

# Scottish Association of Change Ringers

2024

## ANNUAL REPORT

Including Report of the  
Scottish Association of Change Ringers Bell Restoration Fund  
For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Illustrations: Estella Haynes



## President's Message

Building on the success last year of a new format for our annual report, our Report Editor has again produced for us a stimulating and interesting review of the breadth and depth of change ringing in Scotland, on both tower and hand bells.

Along with the regular items on finances, tower details, and ringing performances, focused queries to the tower correspondents have yielded thought-provoking insights into the resilience of ringing bands in our towers. You will also find of interest the mix of articles on ringing and tower related topics, including one on recycling of bell frames, and another on pirates!

That we are as successful as we are, given the geographical spread of towers and ringers, is again thanks to the strong community of volunteers who give their time, energy and money to keep our bells available, and to bring in and train new ringers.

My grateful thanks to fellow SACR Officers for their leadership in all this, but we need fresh young persons to be taking up these roles, if we are not to stagnate as an association. We will need a new Ringing Master next May, because our current one will have reached the term limit imposed by our bylaws – could that be you?

Recruitment and retention of ringers remains a major challenge, as it is across the UK. Many of our bands regularly struggle to reach critical mass to be able to ring for services on Sundays, as revealed here by the feedback from towers. An exception seems to be Glasgow, who have a waiting list! How do we replicate this elsewhere?

One poignant “success” this year was at last finding a new home for the bells from the redundant St James in Paisley. The bells are now on their way to St Cleer in Cornwall, where they will again sound out as intended rather than sitting silent in storage. The nine-year rehoming saga is retold briefly in an article in this report.

Enjoy your reading!

**Colin North**

## OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION 2024

President: Colin North  
Email: president@sacr.org

Secretary: Susan Bryce  
Email: secretary@sacr.org

Ringling Master: Ruth Marshall  
Email: master@sacr.org

Training Officer: Judith Frye  
Email: training@sacr.org

Treasurer: Rachel Milner  
Email: treasurer@sacr.org

Publicity Officer: Martin Mellor  
Email: publicity@sacr.org

Report Editor: Simon Aves  
Email: report@sacr.org

Bells and Towers Advisor: Jonathan Frye  
Email: advisor@sacr.org

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer: Isabel Crane  
Email: pvg@sacr.org

Central Council Representatives:  
Zoe Bennett  
Email: rep1@sacr.org  
Tina Stoecklin  
Email: ccrep@sacr.org

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Resident: £10.00. Non-resident Life: £10.00 or 3 annual subscriptions.  
Associate & Junior member: £5.00

Peal Fee: £1.00 per rope (per ringer on handbells)

Please make cheques payable to 'The Scottish Association of Change Ringers'  
or ask the treasurer for bank transfer details.

## **Scottish Association of Change Ringers Bell Restoration Fund**

*Charity registered in Scotland, number SC011080*

Trustees of the charity are holders of specified offices of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers [SACR]: Colin North (President), Susan Bryce (Secretary), Rachel Milner (Treasurer), Ruth Marshall (Ringing Master) and Jonathan Frye (Bells and Towers Advisor).

### **Trustees Report**

The Trustees met online on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and approved the accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

The status of ongoing grant applications and projects of the SACR that might in future be considered for grants were discussed. A grant of up to £20,000 remains on offer to augment the current ring of 8 bells to 10 bells at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee and to address internal acoustics, replacement and raising the ceiling of the ringing chamber, and installation of replacement rope chutes. Progress continues to be slow in gaining the necessary approvals but the Dundee ringers remain hopeful that the project can be delivered.

The SACR had been trying for over three years to find a home for the ring of 8 bells from the Paisley tower in Scotland, but had been unsuccessful. A home has been found for the bells at St. Clarus church in St. Cleer, Cornwall and the loan from the Keltek Trust has now been repaid. As the bells have found a new home outside of Scotland there will now be no future application to the Fund for a grant to assist in the cost of installing them in a Scottish church. The SACR remains in possession of some items, such as peal boards, from the tower of St. James in Paisley and these will be passed on to St. Clarus once the bells have been installed.

There have been no other requests for help from the fund.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer presents the accounts and confirms the balance as £28,256.55 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Income to the fund during the year was £2,184.37, consistent with recent years and primarily due to private donations, income from tax

reclaim, fundraising at meetings, and the 50:50 Club. Income from private donations was slightly higher this year than in 2023, at £805. The grant of £10,000 to £20,000 committed to Dundee St Paul has yet to be claimed. Funds available for new grants stands at £8,256.55. The Trustees would again like to thank those who make regular donations and Ruth Ogilvie for running the 50:50 Club.

**Scottish Association of Change Ringers Bell Restoration Fund**

**Scottish Charity Number SC011080**

	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	£	£
<b><u>Income and Expenditure Account</u></b>		
<b><u>Year Ended 31 December 2024</u></b>		
Private Donations	805.00	647.60
Tax reclaim	273.13	292.34
Collected at Meetings & Other Fundraising	400.00	428.50
50-50 Club	450.00	500.00
Amazon Prime	-	33.42
Interest	256.24	218.04
	<u>2,184.37</u>	<u>2,119.90</u>
<b>Total Income</b>		
Grants paid in year	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		
Net Income/(Deficit)	2,184.37	2,119.90

**Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024**

Cash/Debtor		-	-
Creditor		-	-
Santander		£ 28,256.55	£ 26,072.18
		<u>£ 28,256.55</u>	<u>£ 26,072.18</u>
Grants committed			
	Dundee St Paul	min	£ 10,000.00
		max	£ 20,000.00
			£ 10,000.00
			£ 20,000.00
Funds available for grants		£ 8,256.55	£ 6,072.18
		<u>£ 8,256.55</u>	<u>£ 26,072.18</u>

## Ringling Master's Report

**Ruth Marshall**

We started off the year in Glasgow for our January Meeting with the added attraction of the D&N Mini-Ring set up in St Mary's Cathedral. It was an excellent way to demonstrate what we are routinely doing up in the tower to the congregation on Sunday morning.

We had six advanced bell practices over the year focusing on surprise royal. We have been able to start splicing Bristol and Sgurr A' Chaorachain and have introduced London No.3. This has been particularly good practice for peal attempts of spliced royal that Susan Bryce has kindly been organising at St Cuthbert's with conducting support from Mike Clay and Simon Gay.

We had surprise major practices at Dundee and Haddington building on the lessons from the Tulloch training day in March superbly organised by our training officer, Judith Frye. It was great to be able to ring at Dundee Old Steeple; even if we could only have ten in the ringing room at a time so it was a challenge to run the practice and lots of steps to climb for everyone.

In May, we held our AGM and Striking Competition in St Andrews at St Salvator's Chapel within the University grounds, falling stonework and locked gates did not stop us. We had eight teams entered and my thanks to Matt Edwards for stepping in at last minute to do the judging. Congratulations to Dunblane who won the Inveraray Trophy and Dundee who won the St Andrew's Shield for best performing inexperienced band.

The SACR Quarter Peal Weekend in June was a considerable success with 11 quarter peals rung across Scotland. Personally, I had a go at ringing both our 41 cwt tenors - scored at Inveraray, not quite so successful at Edinburgh St Mary's but we still had good ringing for over an hour before it didn't come round!

Well done to everyone who got involved. Footnotes included lots of firsts - first quarter on eight for Irina Dudina, first quarter of triples away from the tenor for Iain Milne, first inside and first for 41 years for Donald Spaeth, and first in method for Miranda Jones and for Elinor Farquharson.

It was the 50th Inveraray Ringing Festival and we had over forty ringers from Scotland and further afield come to join in the weekend's ringing sessions.

In October, we went to Haddington for the SACR Meeting to help celebrate 25 years of the bells at St Mary's Church. It was fabulous to have so many of our members there and I thoroughly enjoyed running the ringing throughout the day.

In October, I was privileged to ring the tenor for a peal at Inverness with four of the local band and other SACR visitors to mark the 150th Anniversary of the consecration of Inverness Cathedral.

There was Remembrance Day ringing across a lot of the towers in Scotland in November. At the end of month, a peal was rung in Inveraray to welcome David Railton to the role of Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. This marks a new era for Inveraray and fortunately the band made it up before snowfall on the Rest & Be Thankful closed the road. It has been my pleasure being SACR Ringing Master for the last five years. I look forward to handing over the reins to a new person at the AGM in May.

## **Training Officer Report**

**Judith Frye**

Our annual Training Day at the ringing centre in Tulloch provided challenges for all levels. Early Change Ringing helped those at the start of their ringing journey, while Minor Stepping Stones covered some plain minor methods and the Surprise Major group explored Cambridge, Yorkshire, Bristol and Lessness. Students benefitted from both theory and practical sessions throughout the day. I am indebted to Chris and Jonathan Frye for running two of the groups. I ran the third group, so it was something of a family affair! Thanks are also due to the helpers who willingly give of their time to provide a stable band for the students to ring with.

Most of the helpers stayed on for a 12-Bell Starter Session the following day. This was a new venture to give those with limited 12-bell experience a chance to get used to the rhythm and striking on higher numbers. Simon Gay ably guided us through Grandsire, Stedman, Little Bob and Cambridge to develop these skills. It was much



appreciated by those who wanted to extend their capabilities. Many thanks to Simon.

Two Association of Ringing Teachers' courses have been run during the year. In February there was a Teaching Bell Handling course for eight delegates and in June we ran Teaching Early Change Ringing for six delegates. Both these courses were held in Dunblane as it is reasonably central.

Anthony Cole from Inverness has been accredited by ART for both Bell Handling and Teaching Early Change Ringing. Well done, Anthony!

There are more training events on the horizon but, if you have any ideas that would benefit your tower, please do share them. The more suggestions that we receive, the better we will be able to respond to members' needs.

## **Bells & Towers Advisor Report**

**Jonathan Frye**

This year I have had more requests for advice from outside the Association than within. These are mostly churches with one or two bells with limited knowledge of what they have and how to look after them. Surveyors undertaking quinquennial inspections often recommend that a specialist is involved to inspect or undertake work on a bell installation. Much of my advice is to point these churches in the direction of professional bellhangers and outline the type of services that they would be able to offer.

Water ingress has been a problem this year with both St Machar's and St Paul's out of action during the year due to flooding, with St Paul's being unable to ring for several months. The deteriorating state of the ruins of Dunkeld Cathedral also prevented access for some months, with ringing only being allowed to resume in early 2025. Ringing also resumed at Old Steeple, with considerable restrictions, following a period of no ringing being permitted.

During the year I have provided advice to several of our towers. Requests have ranged from guidance on ordering new ropes, help with loose clappers and advice on preventing water ingress. I'm always happy to answer questions over email or to come and lend practical assistance.

The year finished with the sale of the Paisley Bells to St Clarus, St Cleer, Cornwall and the repayment of the loan to the Keltek trust. This brings to a conclusion SACR's direct involvement in the project. We hope that the new custodians enjoy them as much as we did and look forward to ringing on them once their project is complete.

## **Publicity Officer Report**

**Martin Mellor**

Articles, links, photos and social media posts are collated regularly for a newsletter that's emailed to all members who are signed up. If you don't receive these, please email [webmaster@sacr.org](mailto:webmaster@sacr.org) to subscribe.

Previous newsletters are posted at:

<https://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/newsletters-reports>.

SACR has accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (X) via these links:

<https://www.facebook.com/scottishbellringing>

<https://www.instagram.com/scottishbellringing>

<https://twitter.com/SBellringing>

Media coverage: <https://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/media>

As always, articles, photos or comments are welcome, and these can be sent to [publicity@sacr.org](mailto:publicity@sacr.org)

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Rachel Milner**

General Fund: Balance sheet as of 31 December 2024 £10,018.13

The Paisley Bells have been purchased by the church of St Clarus in St Cleer, Cornwall where they will be rehomed and augmented to a ring of 10 bells. The loan taken out by SACR associated with these bells has been repaid to the Keltek Trust.

Income was down slightly from the previous year. Income from Membership subscriptions was down, partly due to some membership

arrears being paid last year. In addition, there was no money raised from Annual Report advertising. However, expenditure was down from last year, and there was a surplus for the year of £981.08. There were no requests for other grants from the general fund.

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b><u>Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31 December</u></b>	£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Membership subscriptions	2,015.00	2,230.00
Annual Report advertising	-	60.00
Sales of Polo shirts/fleeces	-	29.51
Peal fees	329.00	279.00
Donation	40.00	10.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	2,384.00	2,608.51
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Central Council subscription	46.20	44.40
Central Council travel expenses	98.15	352.64
Audit	-	-
Association of Ringing Teachers	300.00	25.00
Admin.and travel costs (including lottery license)	20.00	40.00
Annual Report printing/postage	157.72	320.00
Web hosting/domain	170.00	-
GoTo Tech	48.96	48.96
Ringing World notices	-	-
Insurance	195.02	183.98
Microsoft Office 365	96.48	96.48
Domain names renewal	20.39	49.17
Grants paid in year	-	-
Tower donations	250.00	80.00
Teardrop flag	-	526.80
Trophy repair	-	75.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	1,402.92	1,842.43
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/ (Deficit) for year	981.08	766.08
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Retained Profit at 31 December 2023 and 2024	10,026.13	9,045.05
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Bank of Scotland	10,018.13	9,094.22
Cash in hand - Debtors	8.00	-
Paisley bells	-	12,216.25
Creditors	-	(12,265.42)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,026.13	9,045.05

## 50-50 Club Report

### **Ruth Ogilvie**

The 50-50 Club exists to raise funds for the Bell Restoration Fund but at the same time gives you the opportunity to win cash as well. If you would like to support this worthy cause you can purchase numbers as described above. Each month we draw a number from 1 to 75, and the winner receives half of the takings for that month, the other half going to the BRF. You can buy the same number(s) for a year at £12 each, or you can purchase one number one month at a time for £1 per month.

The results of the draws for the 50-50 Club in 2024 were as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Draw Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Winner</u>
Jan	27/01/2024	Glasgow	£34.00	Margaret Williams
Feb	16/03/2024	Tulloch	£35.50	Heather Preece
Mar	16/03/2024	Tulloch	£35.50	Rachel Milner
Apr	18/05/2024	St Andrews	£37.00	Eli Farquason
May	18/05/2024	St Andrews	£37.00	Liz Gatland
Jun	07/10/2024	Aberdeen	£36.00	Cathy Pellymounter
Jul	07/10/2024	Aberdeen	£35.00	Eli Farquason
Aug	07/10/2024	Aberdeen	£35.00	Zoe Martin
Sep	07/10/2024	Aberdeen	£34.50	Karen Ewing
Oct	28/10/2024	Edinburgh	£34.50	Susan Talboys
Nov	25/11/2024	Aberdeen	£34.50	Jane Farquason
Dec	25/11/2024	Aberdeen	£34.50	Pat Whyatt

Total raised by 50-50 club in 2024: £829.00 (£423 paid out in prizes)

It has been a good year for the 50-50 club, though not quite the record levels of the previous years! Thank you to our regular and spontaneous supporters who have managed to keep the monthly winnings at over £34 every month - that IS a record! We have paid £450 into the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF) this year. Please continue supporting the 50-50 Club in 2025 so we can continue our support of the BRF - whilst adding a little excitement each month! You can buy tickets at any time

of year for as many months as you want: when you see me at meetings or email me for an entry forms and payment options (cheque, online transfer) at [50-50club@sacr.org](mailto:50-50club@sacr.org)

Thank you once again for your support and looking forward to 2025 draws....

## The Towers & Members

Notes: Associate members are identified in *italics*.  
'W3W' indicates location on What Three Words app.

### **ABERDEEN Cathedral Church of St Machar, The Chanonry, Old Aberdeen**

Grid Ref: NJ 939 088 W3W: lights.reach.mole  
8 Bells, Tenor 14-0-6 in F#  
Church of Scotland  
Sunday Ringing: 10.15 - 11.00 Practice: Monday 19.30 - 21.00  
Correspondent Ruth Ogilvie Email: stmachar@sacr.org

**Members:** John Thorogood (1979), Isabel Crane (1990), Colin North (1990), Simon Lucas (1999), Ian Talboys (2000), Fiona North (2004), Freddie Cumming (2004), Susan Talboys (2004), Ruth Ogilvie (2005), Shona Buxton (2006), Torquil Buxton (2006), Andrew Mumford (2009), Jenny Holden (2012), Cassia Ogilvie (2012), Ross Grieg (2017), Sylvia Grieg (2017), Sarah Hyatt (2020), Matthew Machin-Autenreith (2022), Irwin Czachorowski (2023), Angela Waldock (2023), Simon Bains (2024).

### **ABERDEEN Cathedral Church of St Mary of The Assumption Huntly Street**

Grid Ref: NJ 936 061 W3W: hours.pounds.snaps  
8 Bells, Tenor 12-0-6 in A  
Roman Catholic  
No regular ringing  
Contact Cathedral direct Tel: 01224 640160  
Email: manager@cathedral-abdn.org

### **ALLOA St John the Evangelist, Broad Street**

Grid Ref: NS 886 926 W3W: muddy.spider.congratulations  
8 Bells, Tenor 13-0-20 in F#  
Episcopalian  
Practice : Last Saturday of each month 15.00 - 17.00  
Correspondent: Church Office Tel : 01259 724550

### **DUMFRIES St John the Evangelist Newall Terrace**

Grid Ref: NX 974 764 W3W: wizard.moods.confusion  
8 Bells, Tenor 10-3-18 in A Flat  
Episcopalian/Methodist  
Sunday Ringing: 10.15 - 10.50 Practice: Thurs 19.30 - 21.00  
Correspondent: Heather Barrington: Email: Dumfries@ sacr.org

**Members:** Heather Barrington (2015), Guy Beaumont (2015), John Higgon (2015), Debbie Johnson (2015), *Andrew Mackenzie* (2015), Tony McIlrick (2015), Linda Scott (2015), Douglas Solley (2015), Emma Westmancott (2015), Ann Roberts (2016), Ian Cooper (2016), *Raymond Budd* (2016), Julie Black (2020), Jane Martin (2020), Scott Cooper (2022), Nick Bircher (2023), Kerry Graham (2023), Nuala Nevill (2024).

**DUNBLANE Cathedral Church of St Blane and St Laurence**

**The Cross**

Grid Ref: NN 781 014 W3W: sounding.vegetable.shuffles

8 +1 Bells, Tenor 24-2-24 in E b

Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 9.30 - 10.30

Practice: Weds 19.30 - 21.00 (Doors closed promptly)

Correspondent: Niki Wildman Email: dunblane@sacr.org

www.dunblaneringers.org.uk

**Members:** Magnus Peterson (1962 life), June Peterson (1966 life), Christopher Frye (1985), Judith Frye (1985), Stuart Bamforth (1989), Rob McGowan (1989) John Grainger (1992), Kath Grainger (1998), Fiona Wheeler (2002), Alex Frye (2010), Jane Farquharson (2019), Molly Holmes (2019), Miranda Jones (2019), Nikki Wildman (2019), Siobhan Kewley (2022), Jenny Dearie (2024).

**DUNDEE Cathedral Church of St Paul**

**High Street**

Grid Ref: NO 404 303 W3W: drew.faces.bill

8 Bells Tenor 21-0-0 in Eb

Episcopalian

Sunday Ringing: 9.45 - 10.30 (consult www.dundee.sacr.org for which Dundee tower)

Practice: Monday 19.00 - 20.30 (consult www.dundee.sacr.org for which Dundee tower )

Correspondent: Carly Cooper Email:dundee@sacr.org

**DUNDEE Old Steeple**

**Nethergate**

Grid Ref: NO 401 301 W3W: chip.spray.policy

8 Bells Tenor 19-2-10 in E

Church of Scotland

Ringling restrictions apply.

Sunday Ringing: 9.45 - 10.30 (consult www.dundee.sacr.org for which Dundee tower)

Practice: Monday 19.00 - 20.30 (consult www.dundee.sacr.org for which Dundee tower )

Correspondent: Carly Cooper Email:dundee@sacr.org

**Members:** Christina Howie (1989), Stephen Elwell-Sutton (1993), Ron Oliver (1993), Barbara Barnard (2005), Peter Valuks (2008), Mark Lloyd (2014), Carly Cooper (2017), Gillian Ferguson (2017), Lucy Smith (2017), Sean Smith (2017), Brenda Elwell-Sutton (2019), Matthew Bellhouse-Moran (2022), Tania Sokolova (2022), Andy Mackenzie (2023).

**DUNKELD Ruined Cathedral Church of St Columba**

**Cathedral Street**

Grid Ref: NO 024 426 W3W: meal.describes.recitals

6 Bells Tenor 6-3-2 in B

Church of Scotland

No ringing at present.

Correspondent: Anne Graham Email: dunkeld@sacr.org

**Members:** Iona O'Connor (1989), Elizabeth Gatland (2002), Tim Gatland (2002), Margaret Churchill (2007), Robin Churchill (2007), Mara Maggio (2010), Anne Graham (2014), David Roemmele (2015), Godfrey Hall (2017), Lesley Hall (2017).

**EDINBURGH Fettes College Chapel,**

**East Fettes Avenue**

Grid Ref: NT 236 752 W3W: stays.tree.single

6 Bells Tenor 2-1-13 in G

College Chapel

Ringing: By arrangement only, not during term time (except pupils)

Correspondent: Fettes College, 24 Carrington Road ,

Edinburgh, EH4 1QX Tel: 0131 311 6724

**EDINBURGH St Cuthbert,**

**5 Lothian Road**

Grid Ref: NT 248 736 W3W: burst.congratulations.bike

10 Bells, Tenor 21-0-0 in Eb

Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 10.00 - 10.30 Practice: Tuesday 19.30 - 21.00

(no practice August)

Correspondent: Judith Stark Email: stcuthbert@sacr.org

**Members:** Susan Bryce (1980), Judy Barker (1989) James Bryce (1998), Edmund Smith (2011), Matthew Gretton (2013), Ruth Giblin (2014), Judith Stark (2017), Annie Brechin (2018), Alex Davis (2020), Talon Ashryver (2023), Lyra Burgess (2024), Abbie Englund (2024), Michael Nott (2024).

**EDINBURGH Cathedral Church of St Mary,**

**Palmerston Place**

Grid Ref: NT 242 735 W3W: lively.traded.spots

12 Bells, Tenor 41-1-15 in B

Episcopalian

Sunday Ringing: 9.45 - 10.30 Practice: Thursday 19.00 - 21.00

Correspondent: Susannah Ewens Email: smaryedin@sacr.org

**Members:** Mark Hutcheson (1975), Neil Ballard (1992), Jonathan Aves (2009), Barbara Bell (2013), Ian Bell (2013), Diana Cheeseman (2015), Susannah Ewens (2016), Wilma Tomie (2016), Alison Fyfe (2019), Inge Mullerjans (2019), Elinor Farquharson (2020), Geoffrey Farquharson (2020), Christopher de Burgh (2022), Karin Farnworth (2022), Alison Stevens (2022), Fiona Bridge (2023), Ian Brown (2023), Annabel Bruce (2023), (Louise Stanford (2023), Kenton Wilson 2023)

**EDINBURGH New Town Church (formerly St Andrew and St George West)**

**13 George Street**

Grid Ref: NT 254 741 W3W: park.chains.farmer

8 Bells, Tenor 14-2-23 in E Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 11.20 - 12.00 Practice: Monday 19.30 - 21.00

(no practice August)

Correspondent: Annie Brechin Email: newtown@sacr.org

**Members:** Mike Clay (1997), Simon Aves (2007), *Alison Campbell* (2007), Morven Cross (2007), *Jocelyn Cunliffe* (2007), *Sally Evans* (2007), *Barbara Ross* (2007), Mary Clark-Maxwell (2008), Sandra Clay (2008), Anne Leigh-Brown (2009), Christopher Hunt (2015), Ian Stark (2017), Alex Linton (2021), Estella Haynes (2022), Irina Dudina (2023), Erin Scratcherd (2023).



