



## Editor's Foreword – *Andy Clark*

Hi everyone and welcome to our second newsletter of 2025. Q2 is traditionally one of the busier newsletters, with this edition following that trend.

You will note that we have been able to include the full obituary of Liz Coke, replicating that which was published in the Ringing World. Alongside Liz's obituary, we have reports from a number of ringing tours, both overseas and closer to home, plus several striking competitions. The notices section seems to grow with each edition and I hope you find this information useful.

Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute, and finally from me, my standard request (sorry!) – while Barbara won't email for contributions for the Q3 newsletter until early October, I'll happily take any contributions well ahead of that, so don't feel you have to wait for the prompt. Finally *finally*, a couple of key dates for you below.

Date	Location	Time	Notes
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Leckhampton	16:30 onwards	Branch Striking Competition for the Banner and Cleeve Trophies
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Bishops Cleeve	15:00 onwards	Branch ringing, short service and AGM, followed by a ringers' tea

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## Branch Chairman's Welcome – *Mike Hartley*

Greetings everyone,

The three months since the last newsletter seem to have passed very quickly. As ever, it's been another busy time for bellringing. I hope you've been enjoying or coping with the hot weather.

### Training

Our Training Officer, Cara Davies, has run more training sessions for less experienced ringers, focussing on Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles, and raising and lowering. These continue to be popular and enjoyed by all. Sessions for the rest of the year are of course advertised on the Cheltenham Branch website (see link in the footnote). Do please contact Cara if you have a particular training need.

### 'Pot Luck' Striking Competition

As part of the training programme, Cara also organised a 'Pot Luck' striking competition. This event has been in gestation for a couple of years, following a suggestion from Pat Halls, who had been involved in similar events in Derbyshire. I won't steal the thunder from Andy's article describing the event later in this newsletter. Suffice to say, it was a great success. Thanks to Cara for organising, to all who took part, and to Winchcombe for hosting. I do hope 'Pot Luck' competitions become a regular feature of our branch programme.

### Cheltenham Branch Committee Tower Visits

As mentioned in the last newsletter, branch committee officers have a rota to visit all towers with practices at least twice during the year to provide support and capture needs. During the past three months we've been made most welcome by Bishop's Cleeve, Charlton Kings, Prestbury and Winchcombe.



Visiting towers in pairs is the best way, we think, of being helpful and enabling a decent number of visits in the year. A branch ringer not on the committee recently offered to join our rota. A further volunteer would be much appreciated and would enable us to increase the number of visits. In practice, the commitment amounts to attending another tower's practice night every other month. Please contact a member of the committee if you're able to help.

### **VE and VJ Day Commemoration**

It was nice to see that so many towers were able to ring on or around 8<sup>th</sup> May to commemorate VE Day. It was also good to see so much general ringing across the branch posted on BellBoard, in addition to peals and quarter peals. There is a short article later in the newsletter on the VE Day ringing at Bishop's Cleeve.

Looking ahead, 15<sup>th</sup> of August is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day. VJ Day has generally been less widely commemorated than VE Day, so please mark the anniversary with some ringing if you can.

### **Beyond 8-Bell Ringing**

A Cheltenham District team took part in this year's Tewkesbury Shield 10-bell striking competition on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Cheltenham District came a creditable fourth out of nine, behind strong performances by teams from Birmingham, Bristol and Sussex. If you're interested in developing your ringing to a higher number of bells, a good way to progress would be by attending Cheltenham Minster's first Thursday of the month beyond 8-bell practice as often as you can.

### **Recruitment Portal**

A few weeks ago, on behalf of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, the G&B Association sought volunteers across the branch to act as points of contact for a new recruitment 'portal'. This forms part of the CCCBR's Ringing 2030 initiative. As I understand it, the portal will include a central (CCCBR) website so that people anywhere can express an interest in learning to ring and be put in touch with contacts nearest to where they live. I don't know yet when the portal will become operational, and time will tell how many people living in the Cheltenham area inquire through it. What I do know is that, realistically, individual towers can take on only one or two recruits at a time, and that if interest generated by the portal becomes significant, some form of central branch training might need to be offered. Until we know more about how this will work, Cara (as Training Officer) and I (as temporary back-up) will be the Cheltenham Branch points of contact.

