



## Editor's Foreword – *Andy Clark*

Thank you for the contributions to this third edition of the quarterly branch newsletter. Despite a relatively lean inbox a few weeks ago, this has proved to be something of a bumper edition!

If you've got an idea for an upcoming article, it'd be great to hear it, so please email me direct at [c72ad@aol.com](mailto:c72ad@aol.com), or via Barbara.

Finally, please see the table below for some key upcoming dates. Barbara recently emailed the programme for the year, but for these newsletters, I'll just focus on the next 3-4 months, so as not to bombard you with dates. Please keep checking the branch website though in case some of these details change closer to the time. As you can see, plenty to look forward to in the year ahead, including Cheltenham hosting one of the 12-bell eliminators in March, which Liz has written about later in the newsletter.

Date	Location	Time	Notes
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Winchcombe	19:30-21:00	Branch Practice
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Colesbourne	14:30-15:30	For the Snowdrop Festival
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Barnwood	10:00	Branch Officer Meeting
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Cirencester	All day	G&B Spring Training Day
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Alderton	19:30-21:00	6-bell Practice
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Cheltenham Minster	All day	12-bell Eliminator
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	TBC	10:00	Core 7 Practice
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Bristol Rural Branch	All day	Croome Trophy, Penn Trophy and Association AGM

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## Leckhampton (and friends) Trip to the Isle of Wight (29<sup>th</sup> September → 2<sup>nd</sup> October) – *Chris Hickey*

For our first weekend away since covid, we ventured further afield to the Isle of Wight. Some chose to go a few days early to walk and sightsee, and others stayed on afterwards. So, many of us had a full week on the island. It is a great place to visit, with good walking, beaches, and lots of interesting places, such as The Needles, Carisbrooke Castle, Osborne House and the National Trust gardens at Mottistone Manor.

Ringling began on Thursday afternoon at Freshwater, after a pub lunch in the village. We rang a variety of methods plus rounds and call changes for the learners. We had ringers of all ages and abilities on the outing. Different ringers were in charge at each tower, to keep things fresh and to give plenty of variety. After Freshwater, we rang the light eight at Brighstone and then the even lighter six (6cwt) at Shorwell. We finished the day at a good Italian restaurant in Ventnor (Amarcord).

The second day dawned bright and clear and we began with the challenging (for us!) heavy eight at Ryde. The bells went well for their weight and we were rewarded with delicious homemade shortcake provided by the local ringers. Our youngest participant, William (aged 3), enjoyed this very much! We moved on to



the lovely ten at Carisbrooke where we managed to ring Yorkshire Royal, with a little help from the local ringers and Colin & Nicola Turner who coincidentally were also on the Island. This was followed by lunch at The Blacksmiths Arms, then on to the twelve at Newport. Super bells, which we rang to the best of our ability – more Yorkshire Royal and Stedman Caters. This was followed by two lovely light sixes, Whitwell and Chale, then dinner at the Wight Mouse Inn and a welcome early night. The afternoon / evening was very wet and windy and Keith was glad that he had accepted the offer of a lift, rather than use his motorbike that day!

We started the next day at Brading, where the near-vertical ladder proved interesting – the best way down was to use the steps above as hand holds, whilst ensuring that the person above you wasn't too close (no one likes trapped fingers!). Arreton were a lovely light six and whilst there we rang Arreton Treble Place Minor, which was fun to ring and a bit different from our usual repertoire. After a tasty lunch at The Dairyman's Daughter at Arreton Barns we rang the challenging eight at Shanklin. There is a fair amount of tower and frame movement and as a result a few of the bells have interesting characteristics. Two light and pleasant sixes followed at Godshill and Niton. In the evening we rang on Martin Hough's impressive twelve bell mini ring, which he installed in his garage. For some of the band it was their first try on a mini ring – Bob and Keith coped particularly well. We then tried for a quarter of Grandsire Triples but a missed sally led to its demise. However, we very much enjoyed the experience.

On the final day we rang at various towers for Sunday service. A huge thanks to Stuart who arranged all the towers and meals.