**FORRES Balnaferry Campanile**

**Balnaferry House, Forres, Moray**

Grid Ref: NJ 030 574 W3W: supposed.milder.oxidation

8 Bells Tenor 15 lbs

Private Ring

Ringling by Arrangement

Correspondent: Anthony Cole Email: forres@sacr.org

FB: BalnaferryCampanile

**GLASGOW Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin,**

**Great Western Road**

Grid Ref: NS 577 668 W3W: soon.funny.views

10 Bells Tenor 32-1-6 in C#

Episcopaliam

Sundays: 10.30 - 11.00 and 17.40 - 18.30

Practice: Tuesday 19.30 - 21.15

Correspondent: Peter Kirton Email: glasgow@sacr.org

FB: GlasgowBellringers

**Members:** Michael Pink (1962 life), Margaret Williams (1973 life), Terry Williams (1973 life), Robert Ley (1982 life), Jennifer Tomkinson (1985), Ruth Marshall (1993), Karen Ewing (1996), Frank Ewing (2000), Jonathan Frye (2000), Tina Stoecklin (2000), Clyde Wallbanks (2001), Angela Deakin (2002), Peter Whyatt (2002), Simon Gay (2007), Peter Kirton (2012), Iain Milne (2013), Colin Crawford (2016), Zoe Bennett (2019), Zoe Martin (2019), Don Spaeth (2020), Catriona James (2021), Irene Drummond (2022).

**HADDINGTON St Mary,**

**Sidgate**

Grid Ref: NT 518 736 W3W: achieving.habit.pigs

8 Bells, Tenor 11-1-20 in F#

Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 9.00 - 09.30 Practice: Friday 19.30 - 21.30

(Door closes 19.30, reopens briefly at 20.30)

Correspondent: Rose Pipes Email: haddington@sacr.org

**Members:** Nigel Booth (1977 life), Sally Thomas (1980), Chris Thomas (1982), John Elcock (1988), Valerie Elcock (1988), Liz Barr (1992), Hugh Pumphrey (1993), Jenny Mackie (2000), Rachel McNally (2000), *George Playfair* (2000), Rose Pipes (2003), Jill Whyte (2007), *Nicola Eliot* (2015), Julia Slocombe (2016), Pauline McLean (2019), Alastair George (2022), Rebecca Christine (2023), Ed Dee (2023), Paul Doyle (2023), Ruth Ellis (2023), Margaret Evans (2023), Anne Guthrie (2023), Eleanor Hayman (2023), Andrew Jones (2023), Arthur Kidner (2023), John Lawrence (2023).

**INVERARAY All Saints,**

**The Avenue**

Grid Ref: NN 095 085 W3W: astounded.motorist.fresh

10 Bells, Tenor 41-2-8 in C

Episcopaliam

Correspondent: Angela Deakin Email: inveraray@sacr.org

**Member:** Martin Mellor (2018).

**INVERNESS Cathedral Church of St Andrew,  
Ardross Street**

Grid Ref: NH 664 449 W3W: memory.dips.enjoy

10 Bells, Tenor 16-3-12 in Eb

Episcopalian

Sunday Ringing: 10.20 - 10.55

Practice: Thursday 19.30 - 21.00

Correspondent: Sue Turner Email: inverness@sacr.org

**Members:** Cynthia Preece (1970 life), *Linda Drake-Brockman* (1984), Heather Preece (1988), Nicholas Sturgess (1988), Hugh Collins (2004), Michelle Wiseman (2007), Nicola Hughes (2011), Catherine Pelleymounter (2014), Alex Mackensie (2016), Dawn McAleer (2017), Ian Turner (2017), Sue Turner (2017), Anthony Cole (2018), Sam Cole (2018), Sarah Cole (2018), Rachel Milner (2018), Barbara Hummel (2019), Kathryn Darley (2022), Lowenna Darley (2023), Catherine McLaren (2023), Michael Pearce (2023), Brian Heys (2024), Matthew Hubbard (2024), Richard Pratt (2024).

**ST ANDREWS College Chapel of St Salvator**

**North Street**

Grid Ref: NO 510 168 W3W: caramel.print.agreement

6 Bells, Tenor 7-3-20 in A

University Chapel

Sunday Ringing: 10.15 - 11.00

Practice: Tuesday 19.30 - 21.00 (University term only)

Call 01334 462222 ext 14133 if locked out.

Correspondent: Rachel Williamson Email: st-andrews@sacr.org

**Members:** Duncan Malloch (deceased) (1991), Peter Williamson (2009), Rachel Williamson (2010), Peter Jupp (2017), Al Rossin (2017), Briony Harding (2019), John McLeod (2021), Jason Pollock (2021), Matthew Andrews (2023), Quenton Hurst (2023), George Stevens (2023).

**STIRLING Church of the Holy Rude,**

**St John Street**

Grid Ref: NS 791 938 W3W: detail.shots.wants

6 Bells, Tenor 6-3-25 in Bb

Church of Scotland

Sunday: 10.00 - 11.00 (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)

Practice Friday 19.15 - 20.45

Correspondent: Rob Ferguson Email: stirling@sacr.org

**Members:** Susan McGowan (1991), Robert Ferguson (2003), Peter Nicholas (2016), Dan Pringle (2020), Karen Slater (2021), Brian Lockett (2024).

**TULLOCH Tulloch Ringing Centre, and Last Tower**  
**Tulloch Farm, Roybridge**

Grid Ref: NN 329 806 W3W: secretly.renovated.sleepers

Ringing Centre: 12 Bells, Tenor 7-2-4 in Bb

Private Ring

Last Tower: 8 Bells Tenor 3-0-28 in D

Private Ring

Ringing by Arrangement

Email: [tulloch@sacr.org](mailto:tulloch@sacr.org)

[www.tullochbells.com/](http://www.tullochbells.com/)FB: TullochBells

**Members:** Peter Bevis (2002), Helen McGregor (2002), Nick Jones (2013)

**Members not affiliated to any specific tower:** Alastair McFarlane(1976), Clare Caley (1984), George Cringles (1988), Graeme Booth (1993), Jason Hargreaves (1994), Matt Edwards (1999), Richard Tibbetts (2011), James Holdsworth (2019), Tim Billings (2021).

**Non-resident Life Members:** Frances Mulvey (1971), Bob Hancock (1987), Michael Neale (2002).

The Scottish Association of Change Ringers holds some personal information about its members including names and in some cases contact details.

Details published in our annual report and on our website include the names of members and of people who have rung a quarter peal or peal for the association or in Scotland. This information is processed on the basis that it is in the legitimate interests of both the Association and its members. Peal and quarter peal information will normally have been obtained from existing published information.

As a non-profit making organisation the Association is not required to register with the Information Commissioner's Office; however, under the General Data Protection Regulation/1Data Protection Act 2018, individuals still have the right to request copies of information held that relates to them and to correct any errors that exist in that information.

If you would like a copy of your personal information held by the Association or do not wish to have your personal details published in the annual report or on our website please contact the Association Secretary.

# News from the Towers



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## Changes, Departures and Arrivals

Tower correspondents reported on changes in their band members, and tower officers, and deaths other than those recorded in the obituaries:

“We started the year with 21 ringers (plus Lowenna and Samuel who have been away studying). Talon transferred to Edinburgh St Cuthbert’s during the year, Lowenna is now living around Andover and Elaine left us around Christmas time last year, but we have gained Brian Heys (formerly from the Chester area) and Matthew Hubbard (from Kent) so we have 20 active ringers currently. The addition of these two gentlemen has strengthened the band capabilities as they’re both very capable.” **Inverness**

“We have lost one member this year. Dan Pringle has moved away to Larbert and has a young family.” **Stirling**

“After many years as tower correspondent, Sue Turner and husband Ian have now left Tulloch for the delights of the Black Isle. The local band at Tulloch no longer exists and the local practices have ceased.” **Tulloch**

“Our tower membership has remained stable, enabling us to ring regularly for practice nights, Sunday services, and special events (including weddings, ordinations, and the world day of prayer). During 2024 we only had to cancel ringing once (because we were all at Tulloch)! Mark Hutcheson stepped down as steeple keeper, with Geoffrey Farquharson taking over. We are very grateful to Mark for his dedication and hard work over the years.” **Edinburgh St Mary**

“We lost three ringers, one went back to China and one started a master’s degree in London- planned to join ULSCR, one went to teach for a year in Germany.” **St Andrews**

“Tower officers remain the same as last year. Chris Thomas is Tower Captain until May, John Elcock Chair, Hugh Pumphrey Steeple Keeper. Anne Guthrie is Treasurer, Ruth Ellis, Secretary and Rose

Pipes is Tower Correspondent. Our band has remained stable over the last two years or so, although Liz Barr no longer rings.” **Haddington**

“We heard that Ed Bennett has died. He had not been a member since around 2013. We have gained some new ringers: Helen Aries from Cardiff, Marion Ford a lapsed ringer from England, Molly Holmes from Dunblane and Kaveh Golab from Didsbury, Manchester. These new members have helped increase number for Sunday service ringing and extending the bands repertoire. Our Treasurer changed from Simon Lucas to Sarah Hyatt at our 2024 AGM.” **Aberdeen**

“We have been joined by David Groves who has joined us from St John the Evangelist, Ranmoor, Sheffield. He started ringing as part of the Ringing Remembers recruitment drive and we are delighted he has joined the Dundee band. Lucy and Sean Smith left the band in September to return to their home in Lincolnshire. This has had a huge impact in terms of numbers but also loss of skill as Sean was an excellent teacher.” **Dundee**

“We recently welcomed two new ringers to St Cuthbert’s: Talon Ashryver from Inverness and Eve Harknett from England. Abbie Englund now rings regularly with us while at university, having learned in Durham. In the summer we said goodbye to Alex Davies who rang with us for 5 years while he was a student here. During his time in Edinburgh Alex progressed from ringing plain bob doubles to peals of spliced surprise major. Erin Scratcherd moved to Cambridge, having progressed from absolute beginner to ringing her first quarter peal. We were sad to say goodbye to Michael Nott who inspired us all with his enthusiasm for learning well into his 80’s after moving here from England. In recent months Michael has had health problems so decided to call it a day.” **Edinburgh St Cuthbert**

“Molly Holmes is now at university in Aberdeen. Our loss is their gain, but we miss her cheery disposition. James Fraser has moved back to Dunblane having spent a few years in Lancashire. It is a pleasure to welcome him back. Molly was our steeple keeper, and has been replaced by Miranda Jones.” **Dunblane**

“Nick Sturgess has become ringing master (replacing Tina Stoecklin).”

**Inveraray**

“In November 2024 at our AGM, Annie Brechin stepped down from the tower captaincy following five years in post. We are excited to say that Ian Stark, a longstanding ringer at New Town Church, has taken over from January. Estella Haynes also stepped down from the secretary role with Annie Brechin replacing her. Many thanks to Estella for her contribution during a key pivotal year.” **Edinburgh New Town**

### **How many people ring for service on Sunday?**

“Our numbers have not really recovered since Covid, partly through a combination of long-term illness of a couple of our ringers, or a change in personal circumstances which, mixed in with holidays and absences, means that some weeks we have not had enough people to ring either for a practice or even on a Sunday, which is a shame. We consider that five is the minimum number we can ring with on a Sunday, and sadly there have been several Sundays where this has been the issue, and we have not been able to ring. A good Sunday is somewhere between six and eight.” **Dumfries**

“We usually ring for both morning and evening service on Sunday, only having to cancel ringing on a few occasions, with at least six bells for each and sometimes eight or even all ten.” **Glasgow**

“We usually have about six to eight ringers on a Sunday. Since our service times clash with the Holy Rude, Stirling (who ring on alternate Sundays) we have fewer ringers on those days.” **Dunblane**

“Usually between seven and twelve, with a very busy sixteen one Sunday in December. During the summer months numbers can drop to six or fewer.” **Edinburgh St Cuthbert**

“Our Sunday service ringing numbers increased in the last quarter of 2024 from an average of five to six ringers to eight or more following some additional ringers joining the band and some of our learners

progressing to a standard where they could join in with service ringing.”  
**Aberdeen**

“Normally we average 5 people.” **Dundee**

“Number regularly at Sunday Service ringing is six to eight.” **Stirling**

“We have usually had at least eight or more for Sunday service ringing and have rung call changes, Grandsire, Stedman and occasionally a half course of Surprise. On average we get ten to twelve.” **Edinburgh New Town**

“We typically get eight or ten ringers on a Sunday morning now, sometimes more. Around half of the regular Sunday Service band comprises people we have taught in the last two or three years. Generally, we ring rounds and call changes on eight, with some method ringing on five or six, depending who we have. Occasionally, we will have enough for Grandsire Triples.” **Haddington**

“In 2023 our Sunday morning attendance dramatically increased from around four to ten people. We have maintained a good number of Sunday morning ringers throughout 2024, typically between six and ten.” **Edinburgh St Mary**

“Sunday morning ringing is often attended by eight or more ringers with at least eight Sundays having had ten or more ringers. Sunday mornings are often run by Nick Sturgess as Anthony Cole is unable to attend.” **Inverness**

## **Recruitment**

“We are regularly contacted by individuals interested in bell ringing tuition, and have a steady stream of learners. At the end of 2024 we had four people at the bell handling stage, all of whom are making good progress. As well as Thursday evenings, we teach on tied bells some Saturday mornings. A few of us have attended an ART course; we use this as a framework for our sessions. Congratulations to



Andrew, Annabel, and Louise for achieving their ART level one certificates!” **Edinburgh St Mary**

“We have gained one learner in the year - Sarah Kenchington (who we know as Bear) - and she is now proficiently handling and ringing rounds. Our one Ring for the King recruit left after four intensive handling sessions.” **Stirling**

“We are currently teaching 2 learners who are the stage of rounds and call changes with three other showing an interest in learning in 2025.” **St Andrews**

“We continue to have a waiting list to learn to ring at Glasgow. Our two Ring for the King recruits are progressing well and regularly taking part in the main practice and we now have a new set of learners taking handling lessons.” **Glasgow**

“Our one Ring for the King recruit Andy MacKenzie is still learning with us and he completed his first quarter peal this year.” **Dundee**

“We have recruited two new learners in 2024 - Beverley Townley and Panny Hardie. Both live in the Borders, and make a one hundred mile round trip to ring with us! They are ringing in rounds now, and starting to venture into call changes. We did not focus on the ‘Ring for the King’ initiative, having been successful enough in recruitment in the last three years. We may run another ‘Introduction to Bell-ringing’ course in 2025, but it depends on a number of things.” **Haddington**

“Not all of our Ring for the King learners stuck with us : only Julia and Jonathan are still ringing. We lost about four who started to learn to handle a bell. Perhaps the main reason was a lack of progression; bell handling requires a lot of intensive practice and if people don’t progress quickly then they can be disheartened. One ringer broke a stay and was put off.” **Edinburgh New Town**

“We have lost one of the returning ringers from the Ring from the King recruitment, but have retained another lapsed ringer and one new

recruit from that period. We get a number of recruits thanks to our weekly updated Facebook page where we document what we rang; this is viewed by many non-ringers within the city and shows how active we are and we get enquiries through Facebook.” **Inverness**

“We had one recruit, Marcel Jaspers from 2023 who is still ringing with us. We also had one lapsed ringer Simon Bains who joined us in 2023 and is also still ringing with us.” **Aberdeen**

### **Concerns for the future?**

Tower correspondents were asked if they have any current concerns around the future of ringing in their tower including, but not confined to, closures of churches in their area.

“Ringing at Dunkeld had a major setback this year as Historic Environment Scotland (HES) discovered some unsafe masonry and so had to prevent access to the tower just before we were due to ring for a wedding in March 2024. With learners on the go to supplement an aging core band, we found this turn of events frustrating and challenging in the extreme. We made diverse efforts to fix the situation, including but not limited to appeals to MPs, a bid for a story in Historic Scotland Magazine, negotiations involving the SACR and the Church of Scotland, and persistent badgering of connections at HES - mostly by Tim Gatland, our tower captain and steeple keeper. In December 2024, our efforts very suddenly and successfully paid off! After escorting us up the tower to ring for Remembrance Sunday, HES built a shelter over the archway that provides tower access, making the entrance to the tower safe for us just in time for to ring for Christmas. We still need to wear hard hats to get in, but we are now allowed access to the tower again. We will arrange a regular schedule of ringing once the worst of winter is over, but if you’d like to ring at Dunkeld, it is now possible.” **Dunkeld**

“St Cuthbert’s is currently working towards union with Greyfriars Kirk, with full union anticipated in 2025. We don’t yet know what that will mean for the future of ringing at St Cuthbert’s. In 2024 we rang for a

couple of joint services and introduced the Greyfriars congregation to the joyful sound of bells.” **Edinburgh St Cuthbert**

“At present, we have no concerns about church closure – closure of St Mary’s would be difficult to comprehend.” **Haddington**

“The Cathedral in Glasgow seems to be very healthy with a strong congregation and a variety of active groups attached to the church.” **Glasgow**

“Not concerned about closures at the moment but concerns about support from churches/Council to maintain ringing rooms, belfries when likely they will prioritise other parts of the church/other buildings that need work.” **Dundee**

“Holy Rude is a shared charge with Viewfield with services alternating between the two churches. They will be united at the Holy Rude with weekly services when Viewfield is sold.” **Stirling**

“During the winter of 2023/24 we had significant water ingress in the tower and in other parts of the Cathedral which have been under investigation by the church architects ever since but at present no cause or resolution has been devised yet. Once it had dried out, we have not had significant water ingress during the rest of 2024.” **Aberdeen**

“So far we seem to be safe, having just merged with Greenside to become New Town Church. In that merger it was Greenside that closed. Closure is a worry for the future, however for the moment we are looking forward hopefully to the ministry of our new minister, Rev Dr Conor Fegan, after a long interregnum.” **Edinburgh New Town**

“We have more of a people concern than a building concern. Can we train enough ringers to replace those who graduate?” **St Andrews**

### Notable Successes

“Our ten-bell ringing improved in 2024, thanks to a few dedicated ten-bell practices and some focused practising of rounds on ten. Unlike the

Advanced practices which we occasionally host, our ten bell practices were for ringers of all abilities, with ringing ranging from rounds to Yorkshire Royal. Three of our ringers rang their first quarter peals in 2024: Irina Dudina in January, Lyra Burgess in June, and Erin Scratcherd in July. The June quarter also celebrated Edinburgh Pride, and a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters in May was dedicated to International ME Awareness Day.” **Edinburgh St Cuthbert**

“We scored the first SACR peal here since 2016) this year which was a first peal on our own bells for a number of the band. Of note were quarters to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings, Rachel’s daughter Beth’s wedding, Nigel Platt’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Barbara rang her first tower bell quarter peal in March. And there was a special touch of 504 to celebrate Nick’s completion of all Corbetts and Munros. We also scored a quarter peal of St Andrew Bob Triples which was a new method for all of us, introduced the previous Christmas with a view to ringing a quarter peal with a local band, for the cathedral’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.” **Inverness**

“Visiting bands continue to come, so the bells are very much in use. In 2024, 11 peals and 66 quarters were rung at The Last Tower. In the Ringing Centre 13 peals and 55 quarters were rung - one more peal than in 2023 and surprisingly the same number of quarters. We were delighted to host SRCY for a week of intensive Orion Surprise Maximus ringing which resulted in 5 peals of Orion, Orion above or spliced Orion above methods. One of these peals saw Helen ring her first peal of Orion, with the distinction of being the oldest ringer to score a first in the method. Sadly 2024 was the first year for many years that we were unable to field a band to ring in the New Year. Happily we have a lot of bookings of the bells already for 2025 - including an attempt on the record length of maximus.” **Tulloch**

“Andy MacKenzie rang his first quarter in November. This was to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dundee Society of Bellringers as well as the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of Dundee’s historic ship HMS Unicorn. And we won the St Andrews Shield at the Striking Competition - the first time since 2002.” **Dundee**

“Judith Stark rang her first quarter of Bristol S Major and there was an all-women QP of PB5 for International Women’s Day. We celebrated Alex Davies’ graduation with a peal of Bristol S Major. And with the peal of Oban S Major Estella circled the tower in eight peals, and Simon and Eddie completed a Surprise Major alphabet (being the first ringers to do so entirely in Scotland). There was also an excellent ASCY peal of spliced Stedman and Bristol on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Simon’s first peal, and a peal of Yorkshire to celebrate the birth of baby Arkady, son to Irina and Alexei.” **Edinburgh New Town**

“We rang 11 quarters in 2024 on the tower bells and one in hand, mostly with local ringers. Elena Chen rang her first quarter peal. Two peals were rung with a mixture of local people and visitors.” **St Andrews**

“Through the year, we celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the installation of the bells at St Mary’s, dedicated on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1999. We rang two quarter peals in June as part of the celebrations, one on the anniversary of the dedication. As part of the celebrations, we also welcomed the SACR for the autumn meeting. We had some notable quarter peal successes. Emily Walker rang her first quarter on an inside bell, ringing the second to Plain Bob Minor, as did Ruth Ellis, ringing the second to Plain Bob Doubles. Equally to be celebrated, one of our recent learners, Arthur Kidner, also rang his first quarter in the doubles, ringing the tenor.” **Haddington**

“At the Association of Ringing Teachers’ AGM in March, Siobhan Kewley received Highly Commended for The Learning the Ropes Achievement Award. At the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers’ meeting in September Molly Holmes was given Highly Commended for the Westley Award for Church Bell Maintenance. In the autumn both Molly and Siobhan completed the ART Learning the Ropes scheme, Level 5 - the final stage. Amongst other skills, this required them to have rung at least six quarter peals including two different methods inside. It is a huge achievement. Well done to them both on reaching this milestone! Quarter peals this year have celebrated the Christening of Evelyn May Rose Bamforth-Tighe, Stuart Bamforth’s granddaughter, and to welcome her sister, Isabelle Frances Lily

Bamforth-Tighe. Another birth was celebrated in the summer with the arrival of Fynn David Hinchliffe Kewley, a son for Siobhan Kewley. Hopefully, a new generation of ringers here!" **Dunblane**

