

# Interim Report

**Subject:** Events celebrating the tercentenary of the SCY

To: SCY members

Prepared by: Liz Orme

## 1 Introduction

The Cambridge Youths tercentenary celebrations form an arc from January 2024 to November 2025 to encompass the founding of the Society in 1724 and the first recorded peal by the Society in November 2025.

This interim report covers events linked to the tercentenary of the Society throughout the year 2024. The report begins with a summary on early planning and preparatory activities. This is followed by a section on ringing performances associated with the tercentenary, after which there is a section summarising the work that has gone into participating in the Cambridge Folk Festival and a section on organising the dinner weekend. The final section provides shorter reports on other events organised or participated in during the year as part of the tercentenary celebrations.

The intention is for this interim report to be updated in a year's time once further activities linked to these celebrations during 2025 are concluded.

## 2 Early planning and preparation

This section provides background on early planning and preparatory activities that culminated in a set of events that formed the tercentenary celebrations held during 2024. This section also touches on a few key moments during this period.

The timeline for planning events celebrating our tercentenary extends well before the start of 2024. As early as February 2022, more than two and a half years before the dinner weekend celebrations, moves were afoot to secure the ideal dinner venue. The Great Hall of Trinity College is not somewhere that you can book in the normal way, and we have Dave Richards to thank for setting things in motion. Through a connection with a GSM PCC member who is also a Trinity College fellow, we made a case for holding our dinner in this prestigious setting. To great delight and a modicum of surprise, in March 2022 we received a college resolution to hold the dinner in the Great Hall.

With this cornerstone of our celebrations in place, a dedicated group of SCY members started planning a range of possible events that might happen. This core group comprised George Unsworth, Gareth Davies, Phil Orme, Lesley Boyle, and Liz Orme, with the ongoing support of Dave Richards. Over the period from October 2022 to June 2024 this group met every two to three months, by Teams or face-to-face, and provided progress updates on a range of events, all captured and maintained in a 'To Do' list. At the Society's EGM in November 2023 the organising of events linked to the tercentenary was put on a more formal footing when Liz Orme agreed to take on the role of overall organiser. In the final weeks and months leading up to key events such as the Cambridge Folk Festival and the tercentenary dinner weekend, group meetings were replaced by more targeted catchups supported by detailed plans and involving a wider group of volunteers.

Whether or not events were taken forward depended mainly upon the willingness of members of this core group to take responsibility for and make time to pursue them. Besides those mentioned in the main body of this report, many much smaller activities were progressed to their conclusion, for example, compiling a complete and fully up to date list of members and producing a framed list of members elected between 1999 and 2024 to hang up in GSM ringing room. Some ideas for events were not followed through and are unlikely to be picked up again in future, for example, organising 'handbells on a punt' for publicity purposes and commissioning music written especially for the Society. Other events were classed as not a priority at the time; however, they may be resurrected next year. For example, aiming to beat the Plain Bob maximus record peal length of 6600 changes, and creating an inventory of all archive materials as well as tracking down old meeting reports and papers created electronically and not written up in the minute book. There are activities that are still ongoing, for example, the preparation of biographies, and it is anticipated that these will be followed through to completion in the coming year.

At the beginning of 2024 the Trinity Great Hall booking looked to be in jeopardy. Despite the original booking going through all the right channels, somehow Trinity catering managed to double-book the venue. We were confident that ours was the earlier booking, but we were not confident that this would make us immune to being ditched in favour of a booking by an eminent fellow of the college. Ultimately, whatever the miscommunication was internally it got resolved, and Trinity catering confirmed our booking. This was much the biggest spanner to be thrown into our planning activities and, along with the mounting costs associated with using this venue, a significant amount of time and effort went into exploring alternatives as we reconsidered whether Trinity was the right venue for us.

Separate, but linked, a request was made to Trinity College by the vicar of GSM on the SCY's behalf for a grant from the Advowson fund to cover hall hire charges. This request got stuck for many months in Trinity College's bureaucracy and we never formally heard back from them as to whether or not this grant request had been successful. However, the hall hire fees were ultimately waived, thus removing a significant cost item from our budget forecast.

A major uncertainty throughout the early planning and preparatory stages for the tercentenary celebrations was forecasting budget requirements. A number of high-cost items could not be pinned down, yet they had the potential to result in a significant deficit. This influenced decisions, for example, Cambridge Folk Festival attendance, choice of dinner venue, fixing of ticket prices, and when formal dinner invites were issued. To alleviate this situation and allow preparations to continue apace, a small number of individual members agreed, up to a limit, to underwrite these costs. Furthermore, at an EGM in November 2023 and again at the AGM in March 2024 separate proposals for funding by the SCY to underwrite activities linked to the tercentenary celebrations were made and approved. The acknowledgement by the Society that these celebrations are a good way of furthering the aims of the Society, and the generosity of individual members made a huge difference to how plans were expedited. The financial uncertainties created were managed extremely effectively by Phil Orme, and budget details are included in a separate financial report; hence they are not covered in this report.

