



## AGM 4 May 2026

The 147th Essex Association Annual General Meeting will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, 4 May. The arrangements are as follows:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 9:15–10.15        | General ringing                            |
| 10.15–10.30       | Service Touch by the Master's invited band |
| 10.30             | Service                                    |
| 11.45             | Annual General Meeting                     |
| Afternoon ringing | North-East District                        |

Do come along and ring at the Cathedral – the ringing is for everyone! Please arrive in good time so as many as possible can have a ring.

There will be refreshments in the Cathedral before the service and again afterwards whilst we set up for the meeting.

The Dean, the Very Rev'd Dr Jessica Martin will lead the Service, supported by our Chaplain, Rev'd Sue Goldsmith, the Address will be given by Rev'd Canon Sebastian Harries, the Cathedral Precentor.

The AGM will begin as soon as the Cathedral has been re-arranged. The full Agenda and last year's Minutes are printed in the 2025 Annual Report.

We did not receive any nominations for the post of Association Secretary by the due date, so please give this serious consideration before the meeting and contact me for more information. We also need a Communications Officer, as Caroline Watts steps down, and a second Independent Examiner would be helpful.

Afternoon ringing will be in the North Eastern District with tea at Tendring Village Hall between 16:00–18:30 at £6 per head. Tea tickets are available from the North East District Secretary at [ne-district-secretary@eacr.org.uk](mailto:ne-district-secretary@eacr.org.uk). For catering purposes, please do book your ticket in advance.

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 14:30–15:30 | Langham (6)       |
| 15:00–16:00 | Mistley (6)       |
| 15:30–16:30 | Ardleigh (10)     |
| 16:00–17:00 | Great Bromley (6) |
| 17:30–18:30 | Tendring (6)      |

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Vicki Chapman  
Interim General Secretary

Round 2

## Peal at Waltham Abbey

When I first started going back to Waltham Abbey – the county’s heaviest ring of bells – a couple of years ago to work with our George Pipe Trophy band I realised what a splendid twelve they were, albeit with some real acoustic challenges. I also found out that the Association has not rung a peal there since December 2015 albeit some of this gap would have been due to Covid as well as the period when the 7<sup>th</sup> cracked and the bells were out of action. It then struck me that given we had some really good young 12-bell talent that why not break this spell with a band comprised of some of our younger ringers along with those who had sponsored them and other experienced ringers. I mooted this idea with our then Master, Andrew, who described it as ambitious! Nevertheless I spoke to the ringers at Waltham Abbey who were keen for the Association to come and ring a peal again and agreed a date for September 2025.

Unfortunately my own diary got in the way so this date had to be scrapped, but I

### Essex Association of Change Ringers

On Saturday, 28 February 2026 in 3h 42

**Waltham Abbey, Essex**

Holy Cross

*Tenor: 37-1-7 in C*

5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus

Composed by Christopher J Poole

- 1 Anthony J Bloomfield (C)
- 2 Sarah H Robbins
- 3 Theo A Johnson
- 4 Andrew R C Kelso
- 5 Josie E Rapley Mende
- 6 Stephen C Wood
- 7 John G Harpole
- 8 Simon M Barnes
- 9 Simon J T Smith
- 10 Lucas J Owen
- 11 Matthew E Rayner
- 12 Stephen J Bailey

First on more than 8 – 2, 5

First on 12 – 10

First maximus inside – 8

First peal at Waltham Abbey by an

Essex Association band since

December 2015 and therefore the first  
by the Association since bells 6 and 7  
were recast.

Wishing Peter Rayner a speedy recovery

tried again and got the bells for 28 February this year. This soon proved to be a problem, as although I got 4 of our former ‘Eagles’ into the band it became apparent that there was a Trustee meeting this day. This ruled out our current Master Nigel, our Youth Co-ordinator Christina and a whole host of Past Masters and experienced ringers. Nevertheless I managed to assemble a strong band comprised of 11 resident members and a regular visitor to Essex to show we have a depth of talent.