"In 2024 we rang 4 quarter peals, all for special occasions. This included first quarters for Fiona Bridge, Ian Brown, and Annabel Bruce, first tower bell quarter for Geoffrey Farquharson, first as conductor for Elinor Farquharson, and what was believed to be the first women's quarter in the tower. In May a peal of plain bob triples (conducted by Alison Stevens) was rung to mark the 150th anniversary of the laying of the cathedral foundation stone. The band was composed entirely of ringers from our own tower, or those closely associated with us, so was a great achievement." **Edinburgh St Mary**

"There was a women's QP for the 50th The Inveraray Ringing Festival." **Inveraray**

"Don Spaeth rang his first quarter peal inside, and Zoe Bennett her first peal of Bristol Royal with an (almost) local band. Three quarters were rung on the bells for the SACR QP weekend in June." **Glasgow**

### **The social side of ringing**

"In October we had a tower outing to Cumbria organised by Zoe Martin. Ringing was at five different towers over the course of the day on 6 to 12 bells and with a pub meal in the evening. Some people stayed over in Cumbria on the Saturday night and helped out with local service ringing on the Sunday while, others made a late trip back to Scotland for Sunday service ringing." **Glasgow**

"Late in December, most of our band came together for a holiday ceilidh hosted by Tim and Elizabeth. We are very pleased to have kept our band together throughout a very trying year without access to the tower at Dunkeld, and are looking forward to a better 2025." **Dunkeld**

"We had a weekend trip to South West London ringing along the Croydon to Wimbledon tram line." **Inveraray**

“We had a party in the spring and a ringers’ walk in the autumn (starting at the Cathedral and ending at a fish and chip shop in Musselburgh). We regularly enjoy visits to the pub after practice night!” **Edinburgh St Mary**

“The festive season was celebrated with a Christmas lunch with some of the Dunkeld ringers, and a New Year walk in Doune followed by a pot-luck supper in Dunblane” **Dunblane**

“We held our annual tower outing on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Sixteen of us in all (all Haddington band members), we travelled to towers in Northumberland and Tyneside in fine weather. We rang on the six at Embleton before a blustery lunch by the sea at Whitley Bay, including, obligatory ice-creams. After lunch we rang on the eight at St Paul’s (Whitley Bay), before tackling the characterful ten at North Shields and the rather fine ten at Gosforth. The tens especially were a great opportunity for our less experienced ringers, some of whom had only rung at Haddington before the outing. Tired, but suitably happy, we made our usual favourite call at the Horseshoes in Rennington for an evening meal before the trip back. We also held our 25<sup>th</sup> annual dinner on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, welcoming ringers, former ringers now retired, partners and friends. Then at the morning service the following day, the Minister, Revd. Alison McDonald, highlighted the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the installation and dedication of the bells, talking with Chris and Sally about ringing at St Mary’s. Revd. Dr John Cairns, who, as then Moderator of the Church of Scotland, had led the service of dedication in 1999, then spoke very movingly about the installation and dedication of the bells, and how important and valued the sound of the bells had become to the life of St Mary’s and the wider Haddington community in just twenty-five years.” **Haddington**

“Peter Jupp kindly hosted a pancake party on the date of our AGM. We went out for a meal after having rung for a carol service.” **St Andrews**

“We had our yearly Christmas outing, this year to The Birkhill. A lovely evening was had by all with excellent food, drink and company” **Dundee**

“The Edinburgh Fringe had a show called ‘Bellringers’ about the ancient superstition that ringing church bells could ward off a thunderstorm. Intrigued by the idea, a group of us went along to see it. It wasn’t really about bellringing, though the staging did include real ropes in a bell chamber. We were all itching to tie them properly! In November we put in three teams for a church quiz for Fresh Start, an Edinburgh-based charity helping people move on from homelessness. There were no prizes for our teams this year, but we had an enjoyable evening together. Then in December we had another theatre trip, to see our handbells in the Lyceum’s Christmas production of Treasure Island.” **Edinburgh St Cuthbert**

### Other news and information

“Groups from Gordonstoun School and the Inverness Music Festival have visited the tower to see the bells and to have a short go at ringing; they were all given the opportunity to make a sound out of the (down) tenor too which was great fun for everyone.” **Inverness**

“A new venture has been ‘ring out for climate justice’. This is a group of young people concerned about climate change who chime our bells once a month.” **Edinburgh St Mary**

We have restarted monthly eight bell practices at St John’s Alloa with ringers from Stirling, Dunblane and Dunkeld. The Alloa bells were re-roped in December with surplus ropes from Dunkeld and St Mary’s, Edinburgh.” **Stirling**

“We now have a scheme whereby people can ask for remembrances and celebrations, etc., to be noted at Sunday morning ringing. Anyone visiting, or attending a service, can leave a note on a slip in a box at the back of the church. We note these before we start ringing and they are announced to the congregation by the Minister at the start of the service. One of our recent recruits, and member of the congregation, Rebecca, thoughtfully instigated this, and it’s gone down well and the Minister was very supportive. There’s a note for someone most weeks.



It gives us a bit more focus in the tower on a Sunday, and links the ringing to the community a bit more too.” **Haddington**

“Following the new procedures imposed by the Council at the Old Steeple regarding a cap on numbers as well as always having a Dundee member in the ringing chamber, we successfully hosted one of the SACR Advanced Practices in June. There was a lot of movement up and down the stairs, but we managed it with Ruth keeping an eye on numbers. We also welcomed the Peterborough Diocesan Guild in October to the Old Steeple and they were successful in ringing their peal. This was the first peal at the Old Steeple since 2020, and again we managed to host the band following the Council’s new measures.

After damage caused by Storm Babet in 2023 we were relieved to regain entry to St Paul’s in 2024. The ringing room still looks terrible, but we can ring again on seven bells.” **Dundee**

“We have had issues around some of our ropes, one of which failed within a relatively short time of being repaired. We have now ordered a couple of brand new ones, and are trying to keep on top of regular checks on the ropes, and moving them round as necessary. Tony has devised a clever system of making sure that we keep a check on the history of each rope so we know exactly which rope has been on which bell, and we can keep an audit of this information. We have now changed the protocol on how we respond to people who bang on the church doors after we have started practice, following on from an unfortunate incident in August. We have an opening window above the porch now, and we respond to anyone knocking by calling out of the window (in a slightly undignified way) to see if it is a ringer requiring to be let in, or someone with some other request, in which case we can respond appropriately.” **Dumfries**

“Because we haven’t been able to ring for most of the year, Dunkeld ringers Robin and Maggi Churchill, Godfrey and Lesley Hall, and Tim and Elizabeth Gatland have been ringing in Stirling and Alloa on a semi-regular basis. Alloa rings on the last Saturday of the month at 3:00 p.m. - all are welcome to join! Further afield, in May, Tim and Elizabeth managed to ring for a Sunday morning service at St. Mark’s in Shreveport, Louisiana; and in August, our oldest member, Iona

O'Connor, tried her hand at something completely different - skydiving at the age of 88! She and her companions raised £20,000 for HopeFull, a Perthshire-based charity that provides hot food for struggling communities in Ukraine." **Dunkeld**

"Once a month we split the practice in two with a focus on six-bell ringing on the Monday and advanced ten-bell ringing on a Tuesday. Both of these are well supported with the less experienced being well supported on Monday and ringers from Dunblane and Edinburgh regularly coming across for the Tuesday session." **Glasgow**

"The Cathedral Education Officer invited the ringers to put on two open tower sessions during the summer holiday and one during October holiday as part of the Cathedral's Family Fun afternoons. We had between 20 - 50 visitors over three hours for each session, with a mixture of children and adults coming up the tower to find out about bells and bellringing with some having a go at backstrokes under supervision. We also took part in the Aberdeen Doors Open day in September with around 60 visitors in the tower to hear about bells and bellringing along with the history of our bells." **Aberdeen**

# Obituaries

**Michael Mulvey** (13 March 1942 - 4 October 2024)

**Stephen Mitchell**

Michael moved to Scotland in 1971 to take up a teaching post at a college in Edinburgh. He and his wife Frances lived eleven miles south of the City in Penicuik and were regular members of the band at St Mary's Cathedral, driving into the City for service ringing and Thursday evening practices, and to support the practices at St Cuthbert's. These were the only two towers at which there was ringing at that time, and the community of active ringers was rather small. Keeping ringing going on the then heavy ring of ten bells at St Mary's, which were just as challenging to ring in the 1970s as fifty years later, required considerable commitment to the cause.

Having been elected to succeed Kate Branson as Ringing Master, Michael applied unbounded enthusiasm and commitment to the task of leading and developing the band. This included teaching a number of young ringers, one of whom was the then Provost's daughter Fiona Crossfield.

Michael rang five peals at St Mary's between 1971 and 1976, at which point they returned to live and ring in England. These included Plain Bob Major on the back eight, Grandsire Caters and Plain Bob Royal. Never one to shirk hard work, he returned for another one of Bob Royal in 1979! Most notable was a Scottish Association peal of Grandsire Caters on 18 May 1974 in which everyone except the conductor was a local Sunday service ringer, and this was Michael's first peal of Grandsire Caters.

Michael and Frances were keen supporters of all Scottish Association events and practices wherever they took place. In June 1975 Michael rang the treble to the second peal on the ten at Inverness - due to complaints about ringing, this had to be rung fully muffled and took 3h 29mins (we could not hear much of what was going on!)

Also of note, Michael rang 1-2 to the only recorded handbell performance at Penicuik, Midlothian: 1344 of Plain Bob Major on 12 May 1975.

Leaving for the south in 1976, Michael and Frances left a large hole in Scottish ringing at the time, particularly in Edinburgh.

**Barbara Bell** adds:

I remember Michael and Francis from when I was a student in the 1970s. They were always friendly and enthusiastic and great supporters of SACR events. Notable and memorable were their offers of lifts to further away places - I especially remember going to Inveraray, a great adventure past Loch Lomond and over the 'Rest and be Thankful' pass, Michael's car full of ringers, and of course their ever-present dog! Happy memories.

**Duncan K. Malloch** (1942- 21 February 2024)

**Peter Williamson**



Duncan was born in Greater Manchester in 1942, the second of five siblings. In the late 1950s, ringing at Ashton-under-Lyne was at a low ebb. Several youngsters were recruited from the congregation including Duncan and his older brother. They were all taught by Joan Carter, herself not much older than the recruits. They made steady progress such that they formed the basis of a new band ringing regularly for service and practice. Duncan's first peal was in May 1958 with it being a first peal for five of the recent recruits and first as conductor for Joan: A great achievement for the band.

After leaving school, Duncan studied medicine in Edinburgh but did not ring there. He worked as a GP in Exeter and, while waiting to collect his son from a bagpipe lesson, he heard bells being rung at a practice. He returned to ringing including at Heavitree and Exeter Cathedral.

He was diagnosed with cancer in 1988 which then led to his retirement from medicine in 1990. He moved to Scotland and for many years was involved with ringing at the two towers in Dundee including many quarters and one peal: Plain Bob Triples for the SACR 75th anniversary celebrations. He hosted one memorable pizza party and enlisted neighbour's ovens to ensure that all the offerings were ready at the same time!

With the installation of a ring of six at St Andrews in 2011, Duncan became involved in ringing there for service, practice, weddings and graduations. Health issues occurred frequently but each time he was determined to return to ringing - as well as return to other interests including dance and art - as soon as possible. One of the last times that he rang was at St Andrews following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. His health deteriorated further and he was well cared for by his wife at their home where he died on 21 February 2024. We will remember his determination not to let serious health issues interfere with the rest of life and his encouragement of others as they made progress with ringing.

A quarter peal was rung on 13 March at St Andrews following the funeral of Duncan earlier that day. The band was made up of ringers from St Andrews and Dundee where Duncan rang.

**Eleanor Blake** (1942 - 2024)

**Terry Williams**

Eleanor learnt to ring at St James Church, Paisley in 1992. She was taught by Alex Scott and Iain Peacock. She became a regular ringer of rounds and simple methods at St James Church. She continued until she suffered a severe arm/shoulder pain which made ringing very difficult. Despite this problem she still attended practice meetings and could be relied upon to bring the milk for our mid-session refreshments. Following the church closure in 2016 she strongly supported the idea of removing the bells for use in another tower. She

was very pleased to hear that a tower in Cornwall had been found for their new home.

Eleanor's husband Jim predeceased her by two years after a long illness. She is survived by her daughter, Emma.

**Donald Trumpler** (9 Dec 1930 - 10 Jun 2024)

**Eric Trumpler**



Donald Trumpler was born in Vancouver, Canada, to Swiss and German immigrant parents. He grew up as a musically and mathematically gifted child. After studies at the University of British Columbia and a doctorate at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he embarked on a three-month trip to Europe, during which he met his future wife, Elisabeth, the youngest daughter of a school friend of his mother. They were married in Vancouver in December 1958, and had two children, Eric and Mark.

In his early career, Donald taught mathematics at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Rutgers University, Smith College, and the University

of Hartford in Connecticut. Later on he was employed by Combustion Engineering and its successors, now part of the engineering consortium under technology company ABB. He became a troubleshooting and installation expert on training simulators for nuclear reactor operators, including extended assignments in remote locations.

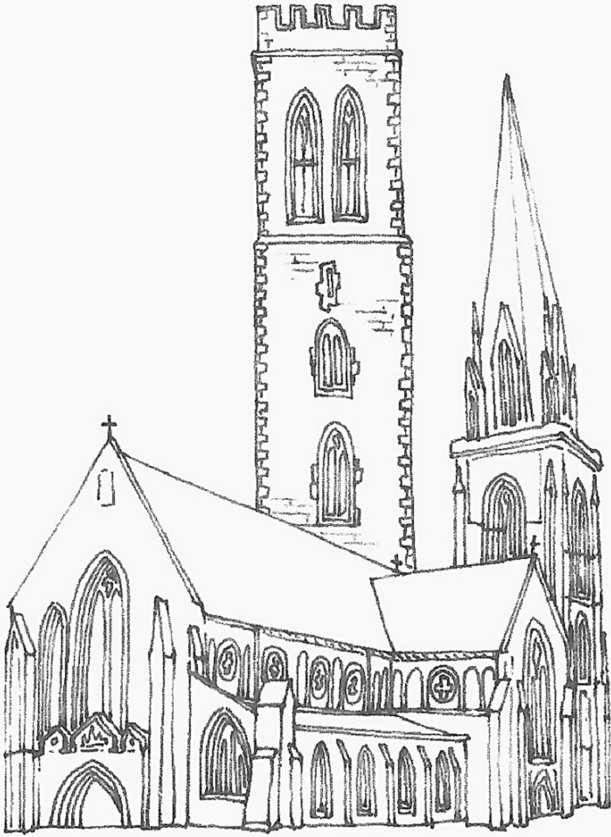
During his eight years employment at Smith, Donald was introduced to change ringing by his colleague Alice Dickenson. Together with the student Joan Hutchinson, they taught themselves the basics of change ringing on handbells. When the construction of a new performing arts centre came into planning, they were able to convince the authorities of the College to include a ring of English bells in a tower that was part of the plan for the complex. A 9cwt ring of Whitechapel bells was installed there in 1968.

Don and Elisabeth were regular ringers at Smith, at Brewster, NY, and in Philadelphia later in life. They were founder members of the North American Guild of Change Ringers, for which Donald served on the executive committee as Peal Secretary for many years. He became one of the leading North American peal ringers, totalling 729 peals in his lifetime. His records include many firsts for the North American Guild, and he always encouraged ringing talents, conducting first peals for many of them. He regularly travelled to the UK for peal tours, some with visiting North American bands, and often rang with a band including Barry Fry, Roy LeMarchal, John Dodd, and John Colliss of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild. In the 1990s he was sent on an assignment to Scotland by his employer, where he was able to ring regularly in Edinburgh. Donald was elected member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths in 1990, and twice joined the Society on peal tours to Australia.

Unfortunately, due to the onset of Parkinson's disease, he was not able to ring for the last ten years of his life but continued pursuing his interest in classical music and opera, visiting concerts for as long as his mobility permitted. He is survived by his wife Elisabeth, his two sons Eric and Mark, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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# Articles



THE WEST



## The Paisley Bells Rehoming Project

### Colin North

The church of St James, Paisley was closed by the Church of Scotland in May 2016 as part of a rationalisation of its estate in response to financial pressures and dwindling congregations. From 1882, it was home to a 22 cwt ring of eight bells donated by Sir Peter Coats, of the Coats textiles family, and cast by Taylors of Loughborough. The lightest four bells were recast and retuned in 1909, resulting in a superb-sounding well-matched set of bells. Ringing was active through the twentieth century; many learners were taught there (including our current Master), as it was a useful training ground for the heavier bells at Glasgow Cathedral. But more recently ringing had been in decline, and if the church had not been closed, extensive renovation would have been required to keep the bells in use. The wheels had reached end of life, and weakness in the supporting frame meant some of the bells had become difficult to ring precisely. *The Ringing World* article by Sue Wilkinson (no. 5487, June 24, 2016) gives more information on the history of ringing at St James.

On closure, the church fabric, including the bells, became the responsibility of the General Trustees (GT) of the Church of Scotland. Initially, they tried to find another organization to use the building for worship or as a community centre. This failing, in August 2017 they put the building up for sale, asking for £125,000. SACR officers were worried that commercial use of the building might result in the bells becoming completely unavailable for ringing, stuck up in the tower unused and unloved. On behalf of SACR, I wrote to the GT offering for SACR to take the bells out of the tower, in order they might be rehomed elsewhere for their intended purpose. SACR would organize, carry out, and pay for all the work, and in return we would get ownership of the bells.

The Keltek Trust offered us an interest-free loan to cover our costs. Our offer was agreed to in in September 2017, but we had to get to work quickly because they had already received interest from a possible purchaser and set a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> October. Adding complexity was that St James is a Grade A listed building, meaning we required Listed Building Consent from Renfrewshire Council and Historic Environment Scotland for the work. Extracting the bells would require

a ceiling to be opened up, and a window removed because the largest bells (the tenor fifty inches in diameter) would not fit through the tower doors. Changes made had to be reversed to the highest conservation standards. Formal consent was not granted until February 2018; but fortunately the sale contract with the new owners had not yet completed, and our agreement with the GT remained valid.

Mike Clay (SACR Bells and Towers Advisor at the time) planned and coordinated the work required to extract the bells and move them to a temporary home. As well as the paperwork for formal consent, this involved organizing sub-contractors including a bell-hanger from Taylor's, builders to open up access routes and restore them afterward, and a specialised truck to take the bells to a storage location.

In March 2018, the bells were removed from the tower, with Mike supervising the contractors and a small team of SACR volunteers over several days. The bells were taken to Tulloch Farm, near Roybridge - the site of the Tulloch Ringing Centre - where they have been kept safely stored, free of charge. We are indebted to the farm owners, Peter Bevis and Helen McGregor, for offering this facility, and their farm manager, Robert Wilson, for making it all happen.

Now began the search for a new home for the bells. Ideally, we wanted to keep the bells in Scotland, preferably as near to Paisley as possible, all together as a ring, not let them go, or sell them, piecemeal. We appreciated that the large weight and size of the bells would make this search more challenging; we needed towers large and strong enough to hold them. A deterring factor would be that, even though we'd be donating the bells free, fitting the bells would still require a major fund-raising effort from a new host, likely many tens of thousands of pounds for a new frame, new wheels, and all the installation work. We also kept in mind that we would need to be able to support the training of a new band of ringers at this tower, thus location was important.

Over the next three years, including into the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, Mike Clay and Simon Aves identified and investigated a long list of possibilities, including non-church buildings.

In year 1, the Greater Glasgow area was explored, and the search narrowed to 30 towers. Three structurally possible options were identified but none proved possible to progress. Year 2 looked at the central belt, including Perth, Fife, Stirling, and even Oban: 40 towers were identified for the long list - one was a real possibility for a while,

but then stopped responding to us. Year 3 considered Edinburgh and other areas previously avoided. In this phase, 27 more towers and 3 non-church buildings were identified, one being technically very promising, but again there were none we could take forward.

The main hurdles in this search have been that many churches were closing or had a doubtful future, with merged congregations usually moving into the newer (cheaper to maintain) buildings which could not take the bells. Apparently suitable buildings commonly already had large outstanding demands for things like roof repairs, replacing heating, or rewiring electrics, and the Covid-19 pandemic stretched finances even further. Congregation numbers are dwindling, while average age is increasing, making commitment to such a project difficult. There was a high turnover of clergy, with long delays in recruiting replacements, making getting decisions hard.

In summary, by the end of 2020, about 100 towers had been evaluated, visited and inspected from the outside. Over 30 letters were sent, with a dozen face to face meetings and three internal inspections completed, including reports from a professional bell hanger. Despite the hard work and many miles driven, it appeared that we had run out of options in Scotland. We all remained convinced, however, that removing them from St James was the correct decision, even if one that created a headache for us.

At this stage, we made it known through the Keltek Trust that we would consider requests for the bells from outside Scotland. We received tentative enquiries from towers in Newcastle, Norfolk, and Exeter, but none of these developed further. In November 2022, the Keltek Trust put us in touch with the ringers at St Clarus, in the village of St Cleer in Cornwall. They were looking for bells to replace and augment their current ring of six which are an indifferent ring of bells of mixed ages that would be difficult to tune suitably to reuse in an eight.

After discussions with ourselves and Taylor's Foundry, they formulated a plan to create a new ring of ten by using the Paisley bells as the back eight and adding two new trebles cast using metal melted down from the old bells. This will not only create a superb sounding ring of ten, but also a light ring of six that will be used for training regionally. And, before you ask, they do ring methods there, not just call changes!

SACR donated the bells to St Cleer on the agreement that they would pay to us the amount of loan we owe Keltek Trust, and also cover

transport and removal costs to take them south. Over £100,000 has already been raised, and although they estimate they might need up to another £50,000, work is beginning. The Kelttek loan has now been repaid, which means the Paisley bells are now owned by and are the responsibility of the St Cleer's PCC.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025, the Paisley bells were loaded on to a truck at Tulloch Farm and taken south to the Taylor's Foundry in Loughborough, ready for them to be refurbished and tuned in with the new trebles when they are cast. Thus comes to an end a nine-year saga, from the time we first learnt St James might be closed to the bells leaving Scotland. Though it is frustrating the bells will not sound out in Scotland again, we are all pleased they should soon be back in use rather than sitting in storage. And this provides a reason for an outing to Cornwall!

SACR is indebted to Mike Clay and Simon Aves for the immense amount of time and effort they put into saving the bells from being silenced forever, and for trying to find a new home in Scotland for the bells.

## **Churches and Chapels on the Air**

**Rob Ferguson**

The World Association of Christian Radio Amateurs and Listeners has been in existence since 1957, founded originally by Rev. Arthur Shepherd as the Huddersfield South Methodist Radio Club. Since 2006 there has been an annual Churches and Chapels on-the-Air Day, an event organised by a Yorkshire farmer ('John G3XYF') who encourages like-minded amateur radio enthusiasts to set up special radio stations in their local churches.

The 2024 event was organised for Saturday 14th September and around forty churches in the UK and a dozen or so in the USA had expressed an interest in taking part. I was kindly given permission by the Minister to set up a transmitter in the ringing room at Holy Rude, Stirling, and run a fifty-metre-long wire antenna from the top of the tower to a corner of the church roof. The set up was tested over the preceding fortnight and very good two-way contacts were made with radio amateurs located in Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Sussex, the Isle of Wight, as well as France, Hungary, Sweden and Italy.