### **Looking Ahead**

In addition to the aforementioned training sessions, our annual striking competition for the Banner and Cleeve Trophies will be hosted by Leckhampton on 20<sup>th</sup> September. It's planned to have a bring-and-share supper in the Leckhampton Cottages after the competition to which all branch members will be invited, whether or not they ring in the competition. If you'd like more information on the Banner and Cleeve trophies, please refer to the branch website.

### **Thank You**

As ever, my grateful thanks to all branch members, whether you discharge formal roles, ring for Sunday services, support practices and commit time to developing your ringing skills. In particular, I'd like to single out Stuart Tomlinson for the work he has done voluntarily to paint bell frames in various towers in all seasons and weathers across the region. Currently, he's painting Winchcombe's bell frame. Thank you, Stuart.

Best wishes, Mike



## **Elizabeth A Coke (nee Glasow) (17-4-1954 to 8-3-2025) – David Coke & Tony Cox**

Liz went to her usual Pilates class on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March and then returned home to cook and enjoy a fish lunch with her husband David. Later that afternoon she felt unwell and retired to bed. During the night her condition deteriorated and she was rushed into hospital. Despite the best efforts of the doctors she passed away around lunch time the following day from sepsis and suspected meningitis. Her sudden death was a great shock to all who knew her and a great loss to ringing in Cheltenham where she was the Tower Captain.

Liz's mother, Margaret, was a vicar's daughter living in Grantham, Lincolnshire, and met Liz's father Glen when he was stationed nearby with the American forces towards the end of the war. She became a 'GI Bride' and moved to the States where Liz and her sister Victoria were born. Tragically Glen died when Liz was just three and Margaret and the two girls returned to live with their granny in Devon. Liz's school years were spent in Devon with regular dancing lessons and many evenings spent Scottish country dancing.

Liz went to secretarial college after leaving school and learnt to handle a bell at Whimble in Devon, before moving to Bristol to take up a secretarial position. She initially stayed at the YWCA and it was there that she discovered two other ringers, Janet Parker and Cynthia Wells, and they soon moved into a flat together where they were collectively known as the Three Wise Virgins. Liz joined the City Centre ringing in Bristol at St Stephen's and was taken under the wing of the late Albert Tyler; he remodelled her ringing technique to the neat and precise style that served her well for 50 years.

Ringing in Bristol was on an upward curve from the mid 70s and as Liz gained more experience she became an integral part of the Bristol band which scored many firsts in that period. Liz's first peal was the treble to Grandsire Triples at Bristol Cathedral in late 1973 and she rang three peals of Cinques at St Stephen's Bristol in 1974. From there her ringing career really took off and by late of 1975 she had rung in a Ladies peal of Cambridge Royal at Christ Church, Bristol, and inside to Cambridge Maximus in what was the first peal of Maximus by a Ladies band at St Stephen's, Bristol. Peal ringing was a large part of Liz's life through the late 70s and early 80s with regular peals at the Bristol city centre towers and trips out to conquer many of the challenging eights in Somerset. She was also a highly-efficient secretary for the St Stephen's and Christ Church bands in Bristol.

Liz was elected a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths in 1979 and greatly valued her membership of that Society, ringing 47 peals for them over the years. She rang in a number of ground-breaking Ladies peals: including both Cambridge Royal and Maximus in 1975 as mentioned previously. Other Ladies peals included London Royal, Stedman Cinques at Redcliffe, 10080 Evesham Surprise Major at Hungerford, the first Ladies long length, and 10440 of Pudsey Surprise Royal at Lydney, the first Ladies long length of Royal, both these also being record lengths in their methods. In the last year Liz was part of a band organised by Liz Evans to ring peals with ladies whose first name was Elizabeth and they accomplished the first 12-bell peal by a female band all sharing the same first name at Cheltenham last November and also rang an 8-bell peal in London in which all the ringers had the Christian names: Elizabeth Anne.

