



# CANTERBURY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Issue 196

April 2025

# Contents

<b>Chairman's Message</b>	3
<b>Secretary's Message</b>	4
<b>Ringling Masters' News</b>	5
<b>Stuart Palin and Jim Attwood</b> recap District ringing over the last quarter	
<b>KCACR Young Ringers' Competition</b>	7
<b>The 'Jim' Luck District Call Change Cup</b>	9
<b>District Call Change Competition review</b>	11
<b>Canterbury District Characters</b>	16
<i>In the second in this series of profiles of local ringers, Felicity Lewis reflects on her ringing experiences.</i>	
<b>Bells – A Poem</b>	18
<b>Minutes of Past Meetings</b>	19
<b>Striking Competition</b>	26
<b>Quarter Peals &amp; Peals</b>	29
<b>Safeguarding Summary</b>	31
<b>120 CLub</b>	34
<b>District Officers</b>	35
<b>District ringing – Looking Forward</b>	36
<b>Forthcoming events</b>	37

It's my pleasure to be the guest editor of this prestigious publication for this issue – maybe beyond, if you're lucky! Thank you for your patience as I get to grips with the vagaries of Word formatting and the huge amount of material to collate from all four corners of the District. My thanks to all the contributors. Please send all submissions for the next Newsletter to

[canterburynewsletter@kcacr.org.uk](mailto:canterburynewsletter@kcacr.org.uk)

The deadline is the **21st of June**.

Please include images as separate attachments rather than embedded in Word documents. This not only helps maintain quality but ensures they do not disappear into the outer darkness beyond the margins – a set of images nearly didn't make it in for this reason!

Toby

Toby Huitson  
KCACR Canterbury District  
Newsletter Guest Editor

## Issue Numbering Note

It has been found that the same number was used three times in 2020-21. This issue is therefore 196, not 194.

## Cover image

*St. Clement, Sandwich. Taken on the way to bell practice under a full moon lighting the pathway of daffodils. Photo: Janet Raes (Tower Captain, St Clement)*

## **Chairman's Message**

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Hello,

I hope this issue of the District Newsletter finds you well! We held three well-supported District Meetings in the last quarter, most recently the District Call Change Competition at Teynham, contested between six teams and won by St Stephen's, Canterbury, successfully defending the trophy. We also held three District Practices, which I hope everyone who attended found enjoyable and useful. A personal highlight for me during the last three months was to be involved with the first-ever team to win the KCACR Young Ringers' Inter-District Striking Competition for the Canterbury District – please continue reading this Newsletter to find out more about our triumph!

Keeping the focus for the moment on competitions, our District Method Striking Competition, with St Stephen's again as defending champions, is of course coming up in May. It would be great to see as many or more towers enter a team into that competition as entered the District Call Change Competition!

Also coming up in this quarter is the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May, which bell ringers nationally are being encouraged to commemorate by ringing at 6:30pm, so it would be nice to hear of as much VE Day ringing throughout the District as possible, at whatever times that different towers can manage.

On behalf of the whole District Committee, I would like to extend grateful thanks to Toby Huitson for guest editing this issue of the Newsletter. I hope you find it an interesting and diverting read, and also that I may see you at one or more of our District events that are coming up!

Best regards,

Ben

Benjamin Legg

KCACR Canterbury District Chairman

## **Secretary's Message**

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It has been good getting to know more of you over the last few months, and I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming weeks!

During the last quarter we welcomed 11 new members to the District. It is great to have you all on board, and hope that you continue to enjoy your ringing – we look forward to hopefully seeing you at more District events in the future too! Another highlight for me of the last quarter was the Canterbury District winning the KCACR Youth Striking Competition at Otford. It was a fantastic piece of ringing to listen to and we were finally able to bring the trophy back to the District for the first time!

The next quarter has a busy programme of District meetings and practices as always. We have the striking competition on 10th May, and a Bye meeting at Deal on 14th June. 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 a 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 2 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; please don't do this until they've been elected at the meeting. If there is anything I can help with, please do contact me on [canterburysecretary@kcacr.org.uk](mailto:canterburysecretary@kcacr.org.uk)

See you all soon!

*Adam*

Adam Moore

*KCACR Canterbury District Secretary*

## District Ringing – Jan-Mar 2025

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*Stuart Palin & Jim Attwood*

Before recapping on our ringing for the past quarter can we make a **small appeal**. Whilst ringing at District Meetings are a turn up and enjoy type event, for District Practices we have a particular focus in mind with a view to helping people progress in their ringing. This means that we strive hard to make sure we have a good balance of novices and helpers. Sometimes this means we have to chase up some extra support when we have had few volunteers; and we are very grateful to those who re-arrange their day to enable them to make up numbers for a District Practice. It can be a tad frustrating if we then have extra helpers turning up on the day which would have avoided the need for people to change their plans. Of course the help is very welcomed, but it would make things considerably easier, and spare others re-arranging their day, if we had advance notice. So, **pretty please** – if you are thinking of **coming to a District Practice** (either as a novice or a helper) do **drop the District Ringing Masters an email** to let them know. Even if it is a tentative “possibly” that is helpful as it gives us some names to follow up with if numbers are looking low.

It is also useful to have registered in case we need to cancel the practice (because too few have registered as coming) – we can make sure we have let all those coming know.

**January – Quarterly Meeting:** (Wingham) We had over 16 visiting the ringing room to try the challenging 8 – and some did struggle a bit. Whilst we mostly kept with 8-bell ringing we did include some Plain Hunt on 5 during the afternoon. We started with a course of Grandsire Triples, which limped home, but then started to get to grips with the bells. We had another loss a bit later when trying a touch of Plain Bob Major, but otherwise did well – including a half course of Cambridge Surprise Major to finish the afternoon ringing. It was good to see several returning for the evening ringing which saw a good variety of methods rung.

(Rounds+CC 8, Plain H 5, Plain H 7, Grandsire 7 [incl touch], Stedman 7, Plain Bob 8 [touch came to grief], Little Bob 8 [touch], Splice Plain + Little Bob 8 [touch], Cambridge S 8 [½ course])

**January – S Major Practice:** (Hernhill) A bumper 20 ringers at turned out for this quarter’s Surprise Major practice with ½ courses of Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Superlative and Pudsey being rung as well as 3 leads of Bristol and a ½ course of four spliced. Our only loss of the evening was one of the attempts at Superlative.

(Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Superlative, Pudsey, Bristol [3 leads], 4-spliced CYNs)

**February – Bye Meeting:** (St Alphege, Whitstable & Graveney) It was difficult to keep track of numbers as we needed to let people leave the tower before others could come up – but it seemed quite busy. St Alphege always gives some trepidation, but aside from a few caught off-guard we got through the afternoon without losing a stay. We kept all 8 bells ringing during the afternoon and whilst some stuck with rounds we did ring a good range of methods up to Cambridge Surprise Major. For the evening we adjourned to the 3 at Graveney, with quite a few availing themselves of the opportunity to ring at this tower.

(Rounds+CC 8, Plain Hunt 7, Plain Bob 7 [touch], Grandsire 7, Little Bob 8 [touch], Cambridge 8 [½ course])

(Rounds 3, Plain H 3, St Remigius Place 3, Stedman 3, Erin 3, Double Dracula 3.)



**February – Call Changes Practice:** (Chartham) There was a very good level of interest in this District Practice with 7 signing up and about the same helping. The focus was on good striking and listening skills. All the novices had been given homework using online tools to practice their listening skills. Some reported that it was challenging to use the main tool used on a phone due to the small amount of screen space, but it seems to have done the job of getting people ready for the day. The call-changes were relatively straight-forward, but there was intense attention to the striking – this also allowed those sitting out to practice their listening skills and comparing their assessment with the instructions being given. All managed to achieve very good results.

**March – Call Change Competition:** (Teynham) This is reported separately.

**March – Basic Doubles Practice:** (Petham) 4 signed up for this practice, but unfortunately 2 had to subsequently withdraw. Having got helpers arranged it was decided to proceed with the practice which meant lots of rope time for the 2 remaining novices – and the focus was kept on Plain Bob. From the feedback both got a lot out of the day and look forward to putting the experience gained to good use.

