

MASTER'S REPORT FOR 2022 TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY ON 6TH MARCH 2023

Many thanks for the tremendous support offered in my first year as Ringing Master of the Society, to those who have helped with feedback and the many people who have stepped in to run the ringing when I have been unavailable. Thanks go to the other officers too – there are many tens of hours of ‘behind the scenes’ work every year and I am sure we would like to show our recognition and appreciation of that work.

It might be possible to characterise the plan for 2023 as ‘clearing the decks’ for 2024 – hopefully a year to come together as a Society to celebrate the past 300 years and look ahead to the possibilities of the next 300. To that end there are planned to be more visitor peal attempts this year to make way for a stronger local focus next year. Additionally, there will be an emphasis on development to ensure that we’re not trying to pull off too many ‘firsts’ on big occasions next year!

Service ringing

Sunday morning service ringing continues to be well-supported, with 12-bell ringing of a very good standard most weeks. There is still room for further improvement, and I’d like to see what we can do to promote ‘world-class’ ringing on Sunday mornings.

Society evensong ringing is still somewhat the ‘poor relation’ of Sunday morning ringing and I welcome a brief discussion at the AGM about future strategies for evensong. Some of the options (in no particular order) are:

- Inviting other local towers to support evensong ringing
- Actively trying to balance attendance between morning and evening
- Using evensong ringing for quarter-peal attempts
- Status quo

Practice nights

Thanks go to Jonathan Shanklin for the continued running of the 6.30pm practice on Mondays. There has been a notable shift in the main practice over the past 18 months, with a considerable number of less experienced ringers coming to the early parts of the practice. Whilst the process of trying to get one ‘prime’ piece of ringing for everyone in that bracket is time-consuming, hopefully everyone is happy it is the best way to try and bring people on for 10- and 12-bell ringing. I realise that it can contribute to a ‘squeezed middle’, but it is great to see that there are regular attendees making it through that gap!

I am very grateful to people who have been willing to support development by standing behind ringers trying to master new skills – it’s not necessarily a culture I have felt is particularly embedded at GSM. I would like to ask that if someone has been asked to ‘stand behind’, we try to minimise additional ‘corrections’ from other members of the band. If you are concerned that the stander is not giving correct or timely advice, that’s a matter to raise after the touch – whatever is going on, the learner getting the same information, or worse, contradictory information from multiple sources is unlikely to be much help.

It is great that we have been able to reintroduce Zanussi as a method rung relatively frequently on practice nights. Whilst consolidation of the current repertoire will continue, there is a moderately inevitable ‘What next?’ question. Orion, Ariel and Avon are all reasonable options, or we could

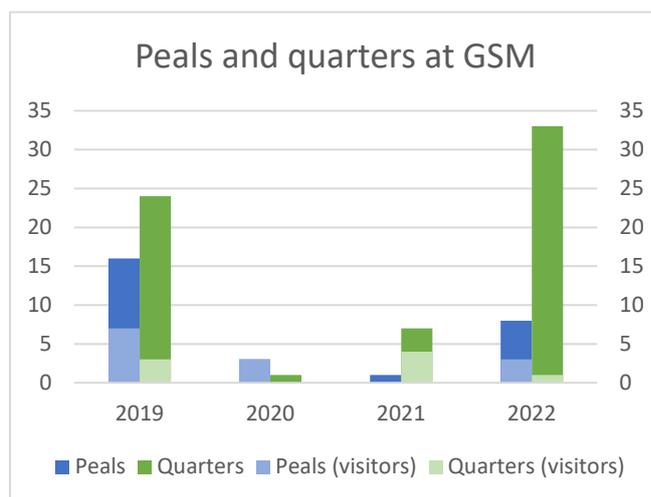
switch tack and introduce more Particle-like snippets. Alternatively, we could entirely focus on consolidating existing methods and trying to improve in other areas. Again, a brief discussion at the AGM would be useful.

Post-pandemic recovery

In terms of practicalities, ringing at GSM is largely back as it was before COVID, albeit with new procedures for using the staircase when the tower is open to the public and a considerably improved understanding of air flow within the ringing chamber thanks to the experiments by Liz and Phil Orme.

Service ringing attendance is down slightly from pre-pandemic levels (16.2 last year versus 16.9 in 2019). The peal total for GSM in 2022 was half that of 2019 (and the second lowest on the new bells for ‘normal’ years). That is in part explained by the difficulty in forward planning throughout 2021 and that the peal total in 2019 was the second highest annual total on the new bells.