All looked promising until forty-eight hours before the event commenced, when the sun experienced a very large corona mass ejection of charged particles towards the Earth. The effect of this was the appearance of delightful auroral colours in the night sky, but also an almost complete radio blackout in the High Frequency bands used by radio amateurs! This was particularly true of the 7 MHz band which was the most suitable for daytime radio contact to be made between stations located in the UK.

Despite this, assisted by my colleague, Darren King, I did manage to make contact with St. Barnabus Church in Kidderminster and heard, but could not exchange greetings with, Cynllos church in West Wales.

In all only eight contacts were made in the allotted time slot between 10am and 3pm. But these were with a variety of countries: Portugal, Italy, Germany, France and Cyprus. The French station was located at a special event to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the town of Blois.

### **Twenty-five years of the Bells of St. Mary's Haddington** **'Haddington Ringers'**

The Haddington ringers were delighted to welcome ringers from across Scotland in October to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the installation and dedication of our bells. Some of us recalled how a snippet of information can grow and blossom into a great idea, but the challenge is, always, how to make it happen.

The story began in June 1996 when David Hird drew our attention to a set of eight bells previously hung as a musical chime at Dunecht, Aberdeenshire that were for sale. An early inspection revealed the bells were suitable as ringing bells and would make an admirable addition to the few rings of bells in Scotland. Two immediate concerns were raising the funds and the challenge of identifying a suitable church. It was a brave decision for the SACR Committee to purchase the bells before either of these concerns were fully addressed, and was, only made possible by the offer of interest free loans from a group of Scottish ringers and the Central Council Rescue Fund.

Members of the SACR began to look at possible churches where the bells might be installed. The warm acceptance of the idea initially by Rev. Clifford Hughes, and later the Kirk Session, meant St. Mary's

Haddington became the preferred site. Events moved quite quickly initially and approval was given to proceed with the project provided that funds and any necessary planning permission could be obtained. The Friends of St. Mary's agreed to undertake the project and Duncan Beaton became the project manager. From the early stages this was seen as a replacement for the three original bells removed during the siege of Haddington some 450 years earlier and as the completion of the restoration of this historic church.

The period of planning and fund-raising was complex and often frustrating, but eventually all planning issues were resolved and a significant Heritage Lottery grant was secured, together with donations from other individuals and organisations. With everything in place, the project was finally given the go-ahead. The contract for the bell work was placed with Hayward Mills Associates, and the building work was entrusted to Campbell Smith of Ormiston. Work started in the tower in early March 1999 and in April the bell fittings and frame were lifted into the tower through the roof.

This event attracted the attention of many local people, BBC Scotland (radio and TV), Scottish Television, the Scottish national newspapers, the local press and the local MP, John Home-Robertson. The bell-hangers, ably supported by a team of local volunteers, quickly built the supporting grillage and frame and the hanging of the bells and adjusting of the fittings was completed in May allowing the first test ring to take place on Thursday 13th May 1999.

Whilst all this was going on, the task of recruiting and training a band of ringers was addressed. Some 50 people ranging from youngsters of 9 to senior citizens initially expressed interest and the majority signed up to learn to ring. Recruitment and training began in earnest in March with a demonstration at St. Cuthberts Edinburgh, followed by three sessions a week on a single bell hung for full circle ringing in the nearby village of Stenton. Most of the recruits continued to attend practices regularly and a number still ring today.

The Dedication of the Bells on Sunday 6th June 1999 was performed by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt. Rev. John Cairns and was a celebration of the completion of a three-year project. The service was carefully planned with a bells theme throughout, including beautiful flower displays, the Holy Trinity Handbell Ringers and the bells themselves. During the service the bells

were presented to the community of Haddington by the President of the Friends of St. Mary's, Lt. General Sir Alexander Boswell, and then dedicated by the Moderator. The service was followed by a dedication quarter peal of Grandsire Triples rung by some of the ringers involved with the project. It was particularly fitting that the Rt. Rev. John Cairns also officiated at the 25th Anniversary service.

There have been a number of special moments over the first 25 years of the bells' history at Haddington, including being featured at Midnight on the BBC Millennium Celebrations and being introduced to the Queen and Prince Philip when they visited St Mary's. The training of so many new recruits, firstly at Stenton and then on our own bells was truly uplifting. The dedication of the tutors and the enthusiasm of the recruits was remarkable and also great fun. Everyone was supportive of each other with just sufficient competitive instinct to want to do well. From the beginning at Stenton there has been a strong social aspect with plenty of tea and coffee available and this continues during our weekly practices. Teaching new ringers continues at Haddington through two successful ringing courses and regular additional sessions to help new ringers progress.

Although located at St Mary's, the installation of the bells was seen as ecumenical project and important for the town more widely. It was clear just how much the local community felt affection for the bells when we recommenced ringing post-Covid, with many people expressing how much it meant to hear the bells ringing again. It was also very moving following the death of Her Majesty the Queen when members of the local community spontaneously gathered outside the Church to listen to the bells ringing half muffled to mark her passing.

These beautiful bells complete an extensive restoration at St. Mary's and will ring out over Haddington for Church services and civic events for many years. In the course of the past 25 years they have become not only a very important part of the life of St Mary's, but also a part of the life of the wider community of Haddington. Legend has it that the original Haddington bells were removed by an English army in 1548 after the siege of Haddington and taken to Durham. It is perhaps fitting that ringers with more than a hint of English ancestry, stoically supported by true Scots have helped to bring bells back to this glorious Church.

## The Last Tower - Again!

**Peter Bevis**

Helen and I moved to Tulloch in 2002 and quickly noticed the absence of any bells that did not involve a three hour round trip. We solved that problem in 2005 by installing a ring of 12 bells based around six bells made available to us through the kindness of the Scottish Association. Fast forward ten years and we found that one ring of bells was not enough when we hosted increasingly large groups of friends for ringing jollies. So we bought a 1 cwt ring of eight bells from the bellhanger Matthew Higby and built a second tower to hang them in. We confidently predicted that two sets of bells were enough for anyone, so named it "The Last Tower". Over the next decade we rang over 50 peals and 150 quarters on these lovely little bells and many ringers even seemed to prefer them to the twelve.

However, in our Alderney home we had installed a 3 cwt ring of eight and the sneaking feeling that they were better than the Last Tower refused to go away. They sounded more mellow. They handled even more easily, yet could still be used to teach small children. So we decided to add a third tower to Tulloch and arranged to have a new 3cwt set of eight bells cast by Italian bell founder Allanconi, who uses traditional methods to cast their bells and were a preferred supplier to Matthew Higby, who was our only choice for the job. Perhaps fortunately, Matthew persuaded us to replace The Last Tower bells and part-exchange them, rather than build a third tower. After all, nobody really needs three sets of bells in the same place. It would lay us open to ridicule. So a year ago, Matthew replaced the old bells and fittings with the new bells and fittings - still called The Last Tower, because surely this will be our last ring of bells.

Already, by January 2025, 11 peals have been rung plus dozens of quarters. Everyone agrees that the ring is a great improvement on the old bells and hopefully they will continue to give pleasure to all who visit Tulloch for many years to come. So come one, come all. The bells are there to be used and there is no formal charge to ring them.



## So Helen has asked you to call a quarter peal...

**Anthony Cole**

One of our ringers has been challenged to conduct her first quarter peal so I'm writing this article to explain how to go about it for her and anyone else who might be interested in the challenge. I am focusing on calling Plain Bob Doubles and I'm going to keep it as simple as possible. I'm not going to explain how to keep it right: that is way down the line when you have a number of quarter peals as conductor under your belt. At its simplest, the main purpose of the conductor is to put the bobs in the right place: anything else is a bonus! That said, as you are the conductor you should be able to check the ringing is going to plan and you will know when the 60 is going to end (and each of the 120s) so you should at least listen out for rounds appearing at the expected point.

A quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles is 1260 changes long. In Doubles methods there are 120 possible unique changes known as 'extents'. Therefore we will need to call ten 120s, and then a 60 change touch to complete the required 1260 changes. We could ring the same 120 ten times, but that is generally frowned upon (and likely very boring). There are four possible 120s of Plain Bob Doubles, and you should use them all. This does actually help, as remembering how many 120s you have rung (whilst concentrating on ringing your own bell reliably too) isn't easy, but there is a relatively simple strategy.

The four possible 120s are calling each of the bells apart from the treble as 'observation'. Calling extents in the order of who is observation is in itself a good way to count those ten x 120s. For example, call the 2 observation, then the 3 observation, then the 4 observation, then repeat this pattern, and repeat it again but finally call the 5 observation - that gives you ten 120s. By focusing on which bell you're calling observation it is easier to keep track of where you are without having to count the 120s. You can come up with other orders to call the 120s, but the above works for me.

How do you know when to call the bobs? The easiest way to call a 120 is to call a bob just as you are about to do the four blows behind (so you are not affected by the bob) - this is calling yourself 'observation' -

and after calling three bobs (each when you're doing four blows behind) you get back to the plain course and the 120th change will be rounds.

To call each of the other three bells as observation requires you to be affected by the bobs. In Plain Bob Doubles we are used to a circle of work; there is a similar circle for calling the bobs when calling other bells observation. Let's assume you are ringing the 2 and you want to call the 4 observation. In the plain course the 4 does four blows behind at the end of the first lead. You, on the 2, will be dodging 3-4 down at that point so this is where you call your first bob (you will run in and dodge 3-4 down next time). The next time the 4 will be doing four blows behind is four leads later, by which time you will have dodged 3-4 down (because the first bob forced you to run in instead), four blows behind, and 3-4 up and you will be about to make 2nds. This is where you call your next bob. The last time the 4 is making four blows behind is another four leads later, and you will have made 2nds (having run out at the second bob), 3-4 down, four blows behind, and be about to dodge 3-4 up. Once you have called this third bob (at which you make fourths) all the bells will be back into the same order as in the plain course so you just ring until you are making seconds place, and then you will hear rounds at backstroke.

If you were calling the 3 observation then (from the 2) the first bob would have been when you were about to dodge 3-4 up, the second bob would be when you are about to dodge 3-4 down, and the third bob would be when you are about to make seconds.

At this point we do need to talk about exactly when to call a bob. A mis-timed call can easily cause other ringers to get confused or not give them enough time to react so we do need to be accurate with our calls. Usually the call is made at the handstroke before the treble leads. This can vary a little from method to method, but for Plain Bob Doubles I would say the "bob" call should be made roughly as the bell in 3rd place is pulling off, but (particularly for your first attempt at calling a quarter peal) I would suggest making the call as you pull off your bell, no matter where you are in the change as it is an easier marker to work with. Perfecting that timing can be made in subsequent quarter peals.

For the 3-4 down call the handstroke is your last blow in fifth place before heading down to do 3-4 down (but then because of the bob you will run in). For four blows behind the handstroke is when you are in

fourth place heading out (and you are following the treble). If you are about to do 3-4 up then the handstroke is when you are in second place just after leading. Lastly if you are about to make seconds then the handstroke is as you start leading before the treble takes you from lead.

To complete the quarter peal we also need a 60, but I have always been worried I will forget it so I call the 60 at the beginning and then the 10 x 120s. There are two possible ways to call a 60 – either call a bob at the first lead end, third lead end and fifth lead end, or call the bob at the second, fourth and sixth lead ends. Either way you hear rounds at the end of the sixth lead. With these touches either always call the bob as the 5 is about to do 3-4 up, or always when the 3 is about to do 3-4 up. Another way to think about it is simply to call alternate leads: bob, plain, bob, plain, bob, plain (or the other way round).

As I mentioned earlier, for each of the 120s you need to determine which lead to call the first bob (after starting again following “rounds”), based on which bell you’re are planning to call observation. The order the bells make four blows behind (in the plain course) is: first lead - 4th bell makes four blows, second lead - 2nd bell makes four blows, third lead - 3rd bell makes four blows, fourth lead - 5th bell makes four blows.

Finally, as you reach rounds at the end of the 60 and each of the 120s (except the last one) you do NOT need to say “carry on”. After saying “Go Plain Bob Doubles” at the start you don’t need to say anything except “bob” until the very last change of the last 120 (where the 5th is observation) where you will call “That’s all!” and “Stand” (and then likely start cheering!)

So there you have it – at the outset there does seem to be lots to consider and remember, but there is a fair bit of repetition and for your first attempt you are likely to have a good band around you and probably an experienced conductor who can correct any wobbles. Like everything in ringing, you may not get it 100% on the first attempt, but every attempt is a learning experience and gets you closer to getting it right another time so don’t panic!

The calls are summarised below as if you are calling from the 2, but I would recommend working through this on paper yourself, and maybe work out how to call it from another bell. That process of writing it help will also help you think through what you are going to need to do when calling it for real.

Summary of the calling plan from the 2:

60: Calls at 3-4 down (run in), 4 Blows behind (unaffected), and 2nds (run out).

120 (2 observation): Calls when doing 4 blows behind, 3 times.

120 (3 observation): Calls when doing 3-4up, 3-4 down, and then 2nds.

120 (4 observation): Calls when doing 3-4 down, 2nds, and then 3-4 up.

120 (2 observation): Calls when doing 4 blows behind, 3 times.

120 (3 observation): Calls when doing 3-4up, 3-4 down, and then 2nds.

120 (4 observation): Calls when doing 3-4 down, 2nds, and then 3-4 up.

120 (2 observation): Calls when doing 4 blows behind, 3 times.

120 (3 observation): Calls when doing 3-4up, 3-4 down, and then 2nds.

120 (4 observation): Calls when doing 3-4 down, 2nds, and then 3-4 up.

120 (5 observation): Calls when doing 2nds, 3-4 up and lastly 3-4 down.

Note: As you “run in” at this last bob it comes round and you can call “That’s all”.

### **Scottish ringing: a flying visitor’s perspective**

**Stephen Aldridge**

From time to time, in my profession as a Licensed Aircraft Engineer, I get asked to work at airports away from my home base of Manchester. Sometimes this is merely a day away, like the time I drove down to St. Athan in South Wales to see in one of our retiring 747s and carry out some tests on the engines in the presence of a representative of the buyer; the engines were being sold on but the rest of the aircraft was going for scrap. We never did get a bill from the airfield authorities for a sign we accidentally blew over!

Other trips have been longer, and I was lucky enough to be in one of the final groups of our engineers to complete their Boeing 787 training in Johannesburg, before all our training was brought back to Heathrow. One of my first considerations when asked to travel, the most important perhaps, is “Where could I go ringing?” In Johannesburg I managed one grab at a practice night, after which the entire band waited until my taxi arrived and would not allow me off the church premises until they had verified the identity of the taxi driver. The closest I got to any bells during three weeks working at Tel Aviv, was peering through a

door at the Gillett and Johnston carillon installed in the YMCA of Jerusalem.

My briefing for the summer season of 2024 was to look after a twice-weekly flight operating out of Edinburgh to Orlando, Florida; the flying days dictated that I would be up in Edinburgh on Tuesday and Friday evenings ready to work the following mornings. A visit to the SACR website confirmed that there would be ringing on those evenings, so safe in the knowledge that I wasn't going to have to spend seven months twiddling my thumbs in an airport hotel bar twice a week, I agreed to take on the role.

"When do you want to go up to set up the office?" asked my manager. This presented me with a chance to visit on a different day, and so I arranged this to coincide with the practice night at St Mary's Edinburgh, my first visit to a practice night in Scotland.

The day came, and having made it to the top of the north transept and not fallen over the balustrade, I was warmly welcomed as soon as I set foot in the ringing chamber, with my name and that of another expected visitor written on the blackboard accompanied by a cheery message. Ian and Barbara, along with the rest of the band, made me feel very much at home, and I was lucky enough that the practice was sufficiently well-attended to ring all twelve. It was encouraging to find a healthy number of learners across a wide range of ages attending the practice.

Once the flights started operating, my options for travelling up to Edinburgh were either driving or taking the train. Each had their merits: going by train made for a largely relaxing journey with time free to spend on reading or maybe a spot of method learning, whereas taking the car offered more freedom to explore the wider area. Having noted Haddington's practice night, I made it my mission to take the car up one Friday so that I could get over there more easily.

Alison from St Mary's Cathedral was also interested in going over, so I arranged to collect her outside a well-known Swedish furniture shop on the outskirts of Edinburgh on the way past. Unfortunately, I had made the fatal error of not having contacted anyone at Haddington in advance! Thanks to heavy traffic on the M6 I was running just a little behind schedule, and we arrived at Haddington to the sound of bells already ringing. We had missed the 7.30 entrance time, and the door would not be opened again until 8.30. We spent the next hour

desperately messaging various contacts to see if anyone had a number for somebody likely to be up the tower, but to no avail. Thankfully it was a pleasant enough evening to admire the beautiful riverside setting of the church and listen to the ringing.

When 8.30pm came round the door was opened:

“Sorry, we’re having our AGM now, but come on up and have a cup of tea.” came the greeting.

My sincere thanks go to the Haddington ringers for indulging us both with a bob course of Grandsire Triples at the end of the meeting so I could at least ‘grab’ the tower.

Most of the time I spent ringing on these work trips was at St Cuthbert’s: easy to get to on the airport tram (from Ingliston Park and Ride, of course - let’s not spend too much!), and with many great restaurants nearby this made for an enjoyable Tuesday evening routine week after week. Dinner, ringing, pub. On at least three occasions other practice-night visitors to St Cuthbert’s were ringers I knew from elsewhere: from Surrey, the US and even New Zealand! One evening, as I walked down Lothian Road after dinner, I spotted someone I was sure I recognised as a (lapsed) ringer from New York now living in Edinburgh, but without enough certainty to shout ‘hello’ in the street. An exchange of messages confirmed my eyesight was not at fault, and they even decided to take a very brief step out of ringing retirement for the evening. These frequent coincidences led the local band to ask me if there is anyone I don’t know!

The monthly SACR advanced 10-bell practices on Fridays allowed me further relief from the melancholy of the airport hotel bar, and a chance to ring with others from further afield. The first of these practices I attended was at Glasgow, providing me with a change of scenery and a new tower to grab. In the preceding week my rail journeys were spent blowing a thick layer of dust off Bristol Royal and learning Sgùrr a’Chaorachain from scratch. With a similar repertoire featuring at Glasgow’s own monthly advanced practices, I was grateful to the local band for allowing me to join them for these as well.

As the summer season was drawing to a close, I still had two Edinburgh towers left to grab. As is the case for so many, the bells of Fettes College eluded me, but a hastily arranged QP attempt at The-Church-Formerly-Known-As-STAGS was successful, followed by a delicious Italian meal at a nearby restaurant recommended by Jonathan Frye.

Unfortunately for Jonathan, the proprietors were clearly unaware of the business he had brought them that evening, as his pizza was the last to arrive by quite some time!

I am grateful to all the ringers who made me feel so welcome during the time I spent in Scotland, welcoming me as one of their own and providing friendship and company while I was away from home. Ringing in Scotland is clearly very healthy, and it was a real pleasure to be able to take away some great inspiration to aid progress at my own tower. I was particularly impressed by the state of womens' ringing in Scotland, and it was so refreshing to see everyone (who wanted to) being encouraged to ring all around the circle. Bands throughout the exercise could learn an awful lot from the forward-thinking attitudes which seem to prevail north of the border. If you are ever in Manchester, I hope we can offer you a welcome just as warm as that which you all offered me.

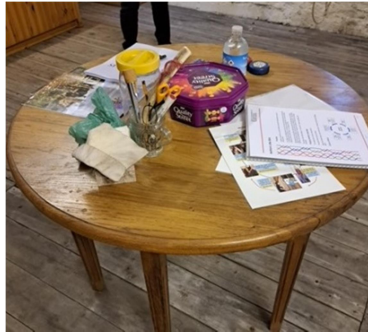
### Don Tower's Tables

**Christina Howie** (Photographs: Christina Howie and Ian Tallboys)



In 1998 the bells at St Paul's Cathedral in Dundee were removed for a full refurbishment. As part of this refurbishment the original wooden frame was taken out and replaced by a metal one with room for a further two smaller bells. Hence the plan to augment to ten currently in progress, but that is a different story. This isn't the story of the bells but of the frame.

At this time our Tower Captain was Don Towers a talented carpenter and cabinet maker. He had already made the wooden boxes you will find in St Paul's for us little people. He is also responsible for the St Andrews Shield which is competed for annually at the striking competition.



Don was always looking for surplus wood and as a result the old wooden frame went up to his workshop in Glenisla. But it wasn't lost to the tower completely; out of the wood he made the table which sits in the middle of ringing chamber. Everything was set up and back in business for the reinstallation of the bells in 1999, in time to ring for the millennium. Dundee is not the only place you will find Don's work: other Scottish tower have examples too. Haddington, another millennium project, also has a table in their ringing chamber. And in Aberdeen's St Machar, you will see a third table made by Don.



Our one has aged well, getting darker in colour and it has survived plague (Covid handgell) and flood (Storm Babet). It still stands in the centre of our ringing circle as a memorial to the old frame and to Don himself, twenty five years later.



## Handbell Ringing in the Highlands

**Ian Turner**

Before 2020, there had only been a limited amount of handbell activity in the Highlands, focused around small bands in two areas. The more active was in Lochaber with Helen McGregor and Peter Bevis (at Tulloch, boosted by their regular visitors) and Nick Jones (in Fort William). Meanwhile, North of Inverness a group included Ted Venn, Hugh Collins and Sue Varley. However, the Covid pandemic and the introduction of Ringing Room led to a significant increase in handbell ringing: more ringers, new venues, monthly handbell days, regular practices, quarters, and even (more recently) the occasional peal.

My wife, Sue, and I learned to ring handbells in 2017 at Tulloch. Having never rung previously, Helen spent considerable time teaching us the basics, using handbells as a teaching aid for improving our tower bell ringing. Our first Bob Minor QPs were in Sept 2017. Then once we had been bitten by the bug, Nick patiently helped us to progress to more advanced methods. His teaching has guided us from Plain Bob, through Little Bob and Kent, to Hitcham Delight and now we are working on Yorkshire Major.

During the Covid lockdowns, our progress with handbells continued uninterrupted, thanks to the benefit of regular online practices from 2020 onwards. Initially we held “tower” ringing practices online, with sessions on Tuesdays (for Tulloch) and Thursdays (for Inverness). However, while regular tower practices resumed at Inverness, ending the online sessions there, the Tulloch band never achieved a critical mass for in-person tower practices, so Tuesday sessions continued online, becoming handbell ringing only. This is where we first joined forces with the Inverness group.

These Tuesday evenings practices ran for over 3 years and have only just ended. Nick was initially introduced to most of the Inverness ringers at Tulloch through taster sessions at SACR Training Days or on Helen’s courses. Since then, he has spent some of his spare time teaching us both the theory and the practice, initially done online, and shared his passion for handbells with us.

