

Scottish Association of Change Ringers

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Including Report of the

Scottish Association of Change Ringers Bell Restoration Fund

For the year ended 31st December 2025

Cover photograph: Ian Talboys

President's Message

Welcome to the SACR annual report for 2025. As usual, the report documents the regular Association matters such as finances, tower details, reports from officers, and ringing performances. But it goes much further than this. Through an eclectic mix of articles from several of our members, it illustrates the wide range of ringing activity and the large effort put in by our members, in keeping change-ringing thriving across Scotland both in towers and on handbells.

I am particularly struck by the huge challenges that have had to be overcome by the Dunkeld ringers even in getting access to the tower, let alone being able to ring the bells. The article by Elizabeth Wein gives a good sense of the difficulties they have faced, and the resilience they have shown in finding solutions. The article emphasizes the importance of keeping good relations with building owners, in this case Historic Environment Scotland, and the innovative approaches they have taken to make sure HES doesn't just take the easy route out and shut down ringing all together.

We are fortunate to have a large number of willing and skilled volunteers to encourage, train, and support our ringing. We must not take these volunteers for granted. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to our success and enjoyment in 2025. If you think you would like to help, in any way, don't wait to be asked, let someone know and we'd be delighted to have your assistance.

I want here to offer the immense thanks of the Association to Mike Clay for the extensive work he has put in for the benefit of towers and ringers across Scotland. Mike and Sandra have moved to England, and we will miss them greatly. My personal thanks to Mike for his guidance and support to me both as President and in developing my own ringing.

I am sure you will find this report an interesting read. Our thanks again to Simon Aves, for producing yet another exemplary report.

Colin North

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION 2025

President: Colin North
Email: president@sacr.org

Secretary: Susan Bryce
Email: secretary@sacr.org

Ringling Master: Ruth Marshall (to May 2025)
Zoe Bennett (from May 2025)
Email: master@sacr.org

Training Officer: Judith Frye
Email: training@sacr.org

Treasurer: Rachel Milner
Email: treasurer@sacr.org

Publicity Officer: Martin Mellor
Email: publicity@sacr.org

Report Editor: Simon Aves
Email: report@sacr.org

Bells and Towers Advisor: Jonathan Frye
Email: advisor@sacr.org

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Officer: Isabel Crane
Email: pvg@sacr.org

Central Council Representatives:
Zoe Bennett
Email: rep1@sacr.org
Tina Stoecklin
Email: ccrep@sacr.org

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Resident: £10.00. Non-resident Life: £10.00 or 3 annual subscriptions.
Associate & Junior member: £5.00

Peal Fee: £1.00 per rope (per ringer on handbells)

Please make cheques payable to 'The Scottish Association of Change Ringers'
or ask the treasurer for bank transfer details.

Scottish Association of Change Ringers Bell Restoration Fund

Charity registered in Scotland, number SC011080

Trustees of the charity are holders of specified offices of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers [SACR]: Colin North (President), Susan Bryce (Secretary), Rachel Milner (Treasurer), Zoe Bennett (Ringing Master) and Jonathan Frye (Bells and Towers Advisor).

Trustees Report

The Trustees met online on 22nd January 2025 and approved the accounts for the year to 31st December 2024. The status of ongoing grant applications and projects of the SACR that might in future be considered for grants were discussed.

A grant of up to £20,000 remains on offer to augment the current ring of 8 bells to 10 bells at St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee, and to address internal acoustics, replacement and raising the ceiling of the ringing chamber, and installation of replacement rope chutes.

The trustees met again to formally extend the grant offer for a further year to January 2027 since it was clear that the project is now nearing fruition, with work planned to commence in February 2026.

There were no other requests for help from the fund in 2025, although the Trustees are aware of the likely need for work on rebushing the clappers and replacing bearings at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.

Scottish Association of Change Ringers Bell Restoration Fund
Year ended 31 December 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>Income and Expenditure Account</u>		
Private Donations	594.00	805.00
Donations from SACR bookstall	583.88	
Tax Reclaims	247.77	273.13
Collected at meetings and other fundraising	318.00	400.00
50-50 Club	400.00	450.00
Interest	294.23	256.24
Total Income	<u>£ 2,437.88</u>	<u>£ 2,184.37</u>
Grants paid in Year	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ -</u>
Net Income/Deficit	<u>£ 2,437.88</u>	<u>£ 2,184.37</u>
<u>Balance Sheet at 31 December</u>		
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Cash/Debtor	£ -	£ -
Creditor	£ -	£ -
Santander Bank	<u>£ 30,694.43</u>	<u>£ 28,256.55</u>
	<u>£ 30,694.43</u>	<u>£ 28,256.55</u>
<u>Grants committed</u>		
Dundee St Pauls	Min £ 10,000.00	£ 10,000.00
	Max £ 20,000.00	£ 20,000.00
Available for other grants	£ 10,694.43	£ 8,256.55

Scottish Association of Change Ringers

Year ended 31 December 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Membership Subscriptions	2080.00	2015.00
Peal fees	197.00	329.00
Donations	112.50	40.00
Sales of Polo shirts / fleeces	48.95	
	<u>£ 2,438.45</u>	<u>£ 2,384.00</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Central Council subscription	91.60	46.20
Central Council travel expenses	63.20	98.15
Audit		
Association of Ringing Teachers		300.00
Admin & travel (inc. Lottery licence)	20.00	20.00
Annual Report printing/ postage	196.41	157.72
Web Hosting	85.00	170.00
GoTo Tech	48.96	48.96
Insurance	195.02	195.02
Microsoft 365	33.12	96.48
Domain names	38.38	20.39
Grants paid in year	50.00	
Tower donations	115.00	250.00
Bank service charges	44.75	
	<u>981.44</u>	<u>1402.92</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	<u>£ 1,457.01</u>	<u>£ 981.08</u>
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Retained Surplus at 31 December	<u>£11,483.14</u>	<u>£ 10,026.13</u>
Represented by:		
Bank of Scotland	11,483.14	10,018.13
Cash in Hand/Debtors		8.00
Creditors		
	<u>£11,483.14</u>	<u>£ 10,026.13</u>

Ringling Master's Report

Zoe Bennett

The year started off strongly with a full day of ringing in Aberdeen for our Winter Meeting. The tower was very full for both the advanced practice and for general ringing. Good attempts were made to ring London which were followed up at our advanced eight-bell practice at St Paul's, Dundee, in June. Both practices also involved some spliced Surprise Major ringing.

Over the course of the year there were eight advanced practices. There has been a focus towards encouraging more people to ring Surprise Royal, which has meant that we have rung a lot of Yorkshire and Bristol to varying degrees of success.

The SACR AGM and six bell striking competition were held in Glasgow on a very unseasonably hot Saturday in May. In the morning there was a ten-bell advanced practice followed by lunch outside in the sun. Nine teams took part in the Striking Competition. Glasgow Cathedral were the overall winners taking home the Inveraray Trophy while St Mary's Edinburgh took home the St Andrew's Shield for call changes. A big thanks to our judges for persevering with the sound control of the bells.

The 51st Inveraray Ringing Festival was a success, broken stay notwithstanding, with ringing ranging from first rounds on the bells to Bristol and Sgùrr a Chaorachain Surprise Royal. We had over fifty ringers over the course of the weekend from both Scotland and much further afield.

In October, Inverness hosted our Autumn Meeting. We also had the opportunity to ring at Balnaferry Campanile where a number of people rang their first blows on a mini-ring. There were a couple of firsts at this meeting, including some first goes at bell handling for two young lads at Balnaferry. Personally, I enjoyed seeing the new peal board in Inverness, which had been erected for the 150th anniversary peal the

year before. This year we also managed to achieve the first SACR peal on the Balnaferry bells, after a few years of organisation.

In November, there was a broader ten-bell practice held in Glasgow which I encouraged anyone wanting to improve their ten-bell ringing to come to. This resulted in a number of achievements including two fantastic first-time efforts turning the 32 cwt tenor in to Treble Bob and Yorkshire Royal for Talon and Alison.

This year there have been several 'firsts' and achievements in terms of peals and quarter peals - congratulations to Weihe Yang, Gerda Grase, Andrew Cumming, Olivia Clark, Catriona James, and Max Coady for their first quarters, and to Gerda, Catriona, David Groves, and Lyra Burgess for their first quarters away from the tenor. Also, to Geoffrey Farquharson for his first inside on eight and Zoé Martin and Sam Cole for their firsts inside on ten. Well done to Talon Ashryver on their first quarters on eight and ten as well as their first half peal of Surprise inside, and to Rachel Milner for her first quarter of Surprise inside.

