



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH
BELL RINGERS

UK Registered Charity No. 270036

**Ring out the old;
Ring in the new!**

[“The bells! The bells!”](#)



Bells in our bloodstream

- Tennyson (1850) – “Ring out wild bells, across the sky...”

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

- Etc...



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Bells in our bloodstream

- Woodward (1924) – “Ding dong merrily on high...”



Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers,
May you beautifully rhyme
Your eve'time song, ye singers
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!



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Bells in our bloodstream

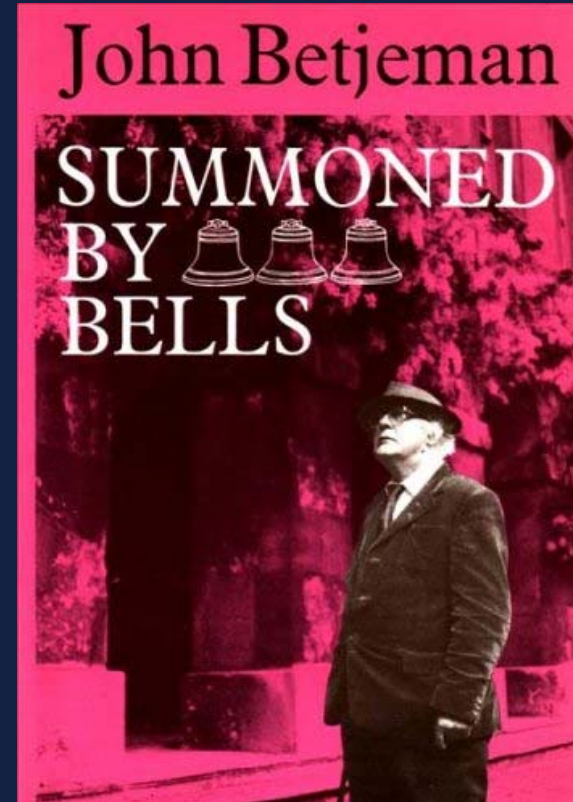
- Betjeman (1954) – “The bells of waiting advent ring...”

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

Etc...



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Bells in our bloodstream

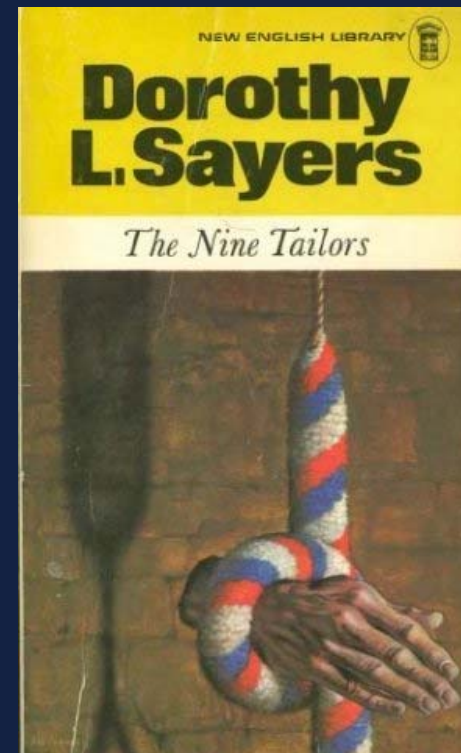
- Dorothy Sayers (1934) – “The nine tailors...”

“... It seems strange that a generation that tolerates the uproar of the internal combustion engine and the wailing of the jazz band should be so sensitive to the one loud noise made to the glory of God.

“England, alone in the world, has perfected the art of change-ringing and the true ringing of bells by rope and wheel, and will not lightly surrender her unique heritage.”