In total Liz rang 517 peals, over two thirds while living in Bristol. Her leading towers were all in Bristol, 73 at the Cathedral, 51 at St Stephen's and 41 at Christ Church. Her leading Associations were the Gloucester and Bristol with 238 and the Bath and Wells with 115. Liz was an accomplished ringer on all numbers of bells and a high proportion of her peals were rung on higher numbers: 136 on 10 bells and 127 on 12. Liz



rang in the Bristol team in five finals of the National 12-bell Ringing Competition between 1978 and 1983, with a best result of 4<sup>th</sup> place at High Wycombe in 1981.

Liz met her husband to be, David, a non-ringer, in 1982, and they got engaged in early 1984 with a peal of Glasow Surprise Major (Glasow was Liz's maiden name) being rung at Bristol Cathedral to celebrate the occasion. They married in 1984. David's work for the Midland bank (now HSBC) then took them away from Bristol, first to Sheffield, then to Brighton where their daughter Alex was born and then on to Maidstone. In each place Liz joined the local band and was made very welcome and contributed greatly to the local ringing scene. In 1999 David was posted to Thailand to a senior post at the HSBC operation in Bangkok. Liz was extremely pleased that she couldn't get a work permit for Thailand and joked that she became an 'expat lady who lunches'. This was rather unfair, as she threw herself into amateur dramatics with the Bangkok Community Theatre which regularly performed at the British Club. The family returned to Maidstone in late 2001 but their stay in Maidstone was quite short and they found what was to be their permanent home in Cheltenham.

Liz joined the band to St Mary's, soon to become Cheltenham Minster, but also helped to support ringing at St Mark's. St Mary's had at that time a lumpy, poor-toned ring of 12 bells with a struggling band. There had been talk for sometime about rehanging or replacing the bells but little progress had been made. In 2004 Liz was elected Tower Captain; she had had little experience of running ringing but having rung with strong bands throughout the country instinctively knew what was needed to maintain and strengthen the band. The social side and interpersonal skills being as important as organising the ringing and these are areas where Liz excelled; so in the time Liz was in charge the band grew in strength until it was able to enter the National 12-bell competition in 2023 and 2024, coming 4<sup>th</sup> equal on their own bells in an eliminator in 2023 and the following year 5<sup>th</sup> out of nine and beating the York Minster band in another eliminator at Portsmouth. Liz was to have been in the Cheltenham team at this year's qualifier.

After much discussion within the Minster band a motion was passed in 2012 that they should go for a complete new ring of bells and this was approved by the PCC the following year. As Tower Captain Liz took on the task of driving through the project which would cost in the region of £330,000. Liz organised the official launch of the bell appeal with the Mayor of Cheltenham in attendance and, no doubt with David's help, advice and encouragement, spent many hours researching grant giving bodies and writing applications as well as talking to likely donors. By 2017 most of the money had been raised or promised and John Taylor & Co cast the new bells, a ring of 12 with a sharp 2<sup>nd</sup> to provide a light eight. The bells are all inscribed with names. No 2 is 'Margaret' donated by Liz in memory of her mother. No 3 is 'Elizabeth' donated jointly by Liz and David. In addition to the new bells, the belfry was completely refurbished to provide an ideal ringing environment. The first quarter peal on the bells was rung in October 2017 and they are now recognised as one of the best light twelves in the country. This ring will be a lasting legacy to Liz and without her dedication and commitment it is unlikely Cheltenham would possess the fine ring it has today.