## 3 Ringing performances

*Throughout 2024 (up to and including 24 November for this Interim Report)*

A total of 87 performances lodged on Bellboard have been associated with the Society's 300th anniversary year (see Appendix A for details.) A few statistics on these performances are below.

*Note: Use of the term 'local' in this context means someone who rings regularly at SCY practices or services or is part of the wider 12-bell competition band.*

### 3.1 Peals

A total of 54 peals have been rung, 27 tower and 27 handbell:

- Peals ranged from maximus to doubles, the breakdown being: 7 maximus, 3 cinquies, 1 max and cinquies, 2 royal, 3 caters, 9 major, 2 triples, 26 minor, and 1 doubles
- Most tower bell peals were on 12 bells (11), either maximus, cinquies or both
- Most handbell peals were of minor (22)
- 32 peals were by a Society band
- 16 peals were on GSM bells
- Four long-length peals were rung (one tower, three handbell)
- First 5-bell peal in GSM tower, and on the back five (22 Feb)
- First SCY ladies' peal (9 Mar)
- Longest length peal in GSM tower (1 Apr)
- Five peals were rung across the dinner weekend (20-21 Sep)
- 500th peal for the Society (19 Oct)

### 3.2 Quarter peals

A total of 29 quarter peals (QP) have been rung, 26 tower and 3 handbell:

- QPs ranged from maximus to minimus, the breakdown being: 6 maximus, 2 cinquies, 1 royal, 3 caters, 8 major, 1 major and minor spliced, 3 triples, 4 minor, 0 doubles, and 1 minimus
- 19 QPs were on GSM bells
- A QP of Plain Bob minimus is believed to be the lightest quarter yet rung, at tenor weight 0.025oz
- Four QPs and one 720 extent were rung across the dinner weekend (20-21 Sep)

### 3.3 Peal ringing achievements

The following achievements are of note:

- Leading tower bell peal ringers: Jonathan Agg (18), Jadd Virji (15), Henry Pipe (13)
- Leading non-SCY local ringer: Catherine Morley (6)
- Leading SCY non-local ringers: Jimmy Yeoman (6) and Brian Meads (5)
- 27 local SCY members have rung at least one peal in 2024
- Leading handbell peal ringers: Henry Pipe (26), David Pipe (22), Jonathan Agg (14) and Alfie Pipe (13)
- These four ringers have between them accounted for over 80% of all handbell peal band members
- In addition, two local SCY members have each rung one handbell peal, and three non-local SCY members have each rung one handbell peal

- Leading conductor: Henry Pipe (22, of which 19 handbell)
- Other ringers who have conducted more than one peal are Jonathan Agg (9), David Pipe (8), and Patrick Brooke (4)

### 3.4 Personal footnotes to peals

Many local ringers recorded personal achievements during the year, including:

- Lynne Hughes - First Royal as conductor (4 Jan)
- David Pipe and Robin Hall - 200th peal together (1 Apr)
- Greg Chu - First spliced maximus (25 Jul)
- Anne Orme, Helen Atkins - First peal for the Society (15 Aug)
- David Richards - First peal as conductor (15 Aug)
- Jadd Virji, Cecilia Pipe, Patrick Brooke, Luke Smith - First peal of Game of Thrones (7 Sep)
- Phillip Orme - 300th peal on 12 bells (21 Sep)
- Kirsten Hawkins, June Mackay - First peal of Stedman Cinques (5 Oct)
- Catherine Morley - 500th peal (17 Oct)
- Jonathan Agg, Henry Pipe - Circled GSM tower to peals (14 Nov)
- Phillip Orme - 600th peal and 100th peal on the new GSM bells (24 Nov)
- Luke Smith and Jonathan Agg - 200th peal together

### 3.5 Local versus non-local ringers and ringing

Most performances by far have been rung locally by local ringers. Even performances rung further afield have been by a predominantly local band of ringers.

- 37 performances rung on GSM bells
- Majority of performances (78) rung in Cambridgeshire
- Furthest afield performance rung in Strathcarron, Scotland (570 miles from GSM)
- One peal rung abroad, in County Mayo, Ireland (500 miles from GSM)
- Three performances were outside Cambridgeshire and rung by a predominantly non-local band
  - Peal of Bristol Maximus at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral church (14 Sep) – 6 local ringers
  - Long length handbell peal of Bristol Surprise Major in Godmanchester (17 Sep) - 0 local ringers
  - Peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Caters at Sheffield Cathedral (17 Nov) – 1 local ringer
- 39 non-local ringers joined us for the dinner weekend (20-21 Sep) to ring peals (5), QPs (4) and a 720 extent

## 4 Cambridge Folk Festival

*Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th July*

'Change-ringing' can be considered a form of English folk music, therefore, what better than to choose this novel way of marking the Society's tercentenary by seeking a bell ringing presence at this major event. The Cambridge Folk Festival is one of the longest running folk festivals in the world. Held each year since 1965 it attracts around fourteen thousand people. This venture was the brainchild of Gareth Davies who with George Unsworth started by approaching Cambridge City Council with a proposal for an 'outreach' opportunity linked to bell ringing. Everyone was both delighted and surprised when the Council agreed to let us make an appearance. Furthermore, they made a significant contribution towards our costs. Gareth and George's next challenge was to convert an idea into a reality, and everyone involved agreed that a positive result was achieved.