So we were good to go. And on 28 February we really put our backs into scoring the first peal at Waltham Abbey for our Association for over 10 years and since the new 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> bells were cast. A creditable peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus was rung in 3 hours and 42 minutes and we finished with sore hands and stiff backs! There were 4 firsts on the day – 3 firsts on 12 and one first inside, plus a couple of other less footnote-worthy firsts! So all-in-all a great achievement. We don’t have many Taylor classic vintage bells in Essex but Waltham Abbey are one, as well as being our heaviest. We need to work with the Abbey ringers and staff to try



*The band, clockwise from front right*

to improve the acoustics and make them the super resource we have and make them somewhere where we can enjoy some excellent 12-bell ringing.

Tony Bloomfield

## From the Registers

10<sup>th</sup> birthday: Jamie Slack

50<sup>th</sup> birthday: Michelle Stephenson

70<sup>th</sup> birthday: Andrew Barham; Alwyn Brock

35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary: John & Julie Church

40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary: Bernard & Daphne Taplin

Deaths: We regret to report the deaths of Philip Erith, Life Member, of Great Bromley; Ken Pratley, former Tower Captain at Manuden; Rita Wood, a Nazeing ringer prior to Covid, who passed away in late summer 2025; John Beale, Life Member, of Kirby-le-Soken and Great Holland; John Wood, of Sandon; and Roger Jamieson, of Downham.

## Publicity Materials

With brighter days ahead of us, now is a great time for towers to be thinking about PR for ringing within your community – either for awareness raising, or because you are keen to attract new ringers.

We have a wide range of both physical and digital resources available to all Districts, ranging from pull-up banners and a large landscape banner as shown below, as well as posters and other documents that can be customised and then produced in either hard or soft copy using our Canva.com account. Two display stands can also be borrowed for events – to book these, please contact the Communications Officer at the email address below. Examples of them in use can be seen at: [eacr.org.uk/about/membership/display-boards](https://eacr.org.uk/about/membership/display-boards).

### Hard copy resources



**Posters and other example templates for customisation (hard and soft copy)**



For publicising ringing more generally, we have hard copy Central Council leaflets and posters; these can be picked up from your District PRO or via the District Secretary.

We also have access to the new Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) publicity materials that have been developed for use by all associations in the UK. Various templates are at our disposal and some example images are shown below which we can customise. A principal goal of this is to establish a UK-wide brand identity for bellringing and need not detract from our own EACR identity which we will continue to use for our own association and district activities.



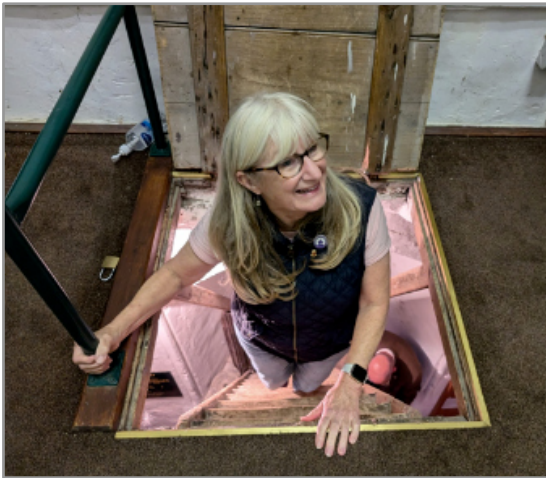
If you are keen to know more, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Caroline Watts  
 Communications Officer  
[comms@eacr.org.uk](mailto:comms@eacr.org.uk)

## Spotlight on our Association Community, Round Two

This is the second edition of our ongoing article featuring different members of our Association: our first covered some of our Life Vice Presidents. This edition highlights several of our District Secretaries who make such a valuable contribution to our Association. Our grateful thanks to all of you!

### **Carol Adams, Southern District Secretary**



*– when and why did you start ringing?*

I had my first ringing lesson in 2014. Encouraged by my friend Barbara Leigh; the decision wasn't difficult as I'd always loved the sound of church bells. Lucky for me, Peter Sloman taught me to ring at the Prittlewell Ringing School (clearly, he had nothing to do with my odd style).

