

NEWSLETTER

NEXT EVENTS

DISTRICT EVENING PRACTICE

Thursday 26 August Brentwood 7.30pm

DISTRICT SURPRISE PRACTICE

Thursday 16 September SOUTH WEALD 7.30pm

DISTRICT MEETING

Saturday 18 September 3pm HUTTON

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday 2 October

DISTRICT AFTERNOON PRACTICE

Saturday 16 October South Benfleet 3-5pm

CALL CHANGE COMPETITION & MEETING

Saturday 20 November Orsett 2.30pm start

St Mary Magdalene, North Ockendon

This church stands to the west of the village. The building is Norman, with a fine south doorway with columns.

The north aisle and north chancel chapel are later, of the Early English period. The piers vary in date and style; two bays have a circular 13th century pier, and the north chancel chapel has a quatrefoil pier of the Perpendicular style. The east arch is 15th century, as is the chancel arch.

There are numerous monuments to the Poyntz family, who were lords of the manor from about 1350. There are brasses and a fine alabaster tomb chest, with effigies of Sir Gabriel Poyntz and wife (1607) perhaps carved by Gerard Johnson, a famous Dutch sculptor.

Also to be noted is a 13th century stained glass window of a female saint (St. Helen?); and the pulpit, probably 17th century.



*6 bells, tenor 9-2-21 cwt. Anti-clockwise, ground floor
Practice night: Monday 7:30-9:00pm (excluding BH)*

CONTACTS

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Hello Everyone!

This is just a reminder that as part of our fundraising for the repair of our handbells, Bentley St. Paul's are trying to encourage visiting bands to come to Bentley and Navestock to ring quarter peals, donating £5 a rope. We have had some bands who have come and kindly donated and for this we thank them. Is there anyone else out there who would like to visit?

Rowena Marshall

Surprise Major Practice South Weald

September 16th 7.30pm

If you'd like to ring some surprise come along to this practice - basic methods rung and for this practice the special method is Bristol, plus splicing Yorkshire and Cambridge. All levels welcome. Please note the church car park WILL be open until after the practice.

MUSICAL HANDBELL TEAM



Can you read music?

Are you over 18 years?

Would you like to play a musical instrument that is different?

Learn to ring as part of a team on a 5 octave set of handbells.

Tuesday evenings at Crowstone Christian Centre

(Crowstone St George's URC),
Westcliff-on-sea.

For more information, contact John or Sue Tipping.

Tel: 01702 433910

E-mail:
bells@johnandsue.org.uk

Web: www.anythinggoes.org.uk

A Message from our Master

A lot has happened since our last District newsletter. The Association AGM was held at Chelmsford Cathedral, where a motion to amend our membership criteria was narrowly passed. Our district striking competition was held at Shenfield, and was won by Langdon Hills ringing Canvey Island Surprise Minor... definitely the first, and possibly the last, time this method had been rung in a competition! In the EACR striking competition finals, Langdon Hills came 6th and Prittlewell 7th, while the 8 bell team came second. Many of you rang quarter peals during our sponsored quarter peal fortnight, helping to raise over £200 for the South Ockendon bell project... Fr Philip is very grateful for the money and there were a number of firsts; I'll never forget ringing at Basildon in a temperature of 36.5 celsius!

Our district outing was very enjoyable, and we were made very welcome at all the towers we visited. I know several towers have also had outings, and I'm sure you enjoyed visiting other churches and ringing on their bells. We have also had several groups visiting our district, and I hope you have all made them welcome in our own towers.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer, and look forward to seeing you at district events in the autumn.
John Harpole

Unusual Bells Downunder May 2010

Whilst on a trip to visit our family in Sydney, Australia I had some time to kill waiting for Margaret so I wandered around the Darlinghurst area of the city and came across St. John's church, a small Victorian Gothic structure which boasted a ring of bells. I made further enquiries and was introduced to Laurie Alexander who is the Church Caretaker and Bellringer. By this time Margaret had joined me and Laurie kindly offered us a guided tour of the tower and belfry. What a surprise awaited.

The tower was quite slender and the staircase wound its way up into a compact ringing chamber. What met our eyes was not the usual circle of ropes and sallies but a frame housing 13 or so ropes for chiming bells. Each rope had its musical notation displayed so that the ringer could play tunes, rather like a chiming console.

We ventured further up the tower into the belfry where once again we did not see what we were expecting. Rather than conventional bells, there was a very large iron frame into which were mounted tubular bells like a glockenspiel. The largest tube was over 8 ft. long. Each bell had a hammer mechanism to which was attached the rope from the frame below. The whole installation was made in Coventry by Harrington's of Earlsdon (originally Harrington & Latham) in 1888 and installed in their present position one year later. Laurie has a register of similar installations all over the world so I challenged him to find some in the Chelmsford Diocese. His research quickly revealed that there are two, one at Bulphan and the other at Brightlingsea.