A big thanks to everyone who's helped me out this year in my tentative takeover of Ringing Master, especially to Ruth Marshall for her advice. Here's hoping for more achievements and more great ringing over the course of the next year.

Training Officer Report

Judith Frye

A Foundation Skills day was held in Dunblane in February for six new ringers from Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dunblane to help develop their bell control. Their teachers attended with them, and it was a very productive day that improved their confidence. This could be repeated for other towers, if there is a demand.

Three teachers from St Marys, Edinburgh passed their ART accreditation for Teaching Bell Handling in March: Alison Stevens, Susannah Ewens, Eli Farquharson. Well done to them all.

Later that month, the annual Training Weekend was held in Tulloch. Saturday saw thirty members, half students, half helpers, ringing in three groups: Aspiring Change Ringer, Beyond Bob Minor and Surprise Major.

A few ringers developed bell control and plain hunt, and others progressed to early methods while some tackled Yorkshire and Cornwall Surprise Major. Seventeen people stayed until Sunday to improve their twelve-bell ringing up to Yorkshire Maximus. The success of this weekend is very dependent on the support of more able ringers to teach and support others to progress, and I am grateful for everyone's help.

An interested member of the congregation in Inveraray spent an afternoon in Dunblane learning to ring the Ellacombe there. During the Inveraray Festival, we met up again to clean the Inveraray Ellacombe and do some chiming. This was an unexpected training request, but it is good to maintain Ellacombe ringing where the apparatus is installed.

Any requests or suggestions for future training should be directed to the Training Officer. New ideas are always welcome.

Bells & Towers Advisor Report

Jonathan Frye

It has been a quiet year for external enquiries with very few requests from outside of SACR. Most of my work this year has been in connection with the St Paul's, Dundee augmentation project. I'm very pleased that they were able to place an order with the bell hanger and other contractors towards the end of the year to undertake the work in early 2026.

Getting to this point has been an enormous amount of work for the Dundee band with fundraising, gaining support from the Church and Diocese, getting the necessary approvals, questions over insurance, structural surveys, quotes and decisions over which bid to select. My

role has been to offer advice where I can and discuss the various options with the Dundee ringers to support them in the decision-making process.

The project aims not just to augment the ring to ten but also to improve the existing eight as well. There will be work on the internal acoustics along with the “go” and the handling of the existing bells. I’m confident that this will deliver a first-rate ring of ten for the city.

In 2024 the St Cuthbert’s band engaged Matthew Higby to improve the ringing circle and internal acoustics, rerouting the treble and 3rd ropes to improve the rope circle, and adding sound chutes to increase the volume and clarity of the two bells on the second level above the other bells. These improvements have undoubtedly made the bells easier to strike, improved the rope-sight and made the bells more enjoyable to ring.

Publicity Officer Report

Martin Mellor

Articles, links, photos and social media posts are collated regularly for a newsletter that’s emailed to all members who are signed up. If you don’t receive these, please email webmaster@sacr.org to subscribe.

Previous newsletters are posted at:

<https://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/newsletters-reports>.

SACR has accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (X) via these links:

<https://www.facebook.com/scottishbellringing>

<https://www.instagram.com/scottishbellringing>

<https://twitter.com/SBellringing>

Media coverage: <https://www.sacr.org/index.php/resources/media>

As always, articles, photos or comments are welcome, and these can be sent to publicity@sacr.org

50-50 Club Report

Ruth Ogilvie

The 50-50 Club exists to raise funds for the Bell Restoration Fund but at the same time gives you the opportunity to win cash as well. If you would like to support this worthy cause you can purchase numbers as described above. Each month we draw a number from 1 to 75, and the winner receives half of the takings for that month, the other half going to the BRF. You can buy the same number(s) for a year at £12 each, or you can purchase one number one month at a time for £1 per month

2025 has been an excellent year for the 50-50 club, quite a record year for income and winnings! Thank you to our regular and spontaneous supporters who have managed to keep the monthly winnings at over £34 every month, with some being the full allocation of £40! We have paid £400 into the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF) this year!

The results of the draws for the 50-50 CLUB in 2025 were as follows:

Draw Month	Draw Date	Location	Amount won	Winner
Jan	01/02/2025	Jan meeting, Aberdeen	£37.50	Stephen Elwell-Sutton
Feb	08/03/2025	March meeting, Tulloch	£40.00	Nick Jones
Mar	08/03/2025	March meeting, Tulloch	£40.00	Carly Cooper
Apr	26/05/2025	May meeting, Glasgow	£36.50	Ian Talboys
May	26/05/2025	May meeting, Glasgow	£36.50	Ian Talboys
Jun	25/10/2025	Oct Meeting, Inverness	£36.50	Isabel Crane
Jul	25/10/2025	Oct Meeting, Inverness	£35.50	Sarah Hyatt
Aug	25/10/2025	Oct Meeting, Inverness	£35.50	Alison Fyfe
Sep	25/10/2025	Oct Meeting, Inverness	£34.50	Jennie Dearie
Oct	25/10/2025	Oct Meeting, Inverness	£34.50	Dawn McAleer
Nov	15/12/2025	Aberdeen Practice	£34.00	Barbara Bell
Dec	15/12/2025	Aberdeen Practice	£33.50	Dawn McAleer

Total raised by 50-50 club in 2025: £855.00 (£434.50 paid out in prizes).

Please continue supporting the 50-50 Club in 2026 so we can continue our support of the BRF - whilst adding a little excitement each month.

You can buy tickets at any time of year for as many months as you want when you see me at meetings, or email me for an entry forms and payment options (cheque, online transfer) at 50-50club@sacr.org

Thank you once again for your support and looking forward to 2026 draws.

The Towers & Members

Notes: Associate members are identified in *italics*.
'W3W' indicates location on What Three Words app.

ABERDEEN Cathedral Church of St Machar, The Chanonry, Old Aberdeen

Grid Ref: NJ 939 088 W3W: lights.reach.mole
8 Bells, Tenor 14-0-6 in F#

Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 10.15 - 11.00 Practice: Monday 19.30 - 21.00

Correspondent Ruth Ogilvie Email: stmachar@sacr.org

Members: John Thorogood (1979), Isabel Crane (1990), Colin North (1990), Simon Lucas (1999), Ian Talboys (2000), Fiona North (2004), Freddie Cumming (2004), Susan Talboys (2004), Ruth Ogilvie (2005), Shona Buxton (2006), Torquil Buxton (2006), Andrew Mumford (2009), Jenny Holden (2012), Margaret Gamble (2015), Ross Grieg (2017), Sarah Hyatt (2020), Matthew Machin-Autenreith (2022), Irwin Czachorowski (2023), Angela Waldoock (2023), Simon Bains (2024), Helen Aries (2025), Marion Ford (2025).

ABERDEEN Cathedral Church of St Mary of The Assumption Huntly Street

Grid Ref: NJ 936 061 W3W: hours.pounds.snaps

8 Bells, Tenor 12-0-6 in A

Roman Catholic

No regular ringing

Contact Cathedral direct Tel: 01224 640160

Email: manager@cathedral-abdn.org

ALLOA St John the Evangelist,

Broad Street

Grid Ref: NS 886 926 W3W: muddy.spider.congratulations

8 Bells, Tenor 13-0-20 in F#

Episcopalian

Practice: Last Saturday of each month 15.00 - 17.00

Correspondent: Church Office Tel : 01259 724550

DUMFRIES St John the Evangelist

Newall Terrace

Grid Ref: NX 974 764 W3W: wizard.moods.confusion

8 Bells, Tenor 10-3-18 in A Flat

Episcopalian/Methodist

Sunday Ringing: 10.15 - 10.50 Practice: Thurs 19.30 - 21.00

Correspondent: Heather Barrington: Email: Dumfries@ sacr.org

Members: Heather Barrington (2015), Guy Beaumont (2015), John Higgon (2015), Debbie Johnson (2015), *Andrew Mackenzie* (2015), Tony McIlrick (2015), Linda Scott (2015), Douglas Solley (2015), Emma Westmancott (2015), *Ann Roberts* (2016), Ian Cooper (2016), *Raymond Budd* (2016), Julie Black (2020), Jane Martin (2020), Scott Cooper (2022), Nick Bircher (2023), Kerry Graham (2023), Nuala Nevill (2024).

DUNBLANE Cathedral Church of St Blane and St Laurence

The Cross

Grid Ref: NN 781 014 W3W: sounding.vegetable.shuffles

8 +1 Bells, Tenor 24-2-24 in E b

Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 9.30 - 10.30

Practice: Weds 19.30 - 21.00 (Doors closed promptly)

Correspondent: Niki Wildman Email: dunblane@sacr.org

www.dunblaneringers.org.uk

Members: Magnus Peterson (1962 life), June Peterson (1966 life), Christopher Frye (1985), Judith Frye (1985), Stuart Bamforth (1989), Rob McGowan (1989) John Grainger (1992), Kath Grainger (1998), Fiona Wheeler (2002), James Fraser (2011), Molly Holmes (2019), Miranda Jones (2019), Nikki Wildman (2019), Siobhan Kewley (2022), Jenny Dearie (2024).

DUNDEE Cathedral Church of St Paul

High Street

Grid Ref: NO 404 303 W3W: drew.faces.bill

8 Bells Tenor 21-0-0 in Eb

Episcopalian

Sunday Ringing: 9.45 - 10.30 (consult www.dundee.sacr.org for which Dundee tower)

Practice: Monday 19.00 - 20.30 (consult www.dundee.sacr.org for which Dundee tower)

Correspondent: Stephen Elwell-Sutton Email: dundee@sacr.org

DUNDEE Old Steeple

Nethergate

Grid Ref: NO 401 301 W3W: chip.spray.policy

8 Bells Tenor 19-2-10 in E

Church of Scotland

Ringling restrictions apply.

Sunday Ringing: 9.45 - 10.30 (consult www.dundee.sacr.org for which Dundee tower)

Practice: Monday 19.00 - 20.30 (consult www.dundee.sacr.org for which Dundee tower)

Correspondent: Stephen Elwell-Sutton Email: dundee@sacr.org

Members: Christina Howie (1989), Stephen Elwell-Sutton (1993), Ron Oliver (1993), Barbara Barnard (2005), Peter Valuks (2008), Mark Lloyd (2014), Carly Cooper (2017), Gillian Ferguson (2017), Lucy Smith (2017), Sean Smith (2017), Brenda Elwell-Sutton (2019), Matthew Bellhouse-Moran (2022), Tania Sokolova (2022), Andy Mackenzie (2023).

**DUNKELD Ruined Cathedral Church of St Columba
Cathedral Street**

Grid Ref: NO 024 426 W3W: meal.describes.recitals

6 Bells Tenor 6-3-2 in B

Church of Scotland

No ringing at present.

Correspondent: Anne Graham Email: dunkeld@sacr.org

Members: Iona O'Connor (1989), Elizabeth Gatland (2002), Tim Gatland (2002), Margaret Churchill (2007), Robin Churchill (2007), Mara Maggio (2010), Anne Graham (2014), David Roemmele (2015), Godfrey Hall (2017), Lesley Hall (2017).

**EDINBURGH Fettes College Chapel,
East Fettes Avenue**

Grid Ref: NT 236 752 W3W: stays.tree.single

6 Bells Tenor 2-1-13 in G

College Chapel

Ringing: By arrangement only, not during term time (except pupils)

Correspondent: Fettes College, 24 Carrington Road ,
Edinburgh, EH4 1QX Tel: 0131 311 6724

**EDINBURGH St Cuthbert,
5 Lothian Road**

Grid Ref: NT 248 736 W3W: burst.congratulations.bike

10 Bells, Tenor 21-0-0 in Eb

Church of Scotland

Sunday Ringing: 10.00 - 10.30 Practice: Tuesday 19.30 - 21.00

(no practice August)

Correspondent: Judith Stark Email: stcuthbert@sacr.org

Members: Susan Bryce (1980), Judy Barker (1989) James Bryce (1998), Alex Hunsley (2010), Edmund Smith (2011), Matthew Gretton (2013), Ruth Giblin (2014), Judith Stark (2017), Annie Brechin (2018), Talon Ashryver (2023), Lyra Burgess (2024), Abbie Englund (2024), Gerda Grase (2025), Eve Harknett (2025).

**EDINBURGH Cathedral Church of St Mary,
Palmerston Place**

Grid Ref: NT 242 735 W3W: lively.traded.spots

12 Bells, Tenor 41-1-15 in B

Episcopalian

Sunday Ringing: 9.45 - 10.30 Practice: Thursday 19.00 - 21.00

Correspondent: Elinor Farquharson Email: stmaryedin@sacr.org

Members: Mark Hutcheson (1975), Neil Ballard (1992), Jonathan Aves (2009), Barbara Bell (2013), Ian Bell (2013), Susannah Ewens (2016), Wilma Tomie (2016), Elinor Farquharson (2020), Geoffrey Farquharson (2020), Christopher de Burgh (2022), Karin Farnworth (2022)(decd), Alison Stevens (2022), Fiona Bridge (2023), Ian Brown (2023), Annabel Bruce (2023), Louise Stanford (2023), Kenton Wilson 2023, Jeanny Bassett (2025), Felix Charlton (2025), Andrew Cumming (2025), Jane Rutherford (2025), Hilary Smith (2025).

**EDINBURGH New Town Church (formerly St Andrew and St George West)
13 George Street**

Grid Ref: NT 254 741 W3W: park.chains.farmer
8 Bells, Tenor 14-2-23 in E Church of Scotland
Sunday Ringing: 11.20 - 12.00 Practice: Monday 19.30 - 21.00
(no practice August)
Correspondent: Annie Brechin Email: newtown@sacr.org

Members: Mike Clay (1997), Simon Aves (2007), *Alison Campbell* (2007), Morven Cross (2007), *Jocelyn Cumliffe* (2007), *Sally Evans* (2007), *Barbara Ross* (2007), Mary Clark-Maxwell (2008), Sandra Clay (2008), Anne Leigh-Brown (2009), Christopher Hunt (2015), Ian Stark (2017), Alex Linton (2021), Estella Haynes (2022), Irina Dudina (2023), Evelyn Atter (2025), Chloe Haynes (2025), William Stafford (2025).

**FORRES Balnaferry Campanile
Balnaferry House, Forres, Moray**

Grid Ref: NJ 030 574 W3W: supposed.milder.oxidation
8 Bells Tenor 15 lbs
Private Ring
Ringing by Arrangement
Correspondent: Anthony Cole Email: forres@sacr.org
FB: BalnaferryCampanile

**GLASGOW Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin,
Great Western Road**

Grid Ref: NS 577 668 W3W: soon.funny.views
10 Bells Tenor 32-1-6 in C#
Episcopalian
Sundays: 10.30 - 11.00 and 17.40 - 18.30
Practice: Tuesday 19.30 - 21.15
Correspondent: Zoe Martin Email: glasgow@sacr.org
FB: GlasgowBellringers

Members: Michael Pink (1962 life), Margaret Williams (1973 life), Terry Williams (1973 life), Robert Ley (1982 life), Jennifer Tomkinson (1985), Ruth Marshall (1993), Karen Ewing (1996), Frank Ewing (2000), Jonathan Frye (2000), Tina Stoecklin (2000), Clyde Wallbanks (2001), Angela Deakin (2002), Peter Whyatt (2002), Simon Gay (2007), Peter Kirton (2012), Iain Milne (2013), Colin Crawford (2016), Zoe Bennett (2019), Zoe Martin (2019), Don Spaeth (2020), Catriona James (2021), Irene Drummond (2022).

**HADDINGTON St Mary,
Sidagate**

Grid Ref: NT 518 736 W3W: achieving.habit.pigs
8 Bells, Tenor 11-1-20 in F#
Church of Scotland
Sunday Ringing: 9.00 - 09.30 Practice: Friday 19.30 - 21.30
(Door closes 19.30, reopens briefly at 20.30)
Correspondent: Rose Pipes Email: haddington@sacr.org

Members: Nigel Booth (1977 life), Sally Thomas (1980), Chris Thomas (1982), John Elcock (1988), Valerie Elcock (1988), Liz Barr (1992), Hugh Pumphrey (1993), Jenny Mackie (2000), Rachel McNally (2000), *George Playfair* (2000), Rose Pipes (2003), Jill Whyte (2007), *Nicola Eliot* (2015), Julia Slocombe (2016), *Pauline McLean* (2019), Alastair George (2022), Rebecca Christine (2023), Ed Dee (2023), Paul Doyle (2023), Ruth Ellis (2023), Margaret Evans (2023), Anne Guthrie (2023), Eleanor Hayman (2023), Andrew Jones (2023), Arthur Kidner (2023), John Lawrence (2023), Emily Walker (2025).

INVERARAY All Saints,

The Avenue

Grid Ref: NN 095 085 W3W: astounded.motorist.fresh

10 Bells, Tenor 41-2-8 in C

Episcopalians

Correspondent: Angela Deakin Email: inveraray@sacr.org

Member: Martin Mellor (2018).

INVERNESS Cathedral Church of St Andrew,

Ardross Street

Grid Ref: NH 664 449 W3W: memory.dips.enjoy

10 Bells, Tenor 16-3-12 in Eb

Episcopalians

Sunday Ringing: 10.20 - 10.55 (meet at left hand entrance steps at 10.20)

Practice: Thursday 19.30 - 21.00

Correspondent: Sue Turner Email: inverness@sacr.org

Members: Cynthia Preece (1970 life), *Linda Drake-Brockman* (1984), Heather Preece (1988), Nicholas Sturgess (1988), Hugh Collins (2004), Michelle Wiseman (2007), Nicola Hughes (2011), Catherine Pelleymounter (2014), Alex Mackensie (2016), Dawn McAleer (2017), Ian Turner (2017), Sue Turner (2017), Anthony Cole (2018), Samuel Cole (2018), Sarah Cole (2018), Rachel Milner (2018), Barbara Hummel (2019), Kathryn Darley (2022), Lowenna Darley (2023), Catherine McLaren (2023), Michael Pearce (2023), Brian Heys (2024), Matthew Hubbard (2024), Derry Kelleher (2024), Richard Pratt (2024).

ST ANDREWS College Chapel of St Salvator

North Street

Grid Ref: NO 510 168 W3W: caramel.print.agreement

6 Bells, Tenor 7-3-20 in A

University Chapel

Sunday Ringing: 10.15 - 11.00

Practice: Tuesday 19.30 - 21.00 (University term only)

Call 01334 462222 ext 14133 if locked out.

Correspondent: Rachel Williamson Email: st-andrews@sacr.org

Members: Peter Williamson (2009), Rachel Williamson (2010), Peter Jupp (2017), Briony Harding (2019), Matthew Andrews (2023), Quentin Hurst (2023), George Stevens (2023).

STIRLING Church of the Holy Rude,

St John Street

Grid Ref: NS 791 938 W3W: detail.shots.wants

6 Bells, Tenor 6-3-25 in Bb

Church of Scotland

Sunday: 10.00 - 11.00 (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays)

Practice Friday 19.00 - 20.30

Correspondent: Rob Ferguson Email: stirling@sacr.org

Members: Susan McGowan (1991), Eric McNally (1992), Robert Ferguson (2003), Peter Nicholas (2016), Karen Slater (2021), Brian Lockett (2024).

TULLOCH Tulloch Ringing Centre, and Last Tower

Tulloch Farm, Roybridge

Grid Ref: NN 329 806 W3W: secretly.renovated.sleepers

Ringing Centre: 12 Bells, Tenor 7-2-4 in Bb

Private Ring

Last Tower: 8 Bells Tenor 3-0-28 in D

Private Ring

Ringing by Arrangement

Email: tulloch@sacr.org

www.tullochbells.com/FB: TullochBells

Members: Peter Bevis (2002), Helen McGregor (2002), Nick Jones (2013)

Members not affiliated to any specific tower: Clare Caley (1984), George Cringles (1988), Graeme Booth (1993), Jason Hargreaves (1994), Matt Edwards (1999), Richard Tibbetts (2011), James Holdsworth (2019), Tim Billings (2021).

Non-resident Life Members: Frances Mulvey (1971), Bob Hancock (1987), Michael Neale (2002).

The Scottish Association of Change Ringers holds some personal information about its members including names and in some cases contact details.

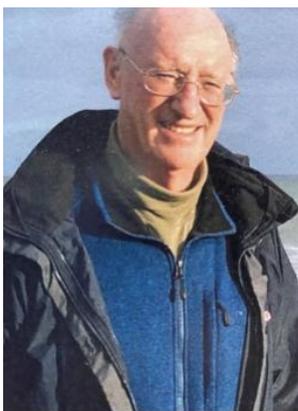
Details published in our annual report and on our website include the names of members and of people who have rung a quarter peal or peal for the association or in Scotland. This information is processed on the basis that it is in the legitimate interests of both the Association and its members. Peal and quarter peal information will normally have been obtained from existing published information.

As a non-profit making organisation the Association is not required to register with the Information Commissioner's Office; however, under the General Data Protection Regulation/1Data Protection Act 2018, individuals still have the right to request copies of information held that relates to them and to correct any errors that exist in that information.

If you would like a copy of your personal information held by the Association or do not wish to have your personal details published in the annual report or on our website please contact the Association Secretary.

Obituaries

Bill Cussons 12 Nov 1942 - 21 Apr 2025



Bill Cussons died on Easter Monday 2025. He was greatly involved with the installation of the bells at St John's, Dumfries.

Bill learned to ring with the others in 2013 and rang for two or three years before deciding that he had probably progressed as far as he was going to and withdrew from being an active ringer. Despite this he was still very interested in the bells. Bill developed dementia a few years later and spent the last two or three years in a care home, where he stayed up until the end. Many remember his involvement with the bell project. He was always professional and very enthusiastic and brought his considerable experience to bear on this new area. A quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles was rung in Bill's memory at St John's, Dumfries on 25 May.

Karin Farnworth: 1954 - 2025

Karin took up bell ringing on the Isles of Scilly in 2010 and later rang at St Martin's Church in Ruislip. After moving back to Edinburgh, her university city, she joined the band at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in 2021. Karin was elected a SACR member in 2022. Sadly, her health later declined, and she passed away in June 2025 after a long illness. In her memory, members of our Society rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples, and a group of us rang handbells at her memorial service.



Karin greatly enjoyed ringing at St Mary's, valuing both the opportunity to learn and progress and the camaraderie of the band. She was an active tower committee member, leading the update of our website and helping to organise ringers' teas during SACR days in Edinburgh, as well as contributing in many other ways. She played a key role in our 2022 Striking Competition band, when we won the St Andrew's Shield.

Karin's enthusiasm, friendship, and generous nature made her a much-valued member of the tower. She will be especially remembered for her optimistic spirit and positive outlook.

Susannah Ewens

Sylvia Greig (died 14 January 2025)

Sylvia Greig first came to St Machar's Aberdeen bell tower in 2016. She came along not to learn to ring, but to bring her son Ross along to learn to ring as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award, through his school.

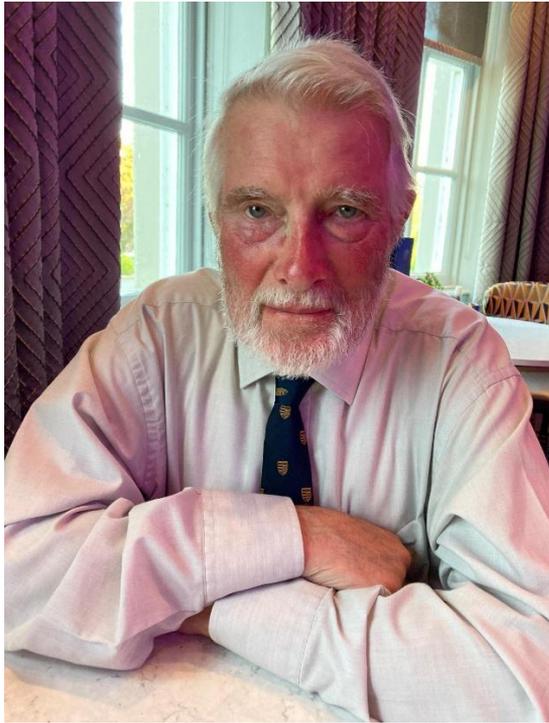
Whilst watching with interest as Ross started to learn to handle a bell, the other ringers at St Machar's encouraged Sylvia to have a go herself, which she did. Over the following months she succeeded in learning to handle a bell, soon moving on to rounds and call changes and plain hunt. As time went on pressures of work meant that Sylvia was not always able to make practices, but she was still a stalwart of the tower helping out with special occasions and catering for SACR meetings in Aberdeen.

Ross moved away to University at St Andrews where he continued to ring, but sadly Sylvia developed some health issues which meant she was not able to continue ringing. She did come up the tower periodically to see the ringers when Ross was home and ringing with us. Sylvia would often get in touch with the ringers when Ross was going to be home and there was a wedding or some other special occasion to ring for to offer his services.

Sadly, Sylvia passed away at Aberdeen Royal, after a brave and determined battle with cancer.

Ian Talboys

Peter Shipton 8/9/1938 – 18/12/2025



Peter Shipton was one of the most significant figures in Scottish ringing over several decades. There have only ever been twenty-six rings of bells in Scotland and Peter played a part in bringing four of those into existence – one in two different locations. A member of the Association from 1979 until his death last December, he served as Ringing Master from 1990 to 1993 and as President from 1996 to 2000. He also had two spells as the Association’s representative on the Central Council, the first between being Master and President, the second immediately after relinquishing that role. He put a lot of effort and commitment into keeping interest in the SACR going and helping others to develop their ringing, and during the period there was a significant increase in membership.

Peter learnt to ring as a teenager in Bedford and rang his first peal in 1954. The band consisted entirely of boys from Bedford Modern & Bedford Schools with an average age of just over seventeen. Forty years later, with one exception, the boys met to ring the peal again at the same tower. The experience must have been enjoyable because prior to going up to Cambridge University in 1958 he rang a further 25 peals. He rang a total of six peals for the Cambridge University Guild, including one at Dunkeld in 1996, it being the first in Scotland by the Guild, all by members resident in Scotland. In the 1960's he moved to the South Wales area where he was very active in the ringing scene locally and he rang numerous peals throughout the area. After moving to Scotland, despite living in the remoter parts of Grampian and the Highlands, with their relative lack of local towers and ringers, he steadfastly supported the Scottish Association and rang more than 100 peals for SACR over the next thirty years, forty-seven of them at St Machar, Aberdeen.

In 1984, when Martin and Maggie Whiteley moved to Aberdeen, they discovered that although there was no tower in the area, there were a few ringers, Peter amongst them. A handbell band was established, also including John Thorogood, meeting regularly in the Permanent Way Maintenance Engineers Office, a building in Aberdeen railway station's shunting yards, now the Union Square shopping centre, in which Steven Munday was working. Martin and Steve proposed Peter for membership of the College Youths in 1985.

Discussion in the group turned to the idea of installing a ring of bells in St Machar's Cathedral. This ambition came to fruition in 1987 when the redundant bells from West Ealing were acquired, restored and hung (with some difficulty) in the south tower. There was no obvious way to get the bells into the tower. The ground floor vestry at the base of the tower had a barrel-vaulted ceiling, so hoisting them straight up from there was impossible. There was no feasible access route through the church yard for a crane and there seemed no way of getting the bells through the louvres. Eventually Church of Scotland gave permission for a blocked-up window in the west wall to be opened, and through a sequence of complex manoeuvres, hoist each bell through the gap and up into the tower. Rumour had it that the last time the

aperture had been opened was when a corpulent minister resident in that room had died and it was the only way to remove the corpse from the tower. Peter was a key player in helping to raise awareness and funds for the project, quite apart from his tireless efforts in helping to build the frame and create a new ringing room. Peter then took the lead in establishing a band at St Machar's.

Soon after Peter acquired a set of Eijsbouts bells that had lain unused for decades and hung them in part of the Butterywell Farm buildings at Potterton, near Aberdeen. Such 'mini-rings' were very much in their infancy at the time, and hanging such light bells presented many new challenges of miniturisation, most of which had to be solved for the first time. The bells were soon augmented by two new trebles, also cast by Eijsbouts. Before these arrived, Potterton was the second lightest 'conventional' ring of six in the world: after, it became the lightest ring of eight. Nick Sturgess recalls his first visit to the bells: 'The image of walking past a small number of farm animals, including Angora goats, in order to get to where the bells were rung in a farm steading still remains with me.'

In the mid-1990s, Peter was instrumental in helping the SACR to acquire the bells from Dunecht House that were later installed at Haddington. Through his contacts, he also arranged the lorry to collect the bells from Dunecht and took them into storage for a while at Butterywells Farm while a suitable home was being sought.

In the late 1990s, shortly before moving to Nairn, Peter provided guidance to Bishop Mario Conti and the authorities at St Mary's of the Assumption, Aberdeen, where essential tower repairs and the availability of substantial grant funding, made an augmentation and rehanging of the existing bells possible. After the bells were rehung, Peter set to work training a band, comprised mainly of boy scouts. Sadly, further work on the tower was required, and following Peter's move, enthusiasm waned.

The mini-ring was transported to form the world's most northerly ring of bells at Druim Croft, Nairn in a new purpose built steel and wooden structure. Peter became a member of the Inverness Cathedral band,

regularly travelling the relatively short (by Scottish standards) distance along the A96 to Inverness for Sunday service and practice night ringing.

Away from ringing Peter led an extraordinarily active life. After graduating from Cambridge, where he rowed for his college, he went on to gain a PhD at Reading in the late 1960s. This was followed by a two-year post-doctoral research position at Washington State University before taking up an appointment at Aberdeen University's School of Agriculture in 1972. His specialism lay in wheat and soil borne diseases. He took a sabbatical at the University of Sydney in Australia 1976-77 followed in 1979 by a three-month stint in Brazil with the World Food Organisation, again focusing on soil borne diseases. He finished at Aberdeen in the early 1980s and thereafter became an independent consultant with a wide range of clients across Scotland and was involved in the early days of organic farm inspections. John Thorogood recalls being enlisted to fly him over Aberdeenshire examining crops on various farms to which he was acting as an advisor.

Peter was the godson (and first cousin, once removed) of the famous Himalayan mountaineer Sir Eric Shipton. He was an active climber himself and had a passion for cross-country skiing, as well as downhill skiing at Glenshee. He was keenly involved in the early days of the Lecht Ski Company from its earliest days, asking penetrating questions as a shareholder at AGMs about the centre's environmental impact. One year he managed to ski on snow in Scotland in every month of the year. He was also an avid sailor, sailing at Stonehaven and on the Loch of Skene, near the Dunecht Estate, for many years

Inverness ringers used to attend a monthly practice at Druim Croft and were always appreciative of Peter and Aileen's hospitality, both making sure everyone was always well fed and watered prior to any ringing on the mini-ring, as well as afterwards!

Following a visit to China, Peter suffered heart failure and became a less frequent ringer at Inverness and hardly rang his own bells at all when ringers visited Druim Croft. He had problems gripping the rope and couldn't stand unsupported for more than a short touch. He

would, instead, listen to other's attempts to master his little bells, either from the garden or from the comfort of his conservatory. The Druim Croft tower was taken down in December 2017 when Peter and Aileen moved to a rural location in Ayrshire to be nearer to close family members.

Peter Shipton will be remembered as a kindly, modest and hospitable man who made a considerable contribution to ringing in Scotland over a long period of time.

This obituary was compiled from memories of Peter's life from:

John Thorogood, Martin Whiteley, Nick Strurgess, Clare Caley, Nigel Booth, Bob Hancock, Ruth Marshall and Philip Gay.

News from the Towers



In Dunblane Cathedral there are two old bells which are now located in the north aisle called the Great and Lesser Bells. The inscription on the Great Bell reads "I was founded in Edinburgh, 1612, by the care of William Blaikwood, Bailie of Dunblane, and stayed still so in my exercise till 1657 when I was broken by the unskillful direction and handling of some men and by the care and expense of Harie Blaikwood, Bailie of Dunblane, the son of William, I am founded again at Brimin by M. Clavdigage, Anno 1660. Recast 1809 by T. Mears & Son of London out of funds of the Kirk Session of Dunblane." The inscription on the Lesser Bell reads "Founded by Lieutenant General Drummond in the year 1687 and refounded by the Kirk Session in the year 1723. Robertus Maxwell Fecit, Edinburgh." These bells were rung regularly both on a daily basis and for special occasions such as victories at Trafalgar, Waterloo and a Royal visit by Queen Victoria in 1842.

Inveraray Bell Tower 2025 activity

Angela Deakin

2025 was a big year for the Inveraray Bell Tower SCIO charity as it signed the Licence for Use with the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles and took over the day-to-day running of the tower. The licence agreement includes responsibility for non-structural maintenance, bells, frame and fittings, plus the use of the tower for ringing and as a tourist attraction.

In addition, the SCIO became responsible for holding appropriate insurance, for 50% of the cost of buildings cover of the All Saints estate, for cost of electricity and for safety-equipment checking and costs (lightening conductor, fire extinguishers). This is an ongoing agreement.

Once the agreement was in place the Trustees and SCIO members worked quickly to plan for the tower to be opened to the public over the summer. For simplicity it was decided to maintain the season and prices from 2024 (when the tower had been opened by the Diocese) but extend the number of days a week the tower was open. Therefore, as in previous years the tower was opened Mondays to Fridays with a paid post of Visitor Experience Associate (VEA) but was also opened on Saturdays using volunteers (so limiting the financial risk for the additional day).

The previous VEA was approached and was happy to cover the season again which was very helpful as they brought their experience and knowledge. To become an employer the SCIO had to register with HMRC, The Pensions Regulator and set up payroll. We were very fortunate that Tolaine Ltd offered to carry out all the payroll functions for us pro bono, for which we are very grateful. Further to this we needed to write employment contracts, policies and procedures.

Drawing from various members with appropriate working backgrounds (SMEs, H&S executive, Chartered Surveying) the necessary paperwork was put in place relatively easily. To enable card payments to be accepted a SumUp reader along with a wifi access point were purchased and set up.