Nick has received valuable support from other experienced Scottish ringers, both online and in person, in particular Jenny Holden and Stephen Elwell-Sutton. We have also enjoyed help from the Glasgow

ringers both at Albany Quadrant and during their occasional visits to Tulloch. Several of us have purchased Simon and Tina's books *Change-Ringing on Handbells* and we have discovered the joy of ebells. Of our new learners, Rachel Milner was first to score a handbell quarter (in November 2020) and over the next three months first quarters were rung by Cath Pelleymounter, Dawn McAleer and Anthony Cole, all online. Our first organised face-to-face practice took place in August 2021 and in-person quarters were scored frequently thereafter. Online we rang 15 quarters and our in-person total currently stands at 68 quarters and two peals.

In late 2021, Dawn began hosting regular Thursday afternoon sessions, which combine lunch, chat, coffee breaks, and a wee bit of ringing. These more informal sessions led to two further recruits to our merry band: Nick Sturgess and Nicky Marshall bringing our active handbell ringers into double figures. We also now have over half a dozen sets of handbells scattered across the Highlands, so there's no excuse not to ring!

In the last four years, new Highland venues where we have rung include Barbaraville, Munloch, Inverness, Tornagraim, Forres and Roy Bridge. With so many ringers now (and Ringing Room allowing us to practise on twelve bells, too) we have built up from Major, through Royal to Maximus. BellBoard shows eight handbell quarter peals of Kent Treble Bob Maximus rung worldwide in the last 16 months. Five of these included some of our ringers, with two of them rung in the Highlands: one with five locals and one with the full band comprising our ringers.

We now have our own t-shirts and sweatshirts featuring our 'Highland Handbell Ringers' logo. Anthony has helped us too, creating an online handbell tool which allows you see which patterns appear in a given method.

It's amazing to us all how much has been accomplished in the last four years. Handbell ringing up here has blossomed, and there is a great camaraderie amongst the ringers. Everyone's dedication to learning, improving and supporting each other has been key to our success.

Who knows what comes next?

## Inveraray SCIO

**Jonathan Frye**

All Saints Church at Inveraray has been through a period of change over the last decade. Historically the bell tower had been overseen by Friends of Inveraray, and then by the Bell Tower Committee under the oversight of the vestry. In 2015 the last members of the congregation left which meant that the vestry ceased to exist, leaving just the Bell Tower Committee. This group was still committed to the tower and was pressed into service to oversee the running of the church and tower.

This was never envisaged as a long term arrangement. A proposal was made by the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles that a group comprising of the ringers, the Roman Catholic congregation and the local community be formed as a charity with the goal of running the Church & Bell Tower, followed by eventual ownership. The ringers engaged with this proposal and were the driving force for putting together a business plan to support a charitable application. For various reasons this option never came to fruition so the Bell Tower Committee continued to look after the affairs of both the bell tower and church building.

In 2019 the Bishop stepped in and made the decision to disband the Bell Tower Committee and transfer the running of All Saints to the Diocesan Trustees, essentially managing the affairs of the Church centrally. In doing so he proposed that the “Icicle Club” (the group of ringers who did the annual bell maintenance weekend, ran the festival and supported ringing throughout the year) should form itself into a legally recognisable entity and the Diocese would enter into an agreement (a Licence for Use) whereby the ringers would have the right to operate the tower in exchange for covering the costs that the Diocese was incurring for the tower.

To be able to enter into legal agreements, employ someone and operate a tourist attraction open to the public a formal legal structure was needed. The one that was chosen is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). This is similar in setup to a Limited Liability Company and shares many of the same advantages, in particular with regard to financial liabilities. A SCIO is also a charity, and the charitable status is intrinsic to the continued existence of the organisation.

The previous business plan was adapted to just cover the bell tower and, along with other supporting documentation, was submitted to OSCR to apply for charitable status. In April 2020 notification was received that the application had been successful and Inveraray Bell Tower SCIO (SC050075) was incorporated.

Its charitable objectives are:

To advance heritage by preserving the historic Bell Tower for the benefit of the residents of Inveraray and the public in general as a place of historical and cultural significance, particularly in the context of the Bell Tower's status as a World War One War Memorial and its internationally recognised ring of bells, and

To advance heritage and the arts by providing a functioning set of full circle change ringing bells for the benefit of bell ringers from across the UK and the world.

Although it took much longer than anticipated a Licence for Use document has recently been signed and Inveraray Bell Tower SCIO is operating the Bell Tower from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The agreement sets out the right to organise the ringing and to open the tower to tourists. It also sets the SCIO's responsibilities for the non-structural maintenance of tower, while leaving the structural responsibilities with the Diocese. Finally it sets out the financial responsibilities. The Diocese do not want payment for the use of the tower, but they do want to cover all their incurred costs. These are clearly set out in the Licence for Use and the SCIO will make these payments to the diocese. This includes 50% of the Diocese's insurance policy which covers both the church and tower, the electricity used by the tower and the maintenance of the lightning conductor. These are substantial, and the SCIO will need to raise funds from its activities to cover them each year along with its own costs.

Ringling will happen as it has done for decades. There is a visiting peal band each month (excluding the winter) and a three day ringing festival at the end of July each year. We also provide service ringing when requested and ring half muffled before a Requiem Service for the war dead around Remembrance time. The SCIO is putting into place the necessary arrangements to open the tower to tourists in the summer similar to how it has been done before. There are plans in place to enhance the visitor exhibition for this summer and longer terms aspirations for a more radical overhaul.

Maintenance is done over a weekend in March each year, with a group of about fifteen volunteers. This covers all of the normal routine and preventative maintenance you would expect on the bells and frame along with any redecoration that is needed and a thorough clean ahead of the new year.

To be successful the SCIO will require input from a large number of people over many different areas. The SCIO membership currently stands at 42 with three Trustees who oversee the charity side, four Bell Tower officers (Ringing Master, Tower Correspondent, Treasurer and Steeple Keeper) who carry out the usual ringing tasks and a work group who are updating the tower exhibition.

After a long period of uncertainty and stagnation it is now a very exciting time for the Bell Tower. The vision of the SCIO is to make the Bell Tower an excellent tourist destination and a unique advert for bellringing. It will also honour the heritage of the Bell Tower as a War Memorial and contribute to the Inveraray community. This will require the support of the ringing community but is a unique opportunity to promote ringing to the wider world.

### **When is a Circle not a Circle?**

**Mike Clay**

When the eight bells of St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, were to be augmented to ten back in 1970, the question of where to put the new bells arose. There wasn't sufficient space to accommodate them on the same level as the existing eight-bell frame, so it was obvious that two bells would have to be installed above it. So that the ropes fell in the correct order, the new second bell was installed where the old treble had hung and it (now the third of the new ring) in turn had to be relocated in the new frame above.

The next challenge was to route the new ropes down through the room below the Belfry but above the Ringing Chamber. Unfortunately, directly in the ideal vertical path for the ropes of all three front bells, lay the original 1902 mechanical clock winding mechanism and the weights essential to its operation. As a compromise, pullies, boxes and slap boards were introduced to thread the ropes through cogs and spindles and enable ten-bell ringing to take place for the last fifty+ years.

However, it was a compromise that led to the rope circle down in the Ringing Chamber being more of a 'D' shape than the optimal 'O' shape, with a flat edge from the tenor rope across the treble and second to the third, and the third rope fell perilously close to the second. Closer examination actually revealed that this straight line could better be described as a "dog's leg", with the Treble's rope being in front of its two immediate neighbours. Ringers would be familiar with the need to be somewhat swivel-headed to see both sides.

Compounding this challenge has been the fact that the two bells on the upper level were harder to hear than the others, as was the new second bell being located next to, and as a result somewhat drowned out by, the Tenor. Now, you wouldn't drive a car or walk down a pavement without watching where you're going, so why would anyone think you could strike a bell accurately without being able to hear it properly?

For a couple of years there have been various DIY solutions discussed about how to solve this acoustic problem, and early in 2024 Matthew Higby was invited to give some ideas about how sound chutes might help. At that inspection meeting it was also mentioned that an improvement to the rope 'circle' was badly needed.

His team took advantage of the clock weights having been removed following electrification some decades ago to improve the routing of the ropes of the treble and third via new holes in the Ringing Chamber ceiling and blanking off the redundant ones. The treble rope now hangs directly down from the wheel, in a position much closer to the wall, and no longer in front of the tenor. The third has been pulled further away from the wall, and the distance to the second rope significantly increased.

Secondly, acoustic chutes, formed by domestic drainage pipes, were installed to channel the sound of the three smallest bells down through the Belfry, clock chamber and into an invisible recess of the Ringing Chamber (actually around the centre line of the semi-circular window). The result is a significant improvement in both the rope circle and the internal acoustics of the front three bells. Our ringers can now properly see and hear what they are doing which is a boost to their efforts in producing good quality ringing.

## Ding-Dong on the High Seas.

**Tim Dalling**

When theatre director Wils Wilson, and writer Duncan McLean started work on the Edinburgh Lyceum Theatre's 2024 production of *Treasure Island*, as far back as early 2023, it was agreed that the show would include some reference to Christmas as it was going to be the Lyceum's festive offering, not a panto but a fairly faithful re-telling of Stevenson's great story. Some changes were made; instead of the tropical South Seas, the treasure was buried on a remote island in Orkney, and instead of Long John Silver we had Lean Jean Silver, and she didn't have a parrot but a puffin, which turned out to be a beautifully crafted glove puppet which somewhat stole the show. And to make it Christmassy there would be bells.

Writer Duncan and director Wils Wilson decided on a frame for the telling of the tale, which was that all the pirates from the original story are now back home, having served their jail-sentences for pirate crimes committed and are now residents in the Admiral Benbow Home for Reformed Pirates, run by former heroic cabin-boy Jim Hawkins and his mother. Their aim is to help the pirates cure themselves of their lust for doubloons and fighting and general pirate behaviour. But as part of their therapeutic story-reading sessions they end up acting and re-telling their own tale of *Treasure Island*.

As well as playing the part of cheese-obsessed Ben Gunn (and various pirates), I was tasked with writing the music for the show and being the musical director. It was agreed by director Wils and designer Alex Berry and I that bells would feature both as design and musically. Ship's bells meet Christmas bells. We had definitely decided handbells were the way forward, given the weight of larger bells to be flown in on the theatre rigging. Much of Alex's amazing design was celebrating all the similarities between theatres and ships with their rigging bars and ropes.

After much searching for tuned bells of various sizes on eBay and elsewhere, and despairing at the cost of bells that are tuned, I hit on the idea of Googling "The Scottish Society of Handbell Ringers". Surely such people existed, I thought, and would probably be enthusiastic and helpful.

I was right. Quick as a flash, I had a reply from Malcolm Wilson of the Dunblane Cathedral ringers who put me in touch with Simon Aves at St Cuthbert's at Princes St Gardens and Susannah Ewens at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. They were both very helpful. The internet's great sometimes.

Simon showed me some handbells they had at St Cuthbert's and kindly said we could borrow them, if we could promise they'd be insured (the sound of good quality Christmas magic doesn't come cheap). There were 17 bells ranging across an octave and a half with some random notes missing.

I took a list of the available notes and sat at the piano working out a new version of a melody line which I was using in the show. I had already come up with this slightly sad waltz, hopefully suggestive of sea-going and longing for distant islands. I then put the tune from minor into major, to cheer it up and tried including some harmonic thirds and then a descending chromatic run that was slightly suggestive of a dream sequence and contained a little bit of a crunchy chord that would hint at the menace lying ahead in the story.

It also seemed a reasonable imaginative leap that the Pirates in the reform home might well do handbell ringing as a wholesome non-piratical activity. And so, another short handbell sequence was included in the jolly closing song of Merry Puffin Christmas:

“Happy Puffin Hogmanay!

For us wee beaky birdies it's our favourite puffin day.”

We had nearly enough notes to ring out the chord sequence of the song but were just missing a low A and some other high notes so I contacted Susannah Ewens at St Mary's and then there followed three return visits to the Cathedral bell-ringing room to collect different handbells.

It wasn't all handbells in the show. The biggest bell (28 kg) we had, hanging from a rope, came from an old primary school in south Cornwall, where I used to live. The mid-size one came from a pub somewhere, and the set of tubular bells we made ourselves many years ago for The New Rope String Band (a comedy/folk music trio I was part of for many years). The two moments in *Treasure Island*, the opening 'dream of the sea' section and the instrumental break in the



jolly final song, were always pleasing for the audiences and we definitely achieved our tricky goal of combining pirate ships and Christmas.



Photograph by Mihaela Bodlovic

Each time I went along to St Mary's Cathedral a different member of the Lyceum company came along, egged on by my enthusiasm for the fun of climbing up the amazing spiral stone staircase, across the walkway on the roof and the joy of witnessing the ringing in the bell-tower. And each time I became more fascinated and I have now started seeking out bell-ringing options in Newcastle upon Tyne where I live. It seems that handbells are a bit of a gateway drug to the hard stuff, the big, heavy ones with the ropes attached.

So, thanks, once again to Malcolm, Simon and Susannah for helping me and the Lyceum. Who knows, perhaps I will be gracing these pages again? To deliver the latest from the Reformed Pirates' Hispaniola Bell-Ringing Society perhaps?

(Tim Dalling is an actor and musician)

## Method embroidery comes to Scotland

**Alison Stevens**

The first time I rang at Old North Church in Boston, Massachusetts, I took photos of two items displayed on the walls in the ringing chamber. One was a line from a children's book sold in the church's gift shop (it's an important tourist destination): "Before fun was invented, people joined bell-ringing clubs." The other was an embroidered board commemorating the first quarter peal for the MIT guild. It was made by Beryl Nelson, who had conducted the quarter peal. I must have seen some more typical peal boards by then, though none stand out in my memory. The appeal of an embroidered board was immediately clear: methods make quite beautiful borders.

The board hanging at Old North has a different major method on each side. Though it was made in 1979, the method serving as the bottom border was still unnamed in 2021! The Boston ringers took on a project that year to name the method and in December 2023 they rang a quarter of what is now called Double Beryl Bob Major.

Beryl Nelson died before I learned to ring, but I got to know her daughter Bela quite well through ringing. Bela made a similar, though smaller, embroidered board for my first peal. Unlike the board at Old North, this one has the method of the peal—Plain Bob Triples—as the border. I remember a moment when Bela asked Leland, who had conducted the peal, for a touch of Plain Bob Triples that would be the length she needed for the border!

My first peal and my first visit to Old North both took place in 2017. I probably thought as soon as I saw each embroidered board that I could make something like them myself, but I didn't actually begin stitching methods until the end of 2021. I needed things to do and embarked on a project to embroider the standard 41 surprise minor methods. I say "embroider" but the entire project was done with backstitch, a more practical stitch than what the word "embroidery" evokes in my mind. I had a lot of fun doing it and it certainly reinforced my knowledge of the methods!

While working on it, I decided that my next bellringing sewing project should be much smaller, and possibly also something I'd be willing to sell. Right around the time I moved to Edinburgh I began making bookmarks with methods stitched on them. I've also made a few

depicting bell ropes. These are available on Etsy under the shop name Ringing Embroidery. My mother quite wisely suggested that if I wanted to sell embroidered peal boards, I should make one to show as a sample of my work. I took this suggestion and made a board for a quarter-peal I rang in August 2022. The quarter consisted of 552 Carlisle Surprise Minor and a 720 of six Cambridge-above surprise minor methods. The top and bottom borders of my board are plain courses of Carlisle, and the side borders are spliced touches of the other six methods we rang.

Last summer I rang in a peal celebrating the 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. Afterwards Ian Bell asked me to make a board for the peal, and include a depiction of the cathedral. My example quarter-peal board took me slightly under two months and this peal board is taking much longer, partly because it is larger but also because embroidering the cathedral is much more complex than just words and methods! I don't mind the extra complexity though; it provides an opportunity for me to be more creative and try additional stitches. Hopefully within a couple more months my peal board will be joining the others on the walls of the ringing chamber!

## Historic Handbell House Holiday

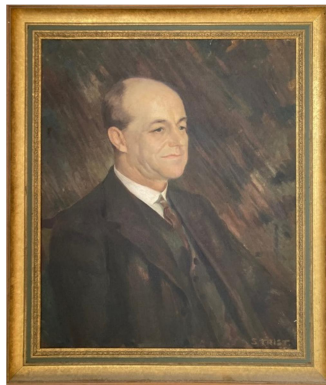
Simon Gay



On the west coast of Argyll, opposite the Isle of Jura, in the hamlet of Kilmory Knap, a house called Dun a Bhuilg was the location of the second and third handbell peals by the Scottish Association, in 1936. The house was built for Edwin and Agatha Lewis in 1929 as a holiday home, designed by the noted Arts and Crafts architect Albert Powys.

Edwin Lewis (1881-1963) was a significant figure in twentieth century ringing. He was President of the Central Council from 1930 to 1957, Master of the College Youths in 1936 and 1937, and author of the treatise *Towers and Forces* which was influential in relation to structural engineering and bell-hanging.

After commemorating the first Scottish Association handbell peal by ringing a peal at the original address (66 Hillhead Street, Glasgow), I started looking into the possibility of visiting Dun a Bhuilg. Some internet searching led me to the Whiting Society, which has republished *Towers and Forces*, and then I discovered that the house is now run as a holiday rental (alternatively known as Loch Sween House). I contacted the owner through Airbnb, explained why I was interested, and found that he is Edwin and Agatha's grandson. Assembling a group of friends, mostly handbell ringers, I booked a week at the house in April 2024. Apart from having a nice holiday, the main goal was to ring a peal, which we did. We also rang several quarters, lost a couple of other peals, and rang some commemorative touches around Edwin and Agatha Lewis's graves at Kilmory Knap chapel. Coincidentally the week included the silver wedding anniversary of myself and the current Central Council President, Tina Stoecklin, which we enjoyed celebrating with our friends.



The area is well worth a visit even without ringing. Kilmory Knap chapel is a little gem, built in the early thirteenth century. It is now filled with carved stones gathered from the area, dating from the early Christian period to the sixteenth century.

Nearby Kilmartin Glen has a concentration of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments, including a stone circle and chambered cairns. During the week we took a boat trip around the Gulf of Corryvreckan, location of the world's third largest whirlpool, in which George Orwell almost drowned after a mishap in a small boat. This was followed by lunch at the home of Martin Mellor and Ewan Halley, which is close to Dun a Bhuilg as the crow flies but quite a lot further by road.

Unfortunately I think this might be the end of the road for commemorating early Scottish Association handbell peals in their original locations. The fourth peal was rung in 1946 at an army camp in India, by a band of three Captains: Albert Sargent (imagine the jokes!), who was a ringer from Glasgow; John Banks, who only ever rang two peals, both at the same army camp; and Wilfrid Moreton, later famous as the founder of the Hereford Ringing Course.

Further information about Edwin Lewis can be found on the Whiting Society's website ([www.whittingsociety.org.uk/old-ringing-books/lewis-towers-and-forces.html](http://www.whittingsociety.org.uk/old-ringing-books/lewis-towers-and-forces.html)) and in the *Ringling World* obituary (issue 2734, Sept 1963) and report of his memorial service (issue 2742, Nov 1963).



Previous peals at Dun a Bhuilg:

**Scottish Association of Change Ringers**

Monday 24th August 1936 in 2 h 21 (14 in D)

**5024 Plain Bob Major**

Composed by J. A. Trollope

1-2 Annie Richardson

3-4 Christopher W Woolley

5-6 Edwin H Lewis

7-8 Rupert Richardson (C)

The first peal in the county of Argyll.

**Scottish Association of Change Ringers**

Tuesday 25th August 1936 in 2 h 38 (14 in D)

**5040 Plain Bob Royal**

Composed by E. M. Atkins

1-2 Annie Richardson

3-4 Christopher W Woolley

5-6 Wilfrid H J Hooton (C)

7-8 Edwin H Lewis

9-10 Rupert Richardson

First peal of Royal in hand: 1-2.

The first ten-bell peal rung by the association.

**Kent County Association of Change Ringers**

Tuesday 23rd July 1957 in 1 h 57 (13 in E)

**5040 Plain Bob Minor**

Seven extents called differently

1-2 Olive D Barnett

3-4 Edwin A Barnett

5-6 Edwin H Lewis (C)

Rung on Agatha Lewis's birthday.

## A Ring in Time

Matt Edwards



In the late spring evening sunshine, the church bells of Grundisburgh sound out their call across the beautiful village and fields. The brick tower stands tall, looming over the landscape as a beacon for hundreds locally and beyond, the highest point for miles. The flagpole on the top is empty, an oversight of the clock team maybe? Looking at the church is a history lesson in village life, you can see how the building has grown over the centuries since 1254. Just eight bells ring out, it varies on a practice night. It is very rare that all twelve are rung together though, mainly when visitors caoe. In the shadow of the tower, two children laugh as they run circuits in the overgrown churchyard.

‘Poo Sticks!’ Amelia calls, stopping at the gate.

‘You know we’re not allowed near the stream,’ I say, importantly.

‘Who’ll find out Sam?’ Amelia argues.

‘Mum has spies...’ I look around, ‘.....eeeverywhere.’

‘Well, she’s up there and I’m the oldest so I’m in charge.’ Amelia puffs out her chest.

‘O...K...’

I give in to being bossed around as usual, I'm the baby brother. Although I'm actually quite excited about the idea of playing on the bridge. Every practice night for the past few weeks it'd rained, and rain always forced us up the tower with our parents and nerdy older brother, Michael. They even stood us on chairs and forced us to have a go. My shoulders hurt for days afterwards.

The water's flowing quite slowly, perfect competition conditions. The churchyard and lane isn't short of trees so sticks are easy to come by.

'Wait,' Amelia says, using every opportunity to act superior.

She puts her arm out, and it hits me across the chest as we reach the edge of the lane. I roll my eyes.

'Safe now.'

We cross the dirty and dusty road, and take the chance to select some awesome sticks on our way to the bridge. Well, mine are.

'Can't we paddle?' I ask.

'Do you really want to end the evening with no treats?'

She sounds more like Mum each day.

I shake my head. I look at the stream beneath us.

'Anyway, poo sticks Sam.' She says, dropping hers immediately. 'I win!'

'Unfair!' I shout, 'I wasn't ready, Amelia.'

'You snooze, you lose.'

'Harsh.'

'I agree,' says a voice I don't know. We both turn around. 'Very poor show.'

Leaning on the church wall is a man dressed as a soldier, smoking, with a rifle strapped to his back. He is thin and his cigarette ignites with every breath in.

'We're not allowed to speak to strangers,' shouts Amelia, pushing me behind her.

'Well, what happened to the British spirit then?' He pauses. 'And what happened to decent ringing in this village?'

'They're doing their best!' Amelia says defiantly. 'We've a lot of learners at the moment.'

'Learners, eh?' He says. 'In my day we practiced only on silent bells until we were good enough to ring them open.'

'Where have you been?' I say, stepping out from behind Amelia.

'They're looking for ringers to make up the band to twelve. You could be really useful.'



'Twelve? You're looking for spares now are you?' He laughs.

'For the twelve bells, silly.' Amelia says, pushing me back behind her.

'Anyway, you're still a stranger.'

'I'm Billy from White House Farm, you're Amelia and Sam. So now we know each other, don't we?'

