

# Leeds Branch Newsletter

Issue 2 February 2021



## Welcome

Welcome to the Second Branch Newsletter; it is just as good as the first one!

I do hope that you and your families are well and "Staying Safe" during this third Lockdown. Janine and myself are keeping busy with lots of walking (local – no car!!) and early jobs in the garden. Talking of cars, I drove 52 miles during January, mainly to the supermarket. It makes a difference from the 1,500 from twelve months ago.

The St. Anne's Cathedral band are keeping in touch with each other via Coffee Mornings and "Ringing Room". Ringing Room is great fun, we all started at the same level – hopeless!! But with perseverance and encouragement, laughter and fire-ups we are getting on a little bit. One of our most inexperienced ringers covered to her first 120 of Bob Doubles last week, a real breakthrough.

If you would like some help in starting on "Ringing Room" do get in touch via the Branch Secretary and we will get you started and support you for as long as you need.

I hope that the current cold and miserable weather isn't getting you down too much - I'm certainly finding this lockdown harder than the previous ones. Please feel free to get in touch if you fancy a chat - I would love to hear from you.

I hope to see you all at our AGM on the 13<sup>th</sup> February at 16.15 hours.

Best wishes, and "Stay Safe"

Barrie

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If you have articles or feedback for the newsletter, please email - [leedsbr.editor@gmail.com](mailto:leedsbr.editor@gmail.com)

## Your Leeds Branch Committee

**Chairman** – Barrie Dove (Leeds Cathedral)  
**Secretary** – Janine Jones (Leeds Cathedral)  
**Treasurer** – Miles Lawson (Birstall)  
**Membership Secretary** – Peter Oldfield (Chapel Allerton)  
**Education Committee Rep** – Cate Ovington (Unattached)

**Ringing Master** – Paul Brook (Leeds Minster)  
**Assist. Ringer Master** – Alan Futers (Far Headingley)  
**Webmaster** – Wendy Bloom (Leeds Minster)  
**Committee Member** – Bill Todd (Kirk Deighton)

## News from the Branch

### Branch AGM

On Saturday 13th February at 4.15pm we have our AGM, by Zoom. Please join us and see how the branch works. After the meeting we will be having a Ringing Room session for all those who want to join in and/or watch and see how it works. Please e-mail the branch secretary for details if you would like to join us.

### Sad news



Dolly Connor (*Picture on left*) of Harrogate, St. Peter, died suddenly on 25th October last year. If you ever met Dolly you will remember her – she was always happy and laughing and was one of those people who would brighten up any room that she was in. She was registered blind and, as you would expect of someone who relied so much on her hearing, her striking was very good. Dolly came to 'The Grand Day Out' at Harrogate Pavilions in 2019, where she had a go at everything and enjoyed herself immensely.

Also, John Robinson (*Picture on right*) died on 7<sup>th</sup> January this year after a short illness. Many people will remember John from St. Michael's Headingley, where he rang between 1966 and 2001, when he retired to France. John will always be famous for having rung in the extent of Plain Bob Major (40,320 changes) at Loughborough Bell Foundry in 1963. This feat took 17 hours and 58 minutes and has not been repeated since.



### The Big Thank You 2020 JPI Media

Hannah Beck has recently won an award for feeding the homeless and hungry since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. JPI Media launched 'The Big Thank You' awards so that people could nominate their unsung heroes. After judges had chosen the twenty most worthy entries the public voted for their favourites and Hannah was chosen for an award by Yorkshire readers.

### Ringling on Christmas Day

The 'Covid ringing restrictions' were relaxed on Christmas Day allowing up to six of us to ring for fifteen minutes 1m+ apart. In the event, the steep rise in infections in the run-up to Christmas discouraged many towers from ringing, and some of those that rang chose to be more cautious and stay 2m+ apart. Chapel Allerton and Barwick in Elmet must be the only towers in the branch to have rung all their bells, Barwick on Christmas Eve and Chapel Allerton on Christmas Day, whilst Knaresborough also rang 6, and Pontefract St. Giles, Kirk Deighton and Seacroft all rang 1m+ apart ringing 5, 4 and 3 bells respectively. Whilst people at these towers were delighted to be ringing 'more normally' again, it was still a worry for those who felt responsible for the safety of everyone taking part. Harrogate St. Peter, Horbury, and Leeds Cathedral also rang on Christmas Day, all 2m+ apart, whilst Far Headingley chimed 3 bells.

### Membership secretary

The branch is looking for someone to take over the role of membership secretary. The main duties are:-

- To liaise with towers and members to pay their subscriptions, sending out a reminder to towers in January and chasing them up later in the year as necessary.
- To pay cheques into the bank and to liaise with the Association Treasurer when towers make electronic payments.
- To keep an accurate record of which members have paid their subscription.
- To send out membership forms for new members to fill in and to ensure that they are elected at the next meeting. Give new Associate members a membership certificate and badge, and members advancing to Qualified status a Qualified member certificate.
- At the end of the year tell the Association membership secretary who the branch members are for the year, and make sure that the subscriptions paid into the bank agree with the figures of the Association Treasurer.
- Attend branch committee meetings (currently by Zoom) when available (3 to 4 times a year).

