



# Shropshire Association of Church Bell Ringers

## Quarterly Newsletter - December 2020

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Venue	Time
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	AGM and Evening Practice	Zoom	7-9PM
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Ringling Room Practice	Zoom	7-8:30PM
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Virtual Pub Night	Zoom	7:30-8:30PM
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Survival and Recovery Workshop	Zoom	7:30-8:30PM
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Ringling Room Practice for all	Zoom	7-9PM
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Advanced Ringling Room Practice	Zoom/Ringling Room	7-8:3-PM
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Virtual Pub Night	Zoom	7:30-8:30PM
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	History of Ringling Talk	Zoom	7:30-8:30PM

Please see our Facebook page for further information regarding events and activities within the Association.

Dear Members and Friends,

### Survival & Recovery Strategy

With the welcome news that a vaccine to combat Covid-19 is now being rolled out, there is a real enthusiasm for life to 'get back to normal'. What the new normal will look like remains to be seen, but it is a real boost to our sagging spirits to think we might soon be able to meet up with old friends and start ringing again.

After a significant layoff from ringing, it will take time and effort to get things moving again. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and Association of Ringling Teachers are formulating ideas and plans to help. The first Survival and Recovery newsletter can be found at this link:

[http://ringingteachers.org/application/files/3516/0768/9811/20201207\\_Survival\\_Recovery\\_Newsheet\\_Issue\\_1.pdf](http://ringingteachers.org/application/files/3516/0768/9811/20201207_Survival_Recovery_Newsheet_Issue_1.pdf)

If you would like to be involved in developing a Survival and Recovery Toolkit for our Association, I would love to hear from you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

*Matt*  
**Ringling Master**  
[master@sacbr.org.uk](mailto:master@sacbr.org.uk)

Regular updates on the Central Council's COVID guidance can be found on their website:  
<https://ccabr.org.uk/coronavirus/>

### Guidance on using Zoom

It can't be denied that technology has kept us connected during 2020. Zoom is a fantastic piece of software which is available on many devices, tablets and phones, which allows you to video call.

I have put together a short 'how to' document to get people started using Zoom, and I have recently updated this to include the 'Chat' function.

If you would like some help and guidance on using Zoom to make video calls, please contact me at [pro@sacbr.org.uk](mailto:pro@sacbr.org.uk), and I am more than happy to help where needed.

*Shaun*  
*PR Officer*

### AGM 2021

The Association's 2021 AGM is being held virtually on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Information regarding this has been sent to your Tower Correspondents, and if you receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, the information has been sent to you electronically too.

If you wish to attend the AGM, please contact Vicki at [socsec@sacbr.org.uk](mailto:socsec@sacbr.org.uk).

We look forward to seeing many of you there!

*The SACBR Committee*

## Gordon Menhinick

Ringers who have rung at Baschurch on Sunday mornings and at Thursday evening practice nights may recall Gordon Menhinick. He first learnt to ring in the early 1970's shortly after a new band had been formed to ring the four bells at All Saints' church. Graffiti to be found in the Ringing Chamber show that Gordon and the team rang for several national events including the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

As an active church member, Gordon became a Church Warden in 1997, serving alongside Neil Gasser who was a fellow ringer. He was Church Warden at a pivotal moment for ringing in Baschurch when the decision was taken to augment the bells from four to six as part of the Ringing in the Millennium project. The installation was truly a village effort and Gordon was a key member of the team.

Since the augmentation, the Baschurch practice has received support from various local towers and it was here that he met his future wife, Chris. They were married at All Saints' on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2003 with a quarter peal being scored prior to the wedding. The event featured in Ringing World at the time. They continued to progress in their ringing at the tower. Gordon rang several quarter peals - always on the Tenor. They also formed part of the winning team in the 2011 Association Striking Competition.

Gordon remained a regular ringer for Sunday services throughout. The last time he rang was on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 shortly before Covid 19 restrictions were announced. He died on 9<sup>th</sup> December in his 87<sup>th</sup> year and will be greatly missed.

*Paul Smart*

Baschurch

## Bellringing Book Reviews

*Jad Bienek*

Steve Coleman The bellringer's early companion

Sue Coleman £14.95\*\*

Steve Coleman is, in some ways, an "agony aunt" for ringers. He starts each chapter with a cry for help someone has written and answers it in a chatty, informal style which nevertheless contains all you need to know, interspersed with anecdotes taken from his own experiences. The book has an excellent section on exactly what happens when you have your first go at ringing a bell and also covers such diverse topics as wedding ringing, rope splicing and Being a New Band.

