

## Leeds Branch report 2017

2017 has been an encouraging year for the Leeds branch. We have now settled on a regular meeting day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month and have tried to spread our meetings more evenly around the branch area. Several new faces have been seen at meetings, so hopefully this approach is working.

Meetings early in the year were targeted at differing levels of ability with intermediate 8-bell ringing being the most popular. A meeting held at Bramham and Collingham with the aim of helping the local ringers, was also very worthwhile and enjoyed by everybody.

In May we also hosted the Association AGM and inter-branch striking competition which we based at Birstwith. The Leeds Branch team were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the striking competition and our catering 'team' also performed very well!

This year's Sunday Service striking competition was won by Batley – the first time in many years that Leeds Minster have been beaten! Unfortunately, Batley weren't available to represent the branch in the final in September and it fell upon Leeds Minster to represent the branch instead, although in the event they weren't able to. At the AGM, Peter Oldfield retired after five years as Branch Secretary, and Jonathan Tarry retired after four years on the committee. Our thanks to them both for all their hard work for the branch. Pete continues on the committee as membership secretary.

Other events included the walk, this year between Thornhill and Horbury, and the outing in October, this year staying in Yorkshire with a visit to the Wakefield/Doncaster area. Despite being so close to home, many of us 'grabbed' some new towers.

In November we held our quarter peal weekend. Although only four quarters were scored, there were several firsts, with one person ringing their first quarter – well done Tracey - and three others ringing a first in method. Unfortunately, two quarters of Stedman were lost, but this will give us something to aim for next year!

We finished the year with ringing and a Christmas service at St. Michael's Headingley, followed by a Christmas party hosted by Kathy Thorley. Thanks to Pete for his excellent quiz, and Kathy for her hospitality.

Thank you to everyone who has supported branch meetings during the last year. If there is anything that you would like the branch to do in the coming year, please let someone on the committee know - we are here to help you.