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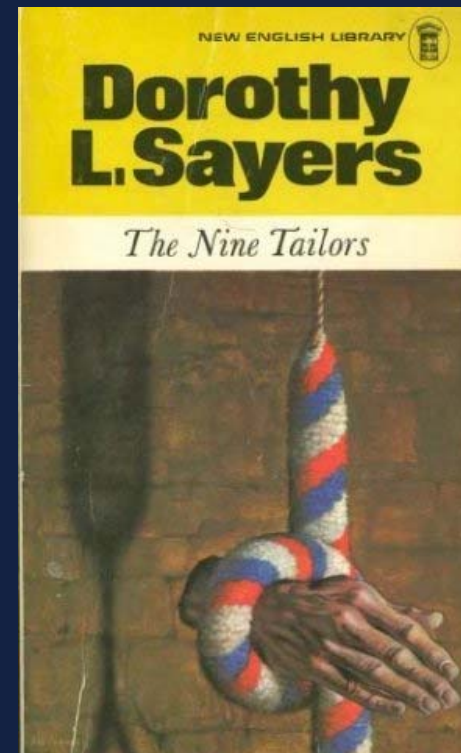
- Dorothy Sayers (1934) – “The nine tailors...”

“The Art of Change ringing is Peculiar to the English, and like most English peculiarities unintelligible to the rest of the world.

To the English Campanologist the playing of tunes is considered a childish game, the proper use of bells is to work out mathematical permutations and combinations.”



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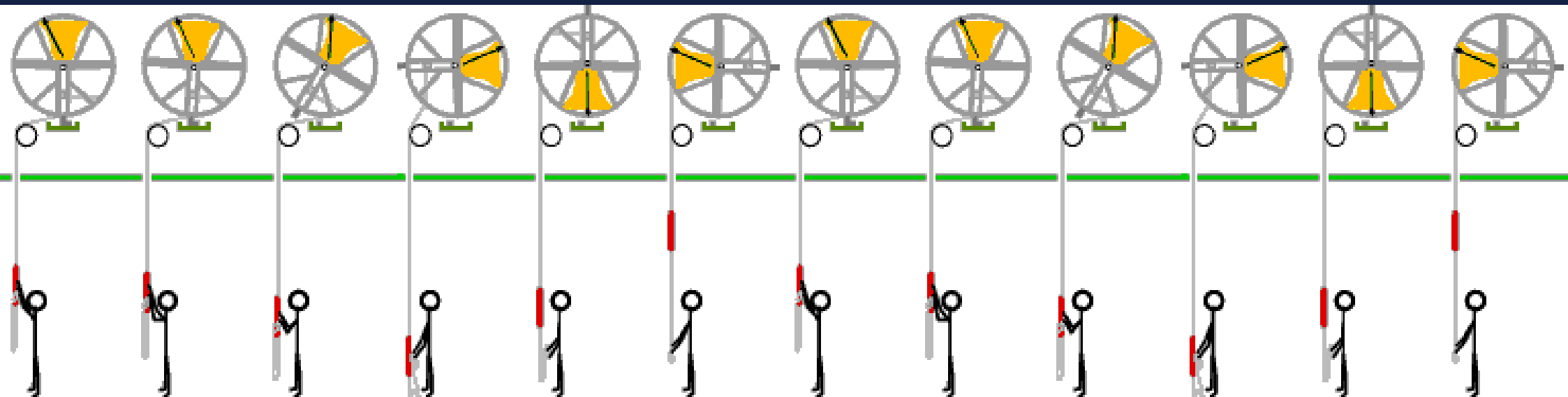


CCCBR Mission

To be the strategic leader and public voice of the ringing community, the arbiter of standards; and to promote an environment where ringing can flourish



