



Shropshire Association of Church Bell Ringers

Newsletter – June 2025

Hello,

This month's picture of Meole Brace tower was taken by Alan Glover. We held a very happy training morning there in May: a report follows.

The first week in June is National Volunteers Week – another chance for some celebration ringing, in honour of all the people who help our communities in so many ways. And perhaps we should give ourselves a pat on the back for our own small contribution!

Happy ringing,

Gill Glover, Editor



Dates for your Diary

Young Ringers Practice, Saturday 14th June

The next gathering of young ringers will be at Upton Magna, from 2 – 3.45 pm. All our young people, and their parents and teachers, are warmly invited to join us.

SACBR Summer Outing, Saturday 21st June

Arrangements for the summer ringing outing are now complete. The trip will begin at Measham in Leicestershire and end at Polesworth Abbey in Tamworth, with lunch booked at The Queen's Head in Belton.

Please let socsec@sacbr.org.uk know if you are planning to come along to the summer ringing outing. I will then be able to send you tower and parking details, and collect your pre-orders for lunch. Looking forward to seeing many of you there!

Vicki Sivess



SUMMER RINGING OUTING

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025
FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT
SOCSEC@SACBR.ORG.UK

10:00 ST LAURENCE, MEASHAM
11:00 THE HOLY ROOD, PACKINGTON
12:00 ST MARY, COLEORTON
13:00 LUNCH, QUEEN'S HEAD, BELTON
14:35 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, BELTON
16:00 ST EDITH, ORTON ON THE HILL
17:00 POLESWORTH ABBEY

In May

Ringling for Peace, Thursday 8th May

Bell ringers made a remarkable response, nationwide and beyond, to the call to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, on 8th May, which is combined with International Peace Day. Over 2,300 reports were submitted to Bellboard, and many of you will have seen the exhilarating issue of the Ringing World last week, which was devoted largely to photos and reports of local bands across the country. I was on holiday that day, and was pleased to be able to join the band at Ledbury.

Shropshire ringers responded in force. Many people rang at more than one tower: the Ryton group of ringers visited five towers, while a group combining ringers from Bicton, Baschurch and Myddle covered six towers, including some bells that are rarely rung. The list of participating towers that I have is: Albrighton, Baschurch, Beckbury, Bicton, Cheswardine, Dawley, Edgmond, Kemberton, Leaton, Lilleshall, Loppington, Market Drayton, Meole Brace, Montford, Myddle, Newport, Norton in Hales, Oswestry, Ryton, Ryton XI Towns, Shrewsbury St Chad, Stanton on Hine Heath, Stockton, Sutton Maddock, Tibberton, Tong, Wellington, Wem, and Whittington.

At Meole Brace no fewer than 20 ringers took part, including some very recent learners. One of these, aged 11, was ringing for his first special occasion: well done, Harvey. And John Maclean of Coalbrookdale, a member of the Shropshire Association for many years, who is aged 90, rang the same bell this year that he rang in celebration eighty years ago. Quite an occasion!

Gill Glover

Training morning, Saturday 17th May

Three relatively new ringers (17 months and counting) went along to the SACBR training course at Meole Brace on 17th May. We joined four other trainee ringers from other bands in the area. We ring regularly at Oswestry and aren't too bad at call changes and even manage plain hunting from specific bells we've practised on. We thought we'd probably cope ok on a set of bells which were totally new to us. But it turned out to be a big learning experience! Meole Brace has much lighter bells than Oswestry and we found them harder to control than we had imagined. The ringing technique we needed to deploy was different and holding the bells up wasn't as simple as we thought. We each rang all of the back six, and passed muster on call changes. We even managed to plain hunt from completely different bells to what we were used to. It was hard work - challenging at times - but we had a great morning and we're sure it's improved our understanding of varying techniques. We'd like to give a big round of thanks to Gill for leading the training and to everyone else who provided advice and support - and to Michael for making the tower available. We're looking forward to the next development opportunity!

Jeanne Spink

There will be another opportunity for some intensive ringing practice on **Saturday, 19th July, at Moreton Corbet**, from 10 am till 12.30 pm. And we can assure all less experienced ringers that these are very pleasant and easy bells to handle! To book your place, email training@sacbr.org.uk.

Ed.

News from the Churches Conservation Trust

Many of you will know of this organisation, which cares for redundant churches of historical and architectural interest. Some of these still celebrate occasional religious festivals. The area manager for some years has been Robert Milton, who continues to look after St Mary's, Shrewsbury, and its team of volunteers. The busy job of looking after many other churches in Shropshire and adjoining counties is now held by Steve Tarling. In our patch his churches include Wroxeter, Battlefield and Stirchley. Another nearby church with bells is St Leonard, Bridgnorth, and the CCT will shortly be taking over the running of Berrington as well. His contact details, should you wish to visit any of these local towers, are: starling@thecct.org.uk. Robert Milton remains the contact for St Mary's, Shrewsbury.

Further Ahead

National Youth Ringing Competition

The annual NYRC takes place, this year, in **Birmingham, on Saturday 5th July**. We're not yet ready to enter a team, as our young people have only just started to ring together, but we hope some of them, together with parents and friends, will go for a day out, ringing round the city at a variety of towers. Further details will follow, and we'll send these out as soon as we have them.

Quarterly Meeting, Saturday 12th July

Our next open ringing practice will be at **Baschurch, from 7 – 9 pm**. Members of all levels of experience are warmly invited to join us at this pleasant six bell tower. We expect to ring a wide variety of methods, as well as rounds and call changes. Ringing will be followed by a short business meeting.

SACBR Striking Competition

Last year's striking competition at Calverhall was a great success, and we hope for another bumper turn-out at St Martin's this year. The date for your diary is Saturday, 13th September.