In addition to ringing, travel was a big part in Liz and David's lives. A year after their wedding Liz took David to the States to meet her American relatives and for many years they enjoyed holidays with their close friends Tony and Bec Cox - in the times before children, then summers with our families as they grew up, and then in recent years, just the four of us again. Extensive travel while based in Bangkok fostered the development of a wonderlust with regular long haul adventures over the years. In the last two years alone they visited Sri Lanka, India, Northern Thailand and Japan as well as a range of UK and European destinations. To celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Liz's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday last year they returned to Venice, where they had spent both their honeymoon and their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



Liz was also fully engaged with the local community, volunteering at the Minster, and the Cheltenham Jazz and Literature Festivals where she thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team, the whole experience of helping to set up and take down events and also meeting and greeting the visitors and writers. She also enjoyed weekly pilates and dance classes. She was also on the board responsible for the upkeep of their estate.

During her working career Liz had secretarial and personal assistant roles at a variety of offices, charities and companies. In Cheltenham she worked for a local training company until she retired.

The excellent ring of bells now at Cheltenham Minster will remain a reminder of Liz. A legacy to the ringers, to the fabric of this wonderful church, and also to the town of Cheltenham. May she rest in Peace after a life well lived.







## USA 2025 – *Isobel Murphy*

The USA has witnessed some momentous events this year and in the future, 'USA 2025' may become synonymous with significant changes in the geopolitical landscape. While this ringing tour cannot claim to have a similar impact, it is notable as being the first quarter peal tour by UK ringers since 2019.

With an equal gender split, there were 16 ringers in four cars, for the entire fortnight. During the first weekend, two ringers based in the US joined us, as well as one dedicated grabber, who flew out from the UK. Our common connection is Reg Hitchings from Cheltenham, who had dedicated many hours over the previous 18 months to the detailed planning that ensured the success of the tour. We met in Miami on 11<sup>th</sup> March, either directly from the UK, or from other parts of the US, and parted company in Houston on 25<sup>th</sup> March, with some returning home immediately, while others extended their holiday.

As can be seen from the list of quarters scored, the area covered was extensive, involving an internal flight and between 2,830 and 2,976 miles by car, depending on whether diversions were made to explore points of interest near the route. Driving times were generous with scope for plenty of breaks. Toll roads were avoided with the Interstates providing relatively relaxed and fast driving conditions. Stress came from some of the city freeways, with multiple interchanges and exits, which required split second timing, but these were the exception. Our bed and breakfast accommodation, in mid-range motels, was successful and we are all now able to offer advice on the best chain to choose. Only the end of tour dinner in Houston was booked, but if time permitted we ate together most evenings, and were sometimes joined by the local ringers.

The scope of the tour delivered a firsthand view of the diverse nature of the USA and challenged many preconceptions. In terms of weather, we went from the humidity of Miami and Charleston, through hours of torrential rain and threats of tornadoes, to near-freezing temperatures in North Carolina, to more temperate conditions in Alabama and Tennessee, before experiencing the dry heat and high temperatures of Texas. Never has air conditioning been so crucial to comfort whilst ringing a quarter. Our interest was also sparked by a wide variety of birds, wildlife, flora, fauna, livestock and crops. Crossing states demonstrated the economic inequalities at play behind the divisions within the country. Many rural communities we passed through were akin to ghost towns, with boarded shops and dilapidated houses, in sharp contrast to the shiny city skyscrapers. The successful presidential candidates were still being promoted on flags, roadside billboards and cars but the people we spoke to seemed as incredulous as the rest of the world at the outcome.

Nineteen towers were visited and, with two exceptions, we were enthusiastically greeted by the local ringers, and in many instances the local clergy. They stayed with us for the duration of our visits and were keen to engage us in conversations about ringing, recruitment, training, their trips to the UK and their contacts there. In Miami, our quarters were the first time the bells had been rung full circle since 2019. The joy of Father Jason, his staff, and his chiming team, at the bells sounding out over the parish, was palpable. Through the whole tour the kindness and hospitality offered by the local ringers was extensive and most welcome. Real lemonade waiting at the completion of quarters is a tradition that should be initiated in the UK.