The picture for quarter peals is almost exactly reversed, with the highest annual total scored on the new bells (scored on every stage from Doubles to Maximus). This is in no small part due to Melissa’s great organisational effort but also, as shown in the appendix, the outstanding number of ‘firsts’ from the younger ringers in the local area.



Year	Peals		Quarters	
	Total	Visitor	Total	Visitor
2019	16	7	24	3
2020	3	3	1	0
2021	1	0	7	4
2022	8	3	33	1

As Liz identified in last year’s report, the ‘pandemic shock’ is likely to be with us for a considerable number of years to come. The immediate goal is to try and build the number of peal attempts at GSM – recovery of service ringing will almost necessarily need to be more organic.

Ringling for special occasions

The appendix hopefully shows the many notable occasions for which there was ringing in 2022. One particularly pleasing observation is the number of links to the wider Society – ringing for births, anniversaries and, sadly, deaths all reinforce our connections.

There were more royal events to ring for than in a typical year. In addition to the normal ringing on the birthdays of monarch and heir, there was a peal attempt (lost after ~3800 changes) for the Diamond Jubilee on 2nd June. After the death of the Queen on 8th September, the plan drafted by Liz Orme and Frank King was put into action and there was [tolling to mark the death](#), [ringing for the Proclamation of King Charles III](#), a [half-muffled quarter-peal](#) and a [half-muffled peal](#).

It was also a year of intense change for the clergy at GSM. The meal and [farewell quarter](#) for Associate Vicar, Devin McLachlan were poignant occasions. Devin has been a great supporter of

ringing at Great St Mary's over the past seven years, raising its profile in social media and very ably deputising for the President when the Vicar was unavailable.

National 12-bell Contest

It was another good year for Cambridge in the National 12-bell contest, with the Cambridge band coming top of the eliminator in Chester and a top three finish at the final in Guildford.

Ringling in the 12-bell practices has been of a very high standard, which sadly we often fail to achieve during our regular Sunday and Monday ringling. I'm keen that we find ways to bridge that gap.

Peals and quarters

The appendix shows relevant performances rung either by the Society or at Great St Mary's during 2022. Most of the 2023 peal slots have organisers, and the outline of the 2024 programme is taking shape. If there's something you would particularly like to ring in the tercentenary year, please let me know.

Ringling centre at St Clements

The ringling centre at St Clements is open. The dedication of the bells was on Sunday 12th June 2022 and there has been a steady and building stream of events since. It has been great to be involved with the project and we look forward to further success with the arrival of a centre manager this month.

Non-ringling news and events

During the regular catch-up sessions with the church, it has been confirmed that there has been no further contact with NET with regard antenna installation at GSM. It is considered unlikely that NET will pick this up again, but it needs to stay on the watch list until the end of 2026.

Approval has been given by the church of installation of an intercom to connect the ringling chamber and shop desk, with installation expected during 2023.

Dave Richards

Master, Society of Cambridge Youths

Appendix – Performance details

Peal details

9 peals were rung by the Society in 2022 and there were 9 further peals either at GSM or representing notable achievements for local ringers as follows:

Date	T/H	Location	Performance	Society	Footnotes
18/03	Hand	Cambridge (A6 Bishop's Hostel)	5088 Plain Bob Major	CUGCR	First peal as conductor: ANT First on 8: AMR
21/04	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	5009 Stedman Cinques	EDA	In memory of Stuart Brown, past Master of the Society
29/06	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)	SCY	
17/07	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	5760 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)	SCY	
08/08	Hand	Cambridge (GSM, ringing chamber)	5040 Plain Bob Minor	CUGCR	First in hand: GPHC
18/09	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	5007 Stedman Cinques	SCY	Half-muffled before a Service of Commemoration of HM Queen Elizabeth II
01/10	Tower	Chesterton (St Andrew)	5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)	SCY	
05/10	Hand	Cambridge (Gonville & Caius College)	5040 Minor (3m)	CUGCR	First in hand: KJH First as conductor: AMR
18/10	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	5040 Treble Dodging Minor (7m)	SCY	
23/10	Hand	Bradley (1 Holly Tree Court)	5040 Treble Dodging Minor (7m)	SCY	First in the house
25/10	Hand	Cambridge (102 Mawson Road)	5056 Cambridge Surprise Major	CUGCR	First surprise major in hand: AMR
12/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	5016 Spliced Maximus (10m)	SCY	Marking the 10th anniversary of Particles. The ringers of 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12 ringing the same bells. Associating this performance with FHK, RBSO, BRMJ, SAC who rang in the original peal.
13/11	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (120m)	SCY	First magic blocks as conductor: HJWP
17/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	5088 Zanussi Surprise Maximus	Saint James' Guild	Birthday compliments to DCB
22/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	5016 Spliced Maximus (10m)	Saint James' Guild	On the 10th anniversary of Particles
01/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	5069 Stedman Caters	SCY	First on 10: GPHC, KJH
21/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	5045 Spliced Surprise Royal (2m)	Suffolk Guild	45th Anniversary of Rowan Wilson's first peal
31/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	5136 Avon Delight Maximus	Non-association	First of maximus inside and first blows in method: Catherine Morley

