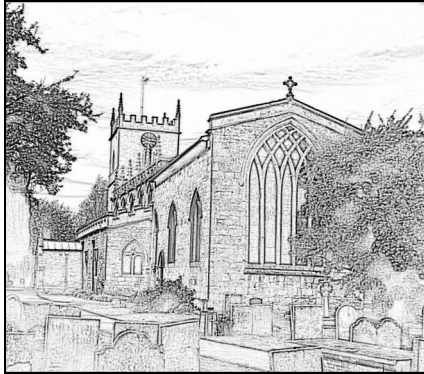


Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers
Central Branch Newsletter No 86 July 2014

Central Branch Meeting, April 12th



***St Michael and All Angels,
Bassingham***

The River Witham flows within yards of the tower at the west end of the Church of St Michael and All Angels at Bassingham, and there's a fine view across the fields to Norton Disney and the vast extent of woodland beyond. The churchyard cherry trees were at their magnificent best as the bell ringers arrived at the south porch for the monthly ringing meeting. The church has a fine ring of six bells, the original five bells by Henry Oldfield II being recast by John Taylor & Co and hung with a new treble in 1926, tenor 10cwt 1qr in G. These have recently been completely refurbished, with new bearings and clapper fittings.

There was a good attendance of a couple of dozen or so ringers, who had plenty to talk about at the monthly opportunity for a catch-up. It is an inescapable observation at our meetings that the average age is getting ever older; there appeared to be only one ringer under forty, which betokens a need of some urgency, in our guild and beyond, to work to bring younger people to the Exercise. Ringing Master Richard Spencer ensured that everyone had a chance or two to ring, and the ringing, as expected, covered a good range of method and proficiency.

Tea and cakes were provided by our local Bassingham, Carlton le Moorland and Norton Disney ringers and were tucked into with evident relish and appreciation. There was even time for a brief – rather unstructured – business meeting. The ringing concluded with an excellent fall which, with the afternoon's ringing, was remarked on favourably by people in the village.

Stan Underwood

Meeting at Bassingham from the learners' point of view.

George and myself Angela Holt went to Bassingham Church and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon ringing with some people we knew and some we did not know. We were made very welcome and I particularly enjoyed the tea and cakes, and the chance to ring some different bells. Here is what young George thought -

"Our trip to St Michael church in Bassingham was a good opportunity for us to experience different aspects of bell ringing. As a bell ringing learner, I found the trip to Bassingham practice interesting, worthwhile but different to what I am used to. My practice tower is Waddington, where the rope supports are quite low. With higher supports at Bassingham, I sometimes found it difficult to control the lighter bells but experiencing this will help me with my learning. I have now had experience of ringing at four towers and hopefully this will expand as I gain more experience and learn more methods and techniques"

George

This is so encouraging for other learners - thank you George and Angela.

Proposed Ringing Meetings for 2014

July 12 th	Branston	Strawberry Tea		6 – 8pm
Aug 4 th	WW1 Centenary			
Aug 9 th	Ewerby	Half yearly		3 – 8pm
		Ringling, Service, Picnic, Meeting, Ringing		
Aug 10 th	Cathedral	Service ringing		2.30– 3.45pm
Sept 13 th	Guild 6 Bell Final in Central Branch			
		Cup at Nettleham, Plate at Dunholme		
		Tea at Dunholme Village Hall		
Sept 27 th	Louth/Wragby	Joint meeting with Northern Branch		
Oct 11 th	Washingborough	Guild 8 Bell Final		
Oct 18 th	Waddington			5 – 8pm
Nov 8 th	Brant Broughton	QUIZ		
Dec 13 th	Norton Disney	Carol Service	Ringling	2.30pm
			Service	3pm
Jan 10 th	Washingborough	AGM	Ringling	3pm
			Service	4.30pm
		Tea and Meeting		5pm
Feb 7 th	Ruskington			2.30 – 4pm
Mar 7 th	Lincoln, St Botolph			2.30 – 4pm

Obituary

Janice Bones November 1947— February 2014

Janice was born in Skegness, twin to Susan, in November 1947, moving to Wragby when the twins were 5 years old following the appointment of her father as Headmaster at Wragby primary school.

