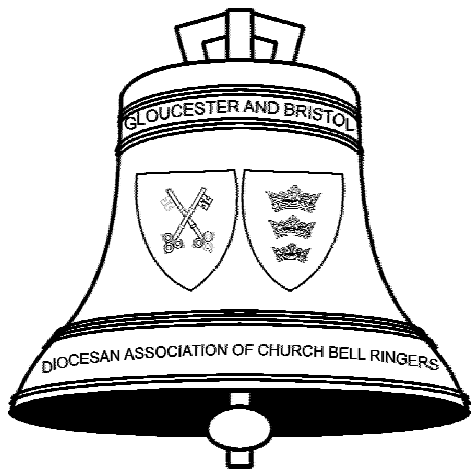


NORTH COTSWOLD BRANCH The GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION of CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Founded 8th January 1878
(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)

Registered Charity Number 281431



NEWSLETTER

MARCH
2013

BRANCH OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

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Newsletter - Editor	Mr Andrew Gunn, Mickleton. Email: awgrf-at-hotmail.com	07711 188239

LOOK TO! DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

9th April: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

13th April: **Association AGM** (Tewkesbury Branch) with the Striking Competitions
– Croome at Twyning, Penn at Ashchurch,. See website.

11th May: Branch Tour, South West Gloucestershire. Organiser: John Kinchin.

14th May: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

11th June: Bourton on the Water, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm**,
followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

9th JULY: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

11th August: Gloucester Cathedral Branch visit. Meet 1.20pm South Transept.

13th AUGUST: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

10th SEPTEMBER: Mickleton Branch, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm**,
followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

8th October: Bourton on the Water, Branch practice at 7.30pm.

12th October: Autumn training day at Wotton-under-Edge.

26th October: Branch Striking Competition and AGM at St Mary's, Temple Guiting.

12th November: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

10th December: Bourton on the Water, **Committee meeting at 7.00pm**,
followed by Branch practice at 7.30pm.

14th January 2014: Mickleton Branch practice at 7.30pm.

PLEASE BE AWARE.

The Committee is currently reviewing some practice locations between the Committee Meetings, so please watch the above for alterations in venue in future editions.

Reminder from the Treasurer. **Subscriptions are due for the new financial year that started on the 1st November 2012.** Subscriptions are:- £10.00 Senior, £5.00 Retired and Associates, £2.50 Juniors. Gift Aid is possible - ask the Branch Treasurer.

WANTED. The Committee has two vacancies. Our Chairman is seeking interested members, who wish to contribute to the running of the Branch. Please consider giving up a little time to help the Branch. It's only four short Committee Meetings a year.

The G&B Diocesan Association has a web site at www.bellsgandb.org.uk, on which the North Cotswolds Branch can be accessed via: www.bellsgandb.org.uk/branches.html.

ASSOCIATION BELFRY REPAIR FUND GRANTS.

The Management Committee would appreciate advance warning of any future bell-related works that are being considered. The reason for this is so that the Belfry Repair Fund can forward-plan the accounts regarding potential grants to appropriate schemes.

The Rev Canon George Smith.

Born in Leckhampton and educated in Cheltenham, The Reverend Canon George Smith spent his whole working life in Gloucestershire after training at Chichester. He served in a number of parishes following ordination as Deacon in 1953 and Priest in 1954. In 1994 he moved to Bledington as priest-in-charge of Westcote, Icomb and Bledington. This was supposed to be a retirement post but "retirement" was not in his vocabulary.

As an enthusiastic bell ringer he was a member of the G & B Association, with some intermissions, from 1938. This was the year he rang his first peal at the age of 14. At Bledington he gave great encouragement to the ringers both on Monday evenings on the church bells and on hand bells on Wednesdays. He also pushed forward the projects to refurbish and retune the church bells and to replace the stairs to the ringing platform.

He was a loyal supporter of the North Cotswold Branch of the G&B and for many years printed the newsletter either free or for a minimal charge. In 2001 he became Branch Chaplain on the retirement of The Revd Fred Rothery from Stow-on-the-Wold and was always available if needed to take the Service or play the organ – sometimes both – before the Annual General Meeting.

Although officially retired from 1997 he continued to take a very active role in the parish until suffering a stroke in 2009. Although he made a fair recovery from this, the death in 2011 of his loyal house-keeper, Beryl Gunter, another long standing member of the G&B, made necessary a move first to Faithfull House in Cheltenham and later, as his care needs increased, to Nazareth House in Charlton Kings. Here he continued to welcome visitors, including the Bledington hand bell ringers, with his usual charm.

He died after a short illness in December 2012. The North Cotswold Branch was well represented at the Service of Thanksgiving for his life and ministry on 7th January at St. Leonard's Church.

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### The Tower of the Year competition

After much discussion over the last two years, The Association has decided to alter the format of what was the Best-kept tower competition to the Tower of the year competition.