As always do feel free to give feedback and suggestions to the District Ringing Masters, and thank you again to all those who have supported District Ringing this quarter. A good start to the year.

*Stuart Palin / Jim Attwood, Canterbury District Ringing Masters*  
*email: [CanterburyRingingMaster@kcacr.org.uk](mailto:CanterburyRingingMaster@kcacr.org.uk)*



*Kent Young Ringers' Competition entrants*

## KCACR Young Ringers' Inter-District Striking Competition 2025



Kemsing Church

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, my ringing team (Canterbury District and I) had the most extraordinary day! It wasn't just the competition; it was that and all the other things that went on around it on the day and beforehand. First of all, I would like to say a huge thank you to Ben, our District Youth Coordinator. He planned all our District's practices and worked with us all to make sure we knew what we were doing, so I am very grateful for that. Secondly, I must give



another huge thank you to Jen, for being the KYR Striking Competition's main organiser. She truly made the day great so thank for that!

My District's first practice was at Sturry. It was the first practice we had, and we all got to meet each other. I have to say, all the team were very nice and supportive. We decided on what we were going to ring, which was Rounds into Tittums into Queens into Rounds, and overall, it went pretty well (however, there was not a large collection of boxes, meaning I had to use a huge one, and I mean HUGE, when I tenored!)

The next practice we had was at Waltham. Those bells were rather nice, and yet again the evening went very well. It was a good experience! And finally, at last, the big day came around! We started off ringing at Seal Chart. This was the first time we had all rung together, but it went really



Seal Chart Church

well. (One of the ringers were so tall they had to sit down and ring!) They were quite light bells, but very fun to ring on!



Otford Church

Then it was the time for the main event, the competition at Otford. Trying to sneak in past the judge was fun! We rang some different things to get used to the bells, and then it was time. And from the moment I pulled that sally, it was all nice and fun, because I had nothing to worry about! We had had multiple practices and so there weren't that many nerves! But all good things have to end, and when we pulled the final handstroke, it felt so good, as I knew that all our hard work had paid off.

After we had rung at Otford, we went and rung at Kemsing. The ringing was good there too, and it was all very enjoyable. Soon we headed back to Otford for some food. The selection was very good, but the anticipation was high! Then entered the grand judge – Adam Moore – to give us the results. He said all the teams were good and there were no major ‘splodges’, but then it was time for the results. Here they are:

5th: Lewisham

4th: Scratch Band

3rd: Tonbridge

2nd: Rochester

1st: Canterbury

KCACR Young Ringers' Striking Contest 2025:

Ringing Order			
Team	Ringing order	Percentage/grade	Final position
Canterbury	3	93%	1 <sup>st</sup>
Lewisham	1	78%	5 <sup>th</sup>
Rochester	4	88%	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Tonbridge	2	87%	3 <sup>rd</sup>
SEECN/RWNYC	5	85%	4 <sup>th</sup>

The results board

We actually won! It was the first time the Canterbury District has won since this annual competition started, and Ben seemed very happy! It was overall a great day! I would definitely do it again and would encourage more young people to do it! Once again, thank you to all of those who made this day possible for us.



James Carter  
Kent Young Ringer  
(age 10)



The trophy



Adam and me with the trophy



## The 'Jim' Luck District Call Change Cup

Stuart Palin

Well done to all the teams that entered this year's District Call Change Competition at Teynham, and congratulations to St Stephen's, Canterbury on winning and receiving the "Jim Luck Trophy".



K.C.A.C.R.  
CALL CHANGE COMPETITION  
In memory of  
MILDRED "JIM" LUCK  
1908 - 1981

For those that recall my article about Frank Knight this is something similar to give some background to our Call Change Competition trophy. Just as with Frank, "Jim" Luck is passing from living memory, but unlike Frank, "Jim" was not a ringer – though she did learn to handle a bell at one point – so there is not a ringing record to report on.

So who was "Jim"? Her actual name was Mildred and she was married to Bert Luck who was a notable Canterbury ringer, popular District Secretary, and KCACR Vice-President. How she came by the nickname "Jim" is lost in the mists of time, it undoubtedly came from Bert and it was widely used by those in the ringing community who knew her. But let's go back to the beginning.

Jim was born Mildred Florence Fullbrook on 1-Jun-1908 to William and Florence Fullbrook and baptised at St Nicholas, Thanington that year. The Fullbrook family looks to have come from the Lamberhurst area but was settled in Canterbury by the time Jim and her siblings William, Annie, Nellie, and Leo were born. The 1911 and 1921 censuses have them living at 35 Claremont Place in Canterbury. Jim later went to work in Tenterden but it was when she returned to Canterbury that she met Bert. Bert was born and raised in Lamberhurst and his early peal ringing record has him strongly connected with the area up until 1933 when there is a shift to Canterbury. The Lamberhurst connection must have given the young Bert a good opportunity to strike up a rapport with Jim, and so started a life together.

Jim and Bert married in Canterbury on 9-Dec-1933 with the occasion marked by a peal rung by the band at Lamberhurst. Bert took on the role of Canterbury District Secretary in 1936 with the early Ringing Worlds of the year showed their address as 25d New Dover Road in Canterbury. But in September they moved into 20 Beaconsfield Road where they were to stay. Richard Offen recounts a story told by Bert that at first they were renting the property but in the early 1950's their landlord told him that he was planning to sell the property but would offer them the opportunity to buy before it went on the

*Ringing World 1933, p*  
**LAMBERHURST, KENT.**  
*On Saturday, December 9, 1933, in 1 wo Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,*  
**AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,**  
**A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**  
*Being 720 each of Carlisle, London, Hanley, Milton, Ipswich, Primrose and Cambridge.*

<b>JAMES WAGHORN, SEN.</b> ... 1 reble <b>THOMAS FULLER</b> ... .. 2 <b>ALBERT RELFE</b> ... .. 3	<b>ANDREW MARSHALL</b> ... .. 4 <b>JAMES BASSETT</b> ... .. 5 <b>JAMES WAGHORN, JUN.</b> ... Tenor
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**Conducted by ALBERT RELFE.**

*Rung in honour of the wedding of Mr. B. Luck and Miss M. Fullbrook, which took place at Canterbury on the above date. First peal in seven methods by the tenor ringer, who only started Surprise ringing this year.*

*age 790.*

market. Bert went to see the landlord to find out how much he wanted for the property. After the meeting he went home to Jim and reported that the asking price was £500, "I told him where he could stuff his house at that price" he said to Jim, to which she replied "Well I hope he leaves the chimney out so we can have a fire!". In the end they bought the house for slightly less than the original demand.

CANTERBURY, KENT. THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. <i>On Sat., Dec. 6, 1958, in 3 Hours and 26 Minutes,</i> AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, A PEAL OF 5003 GRANDSIRE CATERS Tenor 32 cwt. 6 lb. in C.			
*THOMAS C. PHILLIMORE... <i>Treble</i>		*DEREK C. CHATFIELD ..	6
*L. VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN..	2	FRANK B. LUFKIN ..	7
DENNIS A. CHAPMAN ..	3	THOMAS H. HOLMES ..	8
WILFRID S. PALIN ..	4	BERTRAM J. LUCK ..	9
PHILIP J. WESTWOOD ..	5	EDWARD A. DIXON ..	<i>Tenor</i>
Composed by F. NOLAN GOLDEN.		Conducted by FRANK B. LUFKIN.	
* First peal of Grandsire Caters.			
Rung as a compliment to Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Luck on the occasion of their silver wedding on December 9th, 1958.			

*Ringling World 1958, page 834*

Jim and Bert did not have a family of their own, but there were nephews and nieces. Liz Barnes recalls that after posting a picture of a St Stephen's paper collection fun-raiser on a "Remembering Canterbury" Facebook page a comment asking about Bert came in from Sally Holmes. She is Leo's daughter and recalled visits to Jim and Bert when she was little. These were much loved and "Aunty Mildred" was a very sweet person. In 1958 Jim and Bert celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary which was marked by a peal at

Canterbury Cathedral where Bert was also a longer serving member.