Janice attended Wragby primary school and her secondary education was in Horncastle. Initially she trained and worked as a hairdresser, then she took the courageous step of training as a nurse at Lincoln County Hospital. Following this she worked at Lincoln Hospital where she was later promoted to staff nurse on recovery where she was a much loved and dedicated member of the team looking after people following surgery.

Janice had many interests and helped with many good causes in the local community. In her younger days she was an active member of the tennis and badminton clubs, travelling to Wimbledon on several occasions.

Janice enjoyed travelling within Britain, the trip she took to the Isle of Man on her own just after leaving school was her only holiday off the mainland.

Janice was selfless in caring for her sister, who was terminally ill with cancer and then for her parents in their later years.

She had a broad knowledge of antiques, history, plants and flowers and she put the knowledge of gardening to good use in her own garden which had something of interest during all the seasons of the year. She was a founder member of the gardening club in Wragby and enjoyed travelling with them to visit gardens and shows, country wide. She was a talented seamstress, making most of her own clothes, and latterly enjoyed patchwork and quilting, being a founder member of the Apley and Stainfield patchwork and quilting society. She was skilled at upholstery, restoring some beautiful antique furniture.

Janice was an active supporter of Wragby Church. She had been a member of the choir and was an enthusiastic and dedicated bellringer, ringing for services in Wragby and on occasion at the Cathedral in Lincoln and also taking part in ringing in competitions. Her church interests were wide ranging, supporting all aspects of church life, cleaning, fundraising, flower arranging, from organising the Christingle service to filling shoeboxes for the shoebox appeal. In 2013 she was instrumental in organising the flower festival in Wragby Church which led to the production of the beautiful 2014 calendar.

Janice will be greatly missed.

Martin Pearson

April 1945 - April 2014

Quarter Peals rung in special memory of Martin.

East Coast Mainline between Durham & Darlington (LDGuild) 19 April, 1272 Plain Bob Minimus: Andrew Blacklock 1-2, Christopher Woodcock 3-4. Rung on LMS N46233 Duchess of Sutherland - remembering Martin who hated handbells but loved trains and will now be chuckling that we've broken down! The following fellow passengers wished to be associated with this quarter: Jeremy Wheeldon, Heather Blacklock, Mike The Boy Lawton, Ellie Maude, Claire Howard, Robert Harvey, Graham Colborne.

Blankney, Lincs 20 April, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Robert Harvey 1, Christopher Woodcock 2, Heather Blacklock 3, Eleanor Maude 4, Colin Ward (C) 5, Andrew Blacklock 6

Lincoln St. Botolph-by-Bargate, Lincs 2 May, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Robert Harvey 1, Yvonne Woodcock 2, Andrew Blacklock 3, Sue Waterfall 4, Michael Lawton 5, Christopher Woodcock (C) 6

Blankney, Lincs 5 May, 1260 Southrepps Doubles Eleanor Maude 1, Robert Harvey 2, Yvonne Woodcock 3, Christopher Woodcock (C) 4, Michael Lawton 5, Andrew Blacklock 6

Lincoln St. Botolph-by-Bargate, Lincs 6 May, 1360 St Giles Doubles Christopher Woodcock (C) 1, Eleanor Maude 2, Colin Ward 3, Andrew Blacklock 4, Michael Lawton 5, Robert Harvey 6 The band wish to associate Sue Waterfall with this quarter.

Lincoln St. Mary-le-Wigford, Lincs 6 May, 1272 Plain Bob Minimus: Robert Harvey 1, Eleanor Maude 2, Michael Lawton 3, Christopher Woodcock (C) 4 The band wish to associate Jean Williams with this quarter.

Lincoln St. Botolph-by-Bargate, Lincs 9 May, 1320 St Martin's Bob Doubles: Robert Harvey 1, Yvonne Woodcock 2, Sue Waterfall 3, Tom Blyth 4, Christopher Woodcock (C) 5, James Northway 6

Lincoln St. Botolph-by-Bargate, Lincs 15 May, 1320 Single Oxford Bob Minor: Michael Stracey 1, Heather Blacklock 2, Sue Waterfall 3, Betty Stracey 4, Andrew Blacklock 5, Christopher Woodcock (C) 6

More quarter peals rung in memory for Martin can be found at the back.