Left to right: Harry Stephenson, Gilly Whittingham, Bob Peters, Malcolm Ware, Chris Hickey, Keith Reading, Pat Hickey, Catherine Heathcote, Mike Hartley, Paula Ware, Steve Newlands, Barbara Pettit, Stuart Tomlinson, William, Anna Bayley, Philip Pratt





## 12-Bell Striking Competition Eliminator – *Liz Coke*

You may have heard of the 12-Bell Striking Competition that is held in June every year. This year's final is in Sheffield, but to whittle down the entries there are three eliminator contests. One of those contests was supposed to be at St Stephen's, Bristol, but unfortunately they have major building work in March 2023. In June 2022 the Cheltenham Minster band were asked if they would be prepared to host the eliminator and we said yes.

The date is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March and there will be six visiting teams: Birmingham, Bristol, Chilcompton, Exeter, Southwark and Towcester. It seemed a shame not to take advantage of the competition being at our own tower so there will be a Cheltenham District team as well. The draw on the day is at 11:00 in the church and then the teams will ring the test piece, starting on the hour and the half hour.

Each team will have a chance to come and practice at the Minster in the six weeks before the practice and I am busy arranging the dates and times for these now.

I do know that Birmingham will be practicing at 10:30 on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March and they will be worth listening to as they have won many of the competitions.

This will be the third time we have hosted an eliminator. The previous times were in 1986, when Hugh Evans remembers washing up all day, and in 2008 when I remember that it rained all day. In 1986 Hugh's daughter, Elizabeth, was a baby and this year she is the competition secretary!

It is a really exciting time for Cheltenham ringing and I hope to get an article in the Echo and perhaps speak to someone on Radio Gloucestershire. All will be welcome to come and listen to some first class bell ringing.





## Calling Call Changes including 60 on 3rds – *Simon Ridley*

Are call changes the preserve of beginners? Poor man's change ringing? Of lesser value than methods? Certainly not! Anyone lucky enough to have heard the Devon call change band competitions will know that the standard of their ringing is extremely high – often putting our more "advanced" ringing to shame.

I recently had the opportunity to hear one of the winning Devon call changes bands and asked what they valued most in their performance. In summary, they said:

*"In call changes the sole focus is the striking, nothing more nothing less".*

*"In call changes the best ringer is not the best mathematician, or who can ring the heaviest bell, but the person who can strike most accurately".*

*"In call changes success is not about individual achievement, but the quality of your output as a team".*

For bands who aspire to be better perhaps we might do well to borrow a leaf from our Devonshire friends' book? The recent resurgence of Devon call change ringing has led to considerably more resources being made available for bands outside of that area to learn about what they do, and I would like to commend to you one particular piece of ringing – 60 on 3rds. We have been ringing this at St Mark's for some time now, usually for weddings and it has proven popular with the band - particularly as it gives the opportunity for less experienced ringers to be able to ring at a high standard without needing to know any methods.

This performance is often used for the Devon call changes test piece and lasting around 20 minutes, is perfect for weddings, services and as a slightly longer focus piece in practice. An abbreviated performance of it can be heard here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3geYzeys1\\_k&t=95s&ab\\_channel=RyanTrout](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3geYzeys1_k&t=95s&ab_channel=RyanTrout)

- Raise the bells
- Call the bells into Queens
- Call the treble up to the back
- Move the 3rd up one place (over the 5th)
- Call the treble back down to lead
- Move the 3rd up another place (over the 2nd)
- Continue alternately moving the treble to the other end of the change and calling the 3rd up one position until the 3rd is at the back, then start moving 5, then 2, then 4 up to the back in the same way, calling the treble to the other end of the change each time, until Queen reappears
- Call back into rounds and lower the bells

Calls are usually made every other handstroke and you may find it easiest to call from the treble. The result is a musical and enjoyable piece of ringing.

For those wanting to know more about Devon call changes there are additional resources (including alternative touches on 6 and 8 bells) on P17 of the Ringing World Diary and also at <https://ddec1-0-en-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.ringing.info%2fplp%2fheatonweb%5fccpeals.htm&umid=54bd9985-8ee3-4454-9942-26c081f00081&auth=0cdf0a686ae810bda994ce6c467eae3a8395b7e5-f19b8520359ae6fa3cc2a3e14ce054741c2207dd>

Try it! I challenge any band who regard call changes as easy or boring, to ring this to the standard in the recording.