With Bert's strong involvement with ringing Jim did not entirely escape from learning to ring. This she did just before WWII, but other commitments meant it was not something she persisted with. However, she remained a part of the Canterbury ringing scene as an Associate Member and could be found organizing the sandwich making factory line that ensured there was a good tea awaiting ringing friends at Canterbury meetings. She also took particular interest in learners and ensured they received a friendly and warm welcome. Through a combination of having learnt to ring, living with Bert, and often having ringers visit home, she was quite knowledgeable about a wide range of ringing matters and could hold her own in any conversation.

She was last persuaded to take hold of a bell rope in 1979 when she rang on Walter Dobbie's mini-ring. This brought her tower total to six, something she was proud of and a good showing for a non-ringer. Of course, it will be for her warm and cheery welcome and efforts in ringer's teas that most will have known her; and this is a timely reminder that a great strength of ringing is the community of friendship that it forms and the social occasions we enjoy when we meet.

Jim passed away on 16-Feb-1981 after a year or two of poor health, her funeral was held at Barham Crematorium with many ringing friends in attendance and the service led by Rev Stanley Evans.

As we compete in the Call Change Competition we can be reminded of Jim's interest in ringing and recognize that everyone, whatever their degree of experience, contributes to our ringing society and aim to give new learners a warm welcome.

Stuart Palin

*I am greatly indebted to Richard Offen, Liz and Phil Barnes, Cathryn Hills, Enid Dixon and Dot Turner for providing anecdotes, and ancestry information in support of this article, particularly Richard's obituary for Jim, which appeared in the 13-Mar-1981 Ringling World. Thank you.* NOTE: Archived copies of the Ringling World can be found on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers' website under Resources – Central Council Library – Online Publications: <https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/library/online-publications/>

## **District Call Change Competition Review**

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### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – St Mary's Teynham**

The picturesque churchyard of St Mary's, Teynham was gloriously arrayed in swathes of snowdrops and early daffodils as members gathered on a sunny spring afternoon to compete for the Call Change trophy.

Our esteemed judges, Rochester District Ringing Master, Cathy Hall, and Ian Mills from the Lewisham District, were comfortably settled on the north side of the churchyard in the sunshine where the sound of the bells rang out clear and bright, as the draw took place and the first team headed up the steps and across to the first-floor ringing chamber. There to greet each team and make sure all procedures were correctly followed was Tower Steward Maureen, none other than our 120 Club supremo in a rather different role. But true-to-form, her friendly comments and fun approach were much appreciated by the more nervous ringers. Meanwhile, the kettle was kept on the boil in the transept and delicious goodies were dispensed by Nigel and his crew as the competition got underway. It was pleasing to find the bells generally easy-going and the only real challenge was the proximity of the wooden clock case to the tenor-ringer's elbow. In their down-time, team members were able to appreciate the charming natural setting and the features of the medieval church, as well as the impressive 20<sup>th</sup> century stained glass at the east end. The ringing was followed by a service led by Mark Harlow, a local lay minister who was most enthusiastic about the sound of the bells, and some brief items of business, before we came to the all-important results.

Here are the teams in order of ringing, with ringers pictured left to right from treble to tenor, followed by the judges' comments.



**Team 1 – St Stephen’s Canterbury**



Tom Hooley, Jane Huxley (Captain), Emily Higgs, Toby Huitson, Paul Davis, Amanda Hills  
*Very good pace and rhythm. Lovely to listen to.*

**Team 2 – St Laurence-in-Thamet**



Freda Parker (Captain), Karen Finch, SallyAnn Bullock, Callum Dyson, Gill Robinson, Elaine Hartnell  
*Slightly slower pace but got going well. Most of the errors occurred when the changes were made, then the ringing settled down again.*



### **Team 3 – Ospringe**



Nancy Brand, Kate Bispham, Adam Moore (Captain), Emma Farmer, Stuart Palin, Simon Wolfe  
*The framework was rather elastic but there was some nice ringing towards the end.*

### **Team 4 – St Dunstan's Canterbury**



John Haimes, Jane Duckworth, Leanne Jones (not pictured), Edward Hunter, Len Huckstep (Captain), Andy Brett. *A slower pace, minor clips built up but ringing improved towards the end.*



### **Team 5 – St Alphege Whitstable**



Isobel Legg, Sarah Smith, Malcolm Smith, Mark Davies, Benjamin Legg (Captain), Sophie Isbell-Wade. *There were some faults at the start, with the rows contracting, but the ringing settled down nicely.*

### **Team 6 – St Peter-in-Thamet**



Dawn Minards, Sue Bones, Belinda Moyna, Jessica Minards, Debra Stickels, Sarat White (Captain). *There were a number of small inaccuracies and faults in the leading.*

The final standings were:

1 <sup>st</sup>	St Stephen's Canterbury	94%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	St Alphege Whitstable	83%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ospringe	80%
4 <sup>th</sup>	St Dunstan's Canterbury	78%
5 <sup>th</sup>	St Peter-in-Thamet	68%
6 <sup>th</sup>	St Laurence-in-Thamet	65%

The trophy was presented to the victorious St Stephen's team. The judges were thanked for their painstaking work and helpful comments and all six teams who entered were congratulated on their participation. We now look forward to the Striking Competition in May and hope to see even more teams competing.

*Isobel Legg*

## Cake Inspector – Spring 2025

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*The Inspector shares his personal highlights of recent refreshments and culinary charms...*

**Wingham**, 11 Jan. An excellent spread with many different sandwiches, crisps and cake. The mini cheese scones went down a treat, as did Claire's blueberry creations. As always, one plate is never enough (that's my excuse anyway). Choc orange marble cake, even grapes! What more could one ask for?!

**Whitstable St Alphege**, 8 Feb. Hot jacket potatoes with fillings went down nicely with tea and a selection of various cupcakes and Victoria sponge cakes. The chocolate buttons with the swirly white and dark chocolate certainly looked and tasted good!

**Teynham**, 8 March. A church with a long history of excellent refreshments, served in the large transept, eating in style against the backdrop of the early Gothic lancets and round oculus window. A mixture of sandwiches, ginger cake, oat flapjacks, pies/rolls and egg-free cake squares was presented as a gently rolling tea across the competition ringing. The strawberry sponge cake was delicious and a worthy winner of today's star item!

# Canterbury District Characters



**Felicity Lewis**

## **The Sound of Bells**

From the ages of 6 - 8, my brother and I used to walk home from Sunday School at St Macartan's Cathedral, which is in the small village of Clogher, in Northern Ireland, to the sound of the bells being chimed for Matins by the Verger. It was a sound I loved, and sparked off a desire to learn to ring later in life.

I expect you are wondering why there was a cathedral in such a small village, and who was St Macartan? To answer that, we need to go back to the 5th century, when St Patrick and his followers brought Christianity to Ireland. St Macartan was the strong man of the group, with the task of carrying St Patrick across rivers and up hills when necessary. As time went on, St Patrick would offer locations to his followers to build a church, until eventually St Macartan asked for his spot, and he was offered the top of a small hill in Clogher. Various buildings later, and you will find the current Cathedral at the top of the High Street.

However, at the age of 11, we moved to England, to St Mildred's in Addiscombe, Croydon, but it had no bells. It wasn't until 2002, when I went on one of the Village Tours at St Peter in Thanet, and mentioned my dream of learning how to ring bells, that I was invited to come along on a Monday evening, to learn with Reg Foreman and Sonia Stockwell. Most Saturdays a group of us would drive over to Dover in Sarat and Ian White's car, nicknamed the 'SPIT bus', and Peter Dale would give us lots of extra practice at bell handling, Rounds and Call Changes and Plain Hunt, until we were ready to be inducted into KCACR in 2003.