All rung in fond memory of our friend Martin Pearson, ringer at St Giles Lincoln, who sadly passed away on 15th April 2014. At St Botolph, Single Oxford Bob Minor was specially chosen as this was Martin's favourite Minor method, which he would request to ring regularly when ever given the choice. Martin rang his first and last quarter peals on the bells at St Mary-le-Wigford. He also rang quarter peals on these bells for each of the Queen's Jubilee's - 1977 Silver Jubilee, 2002 Golden Jubilee and the 2012 Diamond Jubilee. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, especially his dry sense of humour!

Alfred Walter Froggat

1921—2014

In the 1960's Walter had a workmate teach him to handle a bell so that he could train a young band of people to ring the bells at St Mary-le-Wigford's in Lincoln. He became responsible for a lively group of enthusiastic youngsters and he realised that his own ringing limitations (and the fact St Mary's has only four bells) meant that he would be unable to help them reach their full potential as ringers. He had the humility to pass on his most able pupils to Jack Millhouse at St Giles so that they could progress. They say 'He made it fun!' Many of them went on in due time to teach ringers and run towers themselves. Some have filled leading rolls in the Guild, Sue Faull our former Master and Sandra Underwood our present Secretary being two of these. Some of his pupils attended his funeral to pay their respects and to ring him out of the church and across to the burial ground following the service which he planned himself.

Walter was made a member of the Guild in 1964 and an Honorary Member (for services to the Guild) in 2002. He maintained his interest in ringing to the end. May he rest in peace.

News from the Guild AGM Meeting 26th April 2014

This was the first time for a long time, that I attended a Guild AGM. Why did I attend – because of proposed fundamental changes to the way the Guild would work.

The Guild meeting was long and arduous and I believe it is a testament to the dedication of the officers who want to steer the Guild (as voted by the Members) in a manner where it can grow instead of decline as it is evidently doing. Thank you to the Guild officers and all who took/are taking part in gathering the views of the Guild Members. The following (based on Jonathan Clark's web page and the Lincoln Diocesan Guild Newssheet and Diary) is a summary of what happened.

- Election of officers: the only change was Chris Sharp replacing Jim Benner as Peal Secretary and Robin Heppenstall replacing Dot Mason as BRF Admin. Jim and Dot were thanked for their hard work.
- For the first time a Roll of Honour was established for members who have given long service to ringing. This was given to 5 persons, 3 were from the Northern Branch and 2 were from the West Lindsey Branch.
- Subscriptions: same as last year except 50% to General Fund, 35% to Bell Repair Fund, 15% to Branches.

contd. of News from the Guild AGM Meeting

- Election of Officers at Guild level: Introduce formal nomination paper with proposer and seconder. Fixed term of 3 years in the elected position with a maximum of two consecutive years. Branch level, the above optional (but recommended.)

There was a lot of debate about this. The point was made that to find candidates at Branch level was very difficult. Also sometimes the person, who has a Branch post for eg 10 years, maybe is doing a good job and why change it when there is no one willing to stand for the job?

- To establish a Ringing Centre and have a Training Officer – this was voted through though the details were not clear.
- Striking Competitions: There was a discussion on the following:
 - For the Striking Competition to be at Guild level only with no heats at Branch level. Direct entry into a whole Guild striking competition.
 - Groups of towers could form clusters to enter the striking competition, provided they are geographically close. This would not exclude clusters crossing Branch boundaries.
 - The entries could be split into 2 groups: The Cup: Method test piece. The Plate: Rounds and Call Changes.

This needs to be clarified since there was a lot of contentious comments during the meeting.

At the end, when everyone was asked “Were there any more proposals?” and there were none - there were hoo-rahs and claps - and a smile on the Dean’s face - including Sandra (the Guild Secretary).



AGM Day 26th April - Ringing at St Giles

St Giles tower was open for ringing on the afternoon of the Guild AGM on 26th April. More than 16 people found their way to the tower to ring. Richard Spencer was in charge of the ringing and he ensured that everyone who wanted to, had an opportunity to ring.