The primary physical ringing presence at the folk festival was the Charnborough mobile belfry that was hired for the duration. In addition, a set of handbells was provided by Gareth Davies, and 11 volunteers were recruited to help across the four days. These volunteers held regular short ringing demonstrations in the main area, and there were ringing performances on the mobile belfry, handbell performances of both change ringing and tune ringing, have-a-go sessions on the mobile belfry, and handbell group workshops.

We did not set ourselves any firm objectives linked to recruitment or outreach, as this was a novel thing to do. However, our presence was popular, and we were busy most of the time as a steady flow of festival goers were curious to find out more. Approximately 650 people had a go, many lapsed ringers stopped by, and we generated roughly 40 follow-up contacts. Our volunteers found the experience enjoyable, and our conclusion was that this is a great way of advertising what we do to the general public, and we should consider repeating this venture again in future.

A write-up about the Cambridge Folk Festival can be found in the Ringing World article published in Edition No. 5915, dated 6 September 2024, pg. 824.

## 5 Dinner weekend

Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd September

The primary objective of the 300th anniversary celebrations was to create a lasting memory of the long and distinguished heritage of the Society that will be accessible to generations to come.

This section reports on the schedule of activities organised for our guests, the organising team and their responsibilities, key roles performed by Society members and GSM ringers across the weekend, and links with GSM church. In combination, this created a memorable and enjoyable weekend for our many guests. A few facts and figures are provided and are testament to the success of the dinner weekend.

A write-up about the dinner weekend can be found in the Ringing World article published in Edition No. 5922, dated 25 October 2024, pg. 991-992 and pg. 1008. Where possible, information in that article is not repeated here.

Financial details for the weekend are to be covered separately in the Treasurer's report on the dinner weekend.

### 5.1 Dinner weekend schedule

An overview of the dinner weekend schedule is captured in the snapshot below. The majority of activities went ahead as planned; however, a small number of events were cancelled as numbers were too small to make them viable.

		from...	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	12am
#	<b>FRIDAY 20th Sept</b>	<b>Owner</b>																
F1	Peal at Meldreth (8)	Jadd																
F2	Peal at Rampton (6)	Jadd																
F3	QP at Histon (8)	Liz																
F4	Lost towers and bells tours	Gareth																
F5	General ringing at OLEM	Liz																
F6	General ringing at St Clement's	Lynne																
F7	General ringing at GSM	Dave																
F8	Evening pubbage	Catriona																
#	<b>SATURDAY 21st Sept</b>																	
A1	Peal at GSM (12)	Jadd																
A2	Peal at Bourn (8)	Jadd																
A3	Peal at a Fulbourn (8)	Jadd																
A4	Peal at a local tower	Jadd																
A5	Quarter peal at Histon (8)	Liz																
A6	Quarter peal at Benets (6)	Liz																
A7	Quarter peal at StAG (8)	Liz																
A8	Quarter peal at Chesterton (6)	Liz																
A9	Lunchtime pubbage	Catriona																
A10	History of SCY (GSM ringing room)	Gareth																
A11	General ringing at St Clement's	Lynne																
A12	General ringing at GSM	Dave																
A13	Exhibition at Michaelhouse	George																
A14	Video display at Michaelhouse	George																
A15	Book signing at Michaelhouse	Gareth																
A16	Drinks reception at Michaelhouse	Liz																
A17	Leave Michaelhouse, go to Trinity	Liz																
A18	Group photo at Trinity	Liz																
A19	Dinner at Trinity	Liz																
A20	Nighttime pubbage	Catriona																
#	<b>SUNDAY 22nd Sept</b>																	
U1	Pre-service ringing at GSM	Dave																
U2	Service with ringing theme	Liz																
U3	Post-service ringing at GSM	Dave																
U4	Morning coffee	n/a																
U5	Inns & taverns tours	Gareth																
U6	Lunchtime pubbage	Catriona																
U7	Pub quiz (results only)	RAS																

## 5.2 Organising team

There was a small core organising team that took forward the majority of the tasks in the months leading up to the dinner weekend, with work starting in earnest from the beginning of the year. A few further individuals took responsibility for specific tasks, some putting in a considerable amount of time. Many more willingly gave their support and help across a wide variety of activities throughout the weekend.

The table below lists the main organisers and summarises their responsibilities.