## Didbrook Bells – *Simon Ridley*

In 2015 the bells of Stanway, Gloucestershire were restored and augmented, transforming a badly out of tune, tough going ring of four into an attractive ring of five. The greatest benefit came to those who receive the full power of the bells on the village green and, far from complaints, the new sound piqued interest in the contents of the tower. It was perhaps inevitable, then, that with regular ringing re-established in Stanway, interest should turn to one of its sister churches in nearby Didbrook.

For many years, Didbrook was owned by Hailes Abbey, just half a mile away. Hailes was founded in 1246 by Richard, Brother of Henry III, who in 1270 returned from Rome bringing with him part of the “Relic of the Holy Blood” accompanied with the Pope’s certificate of authenticity. As a result, Hailes became a major centre of pilgrimage, bringing with it significant wealth.

There was almost certainly a church at Didbrook by the mid-13th century, although this may have been partly destroyed during a massacre following the Battle of Tewkesbury on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1471. It is alleged that at the conclusion of the battle, retreating Lancastrian soldiers took refuge in the church only to be followed and murdered by advancing Yorkist troops. Legend has it that the holes in the west door were made by musket balls fired during the siege. The veracity of this story is questionable and the holes in the west door are equally likely to have been made with more modern ammunition.

Certainly, by the time William Whitchurch (a monk at Hailes Abbey) became Vicar of Didbrook in 1471, the church was in a ruinous condition. Whitchurch oversaw a considerable restoration and designed the distinctive “engaged” tower at the West end of the building, the works completing in 1475. Despite further restorations, most notably in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the church retains many of its period features – the pews could be 16<sup>th</sup> century, the pulpit and sounding board 17<sup>th</sup> century, while the communion rails erected under the influence of Archbishop Laud (beheaded 1645) were in part due to his efforts to “keep dogges out of the sanctuary”.

The west tower is quite unusual in its design, being built inside the west end of the nave, and not projecting from it. Uniquely, while the north and south walls are supported on internal arches, the eastern wall is supported by a cross between a flying buttress and an arch spanning the entire width of the church. No other church has such an arrangement.

The first known ring of bells at Didbrook were supplied by Bagley in 1706, along with a wooden frame. Parts of this frame would appear to have been reused from other applications (as was commonplace at the time). Despite this, it was of solid construction and is still fit for use today. Little is known of any ringing on the four original bells, the ropes of which fell in a straight line, anti-clockwise and inches from the north wall of the tower.

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 1911, John Taylor inspected these bells at the request of the Vicar, Rev W D Stanton, who is noted in the report to be “a very old man, also Vicar of Toddington”. Taylor noted the 3<sup>rd</sup> bell to be cracked and the harmonics of the ring to be wild, and recommended the bells be recast and augmented, particularly as there was “plenty of room for a tenor”. Within months Taylors had been commissioned to recast the old four and add a new bell, augmenting the ring to five. The resulting bells were an attractive sounding ring and a joy to listen to outside.

However, the installation was never ideal and from the outset the bells were challenging to ring and beset by what might now be described as health and safety hazards. Taylor’s installation reused the sturdy (anticlockwise) 1706 bell frame and installed an additional pit for a tenor bell across its side, creating a good rope circle. However, due to the design of the tower an upstairs ringing room was impractical and so





the ropes were dropped in the aisle, around the only door in and out of the building. To avoid injuring unwary congregation, the ropes were heavily drawn in the middle room and then down the north wall into the church with virtually no guides. Ironically, the resulting handling made it more likely that a congregation member may be caught up in the ringing, as handstrokes were a fairly haphazard affair, even for the most competent handlers. I suspect that this unhappy arrangement was thought of by a local committee after the installation, as the rollers used to draw the ropes were not of Taylor's design.

Only one peal was initially rung on these bells, in 1914, and if there was a local band, there are no surviving records of them. It would appear there was little ringing on the bells until the Second World War when, in 1939, the Kerr-Sander Secretarial Training College was evacuated from London and Stanway Manor became the lodging for some 88 staff, students and domestic staff.

Some of the ladies from this college were ringers and, while resident in Didbrook, established a lady's band, aiming to ring for VE day. This band, although returning to London after the war, did teach some local ringers, who also rang at Stanway (then a ring of four) and Toddington (a ring of six). One member of this band, Douglas Vellender, also did some further teaching prior to his move to East Garston. There are records that the bells were rung for Easter, Christmas, and other events but never for service – perhaps due to the hazards presented by doing so.