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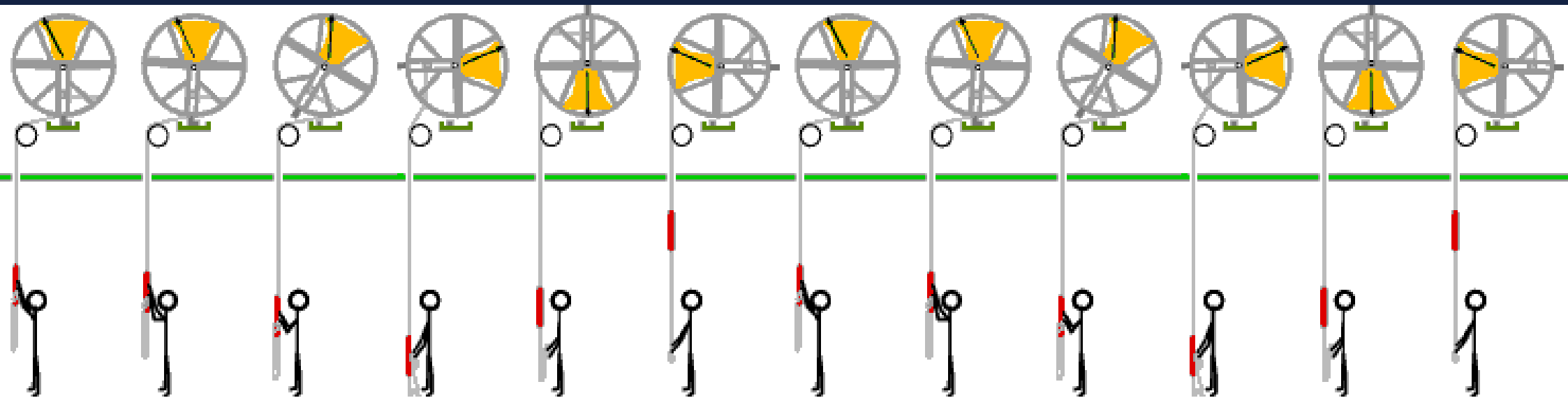


CCCBR Vision



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH
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A vibrant community of ringers; with bell ringing widely valued as an enjoyable mental and physical exercise and unique performing art, which enhances the life of both community and church



CCCBR Strategic Objectives



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- **TO ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE IN RINGING BY:**
 - Recruiting and developing new learners and new leaders
 - Engaging maturely with the Church and other relevant stakeholders
 - Continuing to raise positive public awareness of ringing
 - Celebrating and promoting the historical legacy of ringing
 - Promoting excellence in standards
 - Increasing direct participation in the Central ringing organisation's activities