## All about Ringing Room

### What is it?

Ringing Room is a way of getting together with people you know and 'ringing virtually' together. It is a great way of keeping in touch with the rest of your band because it's just like being in the belfry together. It sounds just like normal bellringing, you get the same satisfaction when you get to the end of a piece of ringing, touches fire-up just like in normal ringing, you can sit on the side and watch just like in a real belfry and the interaction between people is just the same. The main difference is that you press a button instead of actually ringing a bell. Another thing – no one can complain if your striking isn't quite right, because it could be your internet connection that is slow!

### What do I need to take part?

As a bare minimum you need some sort of a computer that has speakers – then you will be able to ring your bell and hear your and other people's bells ringing. If you haven't got a microphone as well then communication will be a little harder – but it's still doable. One of our ringers uses her phone. Ringing isn't as easy because she has to press on the screen rather than press a button on the keyboard, but it still works. Without the interaction between people it wouldn't be anywhere near as enjoyable and you wouldn't hear the continual 'sorry', 'oops', 'is it me now?' comments or the laughter when it all grinds to a halt.

### Are there any advantages?

Well, you can practice a method without having to worry about ringing the bell at the same time - lots of people have found it easier to learn new methods in Ringing Room. Also, you can practice the methods you could already ring before normal ringing stopped to make sure that you don't forget them.

### Should we try it?

Absolutely, and you've got nothing to lose by trying! You'll find it through [this link](#)

### Is there anything else that I should know?

You're more likely to have problems with internet connections on weekday evenings, so if you can hold your practice at a different time you might find it easier.

Ringing Room is new to everybody, so experienced ringers can struggle just like everyone else. In fact, less experienced ringers often take to Ringing Room much more easily.

You don't just have to ring with your own band - there is a whole community of virtual ringers out there, some of them new ringers who have never rung a tower bell. There is a Facebook group called '[Ringing Room Take-Hold Lounge](#)' where people share tips and advice and invite people to join their practices. You can join organized training sessions there, and even get a 'robot' ringer who can make up numbers on your own practice night! However, just like with any other online activity there are some potential dangers. Some people use the internet as a method to make contact with vulnerable individuals, including children. Never give out personal information or arrange to meet anyone who you have met through a chat room.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Ringing Room was featured on the BBC News – you can see the clip [here](#), on the Central Council website.



## Ringin Room – a user's guide

by James Ramsbottom

Whilst there are now several online platforms for virtual change ringing, the 'go-to' platform of most ringers is Ringing Room. It has several domain names, for the different countries in which the various supporting servers are based, with the UK domain being [ringingroom.com](http://ringingroom.com).

It is the most popular for two reasons – It was the first platform set up, and it is easy to use, appealing to all ringers and not just the most computer literate. It was launched at the end of March 2020 by Bryn Reinstadler and Leland Kusmer, and has had a few updates since then. In fact, it has been described as being continually under development, but it is still relatively straightforward.

Anyone wishing to use it now starts by creating an account using an email address and password. Users can then join a virtual tower by entering a unique 9-digit number, which they will be given by the organiser of any ringing session. New towers can be created and named using the 'create' button on the home page. Towers are now persistent, and the tower and server name and tower can be shared as a link.

Once in a tower, a circle of ropes or handbells can be seen in the middle of the page. The current version displays this circle quite large, meaning that it is often necessary to zoom to around 60% to see the whole circle. On the left is a menu showing the tower name and the ringers in the tower. There are also a few buttons allowing the number of bells to be changed and to change between tower and hand bells. (This last one changes the sound heard but has no practical difference to how it works.)

Bells are rung simply by pressing buttons on the computer keyboard. The numbers '1-9' ring bells 1-9 respectively, with '0' working 10, '-' working 11 and '=' working 12. Alternatively, the space bar will ring whichever bell is at the bottom of the screen on the right-hand side. For people wanting to ring 2 bells at once, the letters 'F' and 'J' will work the 2 bells at the bottom of the screen, as will the left and right arrow keys. There are a few other keys which can be used to make commonly used calls ("Look to", "Go", etc.). A full list of these can be found in the 'help' section.

Ringers can be assigned to bells using the 'assign' function. By clicking the 'assign' button on the left-hand side, a ringer can select whichever bell they want

with a mouse click. Their name will then appear next to the bell in question, so that all in the tower will know they are going to ring that bell. This is useful for knowing which bells still need ringers before a touch

Ringers can even assign other ringers to bells by clicking on their name on the left before selecting a bell for them. Ringers can be removed from bells by clicking on the x next to the bell when in assign mode. While you are assigning bells, there is a message in the centre of the rope circle that reminds you to 'Stop Assigning' - in addition to which the bell ropes are greyed out.

For most ringing sessions, when the user completes bell assignment, the rope circle will rotate and present the user's bell or bells at the bottom of the screen. This can also be accomplished by holding down Shift and typing the number of the bell you want to ring. This will move the selected bell to the bottom of the screen on the right-hand side.

A new feature for this platform is the Chat function. This allows ringers to communicate with each other textually. The Chat allows the users to pass comments without leaving the Ringing Room screen.

Whilst it is theoretically possible to use [ringingroom.com](http://ringingroom.com) without any other programs, it would be very difficult to communicate between all the ringers present as the built-in communications function is chat-only. Therefore, it is most often used simultaneously with a video conferencing platform, such as Zoom or Skype. There are many different programs from which to choose. The various benefits of each won't be discussed here as it's not overly important. The only important thing is that all the ringers involved can talk to each other, as they would in an actual bell tower. This also allows for calls to be made orally if preferred.



From a performance standpoint, there have been issues, and the developer team has been strengthening the infrastructure to match demand.

We asked the committee how Branch/Society membership has been of benefit to them in their ringing career:-

**Alan** - Back in 2000, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leeds branch event I went to was at Leeds Parish Church (as was then) as a fairly inexperienced youngster. So, although for me, I only rang the basics as one of my first goes on 12, the experience I gained from having a strong band available there and at subsequent events, helped to progress my own ringing locally, plus I think there was a cracking touch of spliced Surprise Major on the back 8, showing me multi-method ringing was a thing.

**Barrie** - When I was a young learner I used to go to the Western Branch (the part of the YACR that covered all West Yorkshire) quarterly meetings, and the Leeds and District (which was a separate society) monthly meetings. Both of them were very useful in helping me improve. I was always given the best possible chance to ring something by having a good solid band placed around me. Experienced ringers were only too happy to help and seemed delighted to be asked about methods, striking, what to learn next etc. The Western Branch meetings were of a higher complexity level, but I still found everybody very friendly and helpful towards us less experienced ringers.

I do believe that the current Committee has the same philosophy, and wants to help.

**Bill** - I feel I have benefitted greatly from visiting other towers and feeling the gentle pressure to perform! Formal training sessions are best organised at Branch or Association level, as are events that combine all available teaching and networking forums - The Grand Day Out at Harrogate was the classic example of this.

**Janine** - I didn't have any involvement with a local association until I moved to Yorkshire for work. I went to branch meetings almost straightaway; not only was I made very welcome, but I was delighted to meet people who knew people I knew. Ringing is great for helping you settle into a new area.

As well as all the people I met around the branch and association, I got to know Yorkshire a lot more quickly than I would have done just socialising with work people.

**Miles** - Attending Branch meetings helps you meet and make friends with others who have the same interests. Also it provides opportunities to learn and ring new methods and if you go wrong there are folks available to help. As you learn more, then you become more skilled and able to help others less

skilled. A branch meeting was where I learnt how to call methods with help from a famous conductor and ringing on larger number of bells than were available at my own tower.

**Pete** - Nearly all of my involvement with YACR comes from the point when I joined the band at Chapel Allerton when I was already an experienced ringer - however, with advance practices organised through YACR and the local branch, I have been able to improve. The biggest benefit I've seen however is for new learners at Chapel Allerton - they have progressed much faster in attending branch and YACR meetings and benefitted from having more advanced ringers around them. This has helped me greatly as tower captain - and allowed the band to progress to a very good standard - such that we have regular visitors and are able to help others. I'm convinced it's not possible for ringers to reach their full potential in just their own tower, and with YACR and local branch committed to helping anyone who wants to be helped, why not take advantage.

**Wendy** - I learned to ring at Lichfield Cathedral and was elected a member of the then Stafford Archdeaconry Society in 1975. Both my parents held office in the society throughout my childhood so the third Saturday in every month was sacrosanct. I was lucky to learn in a tower with a strong band but looking back I gained a huge benefit from Society membership. I got to know the local "influencers", heard about the wider world of ringing and cross-over hobbies like tune ringing on handbells, and witnessed local restoration projects. Seeing a wide variety of handling and striking at meetings gave me learning points to consider, as did supporting the Society team when it entered its first national competition in the late 1970s, the Tewkesbury Shield. Early on I was given a grant to attend a Central Council Education Committee course in Winchester and seeing a tutor demonstrate how the slow work in Stedman all fits together was a real lightbulb moment for me, still of benefit 40+ years later.

The social education was invaluable too; members were all ages, all backgrounds, all abilities and spoke in multiple accents as our towers included rural villages, estate churches, heavily urban and industrial areas. I'm lucky to still retain many of the friends I made during those years and appreciate the doors that were opened for me and the life experience I gained without realising it at the time.

If you have a question for the committee, send it to [leedsbr.editor@gmail.com](mailto:leedsbr.editor@gmail.com)

## Getting to Know – Francis Gilruth from Chapel Allerton

This time we are featuring one of our youngest branch members, Francis Gilruth. A regular presence with his parents at Branch and Association meetings and a member of the Branch since 2017, he was delighted to be asked to take part and share his introduction to the Exercise.

### Q - How did you get involved in ringing?

Initially I was always interested in clocks. I went on a Heritage Day to Holy Trinity church in Ossett, where I got to ring a bell. Soon after I visited York Minster and I met Jeff Ladd who taught me at Chapel Allerton.

### Q - Which tower(s) do you ring at now?

I currently ring at Chapel Allerton but sometimes go to practice nights at Burley and Leeds Minster.

### Q - What do you particularly enjoy about ringing?

It is a distraction from work at school, sociable, never boring and there no better feeling than ringing at a new tower because they are all unique.

### Q - What is your proudest achievement so far and why?

My proudest achievement is travelling with the Yorkshire Tykes to the Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC) and strapping the tenor at Liverpool Cathedral *(For information, this is the heaviest bell hung for change ringing, weighing in at 82 cwt)*.

### Q - Which peal of bells have you particularly enjoyed ringing and why?

It's a hard question, but I would have to say Ilkley. They are fairly underrated, handle extremely well and sound brilliant.

### Q - Have you found any ringing-based activities helpful during this interim?

I miss the physical aspect of ringing, but meeting up with the Tykes on Ringing Room helps with remembering methods. I also watch YouTube clips.

### Q - What is your next goal when ringing starts again?

I am yet to ring a peal, so that would undoubtedly be my best goal. I would also love to represent the Tykes at the RWNYC.

### Q - Tell us about ringing with the Yorkshire Tykes.

It's nice to ring with people my own age. It's a friendly, welcoming group regardless of your ability.

### Q - What events would you like Leeds Branch to put on?

As a keen tower grabber, you can't go wrong with outings. I've been on three outings with the Leeds Branch and the prospect of visiting even more towers is something to look forward to. "

The photos Francis supplied nicely illustrate ringing pre- and post-Covid whilst proudly demonstrating his passion for Leeds United!

Photo 1 – Francis ready to ring the treble at Leeds Minster on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019



Photo 2 – Taking part in a Yorkshire Tykes Ringing Room session on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021



Francis was interviewed by Wendy

## From the Archives

A look back at notable events from the past in the local area. This article is from the *Ringing World* in 1989, reporting on the augmentation at Seacroft from a heavy 3 to a light 5.

# History repeated 121 years later at Seacroft

Until recent years Seacroft was a pleasant little village some four miles from the centre of Leeds with the church by the village green and a windmill minus its sails nearby.

Today a new population of some 85,000 is housed in high-rise tower blocks mixed with low-density development over a vast area which was formerly the outlying villages of Seacroft, Whinmoor and Swarcliffe the whole area now lumped together under the name Seacroft, Leeds LS14.

In his *Portrait of Leeds* Brian Thompson writes "... the planners centred the development up with the sort of provision a new town of this size could not do without. Incorporated in the municipal plan was a town centre which includes four multiple stores, seventy shops and an open air market. There is a library, a post office, a clinic and six banks. To the east of the ring road the new town has its own industrial estate".

Happily the modern development does not intrude upon the old village to any extent and the appearance of the church and its immediate surroundings are little changed from the time when built at a cost of £3,174 the first church in Seacroft was consecrated in honour of St. James in 1845.

There however all similarity ends and apart

from having been improved and re-ordered internally what was until post-war years a village church with its vicar has now become the mother church of four thriving daughter churches of The Ascension, St. Luke, St. Paul and St. Richard with their respective vicars forming a Team Ministry under the leadership of the rector of Seacroft.

Nothing is known of the original single bell other than that it weighed approximately 1½ cwt. and Taylors allowed the sum of Seven Guineas for it in 1865, when they supplied the ring of three bells which did service until recently and of which the cash book of the St. Peter's parish church, Leeds Society records:

1865 Brought Forwards £19.12.  
Augst 16, A new peal of 3 cast by Mr. Taylor of Loughborough, for Seacroft ... 'The gift of Mrs Wilson', was opened by a company from Leeds Parish Church. Viz. W. Gawkrödger, C. Iles, I. Lockwood, H. Hubbard, S. Priestley who were well catered for during the day, and received 5/- each. £0.5

Why three bells should have been chosen is unclear, maybe the fact that there were three bells at St. Mary's, Whitkirk from which parish the parish of Seacroft was carved may have influenced the decision but while it was not an

uncommon practice in the last century for the heaviest bells possible to be crammed into the tower regardless of other considerations, at Seacroft the timber bellframe could only be installed by the removal of masonry from the north wall.

With a tenor of 11 cwt. and well worn gudgeons working in the original plain bearings the bells had become almost unringable and frame movement caused excessive tower sway so it was not surprising that the bellfounders recommended the recasting of the bells into a considerably lighter ring preferably of six bells.

While it has not been possible at present to follow the bellfounders' recommendations in full Seacroft has for the time being the lightest five in Yorkshire but the excellent locally built frame designed by Taylors makes provision for a sixth bell to be added at some future date.

There being no fully trained local band yet the Patronal Festival on 25th July was considered to be a suitable opportunity for the bells to be rung for the first time and a band comprising four present and one former Leeds parish church ringers rang a quarter peal prior to the Parish Communion that evening to the great joy of the congregation and the relief of those who had feared that the sound might prove to be excessive.

The rector, the Reverend David Grice was the Celebrant and the vicar of Farnley the Reverend Jim Siller, himself a former curate of Leeds parish church, preached what, judging by the frequent unrestrained laughter, must have been an entertaining sermon much of which was lost by one ageing ringer at the back of the church. Nevertheless it was both a pleasure and a privilege to have rung on Yorkshire's latest and lightest ring of five bells as well as to attend such an obviously happy service.

R.H. DOVE

Below: the church of St James, Seacroft in its village green location, and inset: a look at the bell chamber (from *Ripon and Leeds bells website*), Note the metal 'sliders' which are used in conjunction with the sprung steel stays here.



The *Ringing World* article above states that the frame 'makes provision for a sixth bell to be added at some future date'; this plan was finally realised in 2019 when a new treble, also cast by John Taylor & Co, was added.

## From the Recesses (of the Branch Chairman's memory)

Seeing the article about the bell at Oulton in the Christmas *Ringing World* 'rang a bell' with Barrie about a story that Ron Dove used to tell when Barrie was a young lad learning to ring. Oulton have one 17cwt bell.

"The ringers at Oulton declared that it was impossible to pull their bell up and set it. Faced with a challenge, the ringers at Leeds Parish Church weren't going to be beaten and it was decided that the two groups of ringers would meet up at Oulton so that the Leeds Parish Church ringers could demonstrate how it should be done.

The appointed day arrived and ringer after ringer rang the bell up and tried to set it, but to no avail. Eventually they admitted defeat and the two teams went their separate ways.

It was only afterwards that a rumour began to circulate that one of the Oulton ringers had been secreted in the bell chamber with a long piece of wood jammed in the end of the slider so that the bell couldn't be set."

## News from the Association

### Yorkshire Day 2021

The Yorkshire Association is planning to hold a recruitment and open day on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August- Yorkshire Day. The idea is to have as many towers as possible open at some time over the weekend to promote church bellringing and encourage recruitment. The Association will promote the day with press releases, radio and television interviews and promotional material for towers to use. The first step is to decide whether or not your tower wants to take part, make sure that the church is agreeable, and get it put in the church diary. We will be in touch soon to see what help you might need.

### Recovery champions

The Association is looking for 'Recovery Champions' to be part of the Central Council's Survival and Recovery plan. Champions will network with other champions across the country passing good ideas up and down the chain, help struggling towers, encourage others to help and generally do their bit to keep ringing going. Please let Simon Plows (Association Secretary) know if you are interested.

### Subscriptions 2021

The story so far:- back in December, the Association tried to put together a proposal for the 2021 subscription to be set at zero. The officers weren't expecting any objections, so were caught unprepared when a ringer at the meeting found a 'loophole' in the rules that prevented the subs from being changed. It is now too late for the subscription rate for this year to be changed.

At the General Meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>, a proposal was put forward that *"Qualified and Associate Members of the Association who have paid their annual subscription by 31 December 2021 will not be required to pay a further annual subscription in 2022."* This proposal will be voted on by members at the Association AGM on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2021.

We asked whether people thought that they should have to pay subs in 2021, and below are some of the replies:-

"I am a member of various other clubs/societies and most have suspended payment of subscriptions for 12 months."

"I think we should all pay as it is only £1.00 per month which is not very much. Our Association has overheads and I would not like them to go into debt over this."

"...our churches have lost a considerable proportion of their income..... however, there is still a need to spend money to maintain our buildings including our bells..... Given that the costs of maintaining the Association as an online-only presence are considerably lower .....this money would be far better spent in maintaining ringing at the "grass roots" level i.e. the parish churches and their Sunday service bands who usually bear the costs of keeping their bells serviced."

".....hopefully YACR can use the money productively to push recruitment/help/maintenance for what will be many struggling churches across Yorkshire post-Covid."

"I hope that YACR has continued to make grants for bell maintenance/restoration and that the branch will also support inspections which may be more necessary after the long lay-off."

".....there should be some statement telling us what you intend to do with the subs whilst branches are not operating fully."

"Given that the costs of maintaining the Association as an online-only presence are considerably lower than in more normal times, I do not believe that it is justified in expecting members to pay subscriptions this year."

"I assume there is a retention and recruitment plan in place for when ringing can resume and this will require expenditure.....So yes we should pay subs for 2021."

In the next newsletter we will tell you how your money is being spent.....

### Future Events - 2021

#### Leeds Branch AGM -

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 4:15pm,  
via Zoom  
(Contact the Branch Secretary for details)