*– what do you enjoy most about being a ringer?*

What I enjoy most about ringing is the people, their generosity of time, kindness and patient encouragement. Ringing is great fun and it's wonderful watching everyone's progress, especially younger ringers who do so very quickly. Ringing brings wonderful opportunities to ring any weekday, attend social evenings, events and outings, visiting beautiful places that may otherwise have been missed. All this with people across all ages and backgrounds makes for an inclusive hobby and interesting times.

*– what roles have you held in the Association and/or the wider ringing community?*

In bell ringing there are great opportunities to volunteer and in January 2023, I became the Southern District Secretary. The role can be challenging but very rewarding, especially being blessed with the great support of Southern District members.

*– what has being part of the Association meant to you?*

I'm proud to be a Prittlewell band member and especially enjoy ringing on 10 beautiful sounding bells. I regularly ring for Sunday service, occasionally at two to three churches.

*– tell us something about you that is not ringing related? For example, what else do you enjoy doing?*

Outside of ringing I've enjoyed a rewarding 40- year career in social housing mostly with Basildon Council. My close and extended family dedicated much of their lives to charity work, inspiring me to become a Carnival Queen in 1983. I spent four months living in Israel during my 20's and in my early 30's I bought and managed the Star Inn, Watchet on the West Somerset coast. The pub had a great reputation for my home cooked fish and chips! I enjoy travel and have visited many countries including Cuba, South Africa, the Arctic and Japan. I luckily met my partner, Steve Ashley, on the 2017 Essex Ringing Course, who is a kind man and passionate about ringing. Finally, my ringing progress is slow, but this doesn't stop me enjoying the art and being part of the Essex ringing community.

### **Sylvia Crick, South-Western District Secretary**

*– when and why did you start ringing?*

I started ringing in November 2018. I had been around bells before as my husband rang, and I had assisted being a pupil for a few hours once, but I knew bell ringing was not going to be an easy learn and would take up a lot of my time. I worked long hours and would not have given it the attention it needed, I kick myself now. In November 2018 everything changed. I was allowed to join the band at West Ham in the ringing chamber where all those who learnt to ring during the Ringing Remembers Campaign were ringing. I enjoyed listening to the bells and when they rang down in peal I was enthralled, it was like heavenly music, I found out later it was the harmonics blending together, so I'm told. I said I would come again but only to listen which I did, but when I went a third time, I was told to grab a rope and I have never stopped after that first real pull in 2018 I was hooked.

*– what do you enjoy most about being a ringer?*

That's a broad question, there are a few aspects for me, I love ringing and learning methods and perfecting call changes. I enjoy listening to other ringers ringing methods and watching how they catch the rope



and interact with each other, I enjoy meeting people and do a lot of chatting. I have made lots of friends, and enjoying meeting up with them at Association, District events or visiting their Towers.

*– what roles have you held in the Association and/or the wider ringing community?*

I hold the role of SW District Secretary, I was elected in 2024, it has been an eye opener and an interesting and rewarding role. I am also the Tower Captain at West Ham, not because of my ringing as we have some very long-time ringers in the Band.

*– what has being part of the Association meant to you?*

I remember my first District meeting, thinking I must have just stepped into a time machine and landed in 1850. People were so very polite to each other, and I kept hearing Master and Secretary which I worked out were the two people on the top table. They talked about things that were going on and asked permission to speak, they voted on different things then asked for the floor to vote it was nothing I had ever been a part of before. We even had a minute's silence for someone who had died. By the end of the meeting, I realised I wanted to be part of this Association that had been around for many, many years and was steeped in history and tradition. It is also belonging to a bigger organisation not just the Tower I ring in and that this organisation wants to help with things like teaching. I still can't believe that people give up 3 days of their time/life to help at the 3 Day Association Training Course, for no pay!!!!, what wonderful people you all are.

*– Tell us something about you that is not ringing related? For example, what else do you enjoy doing?*

I love skiing and learnt at Beckton Ski Dry Slope, aptly named The Beckton Alps. I then went on to train as a dry slope instructor and also qualified as a Canadian Ski Instructor. I enjoy reading, reading and reading, playing games on my phone, socialising and keeping in touch with friends. I also enjoy walking holidays with stunning vistas and mountains, jigsaw puzzles especially in the winter months, eating out and going to the cinema. I also enjoy ironing, does that sound wrong!!!!!!