## **Why I still love bell ringing**

As a child, I learned how to play the piano, which is quite a solitary instrument except when playing a duet or trio. So ringing bells in groups of 6, 8 or even 10, gives me such a buzz: trying to ring in time; being helped when I panic and forget the blue line; the sense of comradeship; going on bell ringing holidays with Coots; and ultimately when I have mastered a method and managed to ring it in a quarter peal. As most who know me, it takes me an inordinate amount of time, sometimes months, but often years, before I grasp a new method, so I am always grateful to fellow ringers for their incredible patience and encouragement to help me achieve the latest goal! I find going to the Ringing Schools, such as Essex, Hereford or Bradfield, really helps with total immersion into a method over a few days of theory, shadowing and practice.

## **Payback time?**

Sarat White, the Tower Captain at St Peter in Thanet, was shouldering all the responsibility of teaching new comers, so I decided to do the ART course and help out with new ringers. It was another steep learning curve, and I am very grateful to my 'first learner' for her patience. The course gave me a structure to follow and common goals with Sarat and Freda Parker when we meet up for our learners' sessions on Monday evenings from 6.30, and Saturday mornings from 10 – 11.30.

Joining the committee as a third member this year hopefully is another aspect of paying back KCACR for the hours of pleasure and enjoyment in ringing with such an amazing band of ringers.

## **Ringers worldwide**

I have two daughters, Clare and Anna, and when I visit them, tend to ring the bells nearby. Anna now lives in Wivenhoe, Essex, and the tower is always welcoming when I turn up. The same goes for visits to Clare in Sydney, Australia, as I usually spend some time there, and can join in the practice evenings. Sundays are particularly enjoyable, as I walk to St Lawrence, and ring there, before getting the tram to St Philips and ring. Then we drive to St Mary's Cathedral and ring, and in the past I used to walk to St James, for my fourth ring of the morning before catching the bus back to Waterloo, where Clare lives. The same thing happened when Anna lived in New Zealand. Bell ringers are welcomed worldwide.

Dreams for the future: To master a few more methods; to ring at all the towers in Kent; and to welcome more and more people to the ringing world.

Felicity Lewis

## **Bells - A Poem**

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*Out of the blue  
I heard peals of laughter from the Cathedral,  
Mirth in the hot sun.*

*Lincoln calling,  
By Exchequers Gate,  
Flowers and flags a-fluttering.*

*You look great; and when you come to life,  
The seedlings and the leaves and the birds  
Go mad with their dances!*

*She is calling to the people:  
“We can lead each other.”  
She is really carried away with joy...*

*A stone princess,  
Sighing, clear across the County,  
And over my head.*

**By Nancy Brand  
Ospringe**

# Meeting Minutes

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## The KCACR Canterbury District Quarterly Meeting

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at St Mary the Virgin, Wingham

Ringling began at 2pm under the guidance of ringing master Jim Attwood. The Service at 3.30pm was conducted by Isobel Legg with Susan Record playing the organ. Tea was served in the Church by the District Committee.

1. Welcome. The chairman, Ben Legg, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to Wingham.
2. In Memoriam. Ben invited the members to stand to remember Peter Dadds and David Manger who had recently passed away.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Hills, Jo Horton, Debbie Aris, Freda Parker, Zoe Story, Malcolm Story, John Paramor, Sally Bullock, Mick Cairns, Elaine Hartnell and Airlie Fray.
4. Minutes of previous meetings, as printed in the January newsletter, were taken as read on a proposal from Becky Holliday seconded by Claire Stay
5. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.
6. Collection. The secretary, Adam Moore, advised that the collection amounted to £30.83; for tea £165 had been received, so after expenses he proposed that £117.23 be donated to Wingham church, which was seconded by Malcolm Barden.
7. Election of new members: The following 8 members were proposed for membership of the association:

**Tracey Selves and Catherine Sherwood** of Faversham, proposed by Brian Coleman and seconded by Jim Attwood

**Andy Rickards, Thomas Davis, Adam Hu and Richard Austin** of Chilham, proposed by Mark Harding and seconded by Jim Attwood

**Wendy Moody** of St Peter in Thanet, proposed by Sarat White and seconded by Felicity Lewis

**Alanda Tofte** of Sandwich, proposed by Malcolm Barden and seconded by Marilyn Barden.

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

8. Presentation of Certificates. Certificates were presented to Tracey Selves and Nancy Brand, Nancy having been elected last year.
9. Forthcoming Events:

Stuart Palin spoke regarding forthcoming District practices, as follows:

### **District Surprise Major Practice – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January at Hernhill**

The practice will take place 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.

**District Call Changes Practice - Saturday 15th February at Chartham (tbc)**

The practice will take place from 10:00 to 11:30am. The practice will focus on striking and will also offer opportunities for those learning to call call changes.

**District Plain Bob & Grandsire Doubles Practice Saturday 15th March at Petham**

The practice will take place from 10:00 to 11:30am. The practice will give opportunities for plain courses and touches, those learning these methods are welcome to come along, we will also need the help of those experienced in these methods.

Ben spoke regarding forthcoming events, as follows:

**District Bye Meeting - Saturday 8th February at St Alphege, Whitstable.**

Ringling will be from 2:00pm with the service at 3:30pm, followed by tea and meeting. Evening ringling at Graveney.

**District Call Change Competition - Saturday 8th March at Teynham (tbc).**

Draw at 2:00pm, with competition ringling to start immediately thereafter. Service to take place when the competition ringling has concluded, followed by a short meeting and results. Rolling refreshments will be available during the competition. Please contact the Assistant Secretary to enter.

**Quarterly Meeting - Saturday 12th April 2025 at a venue to be confirmed**

We've discovered today that Dover is not available due to building works. Ringling will be from 2:00pm with the service at 3:30pm, followed by tea, meeting and further ringling if requested.

**Quiz Night for St Laurence in Thanet – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Parish Hall, High Street, St Lawrence**

Further details are available in the newsletter; this is in aid of the restoration of their clock.

10. Report from County meetings

Malcolm updated us on news from the latest county committee meeting, as follows:

**Belfry Repair Fund** - The Charity Commissioners have unexpectedly rejected the latest version of the BRF's objects (which were agreed at the Quex EGM). Peter Joyce has discussed this with them, with a view to finding a wording which will be acceptable. Two other ringling organisations (Lincoln Diocesan Guild and The Mobile Belfries Trust) have recently had their objects approved by the Commissioners, and Peter is using their wording as a basis to resolve this issue. The Charity Commissioners are being co-operative, and Peter hopes to have a final version available shortly.

**Safeguarding** - I now have a definitive answer on the points raised at our last District meeting, as follows : The issue in the past has been that Canterbury uses the online portal to book and record what safeguarding training has been undertaken in the Diocese, but Rochester does not. With no online record for courses done in Rochester, the portal has therefore previously rejected any attempts to book Leadership courses in Canterbury which are based on certificates issued by Rochester. A manual 'work around' has now been agreed between the two Dioceses, meaning that qualifications are transferrable between the two Dioceses, and we can now confidently undertake training in either Diocese.

**Safeguarding Policy** - this has now been updated, and published on the KCACR website.

**Social Media Policy** - In consultation with the Central Council, a draft template of a Social Media Policy has been drawn up, and which will initially be implemented for General Committee Members, followed by a roll-out to the Districts. This will give guidelines for the use of any Social Media accounts/groups set up in the name of the KCACR.



**Ringling 2030** – this project is to ensure that ringing continues into the future, and is particularly aimed at encouraging young ringers. Lesson materials have been prepared for schools. To make this project viable and administrator will need to be employed, to fund this the CCCBR levy is being increased from 20p per member to 40p per member and later £1. The association treasurer has confirmed that our subs will not need to go up as a result.

**Choral Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral** - this was very well received by all concerned. Particular mention was made of the quality of the refreshments, and the efficient and welcoming way the ringing was organised. Well done to all.

**Membership Certificates** - these are now available from Doug Davis. Alternatively, Doug can supply a file for these to be printed locally.

**Rule Changes** - Following feedback from the ADM's, some minor amendments (mostly concerned with language and clarity) are being made to the proposed new rules, and the final version will be put to the membership at next year's AGM.