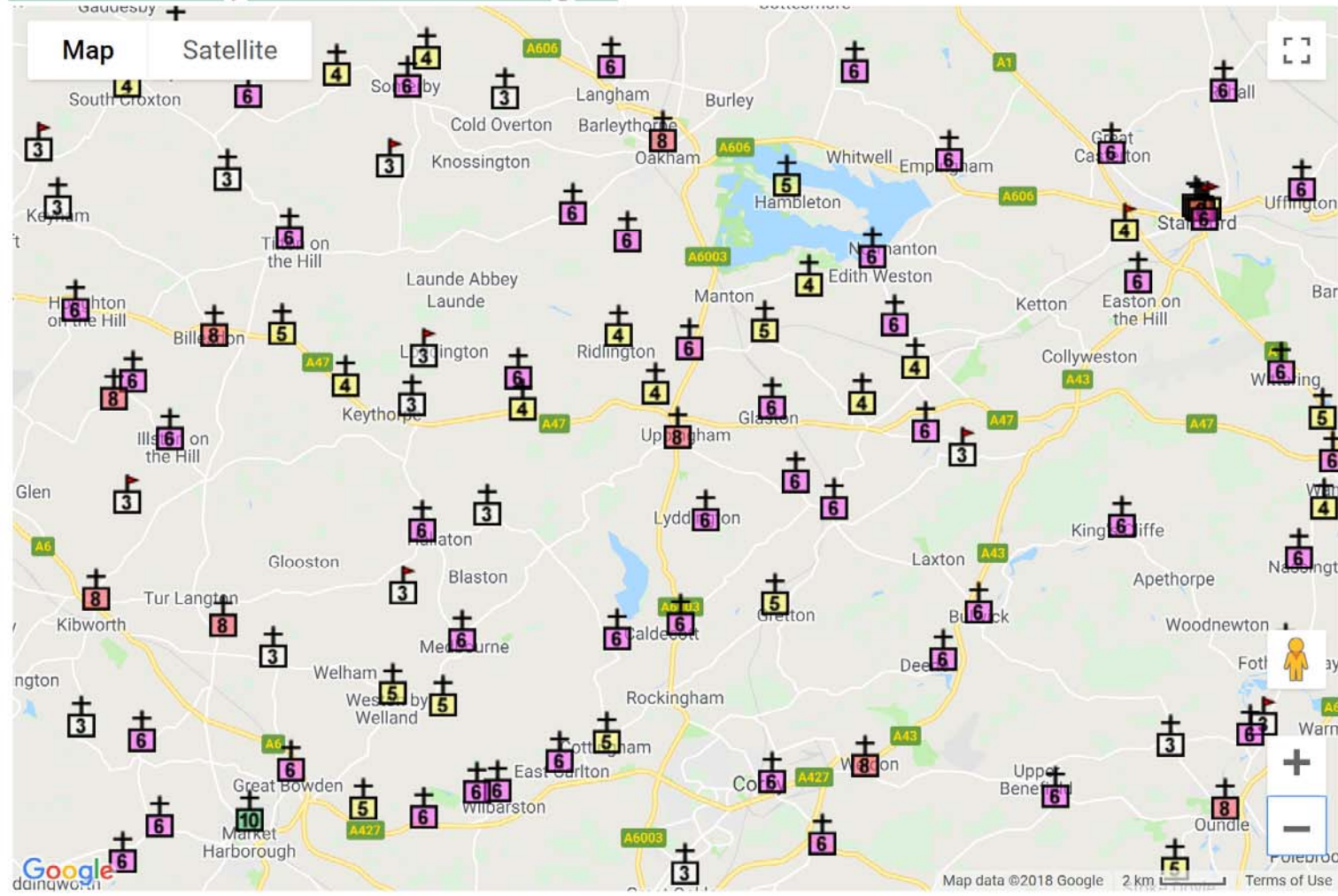


THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH
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*“Sustaining and developing
the tangible and intangible heritage
of church bell ringing”*



Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers



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<https://dove.cccbr.org.uk/home.php>



Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers

Some Statistics from *Dove* and the *pNBR*

For **rings** of 3 or more ...

Number of rings: 7146

Number of bells (within a ring): 44561 (6.2 avg)

Number which are unringable: 993 (14%)

Number of practice nights: 3499 (49%)

Practice night distribution (by day of week)

Number of webpages: 2973 (42%)

Number of toilets: 1924 (27%)



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- **Number of bells:** **44,500**
- **Estimated number of bell ringers:** **32,000**
- **Who we are:**
 - From all walks of life - men, women, children, bricklayers and barristers, librarians and lawyers, engineers and electricians, mechanics and managers, scientists and secretaries, teachers and students, young and old, churched and unchurched...
 - Intimately “LinkedIn” to our local communities
 - Volunteers!

Case Studies



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- **Shore (Manchester)**
 - **Community renewal through ringing**
- **Mancroft (Norwich)**
 - **Bellringing Discovery Centre**
- **Ringling Remembers examples**
 - **Birmingham**
 - **Portsmouth**