For the most part, the bells were lighter than those of our home towers. Maintenance checks were carried out at Miami and Abilene, as neither had been rung for over five years, but no serious issues were uncovered. None of the bells were difficult to ring but, as can be expected, we all had our individual favourites. When time allowed, two quarters were rung at each tower, giving those not involved an



opportunity to explore the local area if they wished. In total 31 quarters were attempted, ranging from Plain Bob Triples to Bristol Surprise Major, and 29 were scored.

The experiences, memories and friendships made will live with us all and be the source of tales for months and years to come. Our sincere thanks to Reg for all his hard work and the stresses he bore on our behalf, before and during the tour. If you are a ringer who enjoys driving and experiencing new places and cultures, you should consider joining a similar tour in the future.







## St Peter's Leckhampton Bellringers Outing – *Paula Ware*

As well as the challenge of ringing on different bells, one of the joys of a bellringing outing is visiting very different churches and 'bagging' another tower. This is what 16 members of St Peter's Leckhampton band and friends enjoyed on a sunny Saturday in April.

Expertly organised by Gilly Whittingham, the mix of learners and very experienced ringers rang a range of methods – from rounds and call changes to Surprise Major at five towers, all with very good bells. They enjoyed an excellent pub lunch at The Beaufort Arms in Hawkesbury too.

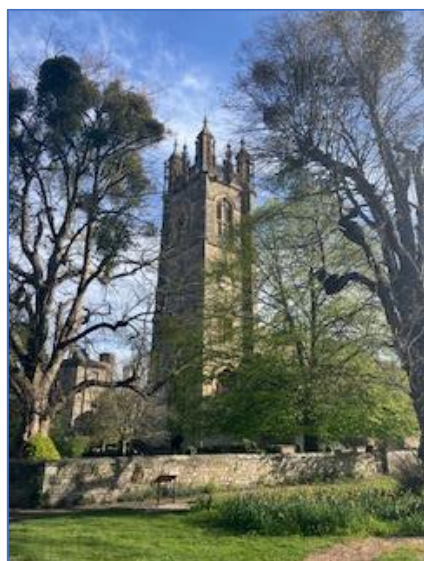
First stop was St Mary's Thornbury (see left photograph) where the myriad of ladybirds in the bell tower were entertained by ringing on the eight bells. One of several historical boards in the ringing room celebrated the broadcast of these bells by the BBC on all programmes on Christmas Day 1946.

They then moved on to St Mary's Olveston, initially needing strong people to raise the eight bells – especially the tenor which at 18cwt, is considerably heavier than the 9cwt tenor at St Peter's. The bells on plain bearings have not been rehung since 1907 but rang well.

After lunch, another St Mary's – this time at Hawkesbury (see right photograph), with not so many steps to climb to the recently installed ringing floor on a gallery level overlooking the church. A very different experience on a new ring of eight bells on a steel frame. Installed in 2021, the first peal being rang there in January 2022 for the feast of St Wulfstan. Ringing here was Richard While's 150<sup>th</sup> tower. Although the new Hawkesbury Bells were designed by Matthew Higby and Co, based on a modern English profile, unusually they were cast in Milan, Italy, by Emanuele Allanconi.

Holy Trinity Church at Wickwar was next with six bells and a small octagonal ringing room. In recognition of the area Wells Surprise was rung. St Andrew's Cromhall, the final stop, had thirty nine steps up to a smaller ringing room with six bells, the heaviest being 12 cwt. Here Gilly Whittingham celebrated ringing at her 100<sup>th</sup> tower.

Special thanks to all the towers for such a warm welcome and sharing their knowledge of the bells and their church history. It all added to a full (09:30 – 17:45) and memorable day.







## VE Day Ringing – *Andy Clark*

Thank you to Ann Jessop for highlighting the VE Day Ringing at Bishop's Cleeve, with details in the panel below and a band photograph. Some of the band also rang at nearby Woolstone. Please see BellBoard for several other performances from the Cheltenham Branch from that day.