A working group had already been established to improve the exhibition at the tower and so videos were made, pictures, notices and signs were printed, additional displays and display boards were added, and a children's trail was set up. These were all put in the tower at the end of May along with a deep clean of the tower at the beginning of June. Publicity was obviously going to be key to the success of the opening, so another working group looked at this. Leaflets were designed, printed and distributed around the town and in B&Bs, hotels and shops across the West of Scotland, the website was updated to be mobile friendly and social media accounts were claimed and set up.

Alongside this the branding of the tower was worked on, selecting a colour scheme and producing a clear recognisable logo. A month before the season started very unfortunately the person who had taken the VEA post had to withdraw due to personal circumstances. We set about advertising the post and managed to recruit a local individual who was very enthusiastic about the tower and so we opened as scheduled on Monday 16 June. This went well for the first 5 weeks but then our VEA got a more long-term position and, understandably, took this more financially secure option. This left us with a bit of a problem! However, we are very grateful to Zoe Bennett who stepped up to fill the gap and spent a lot of time on the Glasgow-Campbeltown bus over the summer. The tower stayed open until Monday 25 August.

The opening of the tower was much more successful than had been hoped for. It had 1,791 visitors of which 1,350 paid to ascend the tower. All days of the week were profitable with Saturday having the highest visitor numbers. Visitors seemed to be quite dependent on the weather (and days when the A83 was shut!) along with local events, so day-to-day variation was large. The overall profit from opening the tower to visitors was £4,672; 65% of visitors paid with card so we were glad that the card-payment option had been set up. A lot of data on visitor profiles were collected and will be used in future to target publicity etc. During the year the social media work was invaluable to raise the profile of the tower. Based on historical visitor numbers available this was the best season since 2015.

A lot of learning has been done during our first year in full operation. On the back of the very successful 2025 the SCIO is looking forward to a positive 2026. The tower tourist season is to be extended to seven days opening and a longer season from the end of May to the beginning of September. The exhibition and visitor experience will continue to be expanded and improved. Work will be done to include the Bellringing branding developed by the Central Council into the ringing parts of the visitor experience to link into and benefit from those resources. Community engagement is a vital part of the tower's long-term future, and initial contact has been made with Inspire Inveraray and the Community Council; we hope to further strengthen these links. Longer term these connections should help with fundraising. Medium term the charity will also focus on a full rethink of the tower, exhibition and tourist journey.

News from Tulloch

Peter Bevis

The Tulloch Ringing Centre continues to be used to great effect by a wide range of visiting ringers. During the year 118 quarter peals were rung and 20 peals, two of them by the Scottish Association. The Cumberlands spent a busy week ringing Orion above methods which included the first long length of ORABS - quite an achievement. We had a College Youth peal band visit too, later in the year. The Durham and Newcastle DA spent a busy week ringing every day, and 2025 also saw a couple of training weeks and of course the Reading fortnight, which has become a staple for Tulloch over the years - really making use of the accommodation available on the farm as well as the catering and social facilities in the ringing centre. We particularly welcome visiting bands coming and ringing both towers all day - every day (and night) plus the two dumb bells which are so useful for method learning.

The upgrade of the Last Tower bells from a 1 cwt ring of eight to a 3 cwt ring of eight has been a great success. the new bells have a much richer, deeper, sound and go better as well. A more minor change is the addition of a dishwasher to the kitchen facilities - which will be much appreciated by the catering teams!

We had hoped to host the College Youths again to attempt again the 30,000 Maximus record, but unfortunately, Tulloch was already booked for the dates they needed to come in 2026. A useful reminder to teams to book early.

Changes, Departures and Arrivals

Tower correspondents reported on changes in their band members, and tower officers:

Our new tower captain is Hugh Pumphrey, Secretary: Emily Walker, steeple-keeper: Arthur Kidner, Social Secretary: Sally Thomas and Tower email correspondent: Rose Pipes. **Haddington.**

Alex Linton has stepped down as steeple-keeper, to be replaced by Morven Cross. Ian Stark remains as tower captain, Annie Brechin as secretary and Simon Aves as treasurer. Our big losses this year have been Mike and Sandra Clay, to Chesterfield. Mike was tower captain for ten years, without him the bells would not have been restored, and we would not have them to ring on. As SACR leading peal ringer and conductor, his loss to ringing in Scotland cannot be understated. He and Sandra were steadfast members of the band, and we miss them both very much. We also lost Estella Haynes to Leeds, another very skilled ringer and her loss in both the tower and the pub is keenly felt! **Edinburgh New Town**

Following our Tower AGM in April, the Glasgow Tower Secretary changed from Peter Kirton to Zoé Martin. All other officers remained in post as previously elected. **Glasgow**

Our Tower Captain is Christina Howie (no change); Secretary and tower contact now Stephen Elwell-Sutton. Matthew left us in March to take up a new job and now rings in Glasgow. We're sorry to lose him, especially as we are short on numbers, but our loss is Glasgow's gain. **Dundee**

Estella Haynes left Edinburgh in the summer to continue her career in Leeds. Estella rang with us regularly and was a huge asset to the band, always willing to help with teaching and conducting. Will Stafford has moved to Edinburgh from Bristol, Joseph Pullan from Lancaster, and Freya Hinchliffe from Stockport. Paul Harden is now a regular visitor although still mostly living in Oxford. **Edinburgh St Cuthbert**

We have lost one member of the team to another area, plus the fact that we have had several people with long term medical issues which have prevented them from ringing means that we have had to cancel both Sunday ringing and practice nights several times during the year. **Dumfries**

New trustees were elected at the AGM in July 2025. Bob Hancock stepped down as Trustee and Treasurer after many years of loyal service and Rachel Milner and Jessica Durham were elected as new trustees, with Rachel taking on the Treasurer role. Other posts remained the same (Jonathan Frye - Trustee & chair, Ruth Marshall - Trustee & secretary, Nick Sturgess - Ringing Master, Angela Deakin - Tower Correspondent). **Inveraray**

We have had three ringers arrive this year with Margaret Gamble, formerly a member in Dundee, joining us in January, Hilary Winstanley joined us in August from Grantham, Lincolnshire and Brenda Stewart who joined us in December from Wells-next-the Sea in Norfolk. **Aberdeen**

No change in tower officers, although we have introduced a rotating ringing master role for weekly practices to spread the load of organising the ringing. Eric McNally has rejoined the band after two years away. It is very good to have such an experienced ringer back in our midst. **Stirling**

We lost Matthew Hubbard to Englandsire, but Lowenna has returned and brought her boyfriend with her, and he is now learning. Marcus Wheel has also started coming along which will be a big boost to our advanced practices. **Inverness**

We lost Al Rossin, who moved back to the US upon graduation with a PhD. George Stevens replaced him as Ringing Master. Jason Pollock graduated with a BSc and has resumed ringing in Barrow in Furness. More recently our vice-president Matt Andrews resumed his base in Edinburgh. **St Andrews**

At the Annual general meeting this year, Ian Bell our Ringing Master for the last eleven years stepped down, and Susannah Ewens was elected as the new Ringing Master. We thanked Ian with General Ringing which was recorded on Bellboard on 9th October. Elinor Farquharson was elected as the secretary for the tower, Geoffrey Farquharson continues as the Steeple Keeper and Wilma Tolmie continues as the Treasurer. **Edinburgh St Mary**

With Sam and Grace at University we struggle a bit to get enough for our monthly practices, but we do still manage. We have a lapsed ringer who has started coming along, and she is making good progress re-learning after a thirty-year hiatus. **Forres**

How many people ring for service on Sunday?