Case Studies

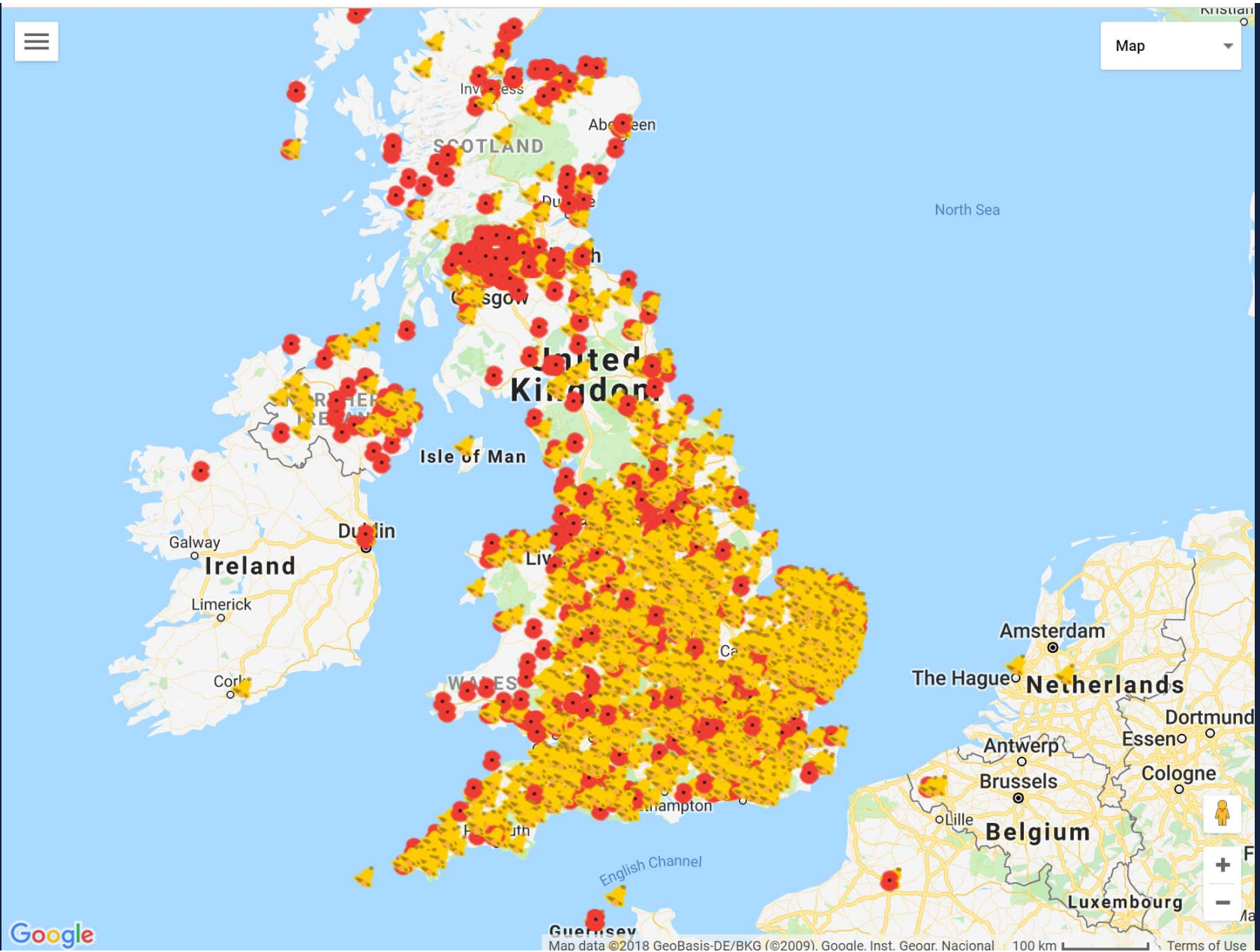


- **Ringling Remembers - Sunday 11th November 2018**
 - **Peals (*ie 3 hours each*)** **over 100**
 - **Quarter Peals (*ie 1 hour each*)** **over 600**
 - **Other performances** **~ 2400**
 - **New recruits** **~ 2800 (original target 1400)**
 - **A record-breaking turnout –**
 - **“...an unprecedented record of world-wide ringing on a single day for a common purpose.”**

Case Studies



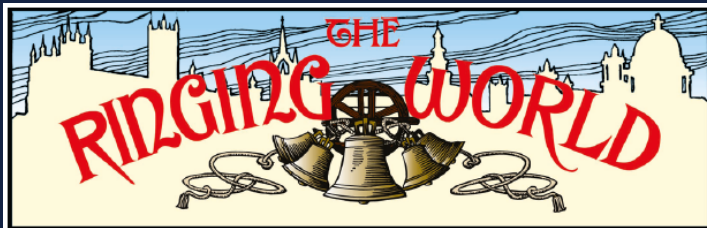
- **Ringling Remembers campaign**
 - **Once-silent towers now ringing again**
 - **Entire ringing teams recruited from scratch**
 - **Existing teams augmented with new recruits**
 - **Anecdotally –**
 - **Individuals re-engaging with their communities / neighbours**
 - **Breaking down barriers of loneliness and isolation**
 - **Wonderful health and wellbeing outcomes**
 - **Brought together in, through and by...**
 - **HISTORIC RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS!**