Quarter-peal details

The following 40 quarter peals were rung either for the Society of Cambridge Youths, at GSM or have some other notable features for the local band:

Date	T/H	Location	Performance	Society	Footnotes
23/01	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1280 Yorkshire Surprise Royal	CUGCR	First on 10: JJN First in method: BCG
30/01	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1344 Plain Bob Major	CUGCR	First major: GPHC, TEM First as conductor in tower: ANT
13/02	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1280 Cambridge Surprise Major	CUGCR	First surprise: GPHC First major as conductor: MFN
06/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1296 Stedman Caters	CUGCR	First Stedman Caters: BCG, MFN In solidarity with Ukraine
13/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1331 Grandsire Caters	CUGCR	First on 10: GPHC, AMR
19/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1344 Spliced Plain Major (2m)	CUGCR	
25/03	Hand	Cambridge (Market Hostel Room 207)	1440 Elliptic Jump Minor	CUGCR	
27/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1311 Stedman Cinques		
10/04	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus		First of maximus: MFN
24/04	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1296 Spliced Plain Royal (2m)	CUGCR	First on 10: SCJ First Royal: AMR
28/04	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor	CUGCR	First of surprise: KJH First as conductor in tower: AMR
05/06	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1320 Plain Bob Doubles	CUGCR	First away from cover: Alex Hackett
19/06	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus		
21/06	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major		First in method: KJH
03/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1299 Stedman Cinques	SCY	Rung after the Reverend Jon Sanders celebrated his first Eucharist as priest following his ordination to the priesthood in Ely Cathedral yesterday.
09/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal		First royal: Chris Winkless-Clark
10/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1257 Stedman Cinques		
17/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1311 Stedman Cinques		To congratulate Dorothy Brooke and Toby Johnson on their graduation
19/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1440 Spliced Surprise Minor (12m)		
03/08	Hand	Sallachy (Bunloyne)	1280 Cambridge Surprise Major	SCY	120th birthday compliments to Frank King and Philip Earis.
11/08	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1298 Spliced Surprise Maximus (2m)	SCY	Rung as a farewell compliment to Abby Timmel leaving for MIT First maximus: JV First surprise maximus: ANT
04/09	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus		First of maximus: JJN
15/09	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1296 Stedman Triples	SCY	Rung half-muffled in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II.
02/10	Hand	Cambridge (Gonville & Caius College)	1280 Plain Bob Major		First of major in hand: KJH
02/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1259 Grandsire Caters	CUGCR	First on 10: KJH First in method: SCJ
09/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1344 Plain Bob Major	CUGCR	

Date	T/H	Location	Performance	Society	Footnotes
10/10	Hand	Cambridge (Gonville & Caius College)	1312 Plain Bob Major		First quarter of major in hand: Ollie Watson
16/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal		To welcome Onni Robert Nurmi-Burr. First Quarter Peal of Royal: KJH, GPHC
23/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1392 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	SCY	
26/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1259 Grandsire Caters		Rung before the Licensing of Revd Canon Jutta Brueck as Priest in Charge at Great St Mary's. First on 10: KPGJ
30/10	Hand	Cambridge (Gonville & Caius College)	1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor	CUGCR	First Surprise in hand: KJH
30/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1344 Spliced Surprise Major (5m)	CUGCR	First Spliced Major: GPHC, KJH
06/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1260 Stedman Doubles		
13/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1311 Stedman Cinques		Half muffled for Remembrance Sunday. First on 12: KJH
14/11	Hand	Cambridge (Gonville & Caius College)	1272 Spliced Surprise Minor (4m)	CUGCR	First spliced in hand: KJH
20/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1349 Stedman Cinques		First Stedman as conductor: JV Rung as a farewell compliment to Revd Devin McLachlan, Associate Vicar of this church Welcoming a daughter to Katherine and Stephen Croxall.
21/11	Hand	Cambridge (Gonville & Caius College)	1320 Oxford Treble Bob Minor	CUGCR	First in method: GPHC
04/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus	SCY	First in method: JJN
11/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1250 Spliced Surprise Maximus (3m)	SCY	
18/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	1287 Stedman Cinques	SCY	Compliment to Billy Brooke and Karen Sejer Ravn on their engagement.