

MASTER'S REPORT
to the
Annual General Meeting of the Society
on
4th February 2019

Service ringing

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone for their continued support overall, and especially for Sunday service ringing. Average attendance is again up this year. We're fortunate to always have plenty of ringers, this makes my job significant easier.

Completely unscientifically, Sunday evensong has seemed better attended over the last year, and I remember plenty of occasions where we've rung on 10 and 12. It's good to make the most of all the opportunities for ringing we have here at GSM.

Practice night ringing

The teaching session before the practice has continued under the guidance of Jonathan, Oli and Megan, with good progress being made. The transition to the main practice still works well and we've been ringing call changes on 12 and Grandsire Caters at the start regularly, even though numbers in this first half of the practice have been lower recently.

Our method repertoire has been broadly unchanged over the past few years, just including a recent foray into Alderaan. I chose this well-structured method as one to attempt next for those who're ringing Stedman and Cambridge; in addition, it's useful for touches of spliced to have an a-group method available.

We can still do plenty more to help each other improve. One good example is by having experienced ringers standing behind those improving more often, this provides a friendly way of providing effective feedback.

I'd like to thank David for continuing to transcribe our touches using Hawkear and sending us the results. Please do make the most of this, there's plenty of very useful, applicable information available. The next year should be an exciting one for this area of technology - more portable, web-based analysis results are coming soon!

National 12-bell

The Society should be very proud of how the 12-bell final held here in June went, both from a ringing and also an organisational point of view. It took a lot of hard work over a number of years, but the day itself went effectively without a hitch, and the sunny weather made it a memorable occasion. I'd like to thank again everyone who helped with this, particularly Liz for coordinating it. While we were beaten on the day by a very good Birmingham band, the transformation in our ringing in the couple of months of practice building up to the competition was very pleasing, particularly how our best piece overall was probably the one we rang in the final.

Other Events

The funeral referred to at last year's AGM was indeed Stephen Hawking's, and a Society band rang a quarter for the high-profile service.

In December, three of us travelled to the lovely village of Shipbourne in Kent for a KCACR district carol service, where Peter Hayler, previously Associate Vicar here at GSM, is now vicar. We rang handbells during the service, both tune and change ringing, and then went for a curry with Peter in Tonbridge.

Chris Johnson sadly died in January, aged 87. Chris was a ringer here at Great St Mary's for over 60 years, and lots of us have fond memories of ringing and socialising with him, both with the Society and also with the University Guild, of which he was President for many years.

Peals and Quarters

We rang both in celebration of several church events including the inductions of Adrian and Andrew, and more sombrely for others: the funeral of Stephen Hawking, the centenary of the Armistice, and in memory of Chris Johnson.

I'd like to thank Dave for coordinating the attempts and also all those who've organised quarters, particularly Patrick. Like last year, there are plenty of encouraging footnotes here, and I hope we continue progressing and ringing new methods in the next year.

The Society rang 9 peals in the past year - 3 on the bells here at GSM, 1 at Trumpington and 4 handbell peals. There was 1 other tower bell peal here.

| Date | Location | Performance | Society/notable footnotes | T/H |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Friday, 13 April 2018 | Cambridge (3 Ditton Lane) | 5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (120 Methods) | Society | H |
| Wednesday, 2 May 2018 | GSM | 5152 Cambridge Surprise Major | Society | H |
| Saturday, 8 September 2018 | GSM | 5040 Cambridge Surprise Maximus | Society Rung to welcome the Revd Canon Adrian Daffern as Vicar of Great St Mary's. | T |
| Sunday, 11 November 2018 | GSM | 5100 Stedman Cinques | Society Rung half muffled on the centenary of the signing of the Armistice. | T |
| Sunday, 18 November 2018 | Trumpington | 5152 Spliced Surprise Major (23m) | Society 2nd ever performance of MBD's Mythical Beasts composition | T |
| Saturday, 5 January 2019 | Willingham (53 Covent Garden) | 5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major | Society First Pipe family peal of Surprise Major | H |

| Date | Location | Performance | Society/notable footnotes | T/H |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| Wednesday, 9 January 2019 | Willingham (53 Covent Garden) | 5088 Bristol Surprise Maximus | Society First Bristol Maximus in hand, AGWP. | H |
| Saturday, 12 January 2019 | GSM | 5148 Grandsire Cinques | EDA In memory of Dr Christopher M P Johnson First on 12: Nick Elks, Jimmy Yeoman. | T |
| Thursday, 31 January 2019 | GSM | 5040 Spliced Major (13m) | Society | T |