The ringing consisted mainly of rounds and call changes, Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Major. Those taking part seemed to have enjoyed the chance to ring on the bells. The lads playing football in the car park when we arrived must have felt differently about bell ringing for they had disappeared when we left the church!
John Nicholson

Mid Week Ringers Away Day -- Tuesday 29th April

Our chauffer delivered us safely at the first tower after an un-scheduled detour (thank goodness for i-maps) where tea and coffee were gratefully received. The leaning tower of no, no, no, I mean St. Laurence at Surfleet, where Wikipedia tells me the tower is 6ft and 4 1/2 inches off the perpendicular. When first viewed, one imagines that you'll be ringing on the slant but all is just about on the level inside. A lovely light 12 bell, ground floor ring, although the 6th and 7th ropes give a whole new meaning to having your back against the wall!



There was some light hearted banter between Les and Sylvia about the body weight required to raise the bells which put Sylvia out of sync much to everybody's amusement. A whole host of methods were rung from plain hunt on 9 and 11, to call changes, to Cambridge on a tuned 6, which sounded fabulous. Stedman, Grandsire and Norwich to name but a few. John Collet joined us in the morning and a total of 17 ringers enjoyed an extended ringing session due to a bus load of visitors beating us to the food.

A flower festival and sale were in progress and Dot bought the cake stall while another member, who shall remain nameless (Les, whoops sorry) said he couldn't buy rhubarb as he hadn't got any roller skates.

All this frivolity was followed by a scrumptious meal in the church hall where Les was mugged by Dot for his dinner money!

St. Mary's at Sutterton is a lovely, neat 8 bell tower reached by the usual spiral staircase and a roof walk ! (shades of Man on a Ledge). The bells were up except for the 8th which Phil raised. He looked like he needed a lie down after that and he wasn't the only one, as an eagle eyed Kate pointed out later when Mick's glazed look proved to be a prelude to forty winks even though others were hard at Stedman Triples. Ah bless!



There was a very low ceiling which the sally shot into like a ferret into a rabbit hole but the bells sounded lovely and some very good ringing ensued, ranging from Little Bob to Spliced Surprise and Stedman. Again, 17 members were present, John having left us and Alan Bird joining us here. Again a flower festival and sale was in progress so there was plenty to look at and the church was beautiful. Cake and tea and coffee followed the ringing (all very low calorie !!!)

Thanks to Phil for organising a most successful and enjoyable day.
Jan Riley



Rabbits 2014

At Thorpe on the Hill May 26th 2014



The rain that threatened at the end of the morning of the May Bank Holiday did just that - threaten as a warning not to take anything for granted as 36 ringers descended on Thorpe-on-the-Hill for the annual 'Rabbits' striking competition. This combined with this year's challenge for the Onion Trophy, whereby the person who brought the pork pie deemed to be the best by the largest number of members wins the trophy for the coming year. This proved more popular than anticipated when 12 pork pies were brought for judging - twelve pies between thirty six ringers proved to be quite a challenge!

In the tower it was good to see the six learners come to terms with Thorpe's light bells and Mick (our judge for the afternoon) was impressed by the way they took it all in the stride.

While the ringing was taking place the rest of us ate vast quantities of pork pie and the delicious cakes, provided by Rachel and Vicki (from Thorpe), washed down by tea or coffee. Roy had devised the usual quiz ('inside out', he called it, finding (or at least seeking) the answers both inside and outside the Church). The prize was won by Marjorie from Bardney, beating Betty in the tie-breaker. Sylvia was awarded the onion trophy for her contribution bought from the deli in Woodhall Spa.

In his judgement Mick told us what a pleasure it was to hear such good ringing and hoped that was just what we do every Sunday for our service ringing, 'for after all that is what it is all about'. He commented on 'the power of Queens', saying how this familiar change helped stabilise any ringing that was beginning to get a bit wobbly. In fact when one team had rather a serious kerfuffle, 'somebody shouted queens and it all settled to a beautiful rhythm immediately'. The tune helps listening. The Chocolate Rabbits were won by the team consisting of Vicki, Roy, Jonathan, Phil, Fiona and Richard Short. Two of these had been persuaded against their will to take part! It just shows that you can be too modest!