Laurie is a total enthusiast and has rung the bells there for several years and taught many others to use the installation. He rings them every Sunday and for weddings but rings hymn tunes rather than rounds or methods (he claims to know about 150 hymn tunes). He has recently started to ring on conventional bells at another tower in the Sydney area and is making good progress.

If you would like to see Laurie performing on the bells then log onto <http://www.youtube.com/lauriealex>.

Chris Bailey (Brentwood)

District Outing by John Harpole

St Paul's, Langleybury

This year, the district outing was to Hertfordshire on Saturday June 12th, and was enjoyed by about 25 members and friends.

We started at Ridge and South Mimms, just off the M25, before driving in to St Albans. A gap in the itinerary meant that most were able to enjoy a welcome cup of coffee in the city centre, before ringing on the glorious 10 of St Peter's. We all went our different ways for lunch, with some opting for burger and chips, while others enjoyed a picnic or had a traditional pub lunch.

The three afternoon towers of Langleybury, King's Langley and Abbots Langley were all very close, and we all had a good ring; a course of Gainsborough Little Bob Major was rung at King's Langley as practice for the forthcoming EACR striking competition. For some of us, it was then a rush to get home in time to watch England's opening game in the soccer World Cup; with hindsight, a pleasant evening drink would have been more enjoyable!

Thanks to all those who came and supported the outing.



Casting the bells for Prittlewell



June 25th was a very special day for the Prittlewell ringers as six of their new bells were cast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

About 30 ringers and friends visited the foundry, where we were split into three groups to watch the bells being cast. Each group was given a running commentary by Alan Hughes as we watched the molten bell metal being run out of the furnace, which filled the foundry with smoke and fumes.

The bell metal was then carefully poured into each of the moulds in turn, supervised by Nigel Taylor. Once all six bells had been cast, we were then able to wander around the foundry.

We saw the other four bells, which had been cast a few weeks previously, including one which had been donated by Bernard and Jose Sadler to mark their 65 years of ringing at Prittlewell. We also saw the new bells for St Albans Abbey, waiting to be tuned in the tuning workshop.



Pictures - Top: a classic view of the door

Left: the Sadler bell

Bottom left: the molten bell metal being run out of the furnace at approx 1100 degrees Celsius

Bottom right: Nigel in charge



For all those who puzzled over the book quiz from Bentley Common...

You'll be pleased to know that the quiz sheet was a great success and raised approx. £150 for our hand bell fund. For those of you that want to know the results, let me know and I'll email it to you. In the end it was a very close finish with two people getting 43 out of 45 correct. So the tie breaker was to look at the two wrong answers! One person left them blank but the other put in alternative titles with the correct number of letters.

The winning entry was from Sue Rothera of Chelmsford, but well done to all who took part and thank you for your support!

Rowena Marshall
rowenamarshall@hotmail.co.uk

P.S. I may be doing a dingbat quiz later on so watch this space!

District Striking Competition - May 15th

The District striking competition was held at Shenfield on Saturday May 15, just a few days after the refurbished clappers had been fitted back into the bells. Six teams entered, and the competition was judged by Helen and John Harpole. Most teams played safe by ringing Plain Bob or Grandsire Doubles, but Langdon Hills decided to try and totally confuse the judges by ringing Canvey Island Surprise Minor, which they have recently named. Tea was provided by Renee and Robin Page-Jones, and two ladies from the parish.

After tea the judges announced the results, and a delighted Gordon Lucas received the trophy on behalf of the winning band, Langdon Hills. South Weald were second, with Prittlewell third. Langdon Hills will now represent the district in the Association finals; unfortunately the date of the finals clashes with the South Weald tower outing so they will not be able to participate.

(Photo captions in order front row left to right 1-3; back row right to left 4-6.)



North Ockendon rang Plain Bob Doubles
 1 - Hilary Spooner 4 - Clare Beech
 2 - Alison Nash 5 - Andrew Beech
 3 - Matthew Scott 6 - Brian Beech



South Weald rang Plain Bob Doubles
 1 - Vic Dale 4 - Mark Robins
 2 - Paul Trueman 5 - Maria Jorysz
 3 - Beth Johnson 6 - Raymond Jones



Langdon Hills rang Canvey Island Surprise Minor –
 just to confuse the judges!
 1 - Gordon Lucas 4 - Dennis Stott
 2 - Cathryn Corns 5 - Andy Martin
 3 - Darren Osborne 6 - Steve Nash



Bentley & Hutton - rang Grandsire Doubles
 1 - Ron Brown 4 - John Cousins
 2 - Rowena Marshall 5 - Alan Moody
 3 - Renee Page-Jones 6 - Robin Page-Jones



Downham - rang
Grandsire Doubles

- 1 - Gareth Bayard
- 2 - Julia Jones
- 3 - Paul Cammiade
- 4 - Roger Dorking
- 5 - Nigel Taylor
- 6 - Chris Tucker



Prittlewell - rang Plain Bob
Doubles

- 1 - Anne Porter
- 2 - Judy Rolfe
- 3 - Peter Sloman
- 4 - Penny Sloman
- 5 - David Sloman
- 6 - John Woollard

Left: Gordon Lucas collects
the trophy on behalf of
Langdon Hills.