### **Sue Evans, North-Western District Secretary**

*– when and why did you start ringing?*

I started to ring at Willingale, my home tower, at quite a mature age and have been ringing for about 12 years. It was always something I wanted to try and the opportunity presented itself when I moved to Willingale. I was taught to ring by Ian Kerwin who impressed the importance of bell handling but right from the start it became evident that I had no logic. I struggled to understand where I was, what others were doing at the same time, who was crossing with whom etc and to this day although I count my places, I struggle to follow a blue line, which is why I take so long to learn methods. Despite being a slow learner, I am quite optimistic (or stubborn!) that I will eventually achieve the method I'm trying to learn, just with lots

of exasperation and aggravation along the way. I should think some of my course tutors or tower captains where I am ringing must at times almost be pulling their hair out in (silent) frustration, although patience and encouragement is always constant.

Whilst I am primarily a 6-bell ringer, I thoroughly enjoy 8-bell ringing and attend the monthly 8-bell practices. I enjoy the challenge of the difference between 6 and 8 bell ringing and last year achieved my first 8 bell quarter peal, ringing inside to Plain Bob Triples.

I ring regularly at Willingale every Wednesday, Henham on Thursday and Felsted on Monday and, if I am able, attend the monthly 6 bell advanced practice and Surprise Minor practices. We attempt quarter peals at Willingale twice monthly with mainly success but always learning if we don't quite get there! District outings to different areas and towers are always thoroughly enjoyable, although I often need to have a 'stander' to help me pull off the slightly heavier bells!

*– what roles have you held in the Association and/or the wider ringing community?*

Since January 2017 I have been Secretary to the NW District, and I am currently Secretary to Willingale ringers, a role I held previously for several years, and write a quarterly report for our village magazine. I was Secretary to the Willingale Village Hall Committee for three years.

*– tell us something about you that is not ringing related? For example, what else do you enjoy doing?*

In my spare time I am a very keen gardener, I enjoy walking the dogs, knitting, crosswords, reading, cooking and watching TV, particularly Strictly Come Dancing. For 10 years I belonged to the Willingale Amateur Dramatics taking part in the pantos and plays, also attending weekly tap-dancing classes.

I have three granddaughters, 19, 15 and 5 and a grandson, 13 and see them as regularly as possible, notwithstanding work and school commitments. My grandson attends Framlingham College so I am currently housing nine Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, two ruby boys of my own and seven assorted of my daughter's, which we look after whilst she is in Suffolk. L-R: Back – Holly and Floyd; Front – Herbie, Mike, Totty, Basil, Teddy, Binky and Olaf.



At the start of this article, I mentioned I had no logic. Not only that, it's very well known that I also have no sense of direction, (not sure if there's a connection) to the point where it is better for fellow ringers to drive me to venues rather than driving myself, indeed, in that way, I will then arrive at the right destination. Needless to say, if I have to drive myself and my mobile number pops up on Ian or Denise's phones, they know they are going to be on a rescue mission! Still, I take heart from the following words:

Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.  
*Albert Einstein*

### **Gill Sparling, North-Eastern District Secretary**

*– when and why did you start ringing?*

I learnt to ring in the early 70's at Fordham in Cambridgeshire. Both my parents were ringers and my father taught me and my 4 siblings to ring. I moved to London when I was 18 and did a lot of ringing there, particularly with the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, before moving out to the country when I married an Essex Boy!

*– what do you enjoy most about being a ringer?*

One of the best things about ringing is that you get to meet people from all sorts of different backgrounds and it's easy to make lots of friends. You also get to visit interesting churches in towns and villages that you would otherwise never get to explore. There's always something new to learn and I love seeing people making progress and enjoying their ringing.



*– what roles have you held in the Association and/or the wider ringing community?*

I have been District Secretary for the Ely District, Assistant Secretary for the Cumberlands and this is now my second stint

as NE District Secretary. I have helped on the Essex Course for many years and now organise the helpers for it. For the last two years I have organised the Association dinner.