The process of choosing an applicant for the competition is as follows; -- Any Tower wishing to take part is to submit its entry in the form of a written statement to its Branch committee, in the event of more than one applicant per branch then the branch committee will select one applicant and forward the entry to the association secretary. At the branch officers meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March one winner and one runner up will be chosen by a secret ballot.

The decision on who was the overall winner was taken in the form of a secret ballot at the Branch Officers' meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2013. The result of that ballot was 1<sup>st</sup> place and overall winner was Woodchester from the Stroud Branch and 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Horton from the Wotton Branch.

From the 12 branches of the whole Diocesan there were 8 applicants, of which St James of Longborough was the only applicant from the North Cotswold Branch. Apart from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places in the competition there was no other classification for the remaining six applicants. However, it appeared that there was a similar amount of votes cast for the unclassified six.

So a big thank you to the St James' team from Longborough for their worthwhile effort in entering and representing the North Cotswold Branch in the Association competition. RB.

### "Can I rope you in?"

In my monthly editorial contribution to the St Lawrence Church Mickleton magazine, I always endeavour to create articles that can be of general interest and easily "digested" by a wide cross-section of readers. Surprisingly, news items never seem difficult to originate, and after reader response is always positive.

Last December however, I struggled to find suitable material and in almost desperation, I included a request of financial support toward our bell rope fund. Not a good month for such an appeal I thought!

Surprise, surprise. Within a week I had totals promising £675.00! And these promises have been fulfilled.

To show appreciation to these kind subscribers, I invited each (plus their partners) to visit the belfry on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March to join the ringers in a glass of wine. We preceded the event with an attempted Quarter Peal of Grandsire Triples; and afterwards, whilst the visitors were in the ringing chamber, to gave them a chance to see ringing and to "have a go".

It proved a wonderful PR exercise and I thought it might provide ideas for readers of this newsletter.

Regrettably the attempt foundered two thirds of the way through. The ringers were Michael Dane, Michael Fairfax, Andrew Gunn, Jackie Hands, John Kinchin, George Osborn, Chris Povey (C) and Bill Sabin. J.W.K.

Postscript: new ropes have now been ordered from Ellis & Pritchard, near Loughborough. JK

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FOR THE RECORD.

A quarter peal of London Scholars' Pleasure Treble Bob Minor was rung at Great Rissington on 3rd January 2013. Treble: Isobel Murphy, 2: Steve Coleman (C), 3: Sue Coleman, 4: Jeremy Meyrick, 5: John Nicholls, Tenor: Bill Nash. 1st in method for 4, 5 and Tenor.

A quarter peal of Sandal Treble Bob Minor was rung at Great Rissington on Thursday 31st January 2013 as a tribute to the late Rev. Canon George Smith. Treble: Isobel Murphy, 2: Steve Coleman (C), 3: Sue Coleman, 4: Jeremy Meyrick, 5: John Nicholls, Tenor: Bill Nash. First blows in the method for all ringers.

A quarter peal of Snowdon Treble Bob Minor was rung at Great Rissington on the 28th Feb. Treble: Isobel Murphy, 2: Steve Coleman (C), 3: Sue Coleman, 4: Jeremy Meyrick, 5: John Nicholls, Tenor: Bill Nash. 1st quarter in method for all.

A quarter peal of 1299 changes of Grandsire Doubles was rung at St. John the Baptist Church, Great Rissington on Sunday 24th March 2013: Treble Elizabeth Meyrick 2. Steve Coleman (C), 3. Sue Coleman, 4. Jeremy Meyrick, 5. Rob Kilbey, Tenor Mark Travers. First Quarter Peal for the Tenor ringer. This was rung as a tribute to the Ministry of the Reverend Jill Carman, on her retirement from the Benefice.

North Cotswolds Branch Tour.

11th May 2013.

South West Gloucestershire.

In the Wotton under Edge Branch.

10.30-11.15	Wickwar Holy Trinity <u>GL12 8LE</u>	6	11-3-1 in G
11.30-12.15	Tortworth St Leonard GL12 8HF	6	12-2-25 in G
<u>LUNCH BREAK.</u>			
2.00-2.45	Stinchcombe St Cyr GL11 6BQ	6	9-3-20 in G
3.00-3.45	Dursley St James the Great GL11 4HZ	8	19-2-9 in E
4.00-4.45	Upper Cam St George GL11 5PQ	6	12-3-26 in F
5.00-5.45	Slimbridge St John the Evangelist GL2 7BJ	6	12½cwt in F#

Further information – John Kinchin, 01386 438323.

Mileage to first tower from Bourton on the Water 44 miles; from Mickleton 58 miles.

NB. All towers have car parking facilities near to the churches.

Dursley: Park in Sainsbury's (free).

Slimbridge: Behind Church House, opposite lower gate into Churchyard.