2010 Striking Competitions

The Association Striking Competitions took place on 3rd July in the North Eastern District on a gloriously sunny day. Both competitions were expertly judged by Linda Garton and John Loveless who placed the bands as follows:

6 Bell at Tendring

Place	Band	Method	Faults
1st	Chelmsford Cathedral	Plain Bob Minor	37
2nd	Dagenham	Plain Bob Doubles	83
3rd	Writtle	Grandsire Doubles	89
4th	Sawbridgeworth	Grandsire Doubles	90
5th	Kirby le Soken	Plain Bob Doubles	105
6th	Langdon Hills	Cambridge Surprise Minor	111
7th	Prittlewell	Plain Bob Doubles	113
8th	Hornchurch	Plain Bob Doubles	150
9th	Braintree/Felsted	St Martin's Bob Doubles	179

8 Bell at Great Bentley - The set test piece was 264 Gainsborough Little Bob Major

Place	Band	Faults
1st	South Eastern	75
2nd	Southern	103
3rd	South Western	126
4th	Northern	149
North Eastern		Did not complete the test piece
North Western		Did not complete the test piece

Southern District Quarter Peal Fortnight.

Well done everyone who took part in or contributed in some way to the Southern district quarter peal fortnight!

The weather was beautiful, a bit too warm at times, but it didn't stop people getting out and having a go ringing a quarter in their local tower and at others in the district. Although some towers were unable to produce ringers of their own, they were more than willing to let others come and have a go and my thanks go to a small group of ringers who rang at many towers to ensure that the bells were rung. Those who rang five or more quarters were: John Cousins, Roger Butt, Rowena Marshall, Cathryn Corns, David Belcham, Darren Osborne, Gordon Lucas and John Harpole.

All the towers in our district had an attempt at a quarter peal except four. There were at least 27 quarters attempted (that I know about) in 20 towers and 21 of them were successful. 15 different towers were successfully quartered, some twice or more! There were some firsts in method, first conductors (or most methods conducted) and one or two ringers who rang what they would consider to be their first 'proper' quarter (where they actually felt fully in control of what they were doing!)

I don't think the idea of sponsorship really got off the ground in many towers but money was donated instead and as a district we collected about £221 (so far) that will go towards a new ring of bells at South Ockendon R.C. church.

All the quarters given to me have been posted on www.campanophile.co.uk and I will submit them all together for the Ringing World, so keep your eyes open!

Finally, another huge thank you to all who took part (and to the suppliers of coffee and biscuits to start us off at Grays) and I look forward to next year when we can *all try again!!*



Successful band from Bentley Common. 20/06/10

1260 of 3 doubles in 40 mins.

1. Pattie Folkson
2. Rowena L Marshall
3. Alan Moody
4. Ron Brown
5. John Cousins (c)
6. Anna Biddulph

Most methods as conductor.



“I took part in the London 2012 Open Weekend challenge”

St Martin’s Bell Tower – Basildon 24th–25th July 2010

“Someone from the Council mentioned it to the Rector, who then promptly gave me all the forms the fill in”. That’s how St. Martin’s Basildon tower captain Roger Hobson describes getting involved in the London 2012 Open Weekend Challenge.



The iconic glass tower of St Martin’s, Basildon

To bell ringers from across Essex, who are members of the Essex Association of Change Ringers, trying to attract new recruits to the exercise is nothing new. The London 2012 Discovering Places Weekend was another excellent opportunity. It was decided to open the tower to welcome visitors from 10.00-13.00 on Saturday 24th July and from 14.00-17.00 on Sunday 25th July 2010.



St Martin’s tower captain Roger Hobson (right) with visitors Ralpie Cowen and Susan Nightingale – their friend Cathy King was downstairs watching a demonstration)

The Basildon team of bell ringers put on an exhibition about the history and art of bell ringing, took visitors on a tour of the tower and right up to see the bells. Visitors were also encouraged to have a go – the challenge part behind the weekend.

Quite often, members of the public are absolutely fascinated by the science, the sights and sounds, the heritage and rich social life which accompanies bell ringing and leave enthused. It is hoped that they are then encouraged to take up bell ringing as a hobby and service to their local church and community.



Roger showing Susan the ropes

There are many misconceptions about bell ringing, there is a shortage of bell ringers, and chances are there is a church somewhere near you that needs your help. If you are up for the challenge of learning to ring in time for the London 2012 Olympics, to find out more, try the following:-

- Visit a church where you can hear the bells ringing
- Look for posters in church porches which give details of ringing practices and contact details
- Visit eacr.org.uk
- Contact EACR’s Public Relations Officer, Tracey Southgate Tel: 01255-507357, Email: pro@eacr.org.uk



Members of the Basildon ringing band from l-r John Harpole, Rector Esther McCafferty, Ron Whitt, Julia Fry, Roger Hobson and Tony Lowe



Essex Association of Change Ringers
Registered Charity No: 292250
President: The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford

