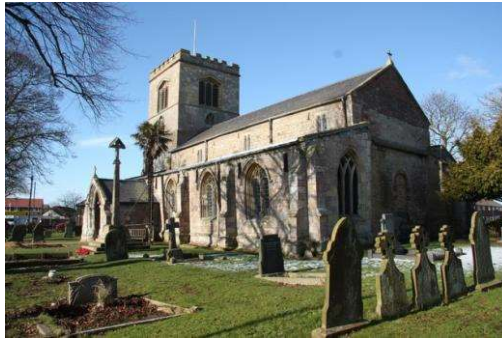




GUILD BRANCH 8 BELL STRIKING COMPETITION

*****SOUTHERN BRANCH TEAMS COME
FIRST and SECOND*****



Ingoldmells – St Peter and Paul
(8 bells - 13-3-26 – in F sharp)

The 125th anniversary year branch 8 bell striking competition was hosted by Eastern Branch and took place at Ingoldmells (Lincolnshire's most easterly tower) on the last Saturday in September. As on Festival Day, despite dreadful weather in the run up to the competition - the day was blessed with glorious autumn sunshine.

Ingoldmells is a Norse word meaning "the sand dunes of Ingulf".

Ingoldmells in the early days was of greater importance than the neighbouring town of Skegness and it is established that Henry of Bolingbroke (Henry IV) held his Courts here. The grave of William Skegness, who was Chief Steward to the Court, can be seen in the Church. It is known that the greater part of Ingoldmells as it was then is now under the sea.

Today Ingoldmells is a holiday destination with many holiday caravan parks and noted for Butlins Holiday Village - the first Butlins holiday camp - opened in 1936 and Fantasy Island. During the war Butlins was taken over by the navy and became known as HMS Royal Arthur and was used to train sailors for the war effort. At some stage German propaganda announced the "HMS Royal Arthur had been sunk"

In the 2021 census, Ingoldmells ward had the highest proportion of residents with no educational qualifications (43.10%) of any ward in England and Wales. It also had the highest proportion of residents living in 'caravan, mobile or temporary accommodation' of any ward in the East Midlands region (20.40%). The resident population is of the order of 2000 - swelling to 90000 in the summer holiday months!! - So the influx of 60 ringers would be no problem!

The Church of St Peter and St Paul is an early Norman Church (Grade 1 listed) and is the oldest in the Skegness Group, with a peal of 8 bells acknowledged as "one of the finest in Lincolnshire".

The first service was held in 1205, but there are indications that a much older church existed. There are traces of both Viking and Anglo Saxon settlements in the vicinity. In the churchyard and in the church itself there are a number of interesting ancient graves. There was also a Roman garrison and salt works for a number of years.

The bells themselves have a story to tell

North's book 1882

The Church Bells of the County and City of Lincoln - lists Ingoldmells as a tower with 4 bells and a priests bell.

The 4th was recast in 1913 and then in 1969 - the treble - two and three were recast and two trebles added partly funded by the acquisition of three bells from a redundant church in Boston. In 1989 two trebles were added using metal from the 3 bells at the nearby Cumberworth church, which had been declared redundant in 1987 and later sold for residential use. The first of 15 peals on the 8 took place in September 1991. There is an Ingoldmells Surprise Major - first rung in 1969 in Barnes. But we can not move on without mentioning the Stow family - they have been fantastic supporters of not only Ingoldmells church and bells but also Addlethorpe just up the road including the organs at both

churches. Five of the present eight have inscriptions naming their benefactors in the Stow family

The inscription on the present third

**GULTHAC OF CROWLAND
THIS BELL WAS CAST IN THE YEAR
DURING WHICH MAN FIRST SET FOOT
UPON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON
THE GIFT OF ERIC WILLIAM STOW**

In April 1971 the first peal on the bells was rung - the ringer of the treble being WILLIAM STOW who had learnt along with others to ring at Friskney under the guidance of the Friskney tower captain - Ernest Pickering in preparation of the augmentation. Tony Barker tells me that William will have been critically listening to the competition this afternoon

Below are the first and second peals rung on the bells. All new band local ringers apart from Ernest Pickering and Philip Reynolds in the first peal and Michael Belcher in the second peal

May 7, 1971

INGOLDMELLS, Lincs, SS, Peter & Paul.
Sat., April 17, 1971, 2hr. 48min. (13 cwt.)

5040 PLAIN BOB MINOR

- *1 E. William Stow
- 2 William B. Dawson
- 3 Valerie M. Shaw
- 4 Ernest Pickering
- 5 Roy Stephenson
- 6 Philip H. Reynolds (Conductor)

*First peal. First peal on the bells.

INGOLDMELLS, Lincs, SS, Peter & Paul.
Wed., May 19, 1971, 2hr. 43min. (13 cwt.)

5040 DOUBLES (21 extents each Plain Bob
and Grandsire).

- *1 Graham K. Brader
- †2 E. Willam **Stow**
- †3 Valerie M. Shaw
- *4 Stephen W. Shrive
- 5 Michael J. Belcher (Conductor)
- *6 Edward Vear

*First peal. †First of Doubles. On the first
anniversary of the dedication of the bells.

David Phillipson our judge for today learnt to ring at St Giles at about the same time as Chris Sharp - Chris rang in David's - first peal in 1966 - Grandsire Triples at St Giles - he also rang in David's second peal - Stedman Cinqes at Kingston upon Hull a few months later In all David has rung 41 peals of Stedman Cinqes - 17 of them at the Cathedral. Not bad when you realise that as a guild the last peal of Stedman was in 2016 (Stedman Caters) and 2015 (Stedman Triples and Cinqes) However two other peal ringing feats need to be mentioned - David (yes yet again with Chris rang together in 3 of the only 4 guild peals of Londinium Surprise Maximus - two of them within a month of each other in 1971

and then there was the handbell peal.

The pair of them met with Jack Millhouse at St Giles to practice hand bell ringing in October 1968 - 2hr and 5mins later they had both rung their first handbell peal!

THE STRIKING COMPETITION

- 7 bands from 5 of the six branches entered a team - two from both Central and Southern
- The test piece was EITHER 200 changes of Plain and Little Bob Spliced OR 4 courses of Little Bob Major - with only the first 200 changes marked

THE RESULTS

FIRST	-	SOUTHERN (north)	-	9 faults
SECOND	-	SOUTHERN (south)	-	13.5 faults
THIRD	-	CENTRAL (Y)	-	25 faults
FOURTH	-	WEST LINDSEY	-	33 faults
FIFTH	-	EASTERN	-	35.5 faults
SIXTH	-	NORTHERN	-	48 faults
SEVENTH	-	CENTRAL (X)	-	51 faults



(Image Colin Simpson)

Barry Jones receives the Henry Law James Shield from David Phillipson on behalf of the Southern(North) band



(Image Colin Simpson)

The winning Southern(North) band - apologies to Sylvia Bird branch ringing master - cropped from the picture!!



(Image Colin Simpson)

The second placed Southern (South) band = six of whom won the guild tower based method section earlier this year



(Image Colin Simpson)

The third placed Central (Y) band who relinquished the Shield they had held for the past two years

Thanks go to Eastern Branch for their excellent organisation and welcome.

Next year sees West Lindsey Branch hosting the 6 bell striking competitions and Northern Branch the 8 bell competition.

Keith Butter