin SSF (No. 18)	£25
2nd	Len Huckstep (No. 8)	£15
3rd	Gill Moon (No. 14)	£10

September 2024

1st	Simon Lockwood (No. 30)	£25
2nd	Peter Freeman (No. 20)	£15
3rd	Mary Mannings (No. 6)	£10

October 2024

1st	Sarat White (No. 46)	£25
2nd	Judy Petmann (No. 33)	£15
3rd	Claire Stay (No. 43)	£10

November 2024

1st	Becky Holliday (No. 21)	£25
2nd	Andy Brett (No. 4)	£15
3rd	Ann Martin (No. 40)	£10

December 2024

1st	Mary Mannings (No. 6)	£60
2nd	Judy Petmann (No. 52)	£15
3rd	Sarat White (No. 46)	£10

Maureen Cooke

KCACR Canterbury District 120 Club Promoter

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

The 2025 Call Change Competition will be held on
Saturday 8th March
at **Teynham** (tbc)

The draw for the order of ringing will take place at 2:00pm, with competition ringing to start immediately thereafter. The service will take place when the competition ringing has concluded, followed by a short meeting at which the results will be announced. Rolling refreshments will be available during the competition.

The test piece for this year will be as shown to the right. A full list of the rules is available on the KCACR website and printed below in this newsletter.

To enter, please contact me (email: isobellegg@hotmail.com; telephone: 01227 264203) with the following information:

Tower

Name, telephone number and email address of Team Organiser

Names of all team members

Saturday 1st March is the closing date for entries, and any team that is unable to attend for the whole competition should inform me as soon as possible.

Please email namesfortea@gmail.com by **Saturday 1st March** to book tea.

Isobel Legg

KCACR Canterbury District Assistant Secretary

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KCACR Canterbury 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.

Forthcoming Events

Quarterly Meeting

Saturday 11th January at Wingham. Ringing will be from 2:00pm with the service at 3:30pm, followed by tea, meeting and further ringing if requested. Please email namesfortea@gmail.com by Wednesday 8th January to book tea.

District Surprise Major Practice

Saturday 18th January at Hernhill, from 7:30 to 9:00pm. This practice is open to ringers at all levels of Surprise Major experience and to those looking to extend from Surprise Minor ringing. If you are planning to attend this practice, please let the Ringing Masters know what you can ring or are learning (email: canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk). A tower donation of £1 per attendee is requested.

Bye Meeting

Saturday 8th February at St Alphege, Whitstable. Ringing will be from 2:00pm with the service at 3:30pm, followed by tea and meeting. Evening ringing at **Graveney**. Please email namesfortea@gmail.com by Wednesday 5th February to book tea.

District Call Changes Practice

Saturday 15th February at Chartham (tbc), from 10:00 to 11:30am. For more information, please contact the Ringing Masters (email: canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk). A tower donation of £1 per attendee is requested.

District Call Change Competition

Saturday 8th March at Teynham (tbc). Draw at 2:00pm, with competition ringing to start immediately thereafter. Service to take place when the competition ringing has concluded, followed by a short meeting and results. Rolling refreshments will be available during the competition. Please contact the Assistant Secretary (email: isobellegg@hotmail.com; telephone: 01227 264203) to enter, and email namesfortea@gmail.com to book tea, by Saturday 1st March.

District Plain Bob & Grandsire Doubles Practice

Saturday 15th March at Petham, from 10:00 to 11:30am. For more information, please contact the Ringing Masters (email: canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk). A tower donation of £1 per attendee is requested.

Quarterly Meeting

Saturday 12th April 2025 at Dover (tbc). Ringing will be from 2:00pm with the service at 3:30pm, followed by tea, meeting and further ringing if requested. Please email namesfortea@gmail.com by Wednesday 9th April to book tea.