We have no option but to agree, however the times I've been up to the farm with dad for vegetables I've never seen Billy. I'm a bit of a scatterbrain though. He did look familiar. I wish he wouldn't smoke though.

'Since when have there been twelve bells at Grundisburgh?' Billy asks, throwing his half-finished cigarette on the road and scratching his head.

'Since always, silly,' answers my sister. 'Definitely since we've been in the village, and that's like ages and ages.'

'What she means is, and I'll say it nicer, is that it's as long as she can remember.' I say, 'and that isn't long being ten years old, is it?' She pokes her tongue out at me and folds her arms. 'I'm seven.' I smile.

'We'd a pair like you come to the farm. I remember the day they arrived. Scared, shy, so silent and stank of coal and fires. A suitcase each, that's all. It was summer.' Says Billy.

'How old are you?' Amelia asks.

'I'm twenty-two, nineteen though when I left the farm. So much has changed since then going by what you two are wearing, and the twelve bells!'

'You don't make sense.' I say. Billy leans closer over the wall.

'Neither, Sam, do you.' He says.

The bells stop and we look up. Amelia checks her watch and sighs, she smiles. It means that we've plenty of time left before our parents descend the tower. It's a warning though, we watch for traffic and cross back over the road on autopilot.

'Feeling brave, are we?' Billy asks, now sat on the church bench. His gun lays beside him.

'You move quick.' I say.

'Gotta be quick these days, Sam.'

'You say "these days" but you don't mean it, do you?' Says Amelia.

'Well, what are these days?' Billy says. 'I see change in your clothes. I hear six bells ringing now, two of them that don't exist for me. What am I meant to think?'

'You must be very confused. I know I am.' I say, 'and when I'm confused, I like to sit down and think. Is that what you're doing Billy?'

'Well, kind of'

'Well, that's exactly what I'm going to do.' I sit on the patch of grass opposite the bench. Amelia huffs, I glare at her, and she finally sits down next to me.

'Does the tower still move?' asks Billy.

'Move?' I say. 'You mean up and down like a jelly?'

'Naw, side to side, like you're on the sea,' he says. 'The sea.'

'Dad says it used to, but they fixed that ages ago.' Amelia says, the know it all.

'There used to be a gap in the windowsill that you could crack a nut open with while they were ringing.' Billy says, smiling. 'They stopped all the peals because of that. Mr. Pipe always wanted them to sort it out, and for them to have extra bells. He'll be pure made up that it's finally happened.'

'I don't know any Mr. Pipe I'm afraid,' I say. 'Daddy is in charge of the ringing.'

'When is it then?'

'Evening, can't you tell by the sun?' Amelia chants.

'No. When is it? WHEN is it?' He emphasises. 'What year is it?'

'2024 of course. I thought everyone knew that.'

'Amelia, that was harsh.' I say. 'Billy, are you okay?' His head is lowered, his hands are wiping his face.

'No, no, no. This is 1944. I joined up in 1941. John and Lucy were settled on the farm, and actually looked healthy after a year of decent grub. The harvest was in and my call up came through. Training in Aldershot. This can't be right.'

'That was World War Two, we're learning about it at school,' says Amelia.

'Yes, it was the second war, Hitler's war. I was on the South coast.'

'They sent soldiers to the seaside?' I ask.

'Not for the ice cream. We manned the anti-aircraft guns to stop the bombers coming over to destroy our cities.'

'But they still came?' I ask.

'They came in such numbers, we did our best, as did our wonderful fighter pilots.'

'The Battle of Britain, that was incredible,' Amelia says, suddenly gaining interest.

'Is that what they called it?' Billy said. 'I suppose it was. Hitler wasn't getting in here.'

'What did you do next? I'm enjoying this.' Says an excited Amelia.

'War is nothing to get excited about young lady, good people died. Thousands and thousands.'

'I'm sorry,' Amelia hangs her head.

'I remember boats, lots of boats across the sea.' Billy says.

He seems somewhere else, certainly needing to offload - as Mum would say.

'Hundreds of them, thousands maybe. Some empty, some with guys like me in. We went to get our boys out, that's what we are told as we leave before dawn. Trapped they were, pinned on beaches by those terrible Nazis. We had no idea what we're going in to. Bullets everywhere, explosions, it's like the end of the world. We're ordered to disembark in water up to our necks, our rifles held over our heads. How could we defend ourselves? The sound of a couple of badly played trumpets or something was coming from the hill. A brave bloke in a skirt with an instrument I'd never seen. It stirred something in all of us, breakfast maybe - pride certainly. I look around in the water, body after body. Kids like me just starting in life, that life gone in an instant. I push forward none the less and finally feel dry sand beneath my feet. I run to a sand dune on the left where three other soldiers are putting up a fight. I join as we try and take out a German sniper. Three bullets later and I get him in the shoulder. I always was a good one for foxes on the farm. Three bullets later and everything goes quiet as something in my chest bursts on fire for an instant and I think of home as everything turns white and I begin to float.'

'Tha...' Amelia's hand covers my mouth. I turn and notice that she is crying.

'Thank you for sharing your story, Billy.' She says. 'You've been called home now.'

I point to the tower door as our parents and annoying brother are coming out; I hadn't noticed that the bells had stopped ringing. We both turn and smile, then look back to Billy.

'For your tomorrow...' he says, fading.

'You gave your today.' Amelia says, bowing her head once again.

# Performances



1. 1000

## Quarter Peals

During 2024 139 quarter peals were credited to SACR (or rung by members), of which 52 were rung on handbells and 2 rung using Ringing Room in multiple locations.

First quarter peal congratulations:

Irina Dudina (St Cuthbert, Edinburgh 23/1/24)

Elena Chen (St Andrews 11/6/24)

Arthur Kidner (Haddington 22/6/24)

Lyra Burgess (St Cuthbert, Edinburgh 23/6/24)

Erin Scratcherd (St Cuthbert, Edinburgh 23/7/24)

Annabel Bruce (St Mary, Edinburgh 29/9/24)

Ian Brown (St Mary, Edinburgh 10/11/24)

Fiona Bridge (St Mary, Edinburgh 10/11/24)

Andrew MacKenzie (Old Steeple, Dundee 23/11/24)

First quarter peal in hand: Martin D Mellor

First quarter peal on tower bells: Barbara M Hummel

First quarter as conductor: Elinor Farquharson

First quarter as conductor on handbells: Susannah Ewens

**6 January: Tulloch Lodge, Tulloch:** 1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Jennifer A Holden, 3-4 Simon J Gay, 5-6, Ian B Turner, 7-8 Anthony C Cole (C), 9-10 Sue Turner. First Royal as conductor on handbells. AND

1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Peter J R Bevis, 3-4 Helen M McGregor, 5-6 Ian B Turner (C), 7-8 Sue Turner. AND

1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Dawn A McAleer, 3-4 Rachel M Milner, 5-6

Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Catherine Pellemounter. AND

1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 Susannah M Ewens, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Rachel M Milner, 9-10 Jenny M Page.

**7 January: Tulloch Ringing Centre, Tulloch:** 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Barbara Busby, 2 Bridget Taylor, 3 Jenny M Page, 4 Christopher J Frye, 5 Judith Frye, 6 Anthony C Cole, 7 Paul J Wells (C), 8 Helen M McGregor. Rung in celebration of the life of Bridget's daughter, Martha. Jim Gulliver would like to be associated with this quarter peal. First triples in method 2.

**7 January: St Cuthbert Edinburgh:** 1275 Stedman Caters: 1 Sally L Thomas, 2 Ian P Bell, 3 Judith Stark, 4 Annie Brechin, 5 Simon H Aves, 6 Michael J Clay (C), 7 Alex G Hunsley, 8 Estella J Haynes, 9 Edmund G N Smith, 10 Ian Stark. First in method 3, First on ten 10.

**7 January: 27 House o'Hill Crescent Edinburgh:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Ian P Bell, 3-4 Barbara J Bell, 5-6 Susannah M Ewens (C). First as conductor on handbells.

**8 January: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1260 Single Oxford Bob Minor: 1 Elspeth Craig, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Aileen Wilson, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Paul J Wells, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C). AND

1250 Bristol Surprise Major: 1 June Banister, 2 Anthony C Cole, 3 Jenny M Page, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Paul J Wells, 6 Peter J R Bevis, 7 Chris Frye, 8 Judith Frye (C). First surprise as conductor.

**10 January: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Ian B Turner, 3 Jenny M Page, 4 Paul J Wells, 5 Rachel M Milner, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C). AND

1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Aileen Watson, 3 Barbara Busby, 4 Judith Frye, 5 Rachel M Milner, 6 Paul J Wells, 7 Chris Frye (C), 8 Elspeth Craig. AND

1272 Kent Treble Bob Minor: 1 Helen M McGregor, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Barbara Busby, 4 Julia Lee, 5 Chris Frye, 6 Judith Frye (C) First Kent 4 . First Kent as conductor. AND

1260 Double Oxford Bob Minor: 1 Jenny Jackson, 2 Elspeth Craig, 3 Barbara Busby, 4 Helen McGregor, 5 Paul J Wells, 6 Chris Frye (C). First in method: 2,3

**22 January: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow:** 1312 Bristol Surprise Major: 1-2 Simon J Gay, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Angela H Deakin, 7-8 Jonathan S Frye (C). Birthday compliments to Judith Frye.

**23 January: St Cuthbert Edinburgh:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Irina Dudina, 2 Edmund Smith, 3 Ian Stark, 4 Annie Brechin, 5 Michael Clay (C), 6 Simon Aves. First quarter at first attempt 1. Believed to be the first quarter rung by a Russian in Scotland.

**28 January: St Andrew Inverness:** 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Ian B Turner, 3 Nicola A Marshall, 4 Kathryn C Darley, 5 Rachel M Milner, 6 Hugh G Collins, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Michael C Pearce.

**28 January: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow:** 2640 Cambridge Surprise Maximus: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Nicholas W Jones, 9-10 Tina R Stoecklin, 11-12 Simon J Gay (C).

**28 January: St Andrew & St George West, Edinburgh:** 1312 Bristol Surprise Major: 1 Sandra Clay, 2 Judith Stark, 3 Edmund Smith, 4 Annie Brechin, 5 Simon Aves, 6 Alexander Davies, 7 Christopher Thomas, 8 Michael Clay (C). First in method 2.

**10 February: 7 Boarstone Court, Inverness:** 1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Dawn A McAleer, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Sue Turner.

**11 February: Silvermills, Edinburgh:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Geoffrey Farquharson, 3-4 Barbara J Bell, 5-6 Ian P Bell (C). Birthday complement to Susannah Ewens.

**25 February: St Salvator, St Andrews** 1260 Doubles (5m: 180 Stedman; 240 each Grandsire, St Simon's, St. Martin's; 360 Plain Bob): 1 Rachel C Williamson, 2 Al Rossin, 3 Gregory P Morris, 4 George Stevens, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 John S Macleod. Rung following morning service commemorating St Andrews University Founders and Benefactors and remembering Duncan Malloch - ringer at this chapel.

**28 February: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow:** 1440 Cambridge Surprise Royal: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Tina R Stoecklin, 9-10 Simon J Gay (C). In memory of Andrew Johnson.

**2 March: St Cuthbert Edinburgh:** 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Elinor Farquharson, 2 Tamsin Kilgour, 3 Judith Stark, 4 Michael J Clay, 5 Ian Stark, 6 Simon J Gay (C). In memory of Andrew Johnson.

**3 March: St Mary, Edinburgh:** 1260 Doubles (3m: 60 Stedman, 120 St Simon's, 1080 Plain Bob): 1 Wilma Tolmie, 2 Susannah M Ewens (C), 3 Elinor Farquharson, 4 Judith Stark, 5 Alison N Stevens, 6 Morven Cross. Rung to mark International Women's Day. Believed to be the first women's quarter in the tower.

**8 March: New Town Church, Edinburgh:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Anne Leigh-Brown, 2 Sandra Clay, 3 Susannah M Ewens, 4 Susan E Bryce, 5 Estella J Haynes (C), 6 Morven Cross. For International Women's Day.

**10 March: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow:** 1296 Stedman Caters: 1-2 Matthew J L Durham (C), 3-4 Julia R Cater, 5-6 G Jessica Durham, 7-8 Tina R Stoecklin, 9-10 Simon J Gay.

**13 March: St Salvator, St Andrews** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Al Rossin, 2 Matthew Bellhouse Moran, 3 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton, 4 George Stevens, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 Christina Howie. First quarter inside 2. Rung following the funeral earlier today of Duncan Malloch. The band was made up of ringers from St Andrews and Dundee where Duncan rang.

**20 March: Ringing Room:** 1250 Spliced Surprise Major (3m: 480 Yorkshire; 386 Cambridge; 384 Lincolnshire; 30 com): 1-2 Jonathan S Frye (Cumbernauld) (C), 3-4 Nicholas W Jones (Fort William), 5-6 Jennifer A Holden (Aberdeen), 7-8 Susannah Ewens (Edinburgh).

**24 March: St Andrew Inverness:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Barbara M Hummel, 2 Ian B Turner, 3 Kathryn C Darley, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Anthony C Cole (C), 6 Sue Turner. First quarter on tower bells 1. For evensong. As part of the service this evening one of our own ringers Catherine McLaren was licensed as a Lay Reader.

**30 March: Balnaferry House, Forres:** 1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Sue Turner. A 60th birthday compliment to Mike Milner.

**31 March: New Town Church, Edinburgh:** 1344 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Rachel Milner, 2 Judy Barker, 3 Alex Humsley, 4 Alex Linton, 5 Alexander Davies, 6 Edmund Smith, 7 Simon Aves (C), 8 Chris de Burgh. For Easter, and celebrating the birthdays of Mike Milner and Mike Clay.

**31 March: St Blane and St Laurence Dunblane:** 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Molly Holmes, 2 Zoe Martin, 3 Jenny Dearie, 4 Judith Frye, 5 Chris Frye (C), 6 John Grainger. First treble bob: 1. Rung to celebrate the Christening this Easter Day of Evelyn May Rose Bamforth-Tighe.

**6 April: Dun a Bhuilg, Kilmory Knap:** 1260 Stedman Triples: 1-2 Simon J Gay, 3-4 Matthew J L Durham (C), 5-6 Julia R Cater, 7-8 Nicholas W Jones.

**7 April: Dun a Bhuilg, Kilmory Knap:** 1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Nicholas W Jones, 9-10 Tina R Stoecklin, 11-12 Simon J Gay (C).

**9 April: Dun a Bhuilg, Kilmory Knap:** 1280 Silver Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C). AND

1440 Cambridge Surprise Royal: 1-2 Nicholas W Jones, 3-4 G Jessica Durham, 5-6 Julia R Cater, 7-8 Matthew J L Durham, 9-10 Peter G Kirton (C). First Surprise Royal as conductor.

**10 April: Dun a Bhuilg, Kilmory Knap:** 1320 Stedman Cinques: 1-2 Matthew J L Durham (C), 3-4 Julia R Cater, 5-6 Simon J Gay, 7-8 Tina R Stoecklin, 9-10 G Jessica Durham, 11-12 Peter G Kirton. First of Stedman in hand: 11-12. Celebrating Tina and Simon's 25th wedding anniversary today.

**12 April: Dun a Bhuilg, Kilmory Knap:** 1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus: 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Simon J Gay (C), 7-8 Jonathan S Frye, 9-10 Julia R Cater, 11-12 Matthew J L Durham. First of Bristol Maximus in hand: 1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 11-12.

**12 April: Mid Danna, Isle of Danna:** 1312 Kent Treble Bob Major: 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Jonathan S Frye, 5-6 Simon J Gay (C), 7-8 Martin D Mellor. First handbell quarter, and first quarter of Kent Major: 7-8. First quarter on the Isle of Danna. In memory of Eileen Black (1935-2024), who lived in this house with her family in the 1970s.

**14 April: St Mary, Glasgow:** 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Margaret Williams, 2 Angela H Deakin, 3 Sue Wilkinson, 4 Terry G Williams, 5 Tina R Stoecklin, 6 Simon J Gay (C). For Evensong.

**20 April: 1 Malvina Lane, Tornagrain:** 1296 Kent Treble Bob Maximus: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Jennifer A Holden, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Rachel M Milner, 11-12 Sue Turner. First quarter on twelve: 1-2, 9-10, 11-12. A 70th birthday compliment to Stephen Elwell-Sutton.

**22 April: 20 Kingshill Avenue, Cumbernauld:** 1280 Bristol Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C).

**24 April: Ringing Room:** 1250 Spliced Surprise Major: (3m: 480 Yorkshire; 386 Cambridge; 384 Lincolnshire; 30 com.): 1-2 Jonathan S Frye (Cumbernauld) (C), 3-4 Susannah Ewens (Edinburgh), 5-6 Jennifer A Holden (Aberdeen), 7-8 Nicholas W Jones (Fort William).

**28 April: St Andrew Inverness:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Catherine M McLaren, 2 Kathryn C Darley, 3 Nicola A Marshall, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Rachel M Milner, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). For evensong.

**11 May: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow:** 1250 Spliced Surprise Major (3m: Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire): 1-2 Jonathan S Frye (C), 3-4 Jennifer A Holden, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones, 7-8 Susannah M Ewens. AND

1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Simon J Gay (C), 5-6 Tina R Stoecklin, 7-8 Ian B Turner. First blows of Lincolnshire with a band: 7-8. AND

1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Simon J Gay (C),

5-6 Ian P Bell, 7-8 Elinor Farquharson. First of surprise in hand: 7-8 AND  
1296 Kent Treble Bob Maximus: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Jennifer A Holden, 9-10 Susannah M Ewens, 11-12 Nicholas W Jones (C) AND



1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Simon J Gay (C), 5-6 Peter G Kirton, 7-8 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton. AND

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1-2 Nicholas W Jones, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Jennifer A Holden (C).

**12 May: St Andrew Inverness:** 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Ian B Turner, 3 Catherine Pelleymounter, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Nigel R Platt, 6 Nicholas C Sturgess, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Michael C Pearce. Rung to celebrate the 70th birthday of Nigel R Platt.

**12 May: St Cuthbert Edinburgh:** 1296 Grandsire Caters: 1 Sandra Clay, 2 Michael Clay, 3 Simon Aves, 4 Annie Brechin, 5 Susannah Ewens, 6 Edmund Smith (C), 7 Ian Stark, 8 Alexander Davies, 9 Susan Bryce, 10 Alex Hunsley. For International ME Awareness Day. The band wish Judith Stark a steady recovery from her latest episode of ME. She organised this quarter and then, ironically, was unable to ring in it.

**21 May: St Salvator, St Andrews:** 1260 Doubles (3m: 60 Stedman, 600 each Grandsire and Plain Bob): 1 Peter Jupp, 2 Rachel C Williamson, 3 Matthew J Andrews, 4 Richard Harris, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 Al Rossin. Most methods and first outside Hawaii 4.

**26 May: St Andrew Inverness:** 1288 Grandsire Triples: 1 Adam Hopkins, 2 Jonathan Griggs, 3 Jenni Mountford, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Kathryn C Darley, 6 Anthony C Cole (C), 7 Jonathan Pawley, 8 Michael C Pearce. For evensong, 1000th tower 2. First Grandsire Triples as conductor.

**28 May: St Salvator, St Andrews:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Rachel C Williamson, 2 Briony Harding, 3 Peter Jupp, 4 Peter J Williamson, 5 Matthew J Andrews, 6 Al Rossin (C). First quarter of minor inside 2. First of minor as conductor on tower bells.

**1 June: 16 Hillpark Brae, Munloch:** 1320 Hitcham Delight Minor: 1-2 Catherine Pelleymounter, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C). AND 1296 Kent Treble Bob Maximus: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Sue Turner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Rachel M Milner, 11-12 Catherine Pelleymounter. First quarter on twelve 11-12. With the band's congratulations to Nick Sturgess who has climbed all 504 of the 2,500 ft+ Scottish mountains that constitute the Munros & Corbetts. AND

1260 Plain Bob Royal: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Anthony C Cole, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Rachel M Milner, 9-10 Sue Turner.

**6 June: St Andrew, Inverness:** 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Nicola A Marshall, 3 Catherine Pelleymounter, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Ian B Turner, 6 Brian Heys, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Nicholas C Sturgess. Rung to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. We shall remember them and thank them. First QP in Scotland 6.

**6 June: 7 Boarstone Court, Inverness:** 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major: 1-2 Dawn A McAleer, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Sue Turner. Rung to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. AND

1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Dawn A McAleer, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Sue Turner. Rung to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

**6 June: St Mary, Haddington:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 John Elcock, 2 Emily Walker, 3 Alex J Linton, 4 Sally L Thomas, 5 Mike J Clay, 6 Chris W Thomas (C). First quarter inside 2. Rung to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the bells on 6th June 1999.

**10 June: St Salvador, St Andrews:** 1260 Doubles (2m: 540 Grandsire, 720 Plain Bob): 1 Susan E Bryce, 2 Peter J Williamson, 3 George Stevens (C), 4 John Macleod, 5 Al Rossin, 6 James H Bryce. Rung to celebrate the achievements of all graduating from the University today (and those of graduands for ceremonies in the following few days). Also celebrating the baptism today of Elena Chen (ringer at this chapel) and Ruoxi Wang. First quarter at this tower having matriculated at St Andrews 50 years ago 6. First as conductor for the Scottish Association.

**11 June: St Salvador, St Andrews:** 1260 Doubles (3m: 60 Stedman, 600 each Grandsire and Plain Bob): 1 Christina Howie, 2 George Stevens, 3 John S Macleod, 4 Al Rossin, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 Elena Chen. First Quarter (and graduating this week) 6.

**13 June: St Salvador, St Andrews:** 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 George Stevens, 2 Al Rossin, 3 Cameron Pollock, 4 Jason W Pollock, 5 Peter J Williamson, 6 Matthew Andrews (C). For all those graduating from the University of St Andrews today. First surprise as conductor.

**14 June: St Salvador, St Andrews:** 1260 Doubles (4m: 60 Erin, 360 All Saints, 360 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob): 1 Alex J Linton, 2 George Stevens, 3 Jason W Pollock, 4 Cameron Pollock, 5 Al Rossin (C), 6 Quenton W Hurst. For all those graduating from the University of St Andrews today. Rung as part of the SACR quarter peal weekend. 50th quarter 5.

**14 June: St Mary, Glasgow:** 1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal: 1 Margaret Williams, 2 Jennifer Tomkinson, 3 Sue Wilkinson, 4 Martin D Mellor, 5 Terry G Williams, 6 Peter G Kirton (C), 7 Simon J Gay, 8 Tina R Stoecklin, 9 Zoe A Bennett, 10 Clyde Wallbanks. Rung as part of the SACR quarter peal weekend.

**15 June: Ringing Chamber, All Saints, Inveraray:** 1312 Kent Treble Bob Major: 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Alison N Stevens, 5-6 Simon J Gay (C), 7-8 Martin D Mellor. Rung as part of the SACR quarter peal weekend.

**15 June: All Saints, Inveraray:** 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Iain L Milne, 2 Simon J Gay (C), 3 John M Goldthorpe, 4 Martin D Mellor, 5 Zoe A Bennett, 6 Alison N Stevens, 7 Tina R Stoecklin, 8 Ruth M Marshall. First of triples away from tenor 1. Rung as part of the SACR quarter peal weekend.