### **Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire**

St Michael and All Angels

Thursday, 8 May 2025 (19–2–21 in Eb)

General Ringing

Rounds and Call Changes

Ann Jessop

Angela Hill

Brian Chappell

David Lewis

Mark Burt

Mike Seagrave

Pam Davies

Richard Johnstone

Sarah Galvin

Rung to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day





## Pot Luck Striking Competition – *Andy Clark*

Time for something a bit different...

At the 2023 Branch AGM, Pat Halls suggested the branch consider a striking competition where those taking part are randomly drawn into teams, and everyone marks everyone, rather than the more traditional format of people arriving in pre-determined teams with a specific individual already assigned to judge. This followed a similar event from Pat's previous stamping ground in Derbyshire.

Fast forward to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, at a sunny, albeit slightly chilly, Winchcombe, where Cara had arranged for the Cheltenham branch to give this new format a try. Just under 20 branch ringers (including a couple from the wider G&B) joined in – see group photo below – with a wide range of abilities. At the outset of the session, those present were randomly drawn into four teams, with team captains assigned, so a handful of ringers found themselves in two bands just to ensure that everyone who wanted to be, could be, part of a band.



Following up to five minutes of practice time, the test piece was 120 call changes, with a minimum of 12 calls, but there were no restrictions on what call changes were needed, so it was up to each conductor to plot their way through the test piece.

While each team rang, everyone else was downstairs in the church marking the ringing, with marks deducted for clashes (either one point for a 'clash' or half a point for a more minor 'trip') but awarded for





very clean rows. Winchcombe is well set up for this, as the bells are very audible in the church, so it was no problem hearing the bells, unlike some churches where it can take several attempts to find an appropriate spot where you can hear the bells sufficiently without it being so loud as to be uncomfortable!

Once all four teams had rung, the group took a break for tea and cake. All very civilised! Then it was onto the results, with resident mathematician Andrew Haynes reading out the final scores. Suffice to say that there were quite a wide range of scores, with Andrew reading out the minimum, average and maximum for each team, but the main thing was that each marker was consistent with their own style of scoring.

On the day, first prize went to Team C, ably captained by Andrew Haynes. Also in this band was Lewis Rooke who has been ringing for less than 12 months. So a big well done to that team, but in particular to Lewis, who rang the tenor and maintained a steady beat throughout the test piece and undoubtedly made a big contribution to the team. The winning band is pictured below.

Onto some short reflections on the event from my own perspective. I have been lucky to ring in quite a few striking competitions over the years, but like a lot of people, the very prospect of knowing that people are judging my ringing tends to make me a little nervous, but also not necessarily bring out the best of my ringing ability ('overthink' mode gets enabled?!). This format was very relaxed however, so I walked into the belfry without feeling burdened in any way.

My other reflection is that although fairly challenging, it was very enjoyable to mark the ringing, and it certainly provides the opportunity to reflect on the relative merits of different pieces of ringing. For some teams, there seemed to be some weaker points throughout, particularly when away from rounds and the bigger bells had been called towards the front of the change, but for others, the test piece was largely clean but with a few points dropped for specific clashes, which were often quickly recovered so didn't result in too many faults being incurred.





Final reflection, I promise, but of the nearly 20 people there, I probably knew about half, so as a chance to mix and meet some new ringers, it's definitely an event worth doing.

There is already talk of repeating this event next year, so please keep your eyes peeled. Thanks to Cara for arranging the event and coordinating everything on the day, but also to Pat for her initial suggestion.

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### **2025 Youth Striking Contest – *Jacob Coates (18 years old)***

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July, I took part in the Ringing World National Youth Contest in Birmingham, as part of the G&B Call Change Team. It was a very exciting and rewarding experience, and a great way to grab five new towers.

I have been ringing for three years now, and part of the Youth Team for around a year. This has been particularly helpful in improving my striking, which has improved significantly through the training I have had there. The Youth Team has also given me a great opportunity to ring at a large variety of churches I wouldn't normally have rung at, such as Tetbury, Cirencester and St Mark's in Cheltenham.