**Display Boards** - new display material is in the process of being designed and produced.

Malcolm and Stuart spoke regarding Sue Bassett looking for ART Training Venues and ART Hub venues. Freda Parker has already offered St Laurence in Thanet as an ART training venue.

#### 11. Members' achievements

Sarat White shared that Dawn and Jessica Minards had both rung their first quarter peals at St Peter in Thanet.

Simon Friend shared that Charlie Satchwell had rung his first peal, Mike Little also congratulated Simon on calling that peal.

Ben congratulated Adam and those who had rung the 10 quarter peals in a day.

#### 12. 120 Club

Maureen Cooke reported that the 120 club needed 55 members to break even, we are now at 60 members so it is looking positive, she encouraged anyone else who would like to join to talk to her today or email her. The draw for January then took place as follows:

*55 – Felicity Lewis – 1st Place*

*4 – Andy Brett – 2nd Place*

*62 – Pat Miller – 3rd Place*

#### 13. Any other business

Ben reminded everyone about the vacant posts on the District Committee of newsletter editor and training officer, further information can be found on pages 43-44 of the newsletter.

Claire advertised that the book stall was at the back of the church, there was a January sale with reduced prices on many items. There's also some new badges, members were encouraged to have a look.

Stuart asked members for a show of hands for who was interested in evening ringing, there were enough interest to make this viable.

#### 14. Vote of thanks

Jim Attwood introduced himself as the new district ringing master and gave the vote of thanks to Rev Lesley Hardy and Steve Sheath (church warden) for use of the church and bells. The Wingham band for their washing up and manning the kitchen. Isobel Legg for taking the service and Susan Record for playing the organ. Members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

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## The KCACR Canterbury District Bye Meeting

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at St Alphege Whitstable

Ringling took place from 2pm under the guidance of ringing master Jim Attwood. The service was led by Isobel Legg with Toby Huitson playing the organ. Jacket potatoes were served by the St Alphege Ringers.

Ben Legg opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to, his home tower, St Alphege.

Ben invited the members to stand to remember Zoe Story of St Laurence in Thanet who had recently passed away.

1. Apologies for absence were received from John Paramour, Malcolm Story, Sally Bullock, Mick Cairns, Debbie Aris, Andrew Hills, Cathryn Hills, Claire Stay, Keith Record, Susan Record, Jessica Minards, Dawn Minards, Airlie Fray, Jo Horton.

### 2. Election of new members.

The following 2 members were proposed for membership of the association:

**James Carter** of Ospringe, proposed by Adam Moore and seconded by Stuart Palin

**Karen Finch** of St Laurence in Thanet, proposed by Freda Parker and seconded by Gill Robinson

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

### 3. Presentation of Certificates.

Certificates and 2024 handbooks were presented to James and Karen. The chairman read a list of old certificates that he also had available to present, of these Brian Lamb and Elaine Hartnell were present and collected their certificates, others were passed onto representatives of their towers.

### 4. Collection.

Adam Moore advised that the collection amounted to £37.76 and money received for tea was £130. He proposed this be donated to St Alphege Whitstable who will of course have tea expenses to come out of it, this was agreed.

### 5. Forthcoming Events.

The following forthcoming events were noted:

#### **District Call Changes Practice Saturday 15th February at Chartham**

From 10:00 to 11:30am. Stuart Palin thanked those that had signed up to attend, and put out an appeal for more helpers. He said that further information had been sent to those due to attend, including a useful online resource he had found. The practice would focus on good striking.

**District Call Change Competition Saturday 8th March at Teynham**

Ben Legg advised that the draw was 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. Stuart Palin said that further information on this would follow after the upcoming District practice.

**Quarterly Meeting Saturday 12th April 2025 at Throwley**

Ben Legg advised that 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.

**District Surprise Major Practice Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at St Peter in Thanet**

Stuart Palin said that more information would follow in due course. Felicity Lewis said that members should dress warmly as there is no heating in the church currently.

6. Members' achievements.

The chairman invited members to share any achievements of ringers in their towers.

Marilyn Barden said that at Ash an 82 year old had rung a 120 of Plain Bob Doubles on an affected bell.

Jennifer Thomas said that James did very well at Kemsing when he came to MINI-Ringers.

7. 120 Club Draw

Maureen Cooke led the February draw, results as follows:

50 – Ash Tower - 1<sup>st</sup> Place

66 – Janet Davies - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

6 – Mary Mannings - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

8. Any Other Business.

Stuart Palin drew members attention to a letter on page 99 of this week's Ringing World, regarding fire safety. There had been a recent peal where due to their being no fire alarm in the church, a volunteer had to sit in the ringing chamber with another in the church to act as a relay in the case of any issue. Stuart said that members should be aware of this particularly if they have upstairs ringing chambers.

9. Vote of Thanks.

Ben Legg gave the vote of thanks to the St Alphege and All Saints ringers for all the tea arrangements today, Isobel Legg for leading the service, Toby Huitson for playing the organ, and the Rev Rachel Webbley for use of the church and bells. Members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

Members were invited to join the evening ringing at All Saints Graveney.

The KCACR Canterbury District  
Call Change Competition  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at St Mary Teynham

The draw took place at 2pm with competition ringing beginning shortly thereafter. Tea was served in the church by the Teynham ringers during the ringing. The service was led by Mark Harlow with Kirsten Westley playing the organ.

Ben Legg opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to St Mary Teynham. Ben invited the members to stand to remember Ann Saddleton of Hernhill who had recently passed away.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Peter Freeman and Felicity Lewis

2. Election of new members.

The following member was proposed for membership of the association:

**Sophie Isbell-Wade** of St Stephen's Canterbury, proposed by Benjamin Legg and seconded by Jane Huxley  
She was elected by the members present and welcomed to the association.

3. Presentation of Certificates.

A certificate and 2024 handbook was presented to Sophie.

4. Collection.

Ben Legg advised that the collection amounted to £20.76 which will be given to St Mary Teynham.

5. Forthcoming Events.

Stuart Palin spoke regarding upcoming District Practices:

**District Plain Bob & Grandsire Doubles Practice Saturday 15th March at Petham**

From 10:00 to 11:30am. There are still a few spaces, members should contact the ringing masters as soon as possible if they would like to join the practice. Additional helpers would also be welcomed.

**District Surprise Major Practice Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at Margate**

There has been a change of venue for this practice due to St Peter's treble currently being unringable; the practice will now take place at St John's Margate.

Stuart added that this is all that was planned at the moment, practices for the next quarter will be included in the next newsletter, but may include practices on Stedman and rarer doubles.

Ben Legg spoke regarding upcoming District meetings

**Quarterly Meeting Saturday 12th April 2025 at Throwley**

Ringing will be from 2:00pm with the service at 3:30pm, followed by tea, meeting and further ringing if requested.

**Striking Competition Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Goodnestone** (*editor's note: now to be held at Waltham*)



Draw at 2pm, competition ringing begins thereafter followed by service and meeting. Rolling refreshments during the ringing. Andy Brett advised that there is currently a hole in the floor at Goodnestone so this may need to be rearranged.

**Bye Meeting Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at Deal**

Ringing will be from 2:00pm with the service at 3:30pm, followed by tea, meeting and further ringing if requested.

6. 120 Club Draw

Maureen Cooke led the March draw, results as follows:

*76 – Susan Record - 1<sup>st</sup> Place; 19 – Jane Huxley - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place; 31 – Freda Parker- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place*

7. Any Other Business.

Claire Stay said that the books and other items are at the front of the church, they are still at a reduced price, but they will be going up in the not too distant future. Stuart Palin spoke regarding the County 8 bell competition taking place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June, both of the ringing masters will be away but the District Committee will be looking for a band to enter. The method is Double Norwich Court Bob Major and will be taking place at Bromley.