**15 June: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh:** 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Irina Dudina, 2 Sandra Clay, 3 Elinor Farquharson, 4 Alex Hunsley, 5 Simon Aves, 6 Ian Stark, 7 Michael J Clay (C), 8 Geoffrey Farquharson. First QP on eight 1. 300th quarter peal 5. Rung as part of SACR Quarter Peal weekend.

**15 June: St Blane and St Laurence, Dunblane:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 June Peterson, 2 Miranda Jones, 3 Jennifer A Dearie, 4 Nicola Wildman, 5 Chris Frye, 6 Judith Frye (C). First in method: 2. Rung to welcome Isabelle Frances Lily Bamforth-Tighe, daughter of Heather Bamforth and Mike Tighe, granddaughter of Ruth and Stuart Bamforth. Rung for the SACR Quarter Peal weekend.

**16 June: St Andrew, Inverness:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Michael C Pearce, 2 Catherine Pelleymounter, 3 Nicola A Marshall, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Hugh G Collins, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). For Father's Day. Rung as part of the Scottish Association Quarter Peal weekend.

**16 June: St Mary, Glasgow:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Tina R Stoecklin, 2 Karen Ewing, 3 Jennifer Tomkinson, 4 Donald A Spaeth, 5 Simon J Gay (C), 6 Peter Whyatt. First inside, and first for 41 years: 4. Rung as part of the SACR quarter peal weekend. AND

1288 Grandsire Triples: 1 Iain L Milne, 2 Simon J Gay, 3 Margaret Williams, 4 Sue Wilkinson, 5 Terry G Williams, 6 Tina R Stoecklin (C), 7 Clyde W Wallbanks, 8 Zoé Martin. Rung as part of the SACR quarter peal weekend.

**16 June: New Town Church, Edinburgh:** 1250 Cambridge Surprise Major: 1 Sandra Clay, 2 Elinor Farquharson, 3 Alex Hunsley, 4 Alex Linton, 5 Ian Stark, 6 Susan Bryce, 7 Simon Aves, 8 Michael Clay (C). First in method 2. For SACR Quarter Peal weekend.

**16 June: St John the Evangelist, Dumfries:** 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Ruth M Marshall, 2 Debbie Johnson, 3 Viv Nobbs, 4 Guy Beaumont, 5 Alison N Stevens (C), 6 Ian Cooper. For the SACR quarter peal weekend.

**22 June: St Mary, Haddington:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Chris W Thomas, 2 Ruth Ellis, 3 Sally L Thomas, 4 Hugh C Pumphrey, 5 John Elcock (C), 6 Arthur Kidner. First quarter 6. First inside 2. Rung to celebrate the 25th anniversary of dedication of the bells on 6 June 1999, and for the Haddington Society of Change Ringers dinner day.

**23 June: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Elinor Farquharson, 2 Anne M Brechin, 3 Talon Ashryver, 4 Simon Aves, 5 Edmund G N Smith (C), 6 Lyra Burgess. Rung in celebration of Edinburgh Pride. First Quarter 6. First Inside 3.

**30 June: St Blane and St Laurence, Dunblane:** 1250 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Magnus Peterson, 2 Jenny Dearie, 3 Nicola Wildman, 4 Judith Frye, 5 Chris Frye (C), 6 Jonathan Frye. Rung to celebrate the birth on 25th June of Fynn David Hinchliffe Kewley, a son for Siobhan and John Kewley.

**7 July: 7 Boarstone Court, Inverness:** 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major: 1-2 Anthony C Cole, 3-4 Dawn A McAleer, 5-6 Ian B Turner, 7-8 Nicholas W Jones (C).

**23 July: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Erin Scratcherd, 2 Susan Bryce, 3 Mike Clay, 4 Annie Brechin, 5 Edmund Smith (C), 6 Geoffrey Farquharson. First quarter 1.

**27 July: All Saints, Inveraray:** 1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal: 1 Nikki Tompkinson, 2 Sarah E T Dawson, 3 Tina R Stoecklin, 4 Steph Pendlebury, 5 Judith Frye, 6 Angela H Deakin, 7 Alison N Stevens (C), 8 Ruth M Marshall, 9 Rachel Wells

10 G Jessica Durham. First surprise royal: 1. First surprise royal inside 4. Rung to celebrate the 50th Inveraray Ringing Festival. With congratulations to Lillian Halewood and Alex Fishburn, married at Liverpool cathedral today.

**28 July: Ringing Chamber, All Saints, Inveraray:** 1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Oliver E Rice, 5-6 Simon J Gay (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole. AND

1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 G Jessica Durham, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Matthew J L Durham, 9-10 Tina R Stoecklin, 11-12 Simon J Gay (C).

**5 August: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow:** 1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Tina R Stoecklin, 9-10 Simon J Gay (C). In memory of James (Jim) H. Foster, on the eve of his funeral.

**7 August: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow:** 1344 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Cally D Perry, 5-6 Elaine M Hansen, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C).

**11 August: St John the Evangelist, Dumfries:** 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 David Horne, 2 Vivien Nobbs, 3 Debbie Johnson, 4 Graham Nobbs, 5 Guy Beaumont (C), 6 Ian Cooper. Rung in memory of Paul and Olive Burbridge (parents of 3) who were members of St John's Church since 2006, and enthusiastic supporters of the bells and bell ringers in Dumfries.

**18 August: St Mary, Glasgow:** 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Angela H Deakin, 2 Karen Ewing, 3 Zoe A Bennett, 4 Margaret Williams, 5 Terry G Williams, 6 Ruth M Marshall, 7 Jonathan S Frye (C), 8 Zoé Martin. To say a fond farewell to Rev Canon Oliver Brewer-Lennon who has been the Cathedral's Vice Provost for nearly 5 years.

**25 August: St Andrew, Inverness:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Heather A Preece, 2 Kathryn C Darley, 3 Catherine Pellemounter, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Hugh G Collins, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). For evensong.

**27 August: St Salvator, St Andrews:** 1280 Doubles (2m: 680 Grandsire, 600 Plain Bob): 1 Al Rossin, 2 Matthew J Andrews, 3 Peter Jupp, 4 Rachel C Williamson, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 Briony Harding. Specially arranged to celebrate the recent 80th birthday of Peter Jupp.

**5 September: St Andrew, Inverness:** 1260 Doubles (2m: 420 Grandsire, 840 Plain Bob): 1 Michael C Pearce, 2 Nicholas C Sturgess, 3 Rachel M Milner, 4 Brian Heys, 5 Anthony C Cole (C). Rung on bells 2-6 to celebrate the wedding yesterday of Beth and Olly (daughter of 3).

**14 September: Tulloch Ringing Centre, Tulloch:** 1260 St Andrew Bob Triples: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Nicola A Marshall, 3 Ian B Turner, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Brian Heys, 6 Nicholas C Sturgess, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Michael C Pearce. First in method by all.

**22 September: New Town Church, Edinburgh:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Ian Stark, 2 Alex J Linton, 3 Simon Aves, 4 Alex Hunsley, 5 Susannah M Ewens, 6 Alison N Stevens (C). Rung to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Robert H Johnston, Grandad of 2.

**23 September: 20 Kingshill Avenue, Cumbernauld:** 1288 Spliced Major (4m: 448 Bristol Surprise, Hull Surprise; 336 Albany Little Treble Place; 56 Oxford Differential Little Bob; 41 com; atw): 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C).

**29 September: St Andrew Inverness:** 1260 St Andrew Bob Triples: 1 Ian B Turner, 2 Nicola A Marshall, 3 Hugh G Collins, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Brian Heys, 6 Nicholas C Sturgess, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Michael C Pearce. Rung

to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness. 150th QP as conductor

**29 September: St Mary, Edinburgh:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Christopher de Burgh, 2 Elinor Farquharson (C), 3 Ian P Bell, 4 Susannah Ewens, 5 Geoffrey Farquharson, 6 Annabel Bruce. For the ordination as deacon of Eilidh Proudfoot, Fiona Reynolds and Simon Schofield. First Quarter 6; First quarter inside 5; First as conductor.

**5 October: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: (Scottish Handbell Day):**

1250 Lincolnshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Simon J Gay (C), 7-8 Ian B Turner. AND

1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Jonathan S Frye, 3-4 Barbara J Bell, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Al Rossin. First of Royal: 9-10. AND

1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Nicholas W Jones, 3-4 Geoffrey Farquharson, 5-6 Al Rossin, 7-8 Anthony C Cole (C). First inside on handbells: 3-4. AND

1296 Kent Treble Bob Maximus: 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Jennifer A Holden, 5-6 Angela H Deakin, 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Nicholas W Jones (C), 11-12 Ian B Turner. AND

1250 Spliced Surprise Major (3m: 480 Yorkshire; 386 Cambridge; 384 Lincolnshire; 30 c.o.m.): 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Jonathan S Frye (C), 5-6 Jennifer A Holden, 7-8 Peter G Kirton. 300th quarter in the house.

**12 October: 7 Boarstone Court, Inverness:** 1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Sue Turner, 5-6 Anthony C Cole, 7-8 Nicholas W Jones (C), 9-10 Dawn A McAleer. AND

1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Dawn A McAleer, 3-4 Nicholas W Jones, 5-6 Anthony C Cole (C).

**14 October: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow:** 1280 Springboig Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Peter G Kirton (C). Birthday compliments to Jemma Lavelle.

**21 October: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow:** 1440 Sgurr A'Chaorachain Surprise Royal: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C), 9-10 Peter G Kirton.

**26 October: Balnaferry Campanile, Forres:** 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3 Clyde W Wallbanks, 4 Zoe A Bennett, 5 Ruth M Marshall, 6 Rachel M Milner, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Simon H Aves.

**28 October: 20 Kingshill Avenue, Cumbernauld:** 1280 Rhodium Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C).

**3 November: Tulloch Ringing Centre, Tulloch:** 1259 Grandsire Caters: 1 Tanya Hart, 2 June Wells, 3 Jenny Page, 4 Ian Turner, 5 Helen McGregor, 6 Aaron Hallett, 7 Peter Bevis, 8 John Wells (C), 9 Mariko Whyte, 10 Richard Herrissier. First Caters 1. First Caters inside 4. AND

1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Alexis Martin, 2 June Wells (C), 3 Tanya Hart, 4 Ian Turner, 5 Aaron Hallett, 6 Richard Herrissier, 7 Mariko Whyte, 8 John Wells. First on eight 1.

**3 November: St Mary, Glasgow:** 1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal: 1 Clyde W Wallbanks, 2 Jennifer Tomkinson, 3 Peter G Kirton, 4 Angela H Deakin, 5 Simon J Gay (C), 6 Terry G Williams, 7 Ruth M Marshall, 8 Tina R Stoecklin, 9 Jonathan S Frye, 10 Zoe A Bennett.. Congratulations to Zoe Bennett on graduating from Strathclyde University with an M. Arch, with distinction, in Advanced Architectural Design.

**4 November: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Nor James, 2 Alexis Martin, 3 Aaron Hallett, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Jenny M Page, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C). First minor 2. AND

1260 Stedman Triples: 1 Tanya Hart, 2 Mariko Whyte, 3 Jenny Page, 4 June Wells, 5 Aaron Hallett, 6 Peter Bevis, 7 John Wells (C), 8 Ian Turner. First Stedman 1.

**5 November: Tulloch Ringing Centre, Tulloch:** 1259 Grandsire Caters: 1 Tanya Hart, 2 June Wells, 3 Mariko Whyte, 4 Jenny Page, 5 Rachel Milner, 6 Peter Bevis, 7 Aaron Hallett, 8 Anthony C Cole, 9 John Wells (C), 10 Richard Herrissier. First of Grandsire Caters 5.

**5 November: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1250 Cambridge Surprise Major: 1 Alexis Martin, 2 Anthony C Cole, 3 Mariko Whyte, 4 Jenny Page, 5 Aaron Hallett, 6 Peter Bevis, 7 John Wells, 8 June Wells (C). First on eight 1. AND

1296 Little Bob Major: 1 Nor James, 2 Tanya Hart, 3 Jenny Page, 4 Aaron Hallett, 5 Mariko Whyte, 6 June Wells, 7 Anthony C Cole, 8 John Wells (C). First Major 1. First Little Bob 2.

**6 November: Tulloch Lodge, Tulloch:** 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Peter Bevis, 3-4 June Wells, 5-6 Nicholas Jones, 7-8 John Wells (C).

**7 November: Tulloch Ringing Centre, Tulloch:** 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 John Wells, 2 Alexis Martin, 3 Helen M McGregor, 4 Tanya Hart, 5 Jenny Page, 6 Peter Bevis, 7 Mariko Whyte (C), 8 Nor James. First in method 2.

**7 November: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Aaron Hallett, 2 Nor James, 3 June D Wells, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 E John Wells, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C). AND

1260 Stedman Doubles: 1 Tanya Hart, 2 June Wells, 3 Aaron Hallett, 4 John Wells (C), 5 Mariko Whyte, 6 Gail Norwood. First Stedman Doubles 1. AND  
1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Alexis Martin, 2 Jenny M Page (C), 3 Sue Turner, 4 Mariko Whyte, 5 Helen M McGregor, 6 Aaron Hallett, 7 Tanya Hart, 8 Ian Turner.

**8 November: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Sally A Vos, 2 Mariko Whyte (C), 3 June Wells, 4 Jenny M Page, 5 Helen M McGregor, 6 Aaron Hallett, 7 John Wells, 8 Tanya Hart. AND

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Helen McGregor, 2 Sue Turner, 3 John Wells, 4 Mariko Whyte, 5 Jenny Page, 6 June Wells (C). First Surprise inside 2. AND

1312 Kent Treble Bob Major: 1 June Wells, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Mariko Whyte, 4 Ian Turner, 5 Helen McGregor, 6 Peter Bevis, 7 Jenny Page, 8 John Wells (C).

**9 November: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Laura Kang Ward, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Helen M McGregor, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Alan Faiers, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C).

**10 November: St Mary, Edinburgh:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Geoffrey Farquharson, 2 Ian Brown, 3 Elinor Farquharson, 4 Simon Aves, 5 Susannah

Ewens (C), 6 Fiona Bridge. Rung half muffled for Remembrance Sunday. First quarter: 2 and 6.

**11 November: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Jim Gulliver, 2 Christine Richardson, 3 Ian B Turner, 4 Lynne Sydes, 5 Judith Frye, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C). First minor 1. AND

1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Lynne Sydes, 2 Bridget Taylor, 3 Chris Frye, 4 Jenny M Page (C), 5 Moe Harrison, 6 Peter J R Bevis. First quarter inside 5. AND

1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Barbara Busby, 2 Judith Dennis, 3 Elspeth Craig, 4 Robin A Daw, 5 Anthony C Cole (C), 6 Alan Faiers.

**13 November: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major: 1 Barbara Busby, 2 Christine Richardson, 3 Judith Frye, 4 Peter J R Bevis, 5 Jenny M Page, 6 Chris Frye (C), 7-8 Robin A Daw. First on two tower bells 7-8.

**14 November: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Doug Peel, 2 Ian B Turner, 3 Christine Richardson, 4 Elspeth Craig, 5 Anthony C Cole (C), 6 Andrew Craig. First on a working bell 1. AND

1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Helen McGregor, 2 Maxine Browning, 3 Christine Richardson, 4 Judith Frye, 5 Chris Frye (C), 6 Peter J R Bevis.

**15 November: Last Tower, Tulloch:** 1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles: 1 Alison Peel, 2 Helen McGregor, 3 Robin A Daw (C), 4 Jenny M Page, 5 Christine Richardson, 6 Sue Turner. First quarter away from cover 1. Birthday compliment to Wendy Daw, mother of 3.

**23 November: Old Steeple, Dundee:** 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Christina G Howie, 2 Matthew Bellhouse Moran, 3 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton (C), 4 Carly Cooper, 5 Ron Oliver, 6 Andrew MacKenzie. Rung by members of the Dundee Society of Bell Ringers for its 150th anniversary. Also for the 200th anniversary of the completion of HMS Unicorn (docked in Dundee). First Quarter: 6.

**24 November: St Andrew, Inverness:** 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Sarah E Cole, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Nicola A Marshall, 4, Catherine Pelleymounter, 5 Ian B Turner, 6 Rachel M Milner, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Matthew D Hubbard. For evensong.

**3 December: St Salvator, St Andrews:** 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Christina Howie, 2 George W K Stevens, 3 Rachel C Williamson, 4 Matthew Andrews, 5 Peter J Williamson, 6 Al Rossin (C). For all those graduating from the University of St Andrews today.

**4 December: St Salvator, St Andrews:** 1279 Grandsire Doubles: 1 George W K Stevens (C), 2 Rachel C Williamson, 3 Peter J Williamson, 4 Al Rossin, 5 Matthew J Andrews, 6 Quenton W Hurst. For all those graduating from St Andrews University today.

**16 December: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow:** 1260 Spliced Royal (8m: 850 Original; 90 Five, Six; 60 Four, Seven; 40 Eight, Three; 30 Two (M2); 169 com): 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C), 9-10 Tina R Stoecklin. First quarter of Numbers, inspired by Christian Peckham's "4, 5, 6, 7" composition.

**17 December: St Salvator (Ringing Chamber), St Andrews:** 1440 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Peter J Williamson, 3-4 George W K Stevens, 5-6 Al Rossin (C).

**24 December: St Blane and St Laurence, Dunblane:** 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Jenny Dearie, 2 Miranda Jones, 3 Chris Frye (C), 4 Matthew Frye, 5 Judith Frye, 6 Alison Stevens. First Grandsire: 2.

Quarters were rung in the following towers: Last Tower, Tulloch 24, St Andrew, Inverness 11, St Salvator, St Andrews 11, St Cuthbert, Edinburgh 7, Ringing Centre, Tulloch 6, St Mary Glasgow 6, New Town Church, Edinburgh 5, St Blane and St Laurence, Dunblane 4, St Mary, Edinburgh 3, St John, Dumfries 2, St Mary, Haddington 2, All Saints, Inveraray 2, Balnaferry Campanile, Forres 1, Old Steeple, Dundee 1.

Handbell quarters were rung at the following locations: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow 20, 7 Boarstone Court, Inverness 6, Dun a Bhuilg, Kilmory Knap 6, Tulloch Lodge 5, 20 Kingshill Avenue, Cumbernauld 3, Ringing Chamber, All Saints, Inveraray 3, 16 Hillpark Brae, Munloch 3, St Salvator (Ringing Chamber), St Andrews 1, Balnaferry House, Forres 1, 27 House o'Hill Crescent, Edinburgh 1, 1 Malvina Lane, Tornagraim 1, Mid Danna, Isle of Danna 1, Silvermills, Edinburgh 1.

Most quarters: Ian Turner 34, Anthony Cole 33, Simon Gay 32, Tina Stoecklin 31, Nicholas A Jones 26, Sue Turner 26, Jonathan Frye 25, Angela Deakin 24, Rachel Milner 22, Jenny Page 18, Peter Bevis 18, Helen McGregor 17, Peter Kirton 14, Al Rossin 14, John Wells 12, June Wells 12, Susannah Ewens 12, Mariko Whyte 12, Chris Frye 12, Peter Williamson 11, Simon Aves 11, Mike Clay 10, Judith Frye 10, Aaron Hallett 10.



# Peals

During 2024 46 peals were credited to SACR, of which 15 were rung on handbells. 57 people rang at least one peal, of whom 13 are not currently resident members.

## **Tulloch, Tulloch Lodge**

Sunday, 7 January 2024 in 2h 56 (13 in E)

### **5120 Kent Treble Bob Royal**

1-2 Nicholas W Jones

3-4 Jenny M Page

5-6 Simon J Gay (C)

7-8 Rachel M Milner

9-10 Anthony C Cole

First peal in hand: 7-8, 9-10

## **Edinburgh, St Cuthbert**

Saturday, 13 January 2024 in 3h 13

### **5040 Sgurr A' Chaorachain Surprise Royal**

1 Sally L Thomas

2 Michael J Clay

3 Susan E Bryce

4 Anne M Brechin

5 Edmund G N Smith

6 Simon J Gay (C)

7 Estella J Haynes

8 Jason R Hargreaves

9 Jonathan S Frye

10 Tina R Stoecklin

## **Edinburgh, St Andrew and St George West**

Wednesday, 31 January 2024 in 3h 2 (14-2-23 in E)

### **5024 Bristol Surprise Major**

1 Sally L Thomas

2 Susan E Bryce

3 Alexander S M Davies

4 George Stevens

5 Peter G Kirton

6 Peter J Williamson

7 Estella J Haynes

8 Michael J Clay (C)

First in the method on its own: 3

Rung as a 21st birthday compliment to Edward Haynes.

Last peal on the bells prior to the change of dedication of the Church.

**Edinburgh, 27 House o' Hill Crescent**

Tuesday, 13 February 2024 in 2h 31 (11)

**5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 James W Holdsworth (C)

5-6 Ian P Bell

7-8 Susannah M Ewens

With compliments to Susannah for her recent significant birthday.

**Edinburgh, St Cuthbert**

Thursday, 7 March 2024 in 3h 14

**5000 Spliced Surprise Royal (2m)**

2600 Sgurr A' Chaorachain; 2400 Bristol; 50 com; atw

1 Richard J W Tibbetts

2 Michael J Clay

3 Susan E Bryce

4 Peter G Kirton

5 Simon J Gay (C)

6 Peter J Williamson

7 Christopher J Frye

8 Estella J Haynes

9 Clyde W Wallbanks

10 Jonathan S Frye

**Haddington, St Mary**

Saturday, 9 March 2024 in 2h 48

**5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

1 Christopher J Frye

2 George Stevens

3 Susan E Bryce

4 Alexander S M Davies

5 Edmund G N Smith

6 Simon H Aves

7 Peter J Williamson

8 James W Holdsworth (C)

First of Yorkshire: 2.

**Edinburgh 27 House o'Hill Crescent**

Tuesday, 26 March 2024 in 2h 35 (12 in F)

**5184 Bristol Surprise Major**

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 James W Holdsworth

5-6 Susannah M Ewens

7-8 Ian P Bell (C)

**Alloa, St John the Evangelist**

Wednesday, 3 April 2024 in 2h 51

**5088 Lessness Surprise Major**

- 1 Alexander J Linton
- 2 George Stevens
- 3 Richard J W Tibbetts
- 4 Simon H Aves
- 5 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton
- 6 Susan E Bryce
- 7 Estella J Haynes (C)
- 8 Peter J Williamson

Circled the tower 3 times - 8

Rung to celebrate the engagement of Edmund Smith and Annie Brechin, this week on the Isle of Skye.