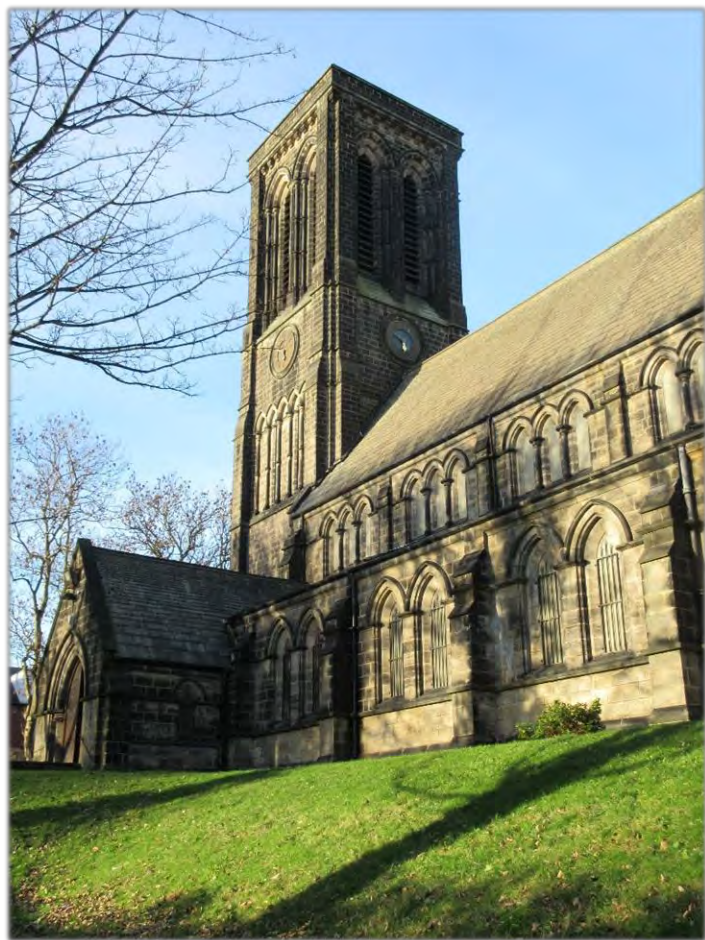
### Education Committee Courses

More details about each course are available [here](#)

**Recruitment and Retention** - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am  
**From Plain Hunt to Bob Doubles** - 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 7.30pm,  
20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10.30am

**Opening your tower to the public** - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 7.30pm  
**Virtual ringing summer school** - 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> July

## Focus on: Christ Church, Upper Armley



Armley lies on the south side of the river Aire about two miles west of the centre of Leeds. It was once described as being "chiefly inhabited by clothiers" and was a major contributor to the economy of Leeds in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Armley Mills (now the Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills) was the largest woollen mill in the world in 1788 and was only one of many fulling mills in the area. Armley was served by the Leeds and Liverpool canal and two railway stations and these must have contributed significantly to its prosperity and connectivity.

The parish of Upper Armley was created in 1867, and the foundation stone of Christ Church was laid on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1869. Less than three years later, on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1872, the church had been built and the bells were rung for the first time.

As an indication of the growing population and the wealth in the area, the older church of St. Bartholomew in Armley had already been almost entirely rebuilt between 1834 and 1835, and then enlarged in 1861, but no sooner had Christ Church been completed, than work started on a new church at St. Bartholomew, the foundation stone being laid on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1872 with the church being completed in 1877. The church is even larger and grander than Christ Church – with a tower that is 153 feet high. However, St. Bartholomew only has one bell, dating from 1780.

Initially there were six bells at Christ Church, all cast by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough, with the weight of the tenor being given as 17cwt. 16 peals were rung on the bells between 1890 and 1904, all of TB Minor. In 1922 the bells were rehung and two new trebles, also cast by John Taylor, were added to complete the octave, the cost of about £550 being raised by public subscription. The dedication service was attended by ringers from all over Yorkshire and included a Mr. John Whitaker who was described as being in his 80<sup>th</sup> year and the only surviving member of the band who had opened the peal of six bells fifty years previously.

In total there have now been 50 peals rung on the bells with 46 of these being rung for the YACR. The methods since 1922 have ranged from Plain Bob Major to Surprise Major with only two peals of Triples.

Armley is also known as the birthplace of the playwright Alan Bennett, who attended Christ Church Upper Armley, Church of England School, where he was in the same class as Barbara Taylor Bradford (the novelist).

William Tetley started his business of maltsters in Armley in the 1740's, although it was his grandson, Joshua Tetley, who founded Tetley's brewery elsewhere in Leeds in 1822.

Next month, we'll be looking at All Saints, Barwick in Elmet

### Armley Stat Pack

**Number of bells** – 8 (15 cwt in F)

**Founder(s)** – John Taylor & Co, Loughborough (all 8)  
1 & 2 1922, 3 – 6 1872, 7 & 8 1871

**Total Weight of bells** – approx. 61 cwt

**Height of Tower** – 117 feet

**Total Peals** – 50

**Practice Night** – Monday (by arrangement)

Puzzle Page

Wordsearch: Surprise Major Methods

N	E	D	E	E	Y	L	E	N	N	O	T	C	E	E
O	B	N	A	N	R	U	B	C	N	I	D	L	A	E
T	E	R	R	A	U	L	O	L	K	E	E	R	L	A
S	N	X	D	W	B	E	N	E	I	L	T	B	I	S
A	E	W	L	E	T	S	Y	D	L	H	A	Y	N	I
B	E	P	E	A	S	T	E	R	W	S	E	N	G	N
G	Z	N	Y	M	A	S	E	O	A	X	T	L	D	G
D	E	O	L	B	E	I	R	E	L	K	I	O	K	W
E	R	T	E	E	D	M	O	N	T	O	N	R	W	O
E	D	S	O	N	I	G	S	E	L	M	O	R	E	L
Y	R	E	A	S	T	H	A	M	P	S	T	E	A	D
O	O	L	S	N	O	T	E	L	B	M	E	H	D	N
R	F	C	H	E	R	I	C	A	V	O	L	S	E	E
E	L	C	T	A	V	R	E	T	A	N	G	E	O	W
Y	E	E	Y	B	R	E	D	N	E	D	E	V	L	E