*– what has being part of the Association meant to you?*

I enjoy taking part in all the regular events throughout the year; it's great to meet up with ringing friends at meetings and striking competitions and I love the social events, especially the dinner!

*– tell us something about you that is not ringing related? For example, what else do you enjoy doing?*

We've been doing a lot of travelling since the children left home and are gradually ticking off our bucket list destinations which is exciting! I spend a lot of time in our garden and have inherited my Dad's passion for dahlias. I also like to do keep fit classes, especially Pilates and I've recently started adult ballet!

### **Hazel Steed, South-Eastern District Secretary**

*– when and why did you start ringing?*

At the young age of 8, I started to learn to ring at St Mary's Ewell, in Surrey but then soon moved to St John's, Croydon when a devastating fire in the church at Ewell stopped all ringing there.

*– what do you enjoy most about being a ringer?*

Coming from a ringing family, I started to follow in the footsteps of both parents and grandfathers. My brother Nigel learnt at the same time as me but annoyingly he progressed faster as I was very little and I needed to stand on 2 boxes. Having met my future husband John on a Raving Ringers Tour in 1984 I moved to Chelmsford in 1986 and joined the Cathedral band where we still are now. Not surprisingly both of our children, Ben and Rebecca, were taught to ring and still ring today.

*– what roles have you held in the Association and/or the wider ringing community?*

I was elected as SE District Secretary in 1999 and held the post for 5 years. With 2 small children, a demanding job and pre computers it was a lot harder to do the job then. I was re-elected as SE District Secretary over 5 years ago, just as the Covid pandemic started. It's great to be part of the organising team of the SE District, continuing with old traditions and trying new things too. Working as a team in the District is the most important thing and providing ringing events to interest everyone of all ringing abilities and being mindful to recruit more ringers whenever possible.



– *what has being part of the Association meant to you?*

I have been ringing now for nearly 60 years !!! And I would be lost without it. We have so many ringing friends now in Essex and throughout the country. Ringing at the cathedral regularly every Sunday morning and Monday evening is an enjoyable part of our life, and it is always good to see others progress and to challenge ourselves too. I have never taught anyone to handle a bell but enjoy standing behind people, teaching plain hunt onwards. The camaraderie and good friendships within the ringing community are second to none.

– *tell us something about you that is not ringing related? For example, what else do you enjoy doing?*

We have an allotment that keeps us busy too and gardening (the hard work is done mostly by John tbh). Cross stitch, knitting and jigsaw puzzles are my guilty pleasures. All will keep me entertained during these next few weeks when recovering from a knee replacement. I plan to be back ringing in the Spring.

## Practice Diary

|     |                    |                                       |                    |                 |       |      |
|-----|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------|------|
| Apr | 8                  | 10/12-bell practice                   | Waltham Abbey      | NW              | 7:30  |      |
|     | 9                  | 10-bell practice                      | Bishop's Stortford | NW              | 7:30  |      |
|     | 12                 | Young ringers practice ( <i>tbc</i> ) |                    | NE              | 2:00  |      |
|     | 18                 | District practice                     | Basildon           | S               | 10:00 |      |
|     |                    | Advancing practice                    | Kelvedon           | N               | 2:00  |      |
|     | 19                 | Beyond Bob Minor practice             | Little Baddow      | SE              | 5:30  |      |
|     | 21                 | Advanced 6-bell practice              | Henham             | NW              | 7:30  |      |
|     | 24                 | District practice                     | West Ham           | SW              | 7:00  |      |
|     | 25                 | Listening, rhythm & striking course   |                    |                 |       |      |
|     |                    |                                       | Training morning   | Great Bardfield | N     | 9:30 |
|     |                    | Training morning                      | Great Totham       | SE              | 9:30  |      |
| 26  | 8/10 bell practice | Ardleigh                              | NE                 | 6:00            |       |      |
| May | 5                  | District practice                     | Burnham-on-Crouch  | SE              | 7:45  |      |
|     | 7                  | Moving on to hunting on 5             | Tendring           | NE              | 7:30  |      |
|     |                    | 12-bell practice                      | Bishop's Stortford | NW              | 7:30  |      |
|     | 8                  | Surprise Major practice               | Felsted            | N/NW            | 2:00  |      |
|     | 9                  | Training day (bookable)               | Coggeshall         | N               | 9:30  |      |
|     |                    | What shall I try next?                | Downham            | S               | 10:00 |      |
|     | Beyond Bob Minor   | Downham                               | S                  | 2:00            |       |      |