Steve Coleman The bellringer's bedside companion

Sue Coleman £14.95\*\*

Another of Steve Coleman's chatty, informative books covering essentials such as how to ring call changes and how to raise and lower in peal. More unusually, he gives advice on running a practice, arranging a tower outing and providing a ringing tea.

Steve Coleman The method ringer's companion

Sue Coleman £14.95\*\*

Steve Coleman guides the ringer through the most commonly rung methods from bob doubles via triples, treble bob, Stedman and surprise minor up to surprise major with diversions into striking and place notation along the way. There is plenty of clear explanation of the way methods are constructed, useful tips for learning and a bit of ringing history too.

### Sue Coleman

Send a cheque to Sue Coleman made payable to Sue Coleman at:

46 Byfords Road, Huntley, Glos. GL19 3EL

Email: [suecoleman@ringingbooks.freemove.co.uk](mailto:suecoleman@ringingbooks.freemove.co.uk)

Tel: 01452 831197

Website: [www.ringingbooks.co.uk](http://www.ringingbooks.co.uk)

The website has a list of all Steve Coleman's books plus contents lists for each.

Gift wrapped copies can be ordered which include a card with your message and can be sent to a different address.

\*\* Price includes postage and there are discounts if ordering any combination of three or more of them

## Retirement of Jan Bumford - Tower Captain - St Mary Magdalene, Albrighton

The small band of bellringers at St Mary Magdalene, Albrighton would like to thank their recently 'retired' Tower Captain, Jan Bumford, for 20 years service to bellringing.

Jan Bumford started ringing in 2000 and has more or less supported St Mary's band of ringers ever since.

Jan initially rang as a member of the band and, as member numbers decreased, she stepped in to perform the duties of the Tower Captain, initially sharing those duties with Karen Bryant. Family commitments meant that Karen was unable to continue Tower Captain duties in 2014 (although thankfully she still rings and is a very valued member of our small band).

Some degree of ill health meant that gradually Jan was unable to ring herself. For the last 5 years she has ably supported the Church and remaining ringers as the Tower Captain.

Jan has been the person liaising with the church to ensure ringing requirements were known and fulfilled. It was Jan who laised with, greeted and hosted many visiting ringers over the years and planned the hosting of ringing competitions when held in our Tower. Jan also ensured the beautiful clock continued to be wound and importantly was displaying and chiming the accurate time.

During lockdown, while sheilding, Jan made the decision to stand down as Tower Captain. I know she didn't make this decison lightly.

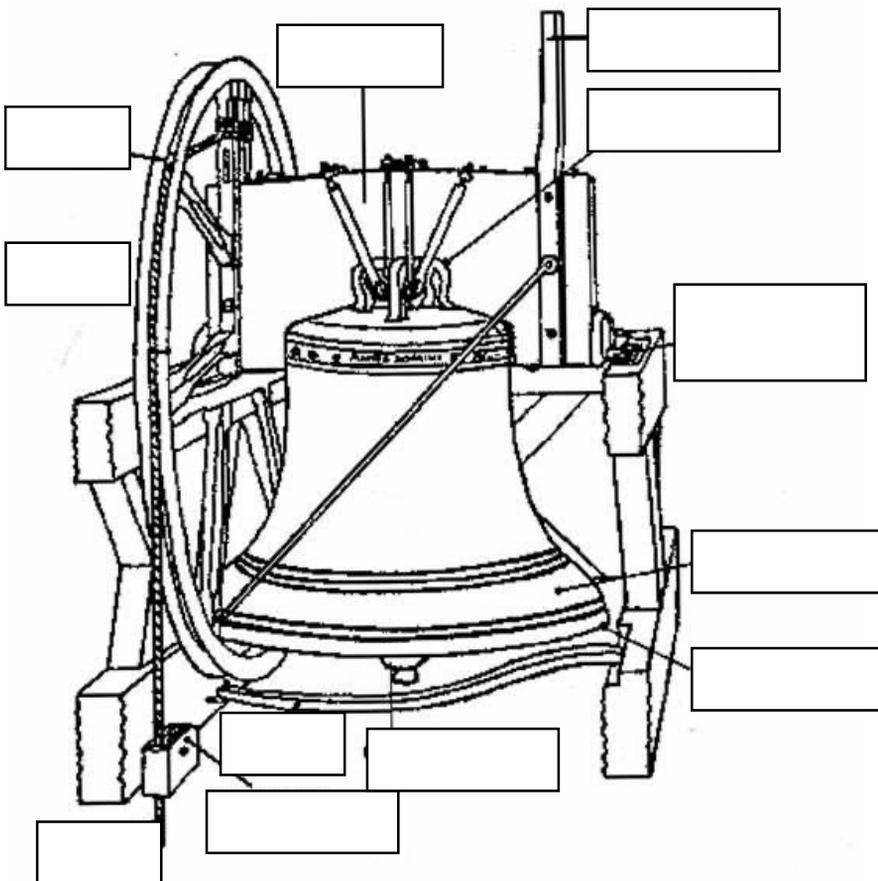
On behalf of bellringers past and present I would like to thanks Jan for stepping up and fulfilling the role of Tower Captain for many years. She will be much missed (when we can meet again) but hope she will occasionally take the time and effort to climb the spiral stairs to socialise with us. Thanks, Jan.