- EALDINCBURNAN

EARTHWORM

EASTHAMPSTEAD

ECCLESTON

EDGBASTON

EEYORE

ELFORD

ELUL

ENDERBY

ERIX

ETANG

EALING

EASINGWOLD

EBENEZER

ECKLAND

EDMONTON

EGLETON

ELKO

ELVEDEN

EPE

EROS

EWAN
- EARDLEY

EASTBURY

EBLO

ECTON

EDSON

EIDE

ELMORE

ELY

ERICA

ESHER

EWEN

EARN

EASTER

EBONY

EDEN

EEKLO

EIRE

ELSTON

EMBLETON

ERITH

ESLOV

EVES

Tower Trivia

The Heavy 12s

There are 15 rings of 12 bells globally with a tenor weight of greater than 40cwt. The tenor weights are given below. Can you name them? We are only looking for diatonic 12s (so excluding any semi-tone bells a diatonic 12 might have), where 12 is the maximum you can ring.

- 1) Tenor = 82-0-11 cwt

2) Tenor = 72-2-2 cwt

3) Tenor = 61-2-2 cwt

4) Tenor = 59-1-23 cwt

5) Tenor = 50-2-21 cwt

6) Tenor = 48-3-1 cwt

7) Tenor = 48-0-2 cwt

8) Tenor = 45-1-18cwt
- 9) Tenor = 42-2-25 cwt

10) Tenor = 41-3-21 cwt

11) Tenor = 41-3-15 cwt

12) Tenor = 41-1-15 cwt

13) Tenor = 41-1-3 cwt

14) Tenor = 40-1-27 cwt

15) Tenor = 40-0-23 cwt

Seeing Double

Name two pairs of towers in the Yorkshire Association that have the same place name but are in different parts of Yorkshire.

Where's that tower....?



Clue - Access to this tower is unique in Yorkshire

## Puzzle Page – December Answers

The first lines of the Christmas songs, which all mention bells, were:

- 1) IWCEB - It was Christmas Eve babe (from Fairytale of New York)
- 2) ISTSCSI - I saw three ships come sailing in
- 3) DDMOH - Ding Dong Merrily on High
- 4) SBR AYL - Sleigh bells ring Are you listening (Winter Wonderland)
- 5) IDJ LUOHS - In Dulci Jubilo Let us our homage shew
- 6) PTAC AACFM - Past Three a clock. And a cold frosty morning
- 7) SBSICTITC - Silver Bells Silver Bells It's Christmas Time in the City
- 8) DTTS, IAOHOS - Dashing through the snow, in a one-horse open sleigh
- 9) IHTBOCD - I heard the bells on Christmas Day (Longfellow's Carol)
- 10) IDOAWC - I'm dreaming of a White Christmas
- 11) TCWBATSAGD - The cold wind blowing and the streets are getting dark (All alone on Christmas)
- 12) HHTB SSB ASTS - Hark! How the bells Sweet Silver Bells All seem to say (Carol of the bells)

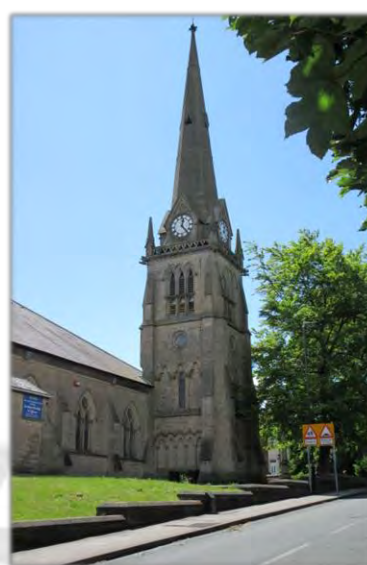
### Name Them:

The two towers that Alfie Johnson rang peals at, both of which are rings of 8 cast in 1933 by John Taylors of Loughborough are Far Headingley, Leeds (4 peals) and Birstwith (1 peal).

### Where's that tower.....?

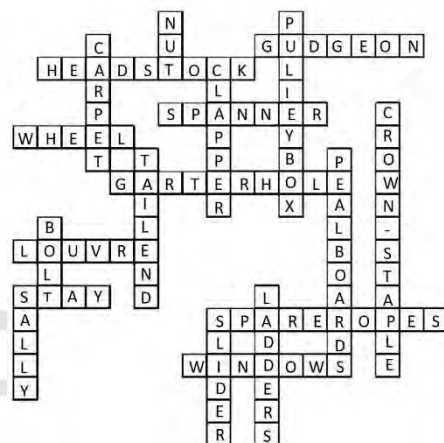


The tower is  
Bramley, in  
Leeds



What am I?  
– A Ring

### Word Fit - Things up a Tower



### Book Review

## The Beginner's Guide to Change Ringing on Handbells

£2.50

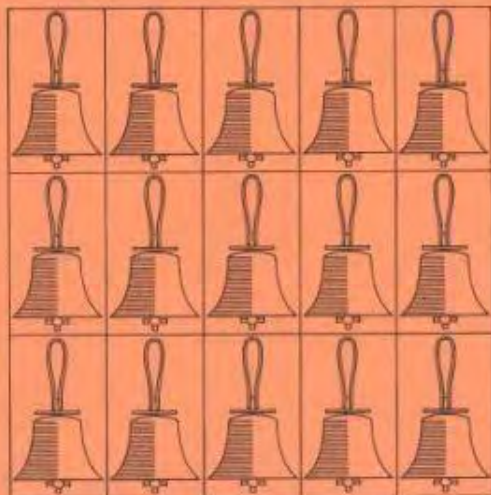
Progressive guidance on ringing handbells including handling and all basic positions up to ringing Plain Bob Minor on any pair.