Name	Responsibilities
Liz Orme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overall coordination</li> <li>▪ Objectives setting</li> <li>▪ Team meetings coordination</li> <li>▪ Trinity catering staff interactions</li> <li>▪ Church operations liaison</li> <li>▪ Logistics plans preparation and coordination with GSM staff</li> <li>▪ Safety Risk Assessments preparation and distribution</li> <li>▪ Guests survey preparation, distribution, and results analysis, leading to a schedule of activities for the weekend</li> <li>▪ Communications with dinner weekend guests</li> <li>▪ Briefing packs for organisers and volunteers</li> <li>▪ Information packs for participants in activities, including GSM tower eTicket</li> <li>▪ Securing and assigning volunteers for activities</li> <li>▪ Quarter peals organising (4 successful attempts and one 720 extent rung)</li> <li>▪ General ringing organising (3 sessions across 2 towers, reduced from 5 sessions across 3 towers)</li> <li>▪ Tours organising (5 tours across 3 topics)</li> <li>▪ Securing a professional photographer</li> <li>▪ Coordination with speakers at Michaelhouse reception</li> <li>▪ Setting out running order for the dinner and coordination with Master of Ceremonies</li> <li>▪ Menu card content</li> <li>▪ Sunday service coordination with ministry team and ringing contributors, covering the music, handbells, sermon, securing someone to give the readings and someone to say the prayers, and the membership scroll</li> <li>▪ Membership board and scroll layouts</li> <li>▪ Preparation of GSM eMag contributions (3 off) and pewslip contribution (1 off)</li> <li>▪ Preparation of post-event RW article (Ed. #5922, 25 Oct 2024)</li> </ul>
Phil Orme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Financial modelling of reception and dinner venue options and ticket pricing options</li> <li>▪ Budgeting and financial management, including payment of invoices</li> <li>▪ Processing dinner invite responses, including food options</li> <li>▪ Dinner menu 'best fit' selection based on dinner guests' responses</li> <li>▪ Cancellations handling</li> <li>▪ Wine selection, including for pre-drinks reception</li> <li>▪ Ordering and delivery of wine in advance, and cooling of wine at the reception</li> <li>▪ Securing volunteers for serving wine at the reception</li> </ul>

Name	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wine glasses hire, post-event washing up and return</li> <li>▪ Liaison with Wilson Vale staff</li> <li>▪ 'SCY 300' website creation and regular updates</li> <li>▪ Setting up and clearing away ringing room for SCY history talks</li> <li>▪ Michaelhouse reception room layout, setting up and clearing away</li> <li>▪ Dinner seating plan preparation and multiple re-working following last-minute cancellations</li> <li>▪ Seating cards preparation (name, year elected, profession, SCY peals tally)</li> <li>▪ Liaising with Trinity catering staff on the night over individuals' menu changes</li> <li>▪ Securing gifts for principal guests</li> </ul>
George Unsworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exhibition display boards setting up and church liaison</li> <li>▪ Exhibition display boards taking down and church liaison</li> <li>▪ Book launch coordination, including taking delivery of pre-ordered books from the RW and processing of books for signing and distribution at the book launch</li> <li>▪ Securing volunteers to assist with the book launch</li> <li>▪ Michaelhouse reception liaison on room layout, and helping to set up and clear away</li> <li>▪ Michaelhouse reception coordination of volunteers</li> <li>▪ Processing of video clips for use at the pre-dinner drinks reception</li> </ul>
Gareth Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exhibition boards content and working with the printing company to finalise designs and get them printed</li> <li>▪ Membership board and scroll content and working with the printing company to finalise design and get it printed</li> <li>▪ Book launch and signing, including short speech at the pre-dinner reception</li> <li>▪ Preparation for five separate tours across three different topics</li> </ul>
Dave Richards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help and support on behalf of the Officers</li> <li>▪ Splicing together of video clips used at the drinks' reception</li> <li>▪ Provision of 'SCY300' coasters for dinner guests as a memento</li> </ul>
Lesley Boyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Producing media materials</li> <li>▪ Chaperoning the professional photographer</li> </ul>
Catriona Agg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organising the weekend's pub venues</li> <li>▪ Helping with arrangements for setting up the exhibition</li> <li>▪ Helping with organising the dinner and pre-drinks venues</li> <li>▪ Coordinating meeting and greeting guests to the pre-dinner drinks reception</li> </ul>
Jadd Virji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Peals organising (5 successful of 5 attempts)</li> </ul>

### 5.3 Key roles

Our principal guests were GSM vicar and Society President, the Revd Canon Jutta Brueck, who said the Grace, and the well-known ringer and former President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, Simon Linford, who gave a toast to the Society.



Besides those involved over many months in the organising of the weekend's activities, across the weekend itself various past and present Society members and ringers at GSM performed a number of key roles. These individuals made an important and significant contribution towards this occasion running smoothly and being a great success. Those involved are listed in the table below.