8. Results

Cathy Hall from the Rochester District and Ian Mills from the Lewisham District were introduced as judges. They delivered comments on the teams and the results as follows:

**6<sup>th</sup> Place** – 65% St Laurence in Thanet (*ringing was at a slower speed but got going well, errors occurred at changes but settled afterwards*)

**5<sup>th</sup> Place** - 68% St Peter in Thanet (*there were lots of niggling inaccuracies and faults with leading*)

**4<sup>th</sup> Place** - 73% St Dunstan's Canterbury (*could have rung rounds longer, was a slower bit of ringing, faults were regular but only minor clips, improved towards the end*)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** - 80% Ospringe (*length of the change was elastic, nice at the end should have settled quicker*)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - 83% St Alphege Whitstable (*full use of rounds at the beginning, lots of faults near the start due to row contracting in length, settled after that*)

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**- 94% St Stephen's Canterbury (*a very good pace and rhythm, very few faults, lovely to listen to and nice start to the afternoon*)

The trophy was presented to St Stephen's Canterbury.

9. Vote of Thanks.

Isobel Legg gave the vote of thanks to the Vicar and church wardens of Teynham, Mark Harlow for taking service, Kirsten Westley for playing the organ, Nigel and the Teynham ringers for tea and local arrangements, Maureen Cooke as tower steward and Cathy Hall and Ian Mills for judging. Ben added his thanks to Isobel for arranging the competition. Members showed their appreciation in the usual way. Members were invited to join the evening ringing, which continued for a short while.

## **KCACR Canterbury District Striking Competition**

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The 2025 Striking Competition will be held on  
Saturday 10th May  
at **Waltham**

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.

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](mailto: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**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May** 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](mailto:namesfortea@gmail.com) by **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May** to book tea.

*Isobel Legg*

*KCACR Canterbury District Assistant Secretary*

### **KCACR Canterbury District Striking Competition Rules**

(Adopted at the ADM in October 1990, amended at the ADM in October 1999 and further amended in October 2006).

1. The competition shall be held annually within the District at a location and on a date to be decided by the District Committee and shall be subject to the following rules.
2. The Competition shall be organised by the Assistant District Secretary in consultation with the District Committee.
3. The object of the competition is to improve the standard of striking through friendly competition between bands representing towers in the District in union with the Kent County Association of Change Ringers.
4. All members taking part shall be members of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers and regular Sunday service ringers at the tower they represent.
5. Bands shall be named on the entry form provided by the Assistant District Secretary, although not necessarily in the order of ringing in the test piece.
6. No ringer may ring more than once or represent more than one tower in the same competition.
7. A draw for the order of the bands competing shall be made by the leaders of each band before the competition, bands to be known by numbers only not by name. No two bands shall be in the ringing chamber at the same time. A steward shall be in the tower for the better observance of these rules and shall see that the bells are raised and rung beforehand.
8. Each band shall be allowed one continuous period of two minutes for a trial round of changes at the end of which the bells shall be set. A whole pull is to be rung on the treble to indicate to the judge(s) that the band is ready and the test piece will then commence and continue to its end without break.
9. Subject to any alteration arising from the application of rule 10 the test piece shall consist of either 240 changes of doubles on five or six bells or 240 changes of minor or, if the band entered is incapable of ringing changes (to a reasonable standard to be determined by the District Committee), the equivalent length of call changes, in which case there must be at least 24 different changes at regular intervals with at least five working bells.

10. The competition organiser may halve the length of the test piece stated in rule 9 if a) More than 8 teams have entered the competition or 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 120 changes of their test piece and any marked rounds. Any band ringing call changes shall only be required to have 12 different changes at regular intervals with at least five working bells.
11. The first 10 whole pulls of rounds in the test piece shall not be marked. All faults in subsequent rounds and changes shall be penalised and the competition judged on the total number of faults recorded subject to any adjustment allowed under rule 10.
12. Any band failing to complete the test piece shall be disqualified.
13. There shall be one or two judges, preferably independent of the District, who shall know only the numbers of the bands competing. Their decision shall be final, subject to the observance of these rules, and the judge(s) shall give the results and comments at the meeting following the competition.
14. The Frank Knight Cup will be awarded, with a certificate, to the winning tower, who will be responsible for its safe keeping. It shall be returned in a clean condition to the Honorary District Secretary before the next competition or after a period of one year if no competition is held within that period.
15. The decision of the District Committee as to the interpretation and observance of these rules shall be final and binding on all parties. Such decisions shall be by a simple majority of the Committee present and voting.

## **The Editor's Competition success ...**

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On the topic of competitions, for those interested in hearing the organ piece I wrote, 'Versetts on *Lucis Creator*', which came joint runner-up in Blackburn Cathedral's 2025 Lent Composition Competition, you can find its first performance here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBPkaEEafac&t=4833s> (or find Blackburn Cathedral's Youtube channel, then 'Eucharist Service on the Third Sunday of Lent', starting at 1hr:16:56. I travelled there to hear it played on 23 March and enjoyed a complimentary lunch.

# Quarter Peals

Quarter peals rung from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 were as follows:

Date	Dedication	Place	Time	Changes	Method	Conductor
3.1.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	47m	1260	Grandsire Triples	Mark Chittenden-Pile
3.1.2025	St Dunstan	Canterbury	42m	1260	Doubles (6m)	Mark Chittenden-Pile
3.1.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	43m	1260	Plain Bob Triples	Mark Chittenden-Pile
3.1.2025	St Peter and St Paul	Ospringe	45m	1296	Little Bob Major	Adam Moore
4.1.2025	St Peter and St Paul	Ospringe		1440	Spiced Surprise Major (8m)	Andrew M Hills
5.1.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	39m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Michael Little
5.1.2025	St Dunstan	Canterbury	43m	1260	Plain Bob Minor	Andrew M Hills
5.1.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Jane E Huxley
9.1.2025	Holy Cross	Goodnestone	40m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Claire Stay
12.1.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	55m	1320	Grandsire Cinques	Mark Chittenden-Pile
12.1.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (6m/p)	Andrew M Hills
15.1.2025	St James	Sheldwich	42m	1260	Charlotte Bob Triples	Andrew J Corby
17.1.2025	St Alphege	Whitstable	36m	1260	Doubles (5m)	Claire Stay
19.1.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Mind the Stay Doubles	Tim Attridge
19.1.2025	St Dunstan	Canterbury	42m	1272	Kent Treble Bob Minor	Andrew M Hills
19.1.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	39m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Claire Stay
19.1.2025	St Saviour	Westgate-on-Sea		1320	Cambridge Surprise Minor	Graham N Scott
25.1.2025	St Mary Magdalene	Monkton	42m	1260	Mixed Doubles (3m)	Claire Stay
25.1.2025	St Nicholas	Sturry	42m	1260	Doubles (4p/m)	Leonard A Huckstep
26.1.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	37m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Tim Attridge
26.1.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury		1289	Stedman Caters	Andrew M Hills
28.1.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Tim Attridge
30.1.2025	Holy Cross	Goodnestone	40m	1260	Doubles (11m/v/p)	Jane E Huxley
1.2.2025	St Peter and St Paul	Ospringe	46m	1280	Yorkshire Surprise Major	Andrew J Corby
2.2.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Tim Attridge
2.2.2025	St Dunstan	Canterbury	45m	1320	Kent Treble Bob Minor	Andrew M Hills
2.2.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	42m	1260	Stedman Triples	Thomas Hooley
7.2.2025	St Peter and St Paul	Ospringe	44m	1296	Cambridge Surprise Minor	Adam Moore
8.2.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Squashed Tomatoes Doubles	Tim Attridge
9.2.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	39m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Tim Attridge
9.2.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	52m	1282	Cambridge Surprise Royal	Andrew J Corby
9.2.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	40m	1289	Doubles (12m/v/p)	Andrew M Hills
16.2.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Janani Doubles	Tim Attridge
16.2.2025	St Dunstan	Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (11m/v/p)	Andrew M Hills
16.2.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (8m/v/p)	Jane E Huxley
19.2.2025	St James	Sheldwich		1260	St Giles Bob Triples	Andrew J Corby
20.2.2025	St Mary the Virgin	Chislet	45m	1260	Mixed Doubles (3m)	Claire Stay
21.2.2025	St Mary the Virgin	Chislet	46m	1320	Double Court Bob Minor	Mark Chittenden-Pile
21.2.2025	St Vincent	Littlebourne	45m	1260	Double Bob Minor	Mark Chittenden-Pile