The following is a union of the quarter peals rung at GSM and those rung by the Society, which includes 19 tower bell quarters and 1 handbell quarter:

| Date | Location | Performance | Notable footnotes | T/H |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------|
| Saturday, 31 March 2018 | GSM | 1311 Stedman Cinques | Rung half muffled following the funeral service for Professor Stephen Hawking CH CBE FRS FRSA. | T |
| Sunday, 19 August 2018 | GSM | 1260 Minor (2m) | First towerbell quarter, Nathaniel Yealands-Flint. Rung in memory of Michael Orme | T |
| Sunday, 2 September 2018 | GSM | 1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus | To mark the Very Revd Peter Judd's final week as Priest-in- Charge, with our thanks for a year's service to Great Saint Mary's. | T |
| Wednesday, 5 September 2018 | GSM | 1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus | Rung before the service of the Institution, Induction and Installation of the Revd Canon Adrian Daffern as Vicar of Great St Mary's. | T |
| Sunday, 9 September 2018 | GSM | 1344 Plain Bob Major | | T |
| Sunday, 16 September 2018 | GSM | 1280 Superlative Surprise Major | | T |
| Saturday, 29 September 2018 | GSM | 1250 Cambridge Surprise Major | Rung for the Ordination to the Diaconate of Andrew Day by The Bishop of Ely at Great Saint Mary's | T |

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| Sunday, 30 September 2018 | GSM | 1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus | Rung to celebrate the Ordination to the Diaconate of Andrew Day by the Bishop of Ely yesterday at Great Saint Mary's. | T |
| Sunday, 7 October 2018 | GSM | 1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal | Rung following the Justice Service for the county of Cambridgeshire. | T |
| Sunday, 21 October 2018 | GSM | 1260 Plain Bob Major | | T |
| Sunday, 4 November 2018 | GSM | 1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus | First Quarter Peal of Bristol Maximus, Stephen Wood. Celebrating Frank's forty millionth minute. | T |
| Sunday, 18 November 2018 | GSM | 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor | Rung by the six most recent masters of the CUGCR. | T |
| Thursday, 22 November 2018 | GSM | 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor | First touch of Cambridge, AMSL. | T |
| Sunday, 25 November 2018 | GSM | 1320 Grandsire Cinques | First on 12, Francis Herne. | T |
| Sunday, 16 December 2018 | GSM | 1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus | First Quarter Peal of Bristol Maximus, MAB. | T |
| Sunday, 6 January 2019 | GSM | 1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus | Dedicated to the memory of Christopher M P Johnson, long time member of the Society and past president of the CUG. First Quarter Peal of Maximus as conductor, OPB. | T |
| Sunday, 13 January 2019 | GSM | 1287 Stedman Cinques | In affectionate memory of Chris Johnson, long time ringer at Great St Mary's, former president of the Cambridge University Guild and friend. | T |
| Sunday, 20 January 2019 | GSM | 1260 Grandsire Doubles | | T |
| Monday, 21 January 2019 | GSM | 1260 Plain Bob Doubles | | T |
| Thursday, 24 January 2019 | Willingham (53 Covent Garden) | 1280 Cooktown Orchid Delight Major | | H |

Closing Thoughts

At various points over the three years, I've both extremely enjoyed and extremely not enjoyed being Master of the Society. The aspect I've found most rewarding is seeing the great progress made by several of our members, particularly during the early practice.

In the runup to the 12-bell, it was great to be part of the band making great strides in getting to grips with these excellent but challenging bells. One disappointment overall was that we didn't ever really come close to these super competition pieces of ringing on a practice night or Sunday morning with a wider band.

While this report won't have an alternative ending like a previous master's did, I do ask that everyone tries their absolute best to always respect and help the officers. At various points during the year my mental health has suffered to the point where giving up seemed the only possible way to feel better, and I had a draft resignation email written on several occasions. We need to improve our communication as a society – if you have concerns or feel you don't know something important, discussing this in person is the appropriate way to rectify this.

Finally, I'd like to thank the other officers for all their help and hard work during the past year, all those who have run the ringing in my absence, and also to the members of the Society for their support.

Jonathan Agg

Master, Society of Cambridge Youths