However, by the 1970s there was no longer regular ringing at Didbrook, and the bells fell silent save for the occasional ring by visitors or more latterly, a visiting peal band.

By 2016 the condition of the tower was also beginning to cause concern: it was clear from the ground that considerable repointing was needed and even clearer from the bell chamber – in several places you could see through the walls where the mortar was missing. When it rained, a small river of water ran through the stairwell walls and down the steps in such quantities that the steps had eroded, and a layer of slippery green weed was growing from the treads. Years of significant water ingress had also caused considerable damage internally – the floor under the bells was rotten, the woodwork of the bell installation was badly damaged, the ironwork was rusting, and the floor of the sound chamber was, in parts, missing. The bells and tower were in danger of becoming unringable.



Although Didbrook is a small, picturesque Cotswold village, it is owned nearly in its entirety by the Stanway estate, the properties being let at social housing rates. Funding was tight and the PCC was wary of undertaking any major building works. However, an offer for the local ringers to fundraise and project

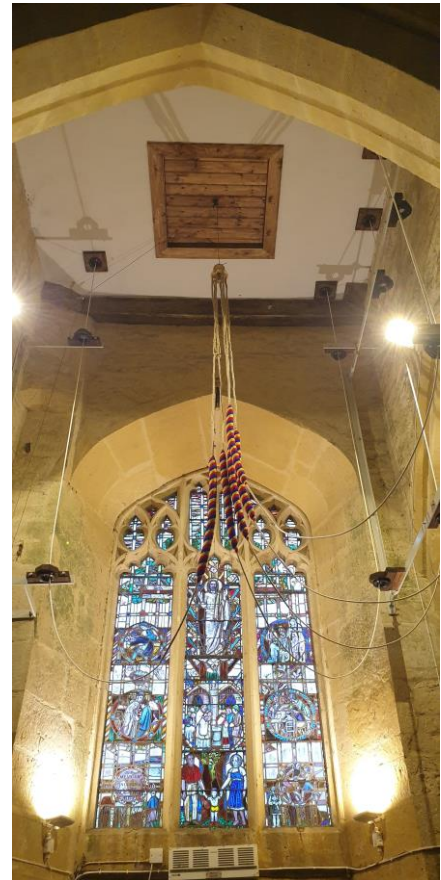


manage a tower restoration on their behalf was met with cautious acceptance, driven in part by the success of Stanway earlier that year.

Progress was initially slow, faculty and architects absorbing several years of planning, and it was not until 2019 that full permission was granted and fundraising really got underway. By 2020 funds were in place to undertake a complete repointing of the tower and the installation of electric lighting. The tower steps, by this stage nearly 75% worn in places, were re-cut with new stone inserted. A local ringer undertook restoration of the badly damaged lattice work from the louvers, 'gale breaker' waterproofing membrane was installed, and the rotten floors were repaired and rebuilt by a volunteer team. For the first time in many years, the tower was dry and the odd smell, always a feature of ringing here, was gone.

Late 2021 saw the dismantling of the bell installation by volunteers under the supervision of Blyth and Co. and in 2022 the bells were re-hung in the existing frame, on new and refurbished fittings. Critically, the long-standing handling problems and bell-hangs were corrected, the rope draws were put into an arc, proper double guides were installed, and the internal acoustics were addressed. Avon ropes have supplied rope with Dyneema tops – this being considerably lighter than both Terelyne and natural tops and so having less effect on the handling of the lighter bells.

The bells now sound wonderful outside and handle extremely well, and both ringers and congregation feel safe when ringing for service. We are delighted with the instrument we now have at our disposal. The church are also delighted not only with their bells, but with the back of their church now being dry and properly lit.



It goes without saying that restoration works do not happen without very significant gifts of time and expertise from volunteers. The parish would like to thank Malcolm Taylor, Nick Hopkins, Mike Seagrave, Becca Meyer, Ray Talbot, Simon Dann, Roy Williams, Simon Edmonds, and the Ecclesiastical Insurance Volunteer Team for their extensive assistance during the restoration.