We had a final training session in Bisley the weekend before the competition, where Ian Bucknell and Roger Haynes explained to us what would happen and finalised the team. I was honoured to be chosen early on in the afternoon, which was testament to how well my striking has improved. Then, after an excellent outing in Dorset with my home Leckhampton tower, it was time to head to Birmingham.

The day started with a visit to Moseley, an easy-going 10-bell tower. Then I went to 12-bell Solihull tower, where I rang the 14 cwt 11, unusual for me coming from a light tower. Finally it was time to go to Erdington for lunch and the test piece.

By quarter past one, the ringing chamber had got very warm. It was also quite small and the ropes of 3, 4 & 5 were very close together, making it an interesting experience. But after adjusting rope lengths, we were able to get into a comfortable rhythm. The performance went well, with no clashes or mistakes. We were very pleased with our performance and were greeted with a well-deserved round of applause afterwards.

With the main part of the day out of the way, we were able to relax, but still had two more open towers to ring at. We were very fortunate to ring on all 16 bells in St Martin's, and it was a very different experience to ringing on just six bells before. We also went to St Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter, which was another nice ring.

We were very pleased with the result of joint 4<sup>th</sup> place. The team's thanks go to Ian, Carole (Bucknell) and Roger for giving so much time to the youth team, and all other adults and supporters that have helped us.





## Branch Notices – All

### Deaths

We were sorry to hear of the loss of Reverend Peter Newing, well known to many in the Cheltenham Branch. Peter's burial service was held at St Michael, Brimpsfield, on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June, which included ringing. A memorial service then followed at St Mary the Virgin, Painswick, also with ringing.

### Save the Date for the Central Council AGM Weekend (5-7<sup>th</sup> September)

The 2025 Central Council AGM weekend takes place in Yorkshire from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and this year includes a roadshow on the Sunday, supported by trades and exhibitors, speakers and ringing opportunities.



The weekend programme is open to all ringers and the full programme will be published in due course. Keep an eye on the CCCBR website and social media for updates. The AGM and roadshow will take place at the Niagara Conference Centre, Niagara Road, Sheffield, with other events being staged in Sheffield city centre.

### Babies, toddlers and children – Advice from Ecclesiastical Insurance

Ecclesiastical fully support the introduction of young people to ringing, with the hope that this might stimulate an interest to learn to ring when they are able. Young people in the tower are under the management of their guardians. As the tower captain or ringing master has delegated authority to act on behalf of the PCC, they therefore have the authority and jurisdiction to ask for young people to be removed if they are causing a danger to the ringers or themselves.

Junior ringers should be suitably experienced or be in the process of being taught to ring. It should be at the discretion of the ringing master as to whether or not a child is suitable to learn. Ecclesiastical do not dictate a minimum age to ring. At least one responsible adult other than the ringing master (e.g. the parent or guardian of one of the children present, or another experienced adult ringer) should be present when children are in the bell tower. A record may be maintained of each junior ringer's instruction and training, and their level of competence. Best practice CCCBR guidance should be observed at all times.

See <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/documents/bell-ringing.pdf> for further guidance.

### Bicycle Ring on Tour – This September

The Bicycle Ring on Tour, owned by Reg & Isabel Hitchings, has a number of outings this year, including a recruitment drive by the Cirencester Branch in the Abbey Gardens on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and the CCCBR in Sheffield on 7<sup>th</sup> September (details above).

### Bell Ringing Flags!

There are now promotional flags available to use at ringing events that ringers in the Association are organising. There are four flags available of slightly differing designs.



The four new flags had their debut at the National Call Change Striking competition at Coaley on 7<sup>th</sup> June and the blue one is shown in this photograph taken by Simon Linford. G&B members wanting to borrow these flags to help promote ringing events, should initially contact the Association Secretary regarding their availability.