In addition there were many volunteers throughout the weekend, too many to name, who willingly gave their time and helped to generate a positive outcome for the weekend.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>Across the weekend</b>	
Gareth Davies	Giver of three different walks and talks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lost towers and bells (2 off)</li> <li>▪ History of the SCY</li> <li>▪ Inns and Taverns (2 off)</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday evening reception</b>	
Dave Richards (Ringing Master)	Welcome to guests at Michaelhouse reception
Frank King (University Bellringer)	Introduction to Gareth Davies
Gareth Davies	Short speech as part of the book launch
<b>Saturday evening dinner</b>	
Cecilia Pipe	Trinity dinner Master of Ceremonies
Jennie Earis, John Hughes-D'Aeth, David Pipe (conductor), Henry Pipe, Jonathan Agg and Philip Earis	Handbell touch of spliced maximus
Dave Richards	Toast to the Church, Clergy and Guests
<b>Sunday morning service</b>	
Jadd Virji, Liz Orme, David Pipe (conductor), Henry Pipe, Jonathan Agg and Patrick Brooke	Handbell touches of Bristol Surprise Maximus and Stedman Cinques during the introit and the communion
Revd Max Drinkwater	Sermon
Dave Richards	Readings
Mark Chilcott	Prayers
<b>Sunday lunchtime</b>	
Richard Smith	Quiz setter

## 5.4 Links with GSM church

Throughout the many months of organising and on the dinner weekend itself, the ringers at GSM received a significant amount of support and goodwill from the church, its ministry team, operations team and staff, the PCC, and the congregation.

This support and goodwill is best illustrated with a few examples across the dinner weekend:

- We were allowed the use of Michaelhouse for our reception without any charge
- We were permitted to do a lot of ringing on GSM bells across the weekend
- Ringers were given preferential access to the tower for large swathes of time
- The vicar was instrumental in getting our dining hall fees waived
- We were invited to be intimately involved in a ringing themed Sunday service, contributing to the
  - choice of music
  - handbell ringing
  - sermon
  - readings
  - prayers
- The church facilitated putting the exhibition up in Michaelhouse
- A good number of PCC members joined us for the reception and dinner

This event has served to further strengthen the bonds that ringers have with GSM church.

## 5.5 Facts and figures

In all, we had around 170 ringers and friends joining in the weekend's celebrations. For the dinner we had 163 guests. This far surpasses any previous dinners where numbers are nearer 50 guests or fewer.

Across the dinner weekend we scored a total of five peals (Meldreth, Rampton, GSM, Bourn, and Fulbourn) and four quarter peals (Histon twice, St Bene't's and St Andrew the Great) plus a touch of 720 surprise minor at Chesterton. This is considerably more ringing performances than we usually attempt on a dinner weekend.

We received 25 separate written thank you messages from guests and probably that number again of verbal messages of thanks. Overwhelmingly, the responses of guests were to convey how much they had enjoyed themselves, how well organised everything was, and to acknowledge how much work must have gone into making the weekend so memorable.

### 5.5.1 Breakdown for reception and dinner

#### Reception

- 165 attendees
- 55 bottles of Sparkling Wine - Tasmanian
- 8 cartons Fruit Juice
- 3 garden buckets with 7 bags of ice cubes, ~250mg Salt and water to cool the drinks
- 180 hire glasses - 0 breakages

#### Dinner choices, running order and gifts

163 sat to a 4-course meal with wines (147 had wine, 16 non-wine, 14 vegetarians, 6 special diets).

The dinner running order is given in Appendix B.

All guests had a Commemorative Coaster made of birch wood c/o The Ringing Master

There were personalised place cards for all members, giving name, date and profession when elected, and number of SCY peals rung to date.

## Menu

- Pinney's of Orford Smoked Salmon with Horseradish (Twice Baked Warm Cashel Blue Souffle with Heritage Tomato and Watercress),
- Spiced Short Rib of Beef served with Buttered Pomme Mouseline and Cumin Roasted Cauliflower (Baked Tartlet of Wild Mushrooms, Poached Duck Egg, Seasonal Vegetables and Bearnaise Sauce)
- Glazed Lemon Tart, Cambridge Gin Ice Cream
- Selection of Hand-Picked British Cheeses, Water Biscuits, Celery and Grapes
- Rainforest Alliance Certified Filter Coffee

## Wines

- 37 bottle red wine -Chakana 'Attorante' Malbec Argentina
- 31 bottles white wine - Sileni Sauvignon Blanc, Malborough, NZ
- 19 bottles port - College Ruby
- 3 lg bottles Elderflower

## 6 Other events

Many more events besides the main ones mentioned above with a connection to the Society's tercentenary celebrations have been held or contributed to. These include:

- Mayoral election
- Photoshoot
- Church Times Festival of Preaching
- Photo exhibition in Michaelhouse
- Book launch
- Bells on Sunday
- Handbell ringing at the British Museum
- Additional walks and talks by Gareth Davies

### 6.1 Ringing for the election of the new Mayor

*Thursday, 23rd May 2024*

The Society has a long history of ringing at the mayor's election and for events that the mayor requested. For this year at least, the Society decided to recreate the tradition of special ringing for the election of the new Mayor which lapsed as an annual event in 1927.

Ringing took place from 10.30am to 11am on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, immediately prior to the City Council's AGM, which started at 11am.