In these times of learn from home and Ringing Room – this is a really simple guide you can follow, and practice on Abel – and then when we can meet again, have a go on real handbells.

Pete

### The Beginner's Guide to Change Ringing on Handbells

William Butler



A Central Council publication

### Bellringing - Listening Skills

How have you found listening to Haynes? Any comments/thoughts, please email the editors, and in the next issue, a new piece to listen to will be revealed

## Your Question Corner

**I've heard the term 'ringing up a bell wrong', but I'm not sure what that means. How does this happen and how can you prevent it?**

Ringling up a bell wrong is actually nothing to do with the bell itself, it is a term relating to how a clapper moves relative to the bell. When a bell is 'up right', the clapper is resting on the bell in the direction of the bell's previous swing, so when the bell swings round again to the other stroke, the clapper is 'thrown' from the trailing edge of the bell, and hits the leading edge. When the bell is 'up wrong', during its swing, the clapper is 'dropped' from the leading edge onto the trailing edge. Here is a [clip](#) of this in action. The front 7 (all red clappers) are 'up right', and as each bell swings, the clappers are thrown onto the leading edge of the bell. On the tenor (Blue clapper in the middle), the clapper is falling onto the bell (see image below, red clapper, bell is 'up right', blue clapper, bell is 'up wrong').



**Why does it matter?** A ring of bells are all hung to swing and ring in time with each other. A bell 'up wrong' can handle totally differently, partly as the timing of the clapper is out compared to the rest. They can be difficult to set, as the clapper is resting on the trailing edge when the bell comes to rest, and so the weight of the clapper works against the bell's travel direction, and can make it hard (or impossible depending on how light set a bell is normally) to set. Also, the bell and clapper can have increased wear, as the impact of a clapper falling onto a bell (i.e. bell and clapper hitting against each other) is greater than when 'up right', when the clapper is catching up with the bell's direction to make contact. It can also affect the sound of the bell, and can cause the effect of 'double clapping' (the blue clapper above does this a little bit in the clip), where the clapper bounces enough on the first hit, to make a significant second hit, therefore sounding twice.

**How does this happen?** There are many reasons why a bell can be rung 'up wrong'. Some of it can be down

to the hanging and dynamics of a bell – for some bells their hanging isn't ideal, and they are hard to impossible to get 'up right', and usually bigger bells are more difficult to ring 'up right', while some bells are impossible to get 'up wrong'. All bells can be rung by one person, but some bells can take multiple ringers to ring 'up right'. There is a band from Devon/Cornwall who go round a lot of towers filming as they go, and they have no problem ringing 2 ton + rings of 12 up in peal. Once up, it's one ringer per rope, but at the start of a raise, or the end of a lower, there are usually 2 or 3 people on the back bells to strike them correctly. This makes impressive viewing, ringing up and down with high accuracy, on these grand heavy rings with relative ease. Here are a couple of examples of the Devon band, ringing at [Queen Camel](#), a 36 cwt 6, and [Buckfastleigh](#), a 41 cwt 12.

**How can you tell if a bell is 'up wrong'?** There are two ways to check if you are not sure. One is to go up into the bell chamber and look safely. The second way is to take hold of the rope as if you were going to ring normally, pull on the rope slightly to move the bell towards the balance point but not past it, then release the rope slightly to allow the bell to gently fall back and tap the stay, causing the bell to bounce slightly. If 'up wrong', the bouncing action of the bell will cause the clapper to jump off the bell and fall back onto the bell, and you will hear it strike despite the fact the bell hasn't completed a rotation. If the bell is 'up wrong', the safest thing is to ring the bell down and back up again, stopping briefly when down.

**What can you do to prevent a bell going 'up wrong'?**

Most bells will go 'up right' as long as good technique is used by a single ringer. The main trick is to not raise the bell too quickly at the start without the bell chiming. If the bell is chiming at the bottom, it will go 'up right'. If the bell doesn't strike consistently just before you continue to raise the bell, it will likely go 'up wrong'. In both the Devon ringers' examples, the number of ringers on the back bells helps to get the bell chiming sufficiently at the bottom to get the bell 'up right', while the small bells don't need the extra grunt. A further description of this can be found at this [link](#).

Here is a [video](#) which details ringing a bell up in great detail. For the specifics about bells being 'up right' and 'up wrong', skip to 1 minutes 34 for ringing a bell up right and 11 minutes 37 seconds to see a bell up wrong.

If you have any questions, please feel free to submit them to [leedsbr.editor@gmail.com](mailto:leedsbr.editor@gmail.com)