Sunday morning ringing is often attended by eight or more ringers (average over the last year is 8.9!) with fifteen Sundays having had ten or more ringers (up from eight Sundays last year). **Inverness**

We have six to eight people, but service ringing is fortnightly. **Stirling**

There are usually six to ten ringers for service ringing. **Dunblane**

Around ten on average, with fourteen on Remembrance Sunday and fifteen on the Sunday before Christmas. On a typical Sunday we ring Grandsire Triples and rounds and call changes on ten. **Edinburgh St Cuthbert**

The Glasgow band has continued to ring for both Sunday morning and Evensong services weekly with around six to ten ringers present. We

have also rung for key dates within the church calendar such as Epiphany, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas day. **Glasgow**

We will normally ring on Sunday if we have four or more ringers available. Typically, we have five or six ringers and similar numbers at a practice, though we occasionally have more. **Dundee**

It varies between five (our lowest number for ringing) up to eight on occasions. Having said that, there have been at least half a dozen Sundays over the last year where we didn't have enough to ring, and there was no Sunday ringing at all that week, which is always a pity. We have recently (just once so far) started having the simulator set to ring when we had insufficient numbers on a Sunday. The slight problem with this is that even with the volume set to maximum, the speakers that we have do not really send the sound very far. You can literally only hear them as you are approaching the church (say 30 to 40 yards away) - but at least people hear them as they walk into the church. The sound of our own bells has been recorded, so it doesn't sound too like a simulator, other than the fact that they are a bit too perfect, which has been commented on! **Dumfries**

Sunday service numbers are eight to ten on a good day, can go down to six. **Haddington**

On Sundays we have six to twenty! On average I would say we have eleven or twelve, many of whom come to us after ringing at St Cuthbert's. **Edinburgh New Town**

We are averaging eight/nine ringers for Sunday service ringing with a maximum of fourteen ringers on one occasion. **Aberdeen**

Our annual bar chart shows a steady attendance for Sunday mornings: we often have ten to twelve ringers for service ringing. We are always delighted to welcome visitors to join us. One of the main reasons for our strong Sunday ringing band is that we have gained a lot of learners who have followed the ART course to level 1 and 2 at St Mary's. Now they are important members of the Sunday band. **Edinburgh St Mary**

Between five and eight ring on Sunday. **St Andrews**

Recruitment

This year, we have had have a number of ringers in the earlier stages of learning bell handling. In addition, more focused teaching sessions have been held in Stirling to support their progress. There has been a couple of further enquiries from members of the local community who have expressed an interest in learning to ring. **Glasgow**

We still seem to have enough learners due to natural movement of English ringers moving up for work/study, and general interest from the public. **Edinburgh New Town**

We have stalled on new recruitment, but have two learners who are making good progress and are regulars at practice. **Stirling**

We (mostly Peter!) have taught two more mature women and five students who are all ringing rounds, with some including call changes. The simulator, part funded by the SACR, has been very helpful in teaching bell handling, placing a bell amongst others and so on.

St Andrews

We have been very lucky to receive enquiries from local people and members of the congregation who have heard the bells and want to learn more about ringing. We also generated interest on the cathedral open day: we ran tours of the tower for the Friends of the Cathedral Open Day and it was a successful day in terms of raising awareness of what we do, and we gained one new learner from that.

Edinburgh St Mary

We have recruited one new ringer, David Bradshaw, who is a friend of one of our band members. **Aberdeen**

We have two new learners - Kirsty and Caroline, who have joined us for social events as well as ringing. **Dundee**

We are teaching two learners at the moment. Recruitment doesn't feel that different this year than in the previous couple of years. **Haddington**
We held an open day for Open Doors weekend in September which has brought two new beginners along. Unfortunately, we are still struggling to get more youngsters involved. **Dumfries**

We have one learner who is making good progress. **Dunblane**

Concerns for the future?

St Cuthbert's is still working on its union with Greyfriars, Edinburgh. We're all curious to find out what this will mean for ringing, but it's too early for any clarity on that yet. **Edinburgh St Cuthbert**

The Holy Rude has amalgamated with nearby congregations and is retained as the principal church for worship. Stirling Council, recognising the problem with upkeep of the medieval building, is expanding secular use of the building for concerts and events. **Stirling**

Not in the short term. The two Church of Scotland congregations in Haddington have just merged, but the merged congregation is using St. Mary's (where the bells are). **Haddington**

No concerns: the university looks after the tower and ringers well.
St Andrews

We are looking forward to the future with some optimism: following an assessment of the bells we have organised to get work done on the bells this summer. Our fund-raising campaign will be launched at the end of January. The clappers are being re-bushed and the bearings will be inspected and replaced as required, the clapper on the ninth, although state of the art when installed, will be thinned to modern standards and the eleventh will be realigned. We are also getting new Dyneema ropes in the early summer. **Edinburgh St Mary**

We believe New Town to be fairly safe; we merged with Greenside last year. **Edinburgh New Town**

Notable Successes

We have rung thirteen quarters this year with either all local or local plus visitors. This has included three people who learnt to ring at St Andrews ringing their first quarter peal. Two peals were also rung: one by SACR and one by a visiting band. We rang for every Sunday service, the alumni carol service and five times on each of the 7 days of graduation. We rang for fifteen weddings and the Kate Kennedy procession (a St Andrews tradition!) **St Andrews**

In January: Stedman Doubles eighth-peal. In March: Bob Doubles quarter peal was a first for Andrew on the tenor. In May we rang for VE Day, and our call change team, under the guidance of Susannah, won the St Andrew's trophy at the striking competition. In June a Bob Triples quarter peal in memory of Karin (first on eight for Fiona), and handbells at Karin's memorial. In August Grandsire cinquies quarter peal for the retirement of the Bishop and a mixed doubles eighth peal for Janet Spence, our chaplain who has climbed the steps each Sunday to say the Bell Ringers prayers with us. She is moving on to a new role. In November Andrew rang his first quarter on eight: Bob Triples. And there were eighths of Beverley and Cambridge. Then December: Bob Doubles quarter peal for Felix (first quarter) and the first ladies peal of Plain Bob Major on handbells by members of the cathedral ringers. Mark, Hilary, Felix, Jane reached ART level 1, with Hilary and Felix going on to level 2, also achieved by Jeanny, Andrew and Louise. **Edinburgh St Mary**

We had our first SACR peal on the bells in October (second peal on the bells), and I am doubly pleased as I was able to conduct it (my last peal as conductor was thirty years ago!) **Forres**

Laura has passed Level 1 of the ART Learning the Ropes scheme. In January Miranda achieved the final level (L5) of the scheme. For this she had to ring several methods and ring at least six quarter peals, three of them on inside bells. We are proud of her achievement. This means that she is entitled to attend a masterclass in Birmingham. In August, a quarter peal of Yorkshire major was rung to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Ruth and Stuart Bamforth, and the blessing of the

marriage of Victoria and Michael Bamforth in May 2025. Many of the local band enjoyed a ceilidh to celebrate these events in the Cathedral Hall. A quarter peal of London minor was rung for the service of Lessons and Carols. Then on Christmas Eve there were quarters of Cambridge major and Bristol Royal in hand (by members of the extended Frye family). In November Laura attended a weeklong Improvers course in Tulloch where she made excellent progress with bell technique, ringing up and down, refining bell control, improving striking, listening skills, ringing on higher numbers and beginning plain hunt. These skills were backed up with theory, demonstrations and a great deal of practice. **Dunblane**

Gerda Grase rang her first quarter peal in May. Talon Ashryver rang several 'firsts' during the year, including a half peal of Cambridge Surprise Major. Other quarter peals included Grandsire Triples for Pride month, and later Grandsire Caters, both with local bands. **Edinburgh St Cuthbert**

We helped all the other bands in the striking competition to boost their placing by one. Well, someone had to come last...
The major event of the year was the approval by the architects (finally!) that installing two new trebles was not likely to cause the tower to fall down and we could go ahead. Thus, came to a head the culmination of twenty-five years since the idea was first mooted and the ten-bell frame fitted. Money was pledged and raised to cover the full cost. **Dundee**

We rang two quarters of Plain Bob Triples in April last year. The first was rung to celebrate the life of Robin Salvesen, a major donor to the installation project. The second was rung to mark and celebrate Rev Alison Macdonald's retirement. **Haddington**

Most recently the band achieved a quarter of Cornwall S Major, which had been method of the month and had stretched our band (in a good way!). **Edinburgh New Town**

This year, four quarter peals and two peals have been rung by a mix of local and visiting bands. The quarter peals rang this year included a member of the Glasgow band ringing their first and first ringing a bell

other than the treble. Notably, one of the peals rang in Glasgow in October of this year, was rang simultaneously to successful peals in Edinburgh and Inveraray. We celebrated a number of events within the Cathedral including ringing a quarter peal to welcome Vice Provost the Reverend Canon Sarah Shaw, and ringing for the wedding of Robert McDonald, treasurer of the cathedral. We were delighted to host the yearly SACR striking competition in May. We submitted three bands, who placed 1st, 2nd, and 4th, displaying the hard work and progress made by members of the band. **Glasgow**

Some members of our band have been meeting before a normal practice for an advanced practice concentrating on learning Yorkshire Surprise Major. We have made progress over the six practices, and we hope to continue these in 2026. **Aberdeen**

We rang for three significant local events: February 25th the inaugural meeting of Stirling District Tourism Council in the church, March 29th the finale of Stirling 900 celebrations and May 19th the visit to the Holy Rude by Lady Elish Angiolini, Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland. The ringers attended the buffet lunch with the LHC, Lord Lieutenant and Council Convenor. **Stirling**