### 6.2 Photoshoot

*Saturday, 20 July 2024*

As part of the SCY's 300th anniversary celebrations we arranged for Neil Thomas, a ringer from St Peter Mancroft who does a lot of photography and whose photos often make the front cover of the Ringing World, to come to GSM and take some photos of ringing on the bells.

We already have a large number of good photos of the new bells and their installation; however, we do not have many photos of us ringing GSM bells where we own the copyright. The aim of this photoshoot was to get good photos of typical ringing positions in the GSM ringing room setting, with a mixture of close ups, wide views, and action shots, plus shots of arriving at the ringing room door, sitting around the table while ringing is taking place, and checking Hawkear outputs. Alongside this we also wanted to produce high quality photos of the peal boards in the ringing room.

The photoshoot started early at 8am when around 14 volunteers gave up part of their morning to participate. We were finished by 10am and some lovely photos were taken, which can be viewed here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JPIrB21hS4GYAUBvsc-w4DmNMH420FXW?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JPIrB21hS4GYAUBvsc-w4DmNMH420FXW?usp=drive_link)

Recent and future uses to be made of these photos include:

- In the book 'Foolish Youths and Substantial Rewards; A Social History of Bellringing in Cambridge,' by Gareth Davies
- In the photo exhibition that took place in Michaelhouse across September and October
- As collateral for future ringing articles and media material
- A valuable historical record to be archived

### 6.3 Church Times Festival of Preaching

*15-17 September 2024*

For the first time GSM church hosted this event, which spans three days and boasts around 400 delegates attending a variety of seminars, lectures, and worship.

Knowing that the Society has its tercentenary year, we were asked by GSM church operations whether we would be able to contribute in some way to this event. We provided the following:

- Photo exhibition in Michaelhouse (see subsection 6.4 below) about the history of the Society, its ringers and ringing down the centuries
- Demonstration and talk by Gareth Davies in GSM ringing room on the history of change ringing and how the relationship between churches and their bells has changed over the centuries
- Sunday evensong ringing to mark the start of the formal programme with Evensong at 5pm

We have not received any formal feedback though informally we have received positive comments.

### 6.4 Photo exhibition in Michaelhouse

*14 September to end October 2024*

A photo exhibition covering the 300-year history of the Society was produced for the Society's 300th dinner weekend and also for the Church Times Festival of Preaching (see subsection 6.3 above.)

In all, four very large (A0) and nine large (A1) boards were hung on the walls of Michaelhouse. Each board had a theme linked to ringers and ringing in Cambridge across the centuries.

- Introductory board
- Cambridge bells (1724-2024)
- The development of change ringing
- Rules and regulations
- Ringing for profit
- Secular to sacred

- Early membership of the Society
- Steeple Keepers of GSM
- The last 100 years of the Society
- Bellringing competitions
- The 2009 bells
- GSM ringing room (2024)
- Ringing at St Clement's (2024)

For the pre-dinner drinks reception only, a freestanding board (half A0) listing all members of the Society, past and present, was on display.

## 6.5 Book launch

*Saturday, 21 September 2024*

The new book, *'Foolish Youths and Substantial Rewards; A Social History of Bellringing in Cambridge'* written by Gareth Davies, was launched at the pre-dinner drinks reception in Michaelhouse. The launch included a book signing session and Gareth also gave a short speech.

Further details about the book are not covered in this report. However, the intention is for three or four articles drawn from parts of the book to appear in the Ringing World over the coming months. At the time of writing this interim report the following RW articles had been published:

- "A Lottery is a Taxation, upon the Fools in Creation", Ed. 5922, 25 October 2024, pg. 993-994
- "A mathematician from the 1630s who showed how factorials applied to ringing", Ed. 5924, 8 November 2024, pg. 1042-1043
- "How bells were used in the years before and after the Reformation", Ed. 5926, 22 November 2024, pg. 1104-1105

## 6.6 Bells on Sunday

*Sunday, 22 September 2024*

On the Sunday of the dinner weekend, the BBC Radio 4 'Bells on Sunday' episode came from the church of St Mary the Great in Cambridge.

The write-up that went alongside this [recording of GSM bells](#) is below:

*Situated between the marketplace and the university there has been a church on the site since at least 1205 and bells since the late 15th century when much of the present building was constructed. For the last 300 years the bells are rung for services by the Society of Cambridge Youths, one of the oldest bell ringing societies, and who are this year celebrating the tri-centennial of their foundation in 1724. Today the tower holds a peal of twelve bells, cast by the Taylor Eayre and Smith foundry of Loughborough in 2009, with a twenty-four and a quarter hundredweight tenor in the note of D. We hear them ringing "Particles" Maximus.*

## 6.7 Handbell ringing at the British Museum

*Monday, 18 November 2024*

Following being contacted by the Events and Engagement team of the British Museum Friends, Phil Orme picked up the challenge of organising an SCY handbell ringing contribution to the recording of an annual festive film by the British Museum (BM) events team to be shared with their members,

supporters, and patrons in the lead up to Christmas. The BM's motivation was a celebration of the reopening to the public of the famous Reading Room, our motive was to take full advantage of an opportunity to showcase the art of bell ringing to a wide audience. Coincidentally, this also dovetailed nicely with the 300th anniversary celebrations.