|     |                          |                                       |                              |       |       |
|-----|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| May | 12                       | Surprise practice                     | Rayleigh                     | S     | 7:30  |
|     | 13                       | 10/12-bell practice                   | Waltham Abbey                | NW    | 7:30  |
|     | 14                       | Beyond Bob Minor                      | Sandon                       | SE    | 5:30  |
|     | 16                       | Advancing practice                    | Braintree                    | N     | 7:30  |
|     | 19                       | Advanced 6-bell practice              | Henham                       | NW    | 7:30  |
|     | 24                       | 8/10-bell practice                    | Ardleigh                     | NE    | 6:00  |
|     | 30                       | Advanced 8/10-bell practice           | Writtle                      | SE    | 10:00 |
| Jun | 1                        | District practice                     | Galleywood                   | SE    | 7:45  |
|     | 4                        | Moving on to hunting on 5             | Thorpe le Soken              | NE    | 7:30  |
|     | 6                        | District practice                     | Castle Heddingham            | N     | 10:00 |
|     | 12                       | Surprise Major practice               | Felsted                      | N/NW  | 2:00  |
|     | 13                       | Training day (bookable)               | Braintree                    | N     | 9:30  |
|     | 14                       | Young ringers practice ( <i>tbc</i> ) |                              | NE    | 2:00  |
|     | 16                       | Advanced 6-bell practice              | Henham                       | NW    | 7:30  |
|     | 20                       | Advancing practice                    | Coggeshall                   | N/NE  | 7:30  |
|     | 21                       | Beyond Bob Minor practice             | Springfield                  | SE    | 5:30  |
|     | 24                       | District practice                     | Walthamstow (St Mary)        | SW    | 7:30  |
| 27  | Training morning         | Leytonstone                           | SW                           | 10:00 |       |
|     | District training        | Finchingfield                         | N                            | 4:30  |       |
| Jul | 1                        | District practice                     | Broomfield                   | SE    | 7:45  |
|     | 2                        | Beyond Bob Minor                      | <i>tbc</i>                   | NE    | 7:30  |
|     | 4                        | What shall I try next?                | North Ockendon               | S     | 10:00 |
|     | 6                        | Surprise practice                     | South Weald                  | S     | 7:30  |
|     | 8                        | Training evening                      | Great Bardfield              | N     | 7:30  |
|     | 10                       | Surprise Major practice               | Felsted                      | N/NW  | 2:00  |
|     | 12                       | Young ringers practice ( <i>tbc</i> ) |                              | NE    | 2:00  |
|     | 18                       | Advancing practice                    | Felsted                      | N     | 10:00 |
|     |                          | 8-bell practice                       | Great Holland ( <i>tbc</i> ) | NE    | 2:30  |
|     | 19                       | Beyond Bob Minor practice             | Little Baddow                | SE    | 7:30  |
| 21  | Advanced 6-bell practice | Henham                                | NW                           | 7:30  |       |
| 25  | Advanced 8-bell practice | Great Baddow ( <i>tbc</i> )           | SE                           | 10:00 |       |
| 26  | 8/10-bell practice       |                                       | NE                           | 6:00  |       |
| Aug | 1                        | 10-bell practice                      | Bocking                      | N     | 10:00 |
|     | 9                        | Young ringers practice ( <i>tbc</i> ) |                              | NE    | 2:00  |
|     | 14                       | Surprise Major practice               | Felsted                      | N/NW  | 2:00  |
|     | 15                       | Advancing practice                    | Braintree                    | N     | 7:30  |
|     | 16                       | Beyond Bob Minor practice             | Sandon                       | SE    | 5:30  |
|     | 18                       | Advanced 6-bell practice              | Henham                       | NW    | 7:30  |
|     | 23                       | 8/10-bell practice                    |                              | NE    | 6:00  |
|     | 24                       | District practice                     | Maldon (All Saints)          | SE    | 7:45  |
|     | 27                       | District practice                     | Walthamstow St Saviour       | SW    | 7:30  |
|     | 29                       | Advanced 8-bell practice              | Terling                      | SE    | 10:00 |

Correct at time of going to press. Please check District Calendars for additional practices.