Case Studies – Re-invigoration:



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The Weekly Journal for Church Bell Ringers since 1911
September 14, 2018
No. 5603
Editor: Robert Lewis
Only £1.52 to subscribers £2.60



Tender Acorns The story of the Kildwick MiniRingers by Chris Wright

Quizzical readers of these columns will have spotted the bizarre entry in 'What's Hot?' in late July (p.719) that crowns about 'Rounds on Four at Kildwick', by no fewer than ten ringers.

There's a back story. Of course there's a back story. Three years ago, I arrived at Kildwick, a large church in a small village in Yorkshire with eight lovely 1914 Taylor's bells. While the tower is 'squat', the ground floor ringing room, the lofty rope guides and the Yorkshire tail ends combine to make them a bit interesting to ring. They are not especially difficult, but more challenging than some towers. Ringing was at a low ebb. While recruitment had been hesitant, there was little to retain new ringers and they never seemed to stay. Relying only on its own rather limited resources, the wick in the candle just went out, leaving the church with a silent tower.

Our church school shares the site and I saw the potential not just to introduce some youngsters to the wider world of bell ringing, but also to strengthen the link between church and school. A discussion with the

Certificate of Achievement [MiniRinger] has been a Kildwick MiniRinger for the year 2017 – 2018

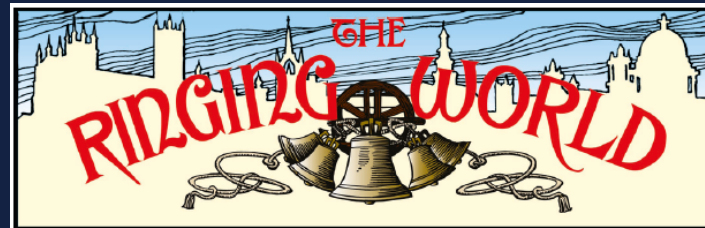
During this time she has:
Learned to ring handbells and handchimes
• Performing at the Carol Service
• Competing in the Skipton Music Festival
Learned to ring changes on handbells
• Performing at Collective Worship
• Performing in the Skipton Music Festival
Learned about church bells
• Visiting the bells in the belfry
• Ringing the Elizabethan Chimes
• Learning to handle a heavy church bell
Joined national organisations
• Handbell Ringers of Great Britain
• Learning the ropes! scheme
Learned about casting a bell
• Creating a mould
• Watching the casting
• Breaking the bell from the mould
Well done!

The year-end certificate listing all that the MiniRingers did during the academic year

new head teacher sounded optimistic, and the Kildwick MiniRingers club was born. Legalities sorted, I led an assembly. There was a forest of hands but that was whittled down, finally, to eight.

We've been running for two years now. With no local ringers to help, a traditional approach was unlikely to work, as there was no band into which they could integrate. The staff was just me and my non-ringing wife, a

The band of MiniRingers at the end of term: Ethan Bean, Lewis Carr, Lewis Bean, Angus Firth, Darcey Goodwin and Anna Calvert



The Weekly Journal for Church Bell Ringers since 1911
November 2, 2018
No. 5610
Editor: Robert Lewis
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Alvington, Gloucestershire – The UK's top recruitment tower By Anne Wickham, Tower Captain

We didn't set out to become the UK's leading recruitment tower within twelve months of starting from scratch. So how did it happen?

It actually began with the Women's Institute (the WI). On a visit to their local church in Woolaston, Gloucestershire, WI members were invited to chime one of the (sadly) redundant bells and one was heard to say "I've always wanted to learn to ring church bells". That set me (a long-time lapsed ringer) thinking about the perfectly ringable set of bells in nearby St Andrew's church, Alvington, which had not been rung regularly for decades. Could we get a new band going? And might the WI be a potential source of new ringers?