The BM events team wanted to make recordings of both change ringing and tune ringing on handbells in the atmospheric setting of the BM Reading Room. A highly successful recording session that included a touch of plain-little-plain maximus and the ringing of three well known carols took place on the 18th of November. Prior to the recording session there was a trip to the BM to do sound checks and two separate practice sessions held in Cambridge. There was a lot of work behind the scenes driven forward by Phil Orme and Gareth Davies, there was plenty of coordinating with the BM events team, and there was a willingness of participants to free up diaries at short notice to make this happen.

A write-up of the occasion, from its initial inception to the day of the recording, is planned for the Christmas edition of the Ringing World and the contents of that article are not repeated here.

## **6.8 Additional walks and talks by Gareth Davies**

*Sunday, 17 November 2024 and Sunday, 15th December*

Following the popularity of Gareth's walks and talks during the dinner weekend, two additional sessions have been scheduled. This is to accommodate those local ringers who were unable to come along to them during the dinner weekend.

## Appendix A Associated ringing performances

### A.1 Tower bell peals

Thursday, 4 January 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal
Thursday, 22 February 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5760 Doubles (48m)
Saturday, 9 March 2024	Cambridge (University church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5056 Cambridge Surprise Major
Thursday, 14 March 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5141 Stedman Caters
Sunday, 24 March 2024	South Lopham (St Andrew), Norfolk	5760 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)
Monday, 1 April 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	10300 Stedman Cinques
Sunday, 28 April 2024	Cambridge (St Bene't), Cambridgeshire	5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor
Saturday, 15 June 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5056 Cambridge Surprise Major
Thursday, 4 July 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5024 London Surprise Major
Saturday, 13 July 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5016 Spliced Maximus (10m)
Sunday, 21 July 2024	Trumpington (St Mary and St Michael), Cambridgeshire	5040 Stedman Triples
Thursday, 25 July 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5042 Spliced Surprise Maximus (4m)
Thursday, 15 August 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5056 Cambridge Surprise Major
Saturday, 7 September 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5016 Spliced Maximus (7m)
Saturday, 14 September 2024	Bury St Edmunds (Cathedral Church of St James and St Edmund), Suffolk	5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus
Friday, 20 September 2024	Rampton (All Saints), Cambridgeshire	5040 Treble Dodging Minor (7m)
Friday, 20 September 2024	Meldreth (Holy Trinity), Cambridgeshire	5058 Yorkshire Surprise Major
Saturday, 21 September 2024	Fulbourn (St Vigor), Cambridgeshire	5120 Cambridge Surprise Major
Saturday, 21 September 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus
Saturday, 21 September 2024	Bourn (St Helena and St Mary), Cambridgeshire	5088 London Surprise Major
Saturday, 5 October 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5009 Stedman Cinques
Wednesday, 16 October 2024	Cambridge (St Clement), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)
Thursday, 17 October 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5042 Zanussi Surprise Maximus
Saturday, 19 October 2024	Bristol (St Mary the Virgin, Redcliffe), Bristol	5007 Stedman Cinques
Thursday, 14 November 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5036 Spliced Cinques and Maximus (2m/p)
Sunday, 17 November 2024	Sheffield (Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul), South Yorkshire	5040 Double Norwich Court Bob Caters
Sunday, 24 November 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	5016 Spliced Maximus (6m)

### A.2 Handbell peals

Sunday, 7 January 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5760 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (64m)
Monday, 8 January 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)
Wednesday, 10 January 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	29520 Surprise Minor (41m)
Tuesday, 30 January 2024	Cambridge (Gonville & Caius College, Harvey Court, Iain Macpherson building), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)
Sunday, 4 February 2024	Risby (Risby Manor South), Suffolk	5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (42m)
Tuesday, 13 February 2024	Cambridge (Gonville & Caius College, Harvey Court, Iain Macpherson building), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Fourths Place Delight Minor (35m)
Thursday, 29 February 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Treble Bob Minor (29m)
Tuesday, 5 March 2024	Cambridge (Gonville & Caius College, Harvey Court, Iain Macpherson building), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (76m)
Wednesday, 20 March 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5760 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)
Thursday, 28 March 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5040 Stedman Triples
Tuesday, 16 April 2024	Cambridge (Gonville & Caius College, Harvey Court, Iain Macpherson building), Cambridgeshire	5184 Spliced Surprise Major (7m)
Thursday, 18 April 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5069 Stedman Caters
Friday, 19 April 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5760 Spliced Thirds Place Delight Minor (42m)
Saturday, 20 April 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Treble Bob Minor (29m)
Saturday, 20 April 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Fourths Place Delight Minor (35m)
Saturday, 20 April 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5760 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)
Thursday, 6 June 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Treble Bob Minor (29m)
Sunday, 9 June 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	10080 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (84m)
Friday, 23 August 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Fourths Place Delight Minor (35m)
Saturday, 24 August 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5760 Spliced Thirds Place Delight Minor (42m)
Sunday, 1 September 2024	Cahermaculick (The Laurels), Republic of Ireland, County Mayo	5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)
Tuesday, 17 September 2024	Godmanchester (The Old Post Office), Huntingdonshire	13440 Bristol Surprise Major
Tuesday, 24 September 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5760 Treble Dodging Minor (147m)
Thursday, 3 October 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Royal (6m)
Sunday, 20 October 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5760 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (83m)
Monday, 4 November 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5760 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (83m)
Tuesday, 5 November 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (71m)