## That's a First!

### Quarter Peals

1<sup>st</sup> quarter: Ellen R Hayward, Artem Mallett, Josh Gurden, Caroline Moores, Jane Claxton, Matthew W Dunhill, James Paton, Emily Pannell, Paul C Verrier, Victoria Hannah, Suzanne Walker

1<sup>st</sup> on treble: Bruce Knights, Ivan Haynes, David Blake, Karen Roddam, Gillian Herbert

1<sup>st</sup> away from cover: John Newman, Ellen R Hayward

1<sup>st</sup> on tenor: Olive English

1<sup>st</sup> inside: Sarah Blazeby, Owen P Jones

1<sup>st</sup> Grandsire Doubles: Penny J Lowen, Nicki Ashworth

1<sup>st</sup> Grandsire inside: Nicholas Elliott

1<sup>st</sup> St Martin's Doubles: Alfie Holland

1<sup>st</sup> Reverse Canterbury Doubles: Carys E Hayward, Marianne R Hayward, Michelle A Stephenson

1<sup>st</sup> Spliced: James R Dunhill

1<sup>st</sup> Minor: Jon Wallis, Rachel J Levy, Nicki Ashworth

1<sup>st</sup> Surprise: Gavin S Carpenter

1<sup>st</sup> Cambridge Surprise: Sarah Chin-a-Loy

1<sup>st</sup> Triples inside: Oliver Lee

1<sup>st</sup> Grandsire Triples: Owen P Jones

1<sup>st</sup> St Simon's Triples: Julie A Bloomfield

1<sup>st</sup> on 8: Sylvia A Crick

1<sup>st</sup> Major: Ian Kerwin

1<sup>st</sup> Major inside: Carys E Hayward

1<sup>st</sup> Surprise Major: Michelle A Stephenson

1<sup>st</sup> Double Norwich: Lucas J Owen

1<sup>st</sup> on 10: Sarah Chin-a-Loy, Victoria J Richards, Nathan Jones

1<sup>st</sup> Plain Bob Caters: Victoria J Richards

1<sup>st</sup> Yorkshire Surprise Royal: Clara M Waller

1<sup>st</sup> Lincolnshire Surprise Royal: Julie A Bloomfield, Jonathan R Slack

1<sup>st</sup> on 12: Oliver J Clinton

1<sup>st</sup> Erin Cinques: Guy Wells, Lucy Chandhial

1<sup>st</sup> Maximus: Oliver J Clinton, Annette K Hall

50<sup>th</sup> quarter: Oliver C Lee, Oliver Clinton

75<sup>th</sup> quarter: Ryan J Faulkner-Hatt

250<sup>th</sup> quarter: James Hayden

25<sup>th</sup> together: James R Dunhill & Richard M Dunhill

100<sup>th</sup> together: Sarah Holland & Nick Holland

1<sup>st</sup> St Simon's as Conductor: Oliver Clinton

1<sup>st</sup> Spliced as Conductor: James R Dunhill

1<sup>st</sup> Surprise as Conductor: James R Dunhill

*Information to end of February. Apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted.*

1<sup>st</sup> Minor as Conductor: Jo Lerpiniere  
 1<sup>st</sup> Triples as Conductor: Ryan J Faulkner-Hatt  
 25<sup>th</sup> as Conductor: Charles K Chikuruwo  
 475<sup>th</sup> as Conductor: Philip Saunders