Restorations also do not happen without significant financial gifts. In the case of Didbrook this is particularly significant – the total project cost has been £75,000, raised nearly entirely through grants and gifts, in a village of just 120 souls. We are particularly indebted to the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers including the Cheltenham branch thereof, The Wolfson Foundation in association with Churchcare, Allchurches Trust, The Langtree Trust, Barron Bell Trust, The Four Shires Guild, and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

Also our personal donors: The 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Wemyss and March, Jillian Mann, Richard Clarke, Hilda Ridley, Matthew Berry, Ann Jessop, Cara Capewell and those who gave through Just Giving or gave anonymously. The community are extremely proud of their bells and wish for them to be rung as often as possible. If you would like to visit, please contact [didbrookbells@gmail.com](mailto:didbrookbells@gmail.com) or visit [www.didbrookbells.org.uk](http://www.didbrookbells.org.uk). The bells were rededicated on 8<sup>th</sup> May and we now welcome all visiting bands.



## Cheltenham Branch AGM – *Andy Clark*

Please note that Barbara Pettit has circulated the full minutes of the meeting via email, seeking any observations or comments.

By way of summary, however, the meeting of the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November in St Lawrence Church, Swindon Village. 17 members were present at the AGM plus the Association Chairman and Secretary. Ringing at 15:30 was followed by a service at 16:30 taken by Revd Nick Bromfield and then sandwiches, cake and tea. Thanks to the local band for providing the refreshments.

The minutes of the previous, 2021, meeting were accepted.

With no new nominations for branch officers, all existing officers were re-elected - with Richard Knight as Chairman, Stuart Tomlinson as Ringing Master, Cara Capewell as Deputy Ringing Master, Harry Stephenson as Treasurer, Barbara Pettit as Secretary and John Irving as Management Committee Rep. Congratulations to all on their re-appointment and hard work over the 12 months prior.

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## The 'Bicycle Ring on Tour' at St Christopher's Church Fair – *Reg Hitchings*

We had a very successful day at the Church Fair (10<sup>th</sup> December). 25 people came and had a go on the Bicycle Ring on Tour and we may have attracted two ringers who saw the advert on Social media and came along on the day. Now to start the learner process with the hope of getting them advanced enough to ring on 6<sup>th</sup> May next year. Thank you to our existing band who came along to help.







## **The treble bobbing sessions – *Cara Capewell***

These were punctuated by feelings of guilt – for a start, rather than throwing open to the branch, I had four people in mind, and they suggested four more, which was plenty. I was aiming for four sessions, with two or three students in each, giving one main session each and an extra for some. I also decided to run them all rather than bother arranging other leaders.

### **Session 1: The Minster**

Someone had to pull out at short notice, so I offered an extra place to Jaquie from Prestbury, mostly because I was feeling guilty that she'd made the effort to come to a previous branch practice I ran, where I had utterly failed to give her any kind of prime ring.

We did lots of trebling to various surprise minor methods and ended by tackling some major also. We also managed to fit in Chris from Winchcombe for handling practice and Paula from Leckhampton for raising / lowering and following another bell. The Minster is great for this and we had the dumbbell in use for most of the time. Big shout out to Reg and Isabel, Mike Seagrave and Tony Foster for taking turns to support this.

### **Session 2: Badgeworth**

Again, plenty of trebling to surprise minor and some Kent. Everyone finds it harder to hunt down than up – to practice that on its own, I thought it would be a good exercise to start from back rounds and everyone treble bob hunt back to rounds but it turns out nobody liked that idea much! We also tried some Forward, which is like treble bob hunt but everyone makes Kent-style places in 34, which makes it not false. It's also fun to shout "Go Forward"!

### **Session 3: Leckhampton**

Alison and Graham from Childswickham were specifically after practice on eight, and luckily were able to manage the bouncy treble just fine – meaning I didn't have to turn to Plan B, which was to start from the row 32145678, thus making the 3<sup>rd</sup> the treble and the treble 3rds place bell. Shame, I feel sure the helpers would have loved that!

We rang almost the entire session with the tenor up wrong, it refused to double clapper but I did twig there was something amiss when people kept pulling it off too quickly – normally the opposite will happen as it's quite deep set.

### **Session 4: Minster**

For some reason I thought I would have trouble getting helpers for this, so we decided to market it as a Core 7 Surprise Major practice. This was so successful that we went with that, and as the steadiest student, Alison was the only learner treble invited, and did very well indeed. Stuart helped me run it as I'd had a horrible cold and was in a mask. We had lots of fun ringing all the Core 7 including some 4-spliced (didn't quite get all of them round though, and I'm annoyed that I splatted out the London by trying to put an extra 4ths and lead in, Royal style). We're planning to hold a few more branch Core 7 practices later in the year.