### A.3 Long length peals

Included in the abovementioned tower and handbell peal lists

Wednesday, 10 January 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	29520 Surprise Minor (41m)
Monday, 1 April 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	10300 Stedman Cinques
Sunday, 9 June 2024	Willingham (53 Covent Garden), Cambridgeshire	10080 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (84m)
Tuesday, 17 September 2024	Godmanchester (The Old Post Office), Huntingdonshire	13440 Bristol Surprise Major

## A.4 Quarter peals

Sunday, 7 January 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus
Sunday, 28 January 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1260 Plain Bob Triples
Sunday, 4 February 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1450 Spliced Cambridge Surprise Minor and Major
Sunday, 10 March 2024	Cambridge (University church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1311 Stedman Cinques
Saturday, 13 April 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus
Saturday, 27 April 2024	Hitchin (St Mary), Hertfordshire	1392 Cambridge Surprise Maximus
Sunday, 28 April 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus
Sunday, 5 May 2024	Histon (St Andrew), Cambridgeshire	1312 Cambridge North Surprise Major
Sunday, 2 June 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1259 Grandsire Caters
Thursday, 6 June 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1280 Bristol Surprise Major
Sunday, 16 June 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1344 Superlative Surprise Major
Wednesday, 19 June 2024	Cambridge (Wren Library, Trinity College), Cambridgeshire	1729 Cambridge Surprise Minor
Thursday, 20 June 2024	Cambridge (A7 Bishop's Hostel, Trinity College), Cambridgeshire	1272 Plain Bob Minimus
Sunday, 23 June 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1260 Stedman Triples
Sunday, 30 June 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1313 Stedman Cinques
Sunday, 7 July 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1280 Bristol Surprise Major
Sunday, 21 July 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1440 Cambridge Surprise Minor
Monday, 22 July 2024	Cambridge (St Clement), Cambridgeshire	1416 Ipswich Surprise Minor
Sunday, 28 July 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1260 Stedman Triples
Tuesday, 6 August 2024	Strathcarron (Glencarron Lodge), Ross-shire	1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal
Sunday, 8 September 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1344 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)
Sunday, 15 September 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1296 Spliced Surprise Maximus (2m)
Friday, 20 September 2024	Histon (St Andrew), Cambridgeshire	1280 Cambridge Surprise Major
Saturday, 21 September 2024	Histon (St Andrew), Cambridgeshire	1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major
Saturday, 21 September 2024	Cambridge (St Bene't), Cambridgeshire	1260 Plain Bob Minor
Saturday, 21 September 2024	Cambridge (St Andrew the Great), Cambridgeshire	1280 Superlative Surprise Major
Thursday, 26 September 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1259 Grandsire Caters
Sunday, 20 October 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus
Sunday, 10 November 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	1287 Stedman Caters

## A.5 Other ringing performances

Monday, 6 May 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	120 D-Day Doubles
Saturday, 11 May 2024	Stapleford (St Andrew), Cambridgeshire	120 Stedman Doubles
Sunday, 2 June 2024	Cambridge (University Church of St Mary the Great), Cambridgeshire	General Ringing For Service
Saturday, 21 September 2024	Chesterton (St Andrew), Cambridgeshire	720 Cambridge Surprise Minor



## Appendix B Dinner running order

### **Ringing Master**

Mr David Richards

### **Principal Guests**

Rev'd Canon Jutta Brueck  
*President of the Society and  
Vicar at Great St Mary's*

Mr Simon Linford

*former President of the  
Central Council of Church Bell Ringers*

### **Master of Ceremonies**

Mrs Cecilia Pipe

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### **The Grace**

Rev'd Canon Jutta Brueck

### **Dinner**

### **The Loyal Toast**

The Master

### **Comfort Break**

### **Handbell Touch of Spliced Maximus**

Conductor David Pipe

### **Toast to the Church, Clergy and Guests**

The Master

### **Toast to the Society**

Guest Speaker, Simon Linford

### **Toast to the memory of past members**

*(drunk in silence)*

The Master

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Postprandial drinks at The Maypole

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### **Sunday at GSM**

pre-service ringing: 9am to 10am  
Special service with ringing theme: 10am to 11am  
post-service ringing: 11am to 12pm