Altogether it was a most enjoyable afternoon in good company and it was gratifying for the organisers to see it so well supported. Thanks go to Fiona for making the arrangements, to Roy for the use of the bells and for the quiz, to Rachel and Vicki for their sterling work providing refreshments (always a vital part of Branch activities!), to Joan for providing the raffle cake and to Mick for isolating himself outside in order to judge the ringing, (and of course to you for coming and making it all worthwhile.) See you next time!

Margaret Parker

The Conductor missed a dodge.

*She was told "If you're going to run in, let the others into the secret,
shout the BOB!"*

Notes from the Branch Committee Meeting May 2014

- * Guild AGM 2015 will probably be the same length as this year but format may change.
 - * Carlton-le-Moorland offered a grant of £1,000 to help with rehangng of their bells and casting of another. Ratified at Hackthorn meeting.
 - * Central Branch's BRF needs boosting. Martin Pearson's funeral raised £260 - but we need to raise funds. Any ideas? Martin also made provision in his will, for a set of ropes at St Giles. Has anybody else had a similar idea?
 - * Discussion about the Guild Review: What we need from a training officer and a PR officer. Discussed whether we were happy with the way in which the Branches and boundaries were determined.
 - * Hannah Watt and Bridget Jones Crabtree will be members of the National Youth Team at Worcester next month.
 - * Exploring idea of having a training Centre for the Central Branch. How we can get it up and running with minimum expense, using local knowledge?
-

Striking Competition: Wellingore May 10th

The draw was delayed to allow peal ringers some respite. General ringing prior to the draw allowed contestants a chance to get the feel of the bells. The ropes had been replaced very recently and were very hairy. Four teams entered the competition having twisted some-ones arm to make up the numbers for a scratch team. The Cathedral won, followed by Welton and Heckington. It was good to see Heckington taking part as they have not been ringing together for very long. Mary Faircloth was the judge and commented on the fact that she had been persuaded to come and catch up with her friends in the Branch. The only negative comment was that no refreshments had been laid on. The local ringers had another social engagement!

Centenary of the Start of WW1

Sunday 22nd June was a hot, sunny afternoon when 12 ringers met at the Cathedral to ring half muffled for the service to commemorate the centenary of the start of the great war. A young gentleman whose mother was a member of the band, decided that he would ring his Grannie and was delighted to hear the bells in the background. Be aware, you never know who is listening and how far the ringing will travel. The telephone call was from Oman.

Fiona Dawson

Branch Quarter Peals

North Rauceby 4 Apr

1260 Doubles (2m)
660 Grandsire, 600 Plain Bob

1. Sylvia Taylor
2. Kate Morgan
3. John Underwood
4. Alan Bird
5. David Fox (C)
- 6.

Eagle 8 April

1320 Norwich Surprise Minor

- 1 Michael Stracey
- 2 Sylvia Taylor
- 3 Jean Kay
- 4 Dot Mason
- 5 Richard Short
- 6 Phil Mason (C)

1st quarter in the method 3.

The band sends their best wishes to Martin Pearson for a speedy recovery.

Eagle 13 April

1280 Doubles (5m)
240 each of Winchendon Place, St Remigus, St Nicholas, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, 320 Grandsire

1. Derek Phillips
2. Soo Pendleton
3. Michael Stracey (C)
4. John F Underwood
5. Betty Stracey
6. Ron Everett

For Palm Sunday. Remembering Thelma Wright (mother-in-law of Ron Everett) who passed away on 2nd April

Branston Woodside Campanile 15 Apr

1320 Cambridge S. Minor

1. Margaret Parker
2. Fiona Dawson
3. Dot Mason
4. John Underwood
5. David Fox
6. Philip Mason (C)

Remembering Martin Pearson, a ringer at Lincoln St Giles, who died this morning. Michael and Betty Stracey wish to be associated with this quarter.

Swinderby 18 May

1320 Doubles (4m)
St Simon, St Martin, Plain Bob, Grandsire

1. Derek Phillips
 2. Soo Pendleton
 3. Betty Stracey
 4. Michael Lawton
 5. Michael Stracey (C)
- For Evensong

Lincoln St Giles 20 May

1280 Plain Bob Major

1. Dot Mason
2. Phil Mason
3. Jeremy Wheeldon
4. Betty Stracey
5. Colin Ward
6. John Nicholson
7. Michael Stracey (C)
8. Michael Lawton

Remembering Martin Pearson, ringer at St Giles for a number of years. Also in memory of Walter Froggatt, formerly of St Mary-le-Wigford where Martin learned to ring. Sue Waterfall, Keith and Gill Gladman wish to be associated with this quarter.