### Peals

1<sup>st</sup> peal at 1<sup>st</sup> attempt: James R Dunhill, Charles K Chikuruwo  
 1<sup>st</sup> peal: Michelle A Stephenson  
 1<sup>st</sup> inside: Julie A Bloomfield  
 1<sup>st</sup> Minor: Victoria J Elliott  
 1<sup>st</sup> on 8: Philip Saunders, James R Dunhill  
 1<sup>st</sup> Superlative: Josie E Rapley Mende  
 1<sup>st</sup> Bristol: James Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Grandsire: Clara M Waller  
 1<sup>st</sup> Grandsire Caters: Adam L Sloman, Neil M Pasmore, Courtney J A Mandell  
 1<sup>st</sup> on 12: Lucas J Owen  
 1<sup>st</sup> Maximus inside: Simon M Barnes

50<sup>th</sup> peal: James Green  
 175<sup>th</sup> peal: Vicki L Chapman  
 300<sup>th</sup> for the Association: Ian J Culham  
 350<sup>th</sup> for the Association: Christina D A Brewster

50<sup>th</sup> together: Andrew P Brewster & David M Hengeli  
 75<sup>th</sup> together: David L Sparling & Christina D A Brewster

## Bell Sunday: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

2023 was the inaugural year of Bell Sunday – a day where the contribution of bells and Bellringers to the life of the Church is recognised. The month of May has been chosen for this annual event as this includes St Dunstan's Day; St Dunstan being the Patron Saint of Bellringers. This year Bell Sunday will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> May.



Please do consider how your local band might be able to mark this day with your church community. In recent years, several bands were involved in a service on the day with contributions ranging from reading lessons or other texts, singing bell-related hymns, and playing handbells. After the service, some Towers welcomed visitors to the Belfry and others provided bell-themed refreshments. To support preparations for the day, please do visit [www.bellsunday.org](http://www.bellsunday.org) for more information and to access a whole range of resources including hymns, songs and music, Bible and other readings and poetry.

Caroline Watts  
 Communications Officer

## Dates for your Diary

Apr 9–11 **Essex Ringing Course**

|     |    |  |                          |    |       |
|-----|----|--|--------------------------|----|-------|
| May | 4  | <b>Association AGM</b>                         | <b>Chelmsford</b>        |    | 10:30 |
|     | 16 | 6-bell striking competition                    | Stisted                  | N  | 3:00  |
|     |    | Picnic & business meeting                      | Stisted                  | N  | 5:00  |
|     | 23 | District outing ( <i>tbc</i> )                 |                          | S  |       |
|     |    | District meeting & striking competition        | Kirby le Soken           | NE | 2:00  |
|     | 30 | <b>Trustee meeting</b>                         | <b>Danbury</b>           |    | 2:30  |
| Jun | 13 | 6-bell striking competition & district meeting | Chigwell Row             | SW | 10:00 |
|     | 20 | Competition day                                | Southend-on-Sea          | SE |       |
|     | 27 | District outing                                | <i>tbd</i>               | SE | 9:00  |
|     |    | District social                                | Finchingfield            | N  | 6:30  |
| Jul | 4  | District picnic                                | Boydells Dairy Farm      | N  | 6:00  |
|     | 11 | <b>Association Striking Competition finals</b> | <b>Southern District</b> |    |       |
|     | 26 | District picnic & call change competition      | Terling                  | SE | 12:00 |
| Aug | 1  | District business meeting                      | Bocking                  | N  | 12:00 |
|     | 29 | District car outing                            |                          | NE |       |

## Annual Dinner - Save the Date

The 2026 Annual Dinner will take place at **Essex County Cricket Club** in **Chelmsford** on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026**.

To make sure you don't miss out, make a note of the date now.

The ticket price is comparable to last years dinner, likely around £44 per person for a three course meal. Menu options and final price will be available soon.

The Annual Dinner is a lovely chance for us to get together, where ringing ability is irrelevant, and enjoy a fun night out with old friends and new. There were lots of "first timers" last year, so it would be great to see many more this year.

The next edition of *Rounds & About* is planned for August 2026. Please send contributions and suggestions for articles to [newsletter@eacr.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@eacr.org.uk) or by post to Fred Bone, 11 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9DB by **1 July 2026**.