21.2.2025	St Nicholas	St Nicholas-at-Wade	47m	1260	Double Oxford Bob Minor	Mark Chittenden-Pile
23.2.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Doubles (1m/4v)	Tim Attridge
23.2.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	50m	1276	Grandsire Cinques	Mark Chittenden-Pile
23.2.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	39m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Jane E Huxley
27.2.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury		1259	Grandsire Caters	Andrew M Hills
27.2.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	47m	1260	Grandsire Triples	Andrew J Corby
28.2.2025	St Mary	Chilham	46m	1288	Grandsire Triples	Adam Moore
1.3.2025	St Michael	Hernhill	45m	1344	Spliced Surprise Major (3m)	Andrew M Hills
1.3.2025	St Laurence	St Laurence-in-Thamet	53m	1260	Plain Bob Doubles	Freda Parker
2.3.2025	St Dunstan	Canterbury	42m	1260	Doubles (6m/v/p)	Andrew M Hills
2.3.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	45m	1260	Grandsire Triples	Paul N Davis
2.3.2025	St Peter and St Paul	Ospringe	45m	1320	Cambridge Surprise Minor	Stuart C Palin
3.3.2025	St Nicholas	Sturry	44m	1260	Doubles (4p/m)	Leonard A Huckstep
7.3.2025	St Peter and St Paul	Ospringe	48m	1344	Plain Bob Major	Adam Moore
8.3.2025	St Mary the Virgin	Chislet	44m	1260	Grandsire Doubles	Leonard A Huckstep
9.3.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	39m	1280	Plain Bob Doubles	Tim Attridge
9.3.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	53m	1313	Erin Cinques	Andrew M Hills
9.3.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	39m	1260	Doubles (10m/v/p)	Leonard A Huckstep
11.3.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Mixed Doubles (9m/v/p)	Claire Stay
16.3.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	The Crow Folk Doubles	Tim Attridge
16.3.2025	St Dunstan	Canterbury	44m	1260	Plain Bob Minor	Andrew M Hills
16.3.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	41m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Jane E Huxley
16.3.2025	St Peter the Apostle	St Peter-in-Thamet	45m	1320	Plain Bob Doubles	Charlie Satchwell
19.3.2025	St James	Sheldwich	43m	1260	St Helena Bob Triples	Andrew J Corby
20.3.2025	St Peter	Bekesbourne	41m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Leonard A Huckstep
20.3.2025	St Mary of Charity	Faversham	48m	1280	Cambridge Surprise Major	Andrew J Corby
23.3.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	39m	1260	Hemingway Doubles	Tim Attridge
23.3.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	84m	2025	Stedman Caters	Andrew M Hills
23.3.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	40m	1260	Doubles (4m/p)	Cathryn M Hills
25.5.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	39m	1260	Julie Francis Doubles	Tim Attridge
26.5.2025	St Nicholas	Sturry	40m	1260	Doubles (4p/m)	Leonard A Huckstep
29.3.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	50m	1259	Grandsire Caters	Andrew M Hills
30.3.2025	All Saints	Birchington-on-Sea	38m	1260	Stak Doubles	Tim Attridge
30.3.2025	St Stephen	Hackington, Canterbury	38m	1260	Doubles (3m)	Jane E Huxley
30.3.2025	St Laurence	St Laurence-in-Thamet	50m	1260	Plain Bob Triples	Simon Friend

## Peals

Date	Dedication	Place	Duration	Changes	Method	Conductor
15.3.2025	St Mary of Charity	Faversham	3h 1m	5040	Syndale Farm Surprise Royal	Stephen Coaker
8.2.2025	Cathedral Church of Christ	Canterbury	3h 37m	5040	Spliced Surprise Major (8m)	John B Keeler
12.2.2025	St Mary the Virgin	Chislet	3h 8m	5040	Surprise Minor (29m)	Peter G C Ellis



## Safeguarding Summary

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### Summary of current Church of England requirements for Safeguarding Training, Safer Recruitment and DBS Checks



*At the last meeting of the District Committee, it was felt that a summary of the current requirements for Safeguarding Training and DBS Checks for bell ringers in the Diocese of Canterbury would be helpful (since with the exception of Quex Park, all of the towers in the KCACR Canterbury District are Diocese of Canterbury churches). None of this could be described as “new” information, as the Church of England’s current safeguarding framework has been in force since January 2022, but hopefully anyone who is unsure of what the current requirements actually are will find the answers here.*

### Safeguarding Training

At a national level, the Church of England **mandatorily** requires all adult ringers to complete the lowest level of training – “**Basic Awareness**”. In the Diocese of Canterbury’s guidance, the phrase “established ringers” is used, so a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) will require that all adult ringers who ring at their church on a frequent basis have completed Basic Awareness.

Again at a national level, anyone involved with the training of under-18s and/or vulnerable adults is additionally **mandatorily** required to complete the next level of training – “**Foundations**”.

Both “Basic Awareness” and “Foundations” are online courses which take approximately an hour to complete and are accessed through the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal, found here:

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> This site is free to use – new users will need to create a new account, after which they will be able to log on to their individual profile whenever they wish. When a safeguarding course has been completed, the certificate of completion will be available to download at any time from the site.

So much for national requirements – any additional training requirements depend on the safeguarding policy of individual dioceses, so what is further required varies from place to place. In common with some other dioceses (including the neighbouring Diocese of Rochester), the Diocese of Canterbury requires all Tower Captains/Ringing Masters to further complete the next stage of training – “**Leadership**”. “Leadership” training is run over two sessions of 90 minutes each, one or two weeks apart, customarily delivered using Zoom, and there is also some written work to be submitted before and after the course. The Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal is used to book “Leadership” training.

In addition to the core training pathway (Step 1 – Basic Awareness, Step 2 – Foundations, Step 3 – Leadership), Tower Captains/Ringing Masters in the Diocese of Canterbury are also required to complete the specific issue-based

course “**Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse**”. Similar to “Basic Awareness” and “Foundations”, this course takes about an hour to complete and is accessed through the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal.

Training must be renewed **every three years**. On completing training for the first time, people should first complete “Basic Awareness”, and then subsequent courses in order up to the level required by their role, but when training comes up for renewal, they only need to renew their training at the **highest level they have previously completed**. For example, if someone has completed “Basic Awareness”, “Foundations” and “Leadership”, they only need to renew their “Leadership” training every three years rather than all three levels (“Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse” sits outside the core pathway and will need to be renewed separately). A useful diagram produced by the Diocese of Canterbury showing who in a church needs to complete what training can be found at the end of this article.

Every ringer should share their course completion certificates with the PSO(s) at every church they ring at regularly. As certificates are available to download from the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal at any time, the simplest way of keeping your PSO(s) informed is to download and email your certificates to them, after which they should be able to remind you when your training comes up for renewal. As certificates are available to download at any time, there is obviously no need to complete courses multiple times for different churches.

Training customarily takes place online, but **in-person** training sessions have been arranged to cater for people for whom online training is not possible. If any ringers at your tower are in this position, please speak to your local PSO to investigate the possibility of arranging local in-person training. Your local PSO should also be consulted about any other queries relating to safeguarding training, including in relation to possible exemptions from completing training – obviously there may be legitimate reasons for some adult ringers to be exempted from standard requirements – for example, if they are a vulnerable adult as a result of a medical condition. If there are adult members of your band who you feel may qualify for an exemption from completing required safeguarding training, this should be discussed with your PSO, who will in all likelihood need to consult the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) regarding the validity of any exemption. The KCACR Safeguarding Officer, currently Emma Jarvis, can also advise on safeguarding matters specifically related to bell ringing (email: [safeguarding@kcacr.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kcacr.org.uk))

## **Safer Recruitment and DBS Checks**

Tower Captains/Ringing Masters and those involved with training under-18s and/or vulnerable adults are required to be safely recruited in line with their responsibilities to train under-18s and/or vulnerable adults and/or manage those who do, in accordance with the Church of England **Safer Recruitment Guidance**. Anyone new in such a role must go through the Safer Recruitment process. However, those already in post do not need to go through the process retrospectively. The arrangement of a check on a person’s criminal record, any information held on them by police forces and on the Children’s and Adults Barred Lists by the **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)** is part of Safer Recruitment. The Barred Lists contain details of individuals prohibited from working with children or vulnerable adults due to past offending.