Everyone did very well and I think made big improvements and those that seem ready for it have been offered quarter peals at Leckhampton for further development. Big thank you to all the helpers – you did a fabulous job.

Coming up, fingers crossed, eight Saturday Sessions in a row for Plain Hunt and ropesight (plus handlers on the side).



I have the following towers and dates booked. Places are going fast so please shout if you'd like one!

Date	Location
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Cheltenham Minster
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Leckhampton
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Cheltenham Minster
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Childswickham
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Cheltenham Minster
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Childswickham
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Badgeworth
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Woolstone

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## Notable Performances during 2022

Here's a selection of the more notable performances from 2022, either in the Cheltenham Branch geography or involving our ringers going elsewhere.

<b>Ypres, Belgium</b> St George Saturday, 28 May 2022 in 43m (6–1–11 in B) 1260 Grandsire Triples  1 Simon J Ridley 2 Andrew D Meyer 3 Jeremy D Alford 4 Simon S Meyer (C) 5 Susan P Meyer 6 Rebecca L Meyer 7 Sandra Y Alford 8 Claire A Searle  Remembering the parishioners of Shipley who gave their lives in the First World War	<b>Cheltenham, Gloucestershire</b> Minster Church of St Mary Sunday, 13 November 2022 (7–2–18 in Bb) 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major  1 Andra Knight 2 Mike Hartley 3 Chris Hickey 4 Mike Seagrave 5 Pat Hickey 6 Cara Capewell 7 Tony Foster 8 Richard Knight (C)  1st of Surprise - 1
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### Leckhampton, Gloucestershire

St Peter

Sunday, 30 January 2022 (9–1–14 in Ab)

1260 Stedman Triples

- 1 Pat Hickey
- 2 Barbara Pettit
- 3 Sue Drinkwater
- 4 Malcolm Taylor
- 5 Hilda Ridley
- 6 Stuart Tomlinson
- 7 Bernard Taylor (C)
- 8 Chris Hickey

2,000th quarter peal at Leckhampton since the major rehousing in 1972 (new frame, fittings and five new / recast bells)



The first quarter was rung on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1972 – Stedman Triples, with Bernard, Hilda and Malcolm in the band and ringing the same bells. The rest of the band are current Leckhampton ringers

### Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

The Abbeyfold Ring

Friday, 8 July 2022 (1lb 1oz in A)

1260 11m Doubles

60 Grandsire, 120 each of Plain Bob, St Simon's, St Martins, St Osmund, Eynesbury, Reverse Canterbury, St Nicholas, Winchendon Place, St Remigius and Huntley

- 1 Isabel Hitchings
- 2 Cara Capewell
- 3 Reg Hitchings (C)
- 4 Harry Stephenson
- 5 Stuart Tomlinson
- 6 Richard Lewis-Skeath

1<sup>st</sup> quarter on the bells

### Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

The Abbeyfold Ring

Friday, 2 December 2022 in 23m (1lb 1oz in A)

1260 Gretton Cheltenham Bob Minor

- 1 Steve Bowley
- 2 Isabel Hitchings
- 3 Harry Stephenson
- 4 Barbara Pettit
- 5 Cara Capewell
- 6 Reg Hitchings (C)

Believed to be the 1<sup>st</sup> blows in the method. pn  
34.14.1256.1236.1234.56,12

If this is correct the band wish to name it 'Gretton Cheltenham Bob Minor'. Gretton is a village North of Cheltenham. Christ Church Gretton contains a single bell (4-0-0) hung for full circle ringing.

1200<sup>th</sup> quarter as conductor (total 2,454)





### **A Winter Wonderland – *Becca Meyer / Andy Clark***

And to finish, something a little different! The snowfall on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December offered the opportunity to photograph some of our churches in a different light. Thanks to Becca for the photographs of Stanway and Tewkesbury Abbey, and to Andy for the photograph of St Mark's Cheltenham, when the snow was still coming down thick and fast. In Cheltenham, it was not until the following Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup>, that the snow fully melted and the grass became green again!