**Tanfield, Durham, St Margaret**

Wednesday, 10 April 2024 in 2h 58

**5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal**

- 1 Michael J Clay
  - 2 Sally L Thomas
  - 3 Christopher J Frye
  - 4 Susan E Bryce
  - 5 Karen P McCleave
  - 6 Judith L Frye
  - 7 Peter J Williamson
  - 8 Stephen B Bell
  - 9 Christopher M Mansfield
  - 10 Malcolm S Turner (C)
- 50th together 3 and 7

**Kilmory Knap, Argyll, Dun a Bhuilg**

Thursday, 11 April 2024 in 3h 18 (15 in C)

**5040 Kent Treble Bob Maximus**

- 1-2 Julia R Cater
  - 3-4 G Jessica Durham
  - 5-6 Simon J Gay (C)
  - 7-8 Matthew J L Durham
  - 9-10 Peter G Kirton
  - 11-12 Jonathan S Frye
- First on 12 handbells: 9-10

**Edinburgh, St Cuthbert**

Saturday, 20 April 2024 in 3h 15

**5056 Bristol Surprise Major**

1 Richard J W Tibbetts

2 Simon J Gay (C)

3 Zoe A Bennett

4 Tina R Stoecklin

5 Jason R Hargreaves

6 Edmund G N Smith

7 Ruth M Marshall

8 Jonathan S Frye

First on eight: 3.

With the band's best wishes to Mike Clay for a speedy recovery.

**Edinburgh, 27 House o'Hill Crescent**

Tuesday, 23 April 2024 in 2h 22 (11 in G)

**5024 Bristol Surprise Major**

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 James W Holdsworth (C)

5-6 Susannah M Ewens

7-8 Ian P Bell

**Haddington, St Mary**

Saturday, 27 April 2024 in 2h 55

**5152 Superlative Surprise Major**

1 Richard J W Tibbetts

2 Clyde W Wallbanks

3 Simon H Aves

4 Peter J Williamson

5 Alexander S M Davies

6 Jason R Hargreaves

7 Estella J Haynes (C)

8 Edmund G N Smith

150th for the association: 8

Rung by his friends on the 50th anniversary of Mike Clay's first peal, at Clowne in Derbyshire. Wishing Mike a speedy recovery.

**Edinburgh, 27 House o' Hill Crescent**

Tuesday, 7 May 2024 in 2h 25 (12)

**5184 Cornwall Surprise Major**

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 Susannah M Ewens

5-6 James W Holdsworth (C)

7-8 Ian P Bell

**Alloa, St John the Evangelist**

Saturday, 11 May 2024 in 2h 52

**5024 Belfast Surprise Major**

- 1 Simon H Aves
- 2 Michael J Clay (C)
- 3 Anne M Brechin
- 4 Alexander S M Davies
- 5 Richard J W Tibbetts
- 6 Christopher J Frye
- 7 Susan E Bryce
- 8 Edmund G N Smith

First blows in the method: 4

Birthday compliments to Annie Brechin and Greg Clay.

Congratulations to the Scotland Women's cricket team on reaching the T20 World Cup for the first time.

**Edinburgh, St Mary**

Sunday, 19 May 2024 in 3h 5

**5040 Plain Bob Triples**

- 1 Ian P Bell
- 2 Elinor Farquharson
- 3 Alexander S M Davies
- 4 Matthew D Frye
- 5 Susannah M Ewens
- 6 Alison N Stevens (C)
- 7 Jonathan S Frye
- 8 Morven Cross

First Triples: 3.

First as conductor.

Rung for Pentecost and the 150th anniversary of the laying of the cathedral's foundation stone.

**Alloa, St John the Evangelist**

Thursday, 30 May 2024 in 2h 51

**5088 Ipswich Surprise Major**

- 1 Simon H Aves
- 2 Estella J Haynes
- 3 Anne M Brechin
- 4 Alexander S M Davies
- 5 Christopher J Frye
- 6 Peter J Williamson
- 7 Michael J Clay (C)
- 8 Edmund G N Smith

First blows in method: 4

Wishing John Grainger a speedy recovery.

**Inveraray, All Saints**

Saturday, 8 June 2024 in 3h 59

**5040 Bristol Surprise Royal**

- 1 Christopher J Frye
  - 2 Judith L Frye
  - 3 Peter J Williamson
  - 4 Angela H Deakin
  - 5 Michael R Parker
  - 6 James P Ramsbottom
  - 7 Tina R Stoecklin (C)
  - 8 Jonathan S Frye
  - 9 Julia R Cater
  - 10 Alexander P Frye
- 1st Bristol Royal: 2

**St Andrews, University Chapel of St Salvator**

Wednesday, 12 June 2024 in 2h 42

**5040 Surprise Minor (2m)**

- 4 extents Cambridge, 3 extents Norwich
- 1 Peter J Williamson
  - 2 Susan E Bryce
  - 3 George Stevens
  - 4 Matthew Andrews
  - 5 Estella J Haynes (C)
  - 6 Peter G Kirton

Rung for the University of St Andrews' graduation, and in particular the graduating ringers - Elena Chen, Stephanie Yang and John MacLeod.

**Edinburgh, 27 House o'Hill Crescent**

Tuesday, 18 June 2024 in 2h 23 (11 in G)

**5088 Spliced Surprise Major (2m)**

- 4032 Yorkshire, 1056 Cambridge; 29 com, atw
- 1-2 Barbara J Bell
  - 3-4 Susannah M Ewens
  - 5-6 James W Holdsworth (C)
  - 7-8 Ian P Bell
- 150th handbell peal for the Association.

**Edinburgh, St Cuthbert**

Saturday, 22 June 2024 in 3h 12

**5000 Dumfries Surprise Royal**

- 1 George Stevens
- 2 Susan E Bryce
- 3 Simon J Gay
- 4 Richard J W Tibbetts
- 5 Christopher J Frye
- 6 Peter G Kirton
- 7 Ruth M Marshall
- 8 Peter J Williamson
- 9 Tina R Stoecklin
- 10 Michael J Clay (C)

**Edinburgh, 27 House o'Hill Crescent**

Sunday, 30 June 2024 in 2h 39 (12 in F)

**5056 Plain Bob Major**

- 1-2 Peter J Williamson
  - 3-4 Barbara J Bell
  - 5-6 Alison N Stevens
  - 7-8 Ian P Bell (C)
- Just Christmas Day to go!

**Edinburgh, New Town Church**

Wednesday, 3 July 2024 in 3h

**5088 Bristol Surprise Major**

- 1 Ian P Bell
- 2 Alexander S M Davies
- 3 Susan E Bryce
- 4 Estella J Haynes
- 5 Edmund G N Smith
- 6 George Stevens
- 7 Alex S Riley
- 8 Michael J Clay (C)

Rung with the band's best wishes for the graduation tomorrow of Alexander.

**Edinburgh, St Cuthbert**

Thursday, 18 July 2024 in 2h 43

**5040 Surprise Minor (2m)**

3 extents Bourne, 4 extents Cambridge

- 1 Estella J Haynes
- 2 Edmund G N Smith
- 3 Peter J Williamson
- 4 Simon H Aves
- 5 Michael J Clay
- 6 Anne M Brechin (C)

250th peal, on the 25th anniversary of her first peal: 6

First as conductor

**Perth, 5 Pitheavlis Terrace**

Saturday, 20 July 2024 in 2h 25 (15)

**5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 Tina R Stoecklin

5-6 Simon J Gay

7-8 Peter G Kirton (C)

First Surprise as conductor in hand.

The first peal in the city.

**Edinburgh, 27 House o'Hill Crescent**

Sunday, 21 July 2024 in 2h 25 (11 in G)

**5088 Spliced Surprise Major (3m)**

3072 Yorkshire, 1056 Cambridge, 960 Lincolnshire; 77 com, atw

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 Susannah M Ewens

5-6 James W Holdsworth (C)

7-8 Ian P Bell

**Edinburgh, New Town Church**

Thursday, 25 July 2024 in 3h 8

**5152 Oban Surprise Major**

1 Richard J W Tibbetts

2 Zoe A Bennett

3 Alexander S M Davies

4 Peter J Williamson

5 Simon H Aves

6 Estella J Haynes

7 Michael J Clay (C)

8 Edmund G N Smith

Circled the tower in eight peals: 6

Completes the Surprise Major alphabet (the first to do so entirely in Scotland):

5 and 8

In celebration of the life of Rev John Russell, father of local ringer Judith Stark (1935 -2024). Judith's parents honeymooned in Oban.

Also in celebration of the life of Riz Ahmed (1975 - 2024), wife of Ed Mallen.

**St Andrews, University Chapel of St Salvador**

Friday, 2 August 2024 in 2h 42

**5040 Minor (2m)**

4 extents Cambridge S, 3 extents Plain Bob

1 Al Rossin

2 Katie E Abraham

3 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton

4 Alexander S M Davies

5 Peter G Kirton (C)

6 Peter J Williamson

100th for the SACR - 3



**Edinburgh 27 House o'Hill Crescent**

Sunday, 4 August 2024 in 2h 23 (11 in G)

**5088 Lessness Surprise Major**

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 Susannah M Ewens

5-6 James W Holdsworth (C)

7-8 Ian P Bell

First blows of Lessness: 1-2, 3-4, 7-8

**Hensingham, Cumbria, St John**

Saturday, 10 August 2024 in 2h 55

**5056 Bristol Surprise Major**

1 Simon J Gay (C)

2 Jonathan S Frye

3 Clyde W Wallbanks

4 Peter G Kirton

5 Angela H Deakin

6 Ruth M Marshall

7 Julia R Cater

8 Tina R Stoecklin

Rung on the 40th anniversary of Simon Gay's first peal.

**Edinburgh, St Cuthbert**

Saturday, 24 August 2024 in 3h 7 (21-0-0 in E)

**5040 Dumfries Surprise Royal**

1 Sally L Thomas

2 Susan E Bryce

3 Simon J Gay (C)

4 Richard J W Tibbetts

5 Anne M Brechin

6 Edmund G N Smith

7 Estella J Haynes

8 Clyde W Wallbanks

9 Tina R Stoecklin

10 Michael J Clay

**Glasgow, 1 Albany Quadrant**

Sunday, 8 September 2024 in 2h 36 (15 in C)

**5088 Spliced Surprise Major (5m)**

1152 Bristol, Yorkshire; 960 Cambridge, Lincolnshire ; 864 Rutland; 75 com;  
atw.

1-2 Estella J Haynes

3-4 Alex S Riley

5-6 Simon J Gay (C)

7-8 Julia R Cater

First of spliced in hand: 1-2

**Edinburgh, St Cuthbert**

Sunday, 8 September 2024 in 3h 10

**5080 Cambridge Surprise Royal**

1 Edmund G N Smith

2 Susan E Bryce

3 Richard J W Tibbetts

4 Roy LeMarechal

5 Anne M Brechin

6 Ian P Bell

7 George Stevens

8 Simon H Aves

9 Ruth M Marshall

10 Michael J Clay (C)

Circled the tower 4 & 8.

Rung in memory of Norman Mattingley. Norman taught George to ring and rang his 1,000th peal in this tower together with his daughter Helena who was Ringing Master here at the time.

**Edinburgh, 27 House o' Hill Crescent**

Tuesday, 24 September 2024 in 2h 40 (12)

**5056 Spliced Surprise Major (4m)**

1344 Bristol; 1248 Cornwall, Deva; 1216 Lessness; 104 com; atw.

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 Susannah M Ewens

5-6 James W Holdsworth (C)

7-8 Ian P Bell

Most methods spliced in hand: 1-2, 3-4, 7-8.

**Alloa, St John the Evangelist**

Wednesday, 2 October 2024 in 2h 55 (13-0-20 in F#)

**5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

1 Christopher de Burgh

2 Elinor Farquharson

3 Anne M Brechin

4 Edmund G N Smith

5 Richard J W Tibbetts

6 Simon H Aves

7 Peter J Williamson

8 Michael J Clay (C)

First of Surprise- 2, 1100th peal- 7

Rung with the band's best wishes to the Scotland women's team as they start their World Cup cricket campaign.

**Inverness, Cathedral Church of St Andrew**

Saturday, 26 October 2024 in 3h

**5039 Grandsire Caters**

- 1 Rachel M Milner
  - 2 Anthony C Cole
  - 3 Simon H Aves
  - 4 Brian Heys
  - 5 Nicholas C Sturgess
  - 6 Tina R Stoecklin (C)
  - 7 Peter J Williamson
  - 8 Zoe A Bennett
  - 9 Clyde W Wallbanks
  - 10 Ruth M Marshall
- 1st on 10: 1

To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the consecration of St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness.

**Edinburgh, New Town Church**

Saturday, 2 November 2024 in 2h 55

**5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

- 1 Peter J Williamson
- 2 Ian D B Stark
- 3 Simon H Aves
- 4 Estella J Haynes
- 5 Alexander S M Davies
- 6 Edmund G N Smith
- 7 Michael J Clay (C)
- 8 Jonathan S Frye

First peal in 35 years: 2

200th together: 3 and 7

Celebrating the birth of Arkady A Nurmukhametov, born 21st October to Irina and Aleksei.

**Tulloch, The Last Tower**

Wednesday, 20 November 2024 in 2h 40

**5152 Raunds Surprise Major**

- 1 Susan E Bryce
- 2 Anne M Brechin
- 3 Christopher J Frye
- 4 Peter J Williamson
- 5 Richard J W Tibbetts
- 6 Judith L Frye
- 7 Simon H Aves
- 8 Michael J Clay (C)

**Tulloch, The Last Tower**

Wednesday, 20 November 2024 in 2h 37

**5088 Rutland Surprise Major**

- 1 Rachel M Milner
  - 2 Simon H Aves
  - 3 Anne M Brechin
  - 4 Brian Heys
  - 5 Peter J Williamson
  - 6 Richard J W Tibbetts
  - 7 Michael J Clay (C)
  - 8 Susan E Bryce
- 1st in method- 4

**Inveraray, All Saints**

Saturday, 23 November 2024 in 3h 50

**5120 Kent Treble Bob Royal**

- 1 James E Blackburn (C)
- 2 Angela H Deakin
- 3 Sue Wilkinson
- 4 Zoe A Bennett
- 5 Martin D Mellor
- 6 Ruth M Marshall
- 7 Nicholas C Sturgess
- 8 Tina R Stoecklin
- 9 Clyde W Wallbanks
- 10 Jonathan S Frye

First Royal as Conductor

Rung to welcome Bishop David Railton to the role of Bishop of Argyll & the Isles.

**Edinburgh, St Cuthbert**

Saturday, 30 November 2024 in 3h 5

**5000 Spliced Surprise Royal (2m)**

2800 Dumfries; 2200 Bristol; 40 com; atw

- 1 Sally L Thomas
- 2 Susan E Bryce
- 3 Simon J Gay
- 4 Peter G Kirton
- 5 Christopher J Frye
- 6 Ruth M Marshall
- 7 Tina R Stoecklin
- 8 Clyde W Wallbanks
- 9 Jonathan S Frye
- 10 Michael J Clay (C)

100th peal on the bells and 450th as Conductor: 10

Rung for St Andrew's Day

**Edinburgh, 27 House o' Hill Crescent**

Tuesday, 3 December 2024 in 2h 26 (12)

**5056 Bristol Surprise Major**

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 Susannah M Ewens

5-6 James W Holdsworth (C)

7-8 Ian P Bell

**Glasgow, Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin**

Saturday, 7 December 2024 in 3h 39

**5040 Bristol Surprise Royal**

1 Jennifer Tomkinson

2 Tina R Stoecklin

3 Angela H Deakin

4 Simon J Gay (C)

5 Peter G Kirton

6 Ruth M Marshall

7 Zoe A Bennett

8 Clyde W Wallbanks

9 Jonathan S Frye

10 Julia R Cater

First of Bristol Royal: 7

**Edinburgh, 27 House o' Hill Crescent**

Sunday, 8 December 2024 in 2h 30 (11)

**5120 Deva Surprise Major**

1-2 Barbara J Bell

3-4 James W Holdsworth (C)

5-6 Susannah M Ewens

7-8 Ian P Bell

**Edinburgh, St Cuthbert**

Sunday, 15 December 2024 in 3h 9

**5000 Spliced Surprise Royal (2m)**

2800 Dumfries; 2200 Bristol; 40 com; atw.

1 Susan E Bryce

2 Simon J Gay (C)

3 Anne M Brechin

4 Richard J W Tibbetts

5 Peter J Williamson

6 Jason R Hargreaves

7 Edmund G N Smith

8 Estella J Haynes

9 Michael J Clay

10 Jonathan S Frye

400th peal for the association: 5

**Edinburgh, New Town Church**

Wednesday, 18 December 2024 in 3h 5

**5088 Uttoxeter Surprise Major**

1 Richard J W Tibbetts

2 Susan E Bryce

3 Peter J Williamson

4 Simon H Aves

5 George W K Stevens

6 Edmund G N Smith

7 Estella J Haynes (C)

8 Michael J Clay

Third Surprise Major alphabet - 3

Leading peal ringers for the year were:

21	Peter J Williamson
19	Michael J Clay
17	Susan E Bryce
15	Estella J Haynes
15	Edmund G N Smith
14	Simon H Aves
14	Richard J W Tibbetts
13	Ian P Bell
13	Simon J Gay
12	Barbara J Bell
11	Jonathan S Frye
11	James W Holdsworth
11	Tina R Stoecklin
10	Anne M Brechin
10	Susannah M Ewens
10	Peter G Kirton

Peals were conducted by: Michael J Clay 12, Simon J Gay 10, James W Holdsworth 10, Estella J Haynes 4, Ian P Bell 2, Peter G Kirton 2, Tina M Stoecklin 2, James E Blackburn 1, Anne M Brechin 1, Alison N Stevens 1, Malcolm S Turner 1.

First as Conductor - Anne M Brechin, Alison N Stevens

First peal in hand - Anthony C Cole, Rachel M Milner

First peal for 35 years: Ian D B Stark

100<sup>th</sup> for the Association: Stephen A Elwell-Sutton

150<sup>th</sup> for the association: Edmund G N Smith

400<sup>th</sup> for the association: Peter J Williamson

450<sup>th</sup> as conductor: Michael J Clay

1,100<sup>th</sup> peal: Peter J Williamson

Completed Surprise Major Alphabet: Simon H Aves, Edmund G N Smith

Leading peal ringers for the Association (at 31 December 2024)

	Tower	Hand	Total
Michael J Clay	390	29	419
Peter J Williamson	371	30	401
Susan E Bryce	382		382
Clare Y Caley	243	8	251
Simon H Aves	236		236
Robin R Churchill	187	30	217
Michael G Barker	215		215
Jonathan S Frye	167	47	214
W John Grainger	191		191
Paul N Harden	181		181
Edmund G N Smith	161		161
Robert J Hancock	145		145
Simon J Gay	74	67	141
Tina R Stoecklin	81	58	139
Christopher J Frye	128		128
William A Brotherton	126		126
Peter G Kirton	97	27	124
Jason R Hargreaves	122		122
Rose M Hancock	121		121
Ruth M Marshall	119		119
Sally L Thomas	112		112
Peter J Shipton	96	7	103
John M Jenkins	91	11	102
Christopher W Thomas	102		102
Helen M Brotherton	100		100
Stephen A Elwell-Sutton	92	8	100

## Other peals rung in Scotland during the year:

01/01/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5136 Spliced S Maximus (8m)	SRCY
02/01/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5088 Orion S Maximus	SRCY
03/01/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5088 Sliced S Maximus (3m)	SRCY
04/01/2024	Tulloch Last Tower	T	5088 Glasgow S Major	Page 3 Society
05/01/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5056 Cambridge S Major	non-association
05/01/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5040 Rigel S Maximus	SRCY
09/03/2024	Glasgow	T	5019 Spliced Caters and Royal (5m)	SRCY
06/04/2024	Inveraray	T	5069 Stedman Caters	non-association
27/04/2024	Inveraray	T	5040 Bristol S Royal	Northern Powerhouse Guild
18/05/2024	Inveraray	T	5040 Bristol S Royal	ASCY
31/05/2024	Tulloch Last Tower	T	5040 Grandsire Triples	Llandaff & Monmouth DA
03/06/2024	1 Albany Quadrant Glasgow	H	5120 Cornwall S Major	SRCY
30/06/2024	Da Roost, Toab, Shetland	H	5088 Bristol S Major	Guild of St Cuileain
01/07/2024	Da Roost, Toab, Shetland	H	5040 Treble Dodging Minor (7m)	Guild of St Cuileain
17/08/2024	Glasgow	T	5000 Yorkshire S Royal	Bristol Society
19/08/2024	Tulloch Last Tower	T	5054 Superlative S Major	Bristol Society
19/08/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5040 Bristol S Maximus	Bristol Society
19/08/2024	Tulloch Last Tower	T	5152 Spliced Major (2m)	Bristol Society
21/08/2024	Tulloch Last Tower (chamber)	H	5040 Spliced S Minor (41m)	University of Bristol Soc.
21/08/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5136 Bristol S Maximus	Bristol Society
22/08/2024	Tulloch Last Tower	T	5088 Spliced Major (12m)	Bristol Society
22/08/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5040 Yorkshire S Royal	Bristol Society
23/08/2024	Tulloch Last Tower	T	5024 Bristol S Major	Gloucester & Bristol DA
24/08/2024	Inverness	T	5000 Bristol S Royal	Bristol Society
24/08/2024	Inveraray	T	5080 Cambridge S Royal	ASCY
18/09/2024	Edinburgh NTC	T	5048 Spliced Triples and Major (2m)	ASCY
28/09/2024	Inveraray	T	5001 Stedman Caters	Durham & Newcastle DA
12/10/2024	Inveraray	T	5040 Swindon S Royal	non-association
20/10/2024	Dunblane	T	5086 Cooktown Orchid Delight Major	Peterborough DG
21/10/2024	Stirling	T	5040 Minor (7m)	Peterborough DG
22/10/2024	Dundee Old Steeple	T	5088 London S Major	Peterborough DG
22/10/2024	Stirling	T	5040 Spliced S Minor (41m)	Peterborough DG
23/10/2024	Aberdeen St Machar	T	5056 Southwell S Major	Peterborough DG
24/10/2024	Edinburgh Fettes College	T	5040 Treble Dodging Minor (7m)	Peterborough DG
24/10/2024	Edinburgh NTC	T	5040 Rosie Alliance Major	Peterborough DG
25/10/2024	Edinburgh St Cuthbert	T	5040 Spliced S Royal (3m)	Peterborough DG
26/10/2024	Haddington	T	5056 Lubcloud S Major	Peterborough DG
27/10/2024	Tulloch Last Tower	T	5080 Spliced Triples and Major (2m)	Oxford DG
28/10/2024	Tulloch Last Tower	T	5088 Spliced S Major (4m)	non-association
28/10/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5088 Bristol S Maximus	Oxford DG
29/10/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5069 Stedman Caters	SRCY
30/10/2024	Tulloch Lodge	H	5040 Bristol S Maximus	Oxford DG
30/10/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5040 Yorkshire S Royal	non-association
31/10/2024	Tulloch Last Tower	T	5058 Yorkshire S Major	Page 3 Society
31/10/2024	Tulloch RC	T	5040 Spliced Cinques and Maximus (2m/p)	Oxford DG
01/11/2024	Tulloch Last Tower	T	5024 Spliced S Major (4m)	Page 3 Society
02/11/2024	Inveraray	T	5040 Bristol S Royal	Winchester & Portsmouth DG