The Diocese of Canterbury requires that anyone involved with training under-18s and/or vulnerable adults holds an up-to-date Enhanced DBS Check with Barred List Check. Tower Captains/Ringing Masters are also required to hold an up-to-date Enhanced DBS Check – if training of under-18s and/or vulnerable adults takes place at their tower this is required to be an Enhanced DBS Check with Barred List Check. Each parish has a Parish Disclosure Officer (PDO) who

arranges DBS checks – they may or may not also be the PSO. As with safeguarding training, checks need to be renewed **every three years**. Anyone with prior experience of DBS checks will know that they are not generally transferable from one setting to another, so a DBS check that a person holds for work purposes will not generally cover another aspect of their activities, such as an activity like bell ringing taking place in a church, so it is likely that in such circumstances a check specific to that would need to be arranged.

## Final Thoughts

Depending on the visitor policies of individual local churches, the possibility exists that **you may be asked to confirm your status as regards safeguarding training certificates and DBS checks held** before you visit, so it is as well to be informed what is expected both nationally and locally. I hope that this article may answer any questions that people may have on this subject, but if anyone is unsure about anything they should consult their local PSO, or the KCACR Safeguarding Officer if appropriate. Any concerns anyone may have about the safeguarding of any child or vulnerable adult in a church setting should of course be immediately conveyed to the local PSO, or the police if there is a risk of immediate harm.

*Benjamin Legg*

*KCACR Canterbury District Chairman*

Role	Basic Awareness	Foundation	Leadership	Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse	Safer Recruitment and People Management
Incumbents and clergy, including those with PtO*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (for those involved with recruitment)
Licensed Lay Ministers, e.g. Readers and ALMs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Parish workers with children/vulnerable adults (paid or volunteer)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Leaders/Supervisors of work with children/vulnerable adults (paid or volunteer)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Parish Safeguarding Officers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Churchwardens	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
PCC Members	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Tower Captains and Choir Leaders	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Anyone else involved in the recruitment of employees and volunteers	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Roles within the church and/or ministry working alongside children and vulnerable adults; e.g. welcomers, homegroup leaders, organists, adult bell ringers, choir and worship band members.	Yes	No	No	No	No

- Clergy or readers with PtO who only lead occasional services may opt for the PtO Pathway instead of the Leadership Pathway.

This is a guide only. Your context may differ from this. For example, if an organist directly teaches young people or vulnerable adults, they will need to train at a higher level than stated above.



Congratulations to the following winners of the prize draws this year:

**January 2025**

1st	Felicity Lewis (No. 55)	£25
2nd	Andy Brett (No. 4)	£15
3rd	Pat Miller (No. 62)	£10

**March 2025**

1st	Susan Record (No. 76)	£25
2nd	Jane Huxley (No 19)	£15
3rd	Freda Parker (No. 31)	£10

**February 2025**

1st	Ash Tower (No. 50)	£25
2nd	Janet Davies (No. 66)	£15
3rd	Mary Mannings (No. 6)	£10

If you have any questions regarding the 120 Club or would like to join in the fun please e-mail me at [canterbury120club@kcacr.org.uk](mailto:canterbury120club@kcacr.org.uk)

Thank you for your continued support & good luck to all for the forthcoming draws.

Maureen Cooke

KCACR Canterbury District 120 Club Administrator

## Canterbury District Officers

The Officers of the Canterbury District currently stand as follows:

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



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

### Ring Out in Celebration – VE Day 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025



On 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, bells rang out across the nation in celebration of Victory in Europe Day. Ringers across the country are invited to celebrate the 80th anniversary of this momentous event by ringing at **6:30pm** on 8<sup>th</sup> May this year, as part of the wider commemorations of the end of World War II in Europe. Although 6:30pm is the advertised time for national ringing, if you are unable to arrange ringing at your tower for that time, please feel free to ring at a time that is more convenient for you locally. For more information about the VE Day 80 Celebrations please visit <https://ve80.com/> VE Day ringing can be uploaded to BellBoard here: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=19733ard>



## District Ringing – Looking Forward (April-June 2025)

A fairly short outline of upcoming District Practices this time. A number of problems at different towers has combined with a lack of responses from others to seed some chaos in our planning. We are grateful to all those who have updated us on circumstances at their towers and provided quick responses to our enquiries.

**As always, we would really like to hear from members about what sort of practices would help them in developing their ringing or allow them to brush up on underused skills.**

Following the damage to the treble at St Peter-in-Thamet the April **District Surprise Major Practice** has moved to **Margate**.

The County 8-bell Competition on 21-Jun-2025 has selected **Double Norwich Court Bob Major** as the test piece. As this is not rung regularly we want to include the method in this Surprise Major Practice to give candidates for our District Band an opportunity to practice. Cathryn Hills has kindly volunteered to organise the band and practices for this event as both the District Ringing Masters are unable to attend.

In May we are aiming to run a **Stedman Triples Practice**, which we were planning to hold at Lyminge – unfortunately work being done in the church means the bells are not being rung until at least May. We are grateful to St Laurence in Thanet for offering to host the event for us. While the date will remain as 17<sup>th</sup> May the time will be 14:00 to 15:30.

We have looked at the diary for June and there are a number of other District and County events already planned for June. We have therefore decided to postpone the June District Practice.

Looking further ahead a **District Surprise Major Practice** is being planned for 26th July– but we have not established a venue yet. We are exploring the possibility of incorporating **Surprise Minor** into the Practice as a step into Surprise Major.

### Forthcoming District Practices

Date	Tower	Focus
26-Apr-2025 19:30-21:00	Margate (8)	Surprise Major (and Double Norwich Court Bob Major)
17-May-2025 14:00 – 15:30	St Laurence in Thanet(8)	Stedman Triples
June-25	Postponed	Advanced/Rarer Doubles Methods
26-Jul-2025 19:30-21:00	TBC (8)	Surprise Major/Surprise Minor

Stuart Palin & Jim Attwood, Canterbury District Ringing Masters

email: [CanterburyRingingMaster@kcacr.org.uk](mailto:CanterburyRingingMaster@kcacr.org.uk)

## **Forthcoming Events**

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### **Association Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting**

Hosted by the **Tonbridge District** on **Easter Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April** at **Sevenoaks**. Service at 12:00 noon, followed by a period for lunch. Annual General Meeting at 2:00pm, followed by an Extraordinary General Meeting. For agendas, ringing routes etc., see the KCACR website: <https://kcacr.org.uk/association/agm/>

### **District Surprise Major Practice**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April** at **Margate**, 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. Double Norwich Court Bob Major will also be rung in preparation for the KCACR Inter-District 8-bell Striking Competition. 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](mailto:canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk)). A tower donation of £1 per attendee is requested.

### **District Striking Competition**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May** at **Waltham**. 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](mailto:isobellegg@hotmail.com); telephone: 01227 264203) to enter, and email [namesfortea@gmail.com](mailto:namesfortea@gmail.com) to book tea, by Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

### **District Stedman Triples Practice**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May** at **St Laurence-in-Thamet**, from 2:00 to 3:30pm. For more information, please contact the Ringing Masters (email: [canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk](mailto:canterburyringingmaster@kcacr.org.uk)). A tower donation of £1 per attendee is requested.

### **Bye Meeting**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June** at **Deal**. 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](mailto:namesfortea@gmail.com) by Wednesday 11th June to book tea.

### **Quarterly Meeting**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 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](mailto:namesfortea@gmail.com) by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July to book tea.

### **Future plans – hold the date!**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August** District Outing

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August** Quex BBQ