How to start? An online search for "bell ringing Gloucestershire" yielded the name of Steve Coleman, Hon. Secretary to the Gloucestershire and Bristol (G&B) Association. What a coincidence – I used to

read Steve's books 20 years ago when I was learning to ring in Kent! An email to Steve brought the helpful response that he and his wife, Sue, would come to Alvington and give us a talk about bells and a chance for anyone that wanted to have a go, and would even be prepared to teach us if we got a band started. What luck!

We invited members of three local WIs and the church congregation to a 'Taster Session'; over 20 turned up and a dozen expressed an interest in learning to ring. So, in October 2017, we held our first practice session. We decided to practice on Wednesday afternoons, as that timing suited most of the group and, most importantly, Steve and Sue Coleman, who had generously offered to teach us! We have an unbelievably small ringing chamber (described as 'bijou') and only five bells, so we decided to provide tea and cakes for those sitting out in the anteroom – a good move, as that is where the bonding and laughter



Alvington ringers in the tower (l-r) – back: Peter Brown, Caroline Prosser, Steve Coleman; middle: John Pengilly; Terina Riches, Sue Richards, Mary Greenisade, Linda Greenisade, Carol Hinton, Jacky Weller; front: Sue Coleman, Anne Wickham and Sandra Brown

take place! We even have crazy bell-ringers' mugs (read that as you wish!) with legends such as "If you want me to listen, talk about bellringing".

I lured our band along to the AGM of the Forest Branch of the G&B Association in November at nearby Tidenham – with the promise of the legendary bell ringers' tea – as I thought they needed to learn that they were now part of the big friendly family of ringers. There they experienced the immediate welcome characteristic of the Forest Branch and were encouraged, despite initial reluctance, to ring the bells in an unfamiliar tower. During the AGM, to our complete surprise, it was announced that Alvington had been awarded both the Forest Centenary Cup (for innovation and progress) and the Forest "Tower of the Year" Rose Bowl!

This was hugely encouraging for our fledgling band and a foretaste of the friendship



"Where the bonding takes place" – ringers' mugs for tea in the anteroom

Case Studies – Ringing World National Youth Contest 2018



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Engagement with Church and other stakeholders



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Historic Religious
Buildings Alliance
a group within the Heritage Alliance



ChurchCare
— ⊕ —
16,000 buildings. One resource



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

Friends and alliances...



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● ● ● ● ● Association of
● ● ● ● ● Ringing
● ● ● ● ● Teachers

Conference 2018

Royston, Hertfordshire



... and 67 affiliated societies

Raising positive public awareness of ringing



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RINGING REMEMBERS

1,400 bell ringers died during the First World War. To honour their memory, we are recruiting 1,400 volunteers to become bell ringers in 2018.

Join today by emailing
RingingRemembers@bigideascompany.org

BIG IDEAS   



Aviva Community Fund
Supporting what's important to you



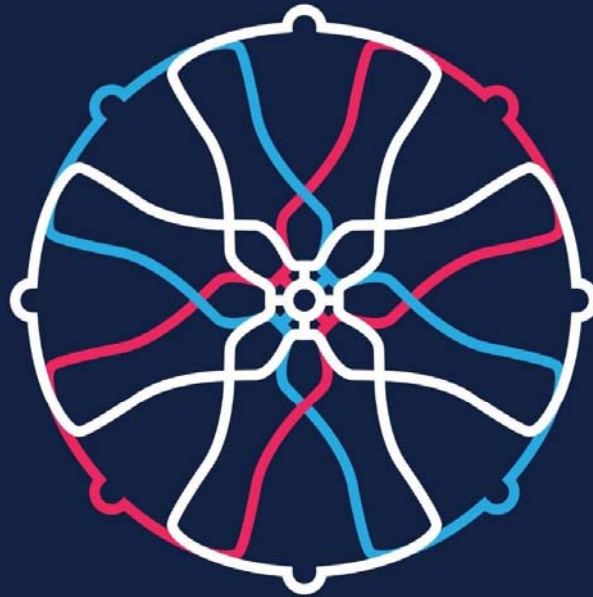


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Thank You



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