Branch Quarter Peals

Lincoln Cathedral
1260 Stedman Triples.
25 May
1. Fiona Dawson
2. Graham Colborne
3. Janet Clarke
4. Michael Lawton
5. David Fox
6. Stephen Clarke
7. Jeremy Wheeldon (C)
8. John Nicholson
First Stedman Triples 4
For evensong

Nettleham
1260 Plain Bob Doubles
2 June
1. Margaret Parker (C)
2. Sally Turnbull
3. Richard Thornton
4. Dave Burkitt
5. Philip Dawson
6. Trevor Hardcastle
Rung prior to the Deanery Confirmation
service at which Oakley, one of our
young ringers, was confirmed by the
Bishop of Lincoln.

*Heard in the tower "We will be Keith-
less and Gill-less.
"Shame we haven't got anyone called
Ruth-!"*

Lincoln Cathedral
1280 Spliced Surprise Major (3m)
8 June
Yorkshire, Rutland, Cambridge
1. Christopher Woodcock
2. Dot Mason
3. Sandra Underwood
4. John Underwood
5. Phillip Mason
6. Graham Colbourne
7. David Fox
8. Andrew Blacklock (C)

Silk Willoughby
1260 Single Court Bob Minor
12 June
1. Richard Short
2. Dot Mason
3. Sylvia Taylor
4. Jean Kay
5. Phil Mason
6. Alan Bird (C)

Lincoln St Mary-le-Wigford
1272 Minimus (3m) Plain Bob,
Reverse Bob, Double Bob
16 June
1. Susan Faull
2. Fiona Dawson
3. Sandra Underwood
4. Colin Ward (C)
In memory of Walter Froggat, former
Tower Captain at St Mary-le-
Wigford. Over many years, Walter
taught many youngsters to ring in-
cluding all four band members.

From the Editor: We are grateful for the finances which come from the quarter peals. Please keep them coming or we should fold. Thank you for the articles, news and funny comments and to those who allow me access to their pictures and news. Without these I would not be able to prepare a Central Branch Newsletter .

Contributions relevant to the Newsletter can be handed via Margaret Parker or Fiona Dawson (Central Branch Secretary) or email: gilliangladman@hotmail.co.uk starting the subject/title with "Ringing". Please note: the Editor reserves the right to edit articles to allow their inclusion in the Newsletter.

PS Thank you to all the readers!! Gill Gladman

Washingborough Surprise Practices 10.30-12am

July 26th, Aug 23rd, Sept 27th, Oct 25th, Nov 22nd, Dec 20th.

All of these are subject to change. Check nearer the time.

Congratulation

----- Jean Kay for ringing her first quarter in Norwich Surprise Minor
----- Michael Lawton for ringing his first quarter in Stedman Triples
----- to Oakley from Nettleham on his confirmation

Welcome

----- to Laura Watt from Welton
----- to Dawn Hall from Sleaford
who were both elected as members at the meeting at Hackthorn in June.

More News from around

By the time this newsletter has been distributed, Hannah Watt and Bridget Jones Crabtree will have participated in the National Youth Contest. We hope you have had a great time! The NYC will have taken place on Saturday 5th July and this is the fourth time the Ringing World National Youth Contest has taken place. More news in the next newsletter!

Martin and Timberland Tower Captain Janet Crafer needs help from the Branch - so that ringers can progress.
If you can be of any use, please contact a Branch Committee Member, or contact Janet.

Workshop on Running the Ringers!

Open to Everyone.

20 September 10.30am - 4.00pm

Bring your own Lunch

This is a workshop open to everyone, based on how to run ringing and ring an exciting practice. It will help those who want to help their Tower Captain as well as helping Tower Captains to help their ringers. This is an opportunity to share ideas and enthuse ringers.

Let Sandra (the Guild Secretary) know if you would like to come.