Our new Tower Captain is Dr. Tim Mear, and we thank him for 'stepping up to the plate'. He will be a vital cog in the wheels to keep the bells ringing in Albrighton; we wish him well.

*Pauline MacDonald*  
Tower Secretary, Albrighton

## Brain Teaser

Here's a brain teaser which featured in the Association's 'Ringing Active' brain teaser series earlier in the year. If you would like a selection of 'Ringing Active' brain teasers sent to you electronically, please contact Shaun at [pro@sacbr.org.uk](mailto:pro@sacbr.org.uk).



How well do you know your bells?

Can you label all the different parts of a bell?

There should be a name to fill each of the boxes.

**Hint box:** Here's *some* of the words to get you started.

- Wheel
- Stay
- Cannons
- Slider
- Lip
- Bearings

Do you have a piece you think should be included in the next Newsletter or on the Facebook page? Please send all suggestions to Shaun at [pro@sacbr.org.uk](mailto:pro@sacbr.org.uk). All suggestions welcome!

**DEADLINE** for the March edition of the Newsletter: **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.**

## Brain Teaser 2

Use the code breaker to unscramble the bellringing related words!

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a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	space
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n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	

Use the code breaker above to find the bellringing related words and phrases!

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### Tops Tips for Survival and Recovery

Matt Lawrence

### Key Messages

#### Stay safe

Always follow social distancing requirements and the coronavirus restrictions in your local area.

#### Keep ringing

The sound of bells has been missed in our cities, towns and villages. Use every opportunity to promote ringing to your local community.

#### Stay positive

We will return to ringing at some point. The exercise has survived much longer periods of inactivity without all the fantastic resources that have been developed during this pandemic.

#### Plan ahead

Think about what you can do differently when we return to ringing to help sustain ringing for the future.

#### Keep in touch

Try as many different ways as possible. Not everyone enjoys virtual ringing, that doesn't mean that they aren't as keen to return.

#### Be bold

If nothing is happening in your tower, then what not organise something yourself.

### Keeping in Touch

#### Ringers

Run virtual pub sessions or coffee mornings using on line video conferencing platforms.

Keep in touch with ringers with regular phone calls.

Meet up as small group where restrictions allow. Go for a walk or have a catch up over a hot drink following social distancing requirements.

Run social events.

Keep in touch with other towers, encourage ringers to take part in Association events.

#### Church

Have regular meetings with clergy and church wardens. Agree how and when bells can be rung for services and community events.

#### Community

Keep in touch with your local community via newsletters, websites and social media.

Let the community know why bells are silent or why ringing might sound different.

## Keeping Ringing

### Church Bells

Ring for every possible occasion - services and other occasions. Even if you can only ring a single bell.

Let the local community know what you are ringing for.

Draw up a rota and give everyone an opportunity to take a turn even if this means ringing fewer bells. Allow less experienced ringers to chime a bell.

### Online ringing

Organise a virtual practice or form a hub practice with other towers.

### Handbells

Organise a handbell practice.

## Recovery

### Return to Ringing

How are you going to support less experienced ringers when we return to 'normal' ringing? Find ways of helping people return to ringing - e.g. offer one on one silent practice for less experienced ringers.

Reach out to others to share ideas for returning to ringing - what else is happening in your area? Get in contact with your Association to find out what's happening.

### Plan ahead

What are your aspirations and values of your band? Do you know how many of your band may not return to the exercise?

Are you planning to recruit? Do you have the capacity, skills and experience to teach new ringers? How about working with other neighbouring towers, or targeting lapsed ringers.

### Developing your band

Look out for and take advantage of training opportunities for new steeple keepers, tower captains etc.

What new ways are there to keep your band motivated? How about organising joint practices with neighbouring towers.

### A tower approach

Use the skills of all your ringers, this is not just down to one person. Involve the whole of the band and use the skills and strengths of everyone.

Do you have a social media expert, someone to check on the bells, or someone who likes to arrange social events?