We have rung eleven quarter peals at the cathedral with some notable achievements such as Michael's first Grandsire Doubles inside and first Plain Bob Minor inside, Sam Cole's first minor inside, Sue and Rachel's first major on tower bells and Rachel's 100th quarter peal. We also rang a half-muffled quarter peal to celebrate the life of Robert George Preece. **Inverness**

The social side of ringing

We socialise for coffee after ringing on Sunday. The Bank Bar now stays open late on a Monday, as they host a folk group. Their music is considerably more pleasant than the canned stuff we used to have and we meet there after ringing to chat and do the Sunday Post quiz. Our challenge is to match the 19/20 we got with the Sunday Post Quiz Man

years ago when they donated £5 for each correct answer to Ninewells Hospital SCBU. **Dundee**

We meet in the local Wetherspoons after ringing on the last week of each month, which is usually quite well attended. **Dumfries**

We've become regulars at the church's annual fundraising quiz. We entered three teams this year and came away with first and second prizes! (and fourth place too). Other social events are drinks in the local pub after our Tuesday practice and coffee after service ringing. **Edinburgh St Cutbert**

The band had an outing in early summer 2025. We don't go to the pub after practice night: too many of us have to drive to Haddington. On communion Sundays we ring for two services and go for coffee at the hotel across the road for the time between the two lots of ringing. **Haddington**

After fortnightly morning service ringing, we adjourn to a local cafe for coffee and chat. We have arranged a delayed Christmas lunch for 1st February. **Stirling**

We have had a good year socially. We regularly go the Teuchters after a practice for refreshment and general chat. Susannah organised a hugely successful weekend outing to Lancashire and Yorkshire which most of our learners attended and they flourished in the new towers. An article was submitted to the Ringing World - it was written by Jane Rutherford although mistakenly attributed to Elinor. We assessed everyone's misspent youth in an evening of skittles at the Sheep's Heid in Duddingston followed by a meal. Ian Bell is the current champion. Over the summer we had a ringers walk from South Queensferry to the Bell's house for pizzas in the garden. **Edinburgh St Mary**

After practice nights we adjourn to the local hostelry. A Christmas lunch was enjoyed by the band at a local restaurant. **Dunblane**

Over a decade since our last tower outing, we were inspired by new, enthusiastic ringers joining us to organize an outing to Edinburgh on October 4th. This was nearly scuppered by Storm Amy. However, although the train booked by most was reported cancelled, Helen's early dash to the station confirmed that it was still running but only between Aberdeen and Edinburgh! Most of the band made it and ten of us were able to enjoy a fun day ringing together. Highlights were ringing on the full twelve at St Mary's, good touches of triples and some Yorkshire Major at St Cuthbert's and New Town. All this was only possible with the help of our Edinburgh friends, Eli, Geoffrey, Alison, Ian Bell, Ian and Judith Stark to whom we are very grateful. Although the weather precluded an Autumn picnic in Princes Street Gardens, we sampled some of the cafes between towers and enjoyed a pint together before heading home. Hope it won't be so long before our next outing.

Aberdeen

Our trip to West Yorkshire was reported on by Ed Gosden in the SACR Newsletter in February. **Inveraray**

We usually go to the Standing Order on George St after practice. No organised outings this year. **Edinburgh New Town**

We had our AGM and pancakes at Peter Jupp's house. We had a meal out after ringing for the alumni carol service **St Andrews**

We had a tower meal out in Holy Week and visited Tulloch for a day of ringing in September. **Inverness**

Other news and information

We have recently taken delivery of a full set of new ropes from Avon Ropes. This has been made possible with a grant of £1,000 from Haddington Common Good Fund, with the balance of the cost paid by the Church. The Common Good Fund dates back to the 15th century and derives income from land, property and investments of the former Burgh of Haddington. It is now administered by East Lothian Council and by law must continue to exist for the common good of the

inhabitants of the former Burgh. Applicants to the fund must be situated within the historical boundaries of the former Burgh or undertake activities within that area. The eligible area is quite a small when compared to the size of modern-day Haddington but fortunately St Mary's lies within the boundary. **Haddington**

In May we rang for the installation of the new provost of St Paul's Cathedral: The Very Reverend Roxanne Campbell. She has been tremendously supportive of the ringers and the augmentation project. Recently Christina shocked everyone by calling for Grandsire and even let herself be inveigled into ringing inside! She's hoping for increased numbers in the band, so she doesn't have to go through the trauma of ringing it again. **Dundee**

We were asked to ring the bells for the carol service held in Dumfries as one of the Together for Christmas services held which is supported by the Princess of Wales. this occasion, which we duly did, and they were appreciated by those coming to the service, not least as they had to be in their seats at least half an hour before the service began. **Dumfries**

This year will be the 20th anniversary of the restoration of the bells, please keep your eyes peeled for events and activities! **Edinburgh New Town**

Since the summer we have had a big focus on bellringing in the cathedral: four huge banners depicting bellringing diagrams have hung down from the ceiling. The banners were complemented by a new performance piece specifically written for St Mary's by playwright Jo Clifford during the Edinburgh Festival. The narrative reflected changes in values and attitudes over time and the role of bells. The handbell ringers of the cathedral society provided short pieces of bell ringing to add to the narrative. Imogen Morgan (assistant director of Music) gave an organ recital containing pieces of music about bells to develop the bell ringing theme of the summer. John Conway (the Provost) based one of his sermons on the names of our bells. These activities have been helpful in raising awareness of the role of the bells in the cathedral. The Climate Chimers continue to chime the bells once a

month as a way of reflecting their wish for us all to think about climate change and the dangers that lie ahead if we do nothing. **Edinburgh St Mary**

In February, we held a Foundation Sills Day in Dunblane for half a dozen learners from nearby towers to help to improve bell control. This boosted their skill levels and was enjoyed by all who participated. **Dunblane**

In June we welcomed a group of 23 women from the Leith WI who were keen to learn about bells and bellringing. Simon spoke to them about the history of ringing in Scotland, and a small group of us demonstrated various ringing styles. The women were fascinated by our copies of Diagrams and intrigued at how we use ropesight to work out who to follow. In November Alex Hunsley designed and 3D printed a new rope spider for us. With 5 sturdy arms and a smiley face it quickly became known as the Pentapus. At Christmas we collected a fine new set of numbered rope mats, made for us by a ringer in Wales. We toasted them with port and cheese in a somewhat boozy practice before Hogmanay. **Edinburgh St Cuthbert**

We only had two weddings to ring for this year... not sure if this is a trend or a one-off. **Inverness**

We continue to encourage development amongst all ringers. To support this, we hold a thirty-minute session before the Tuesday practices for those who are learning bell handling. There has also been a focus on expanding our repertoire and skills for ringing on all ten bells. On the second week of every month, we split our practices across Monday and Tuesday evenings to facilitate a more focused session for those who are learning simpler six-bell and more advanced eight or ten-bell methods respectively. All of our practices are well supported, and we welcome ringers from across Scotland who join us for some of our sessions. This year has seen several maintenance improvements in the tower. The wheel of the ninth bell has been replaced. There have also been new ropes fitted where required. We have hosted some of this year's Friday evening SACR advanced practices. At the beginning of the year, the Glasgow bellringers

received an invitation to ring in Westminster Abbey on New Year's Day 2026. The band are currently practising and rehearsing for this prestigious opportunity and look forward to ringing in Westminster.
Glasgow

We hosted the SACR meeting on 1st February which was well attended with a good range of methods rung from rounds to several surprise major methods. We took part in the Aberdeen Doors Open Day with ringing demonstrations on Saturday 6th September. This was attended by 68 visitors which was down on previous years, but the tower was closed for a couple of hours during the day to accommodate a wedding in the cathedral. We supported the St Machar's Cathedral Family Fun sessions with ringing demonstrations on 16th July with 22 adults and 13 children, and 13th August with 24 adults and 11 children. **Aberdeen**

Rob McGowan took the tower into the Churches and Chapels on the Air Day again this year:

“This is to thank the church authorities for allowing me once again to set up an amateur radio station in the ringing room of the tower at the Holy Rude for Churches and Chapels on the Air Day.

The antenna this year was a simpler and smaller dipole cut to resonate close to the radio frequencies expected to be in use by other participating radio stations; for inter-UK transmissions these were expected to be in the High Frequency band at around 7.1 MHz making a dipole of 20 metres overall length necessary.

Tests were run during the week leading up to the day of the event and 34 good contacts were made with stations all over the UK as well as Poland, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Denmark, Austria and Sweden. As with last year, solar activity was a concern and although an auroral event occurred it did not significantly affect the successful transmission of radio signals.

On Saturday 13th September the first contact was made with Bob in Breda, Netherlands and the first church Special Event radio station was

contacted at 09.15. This was operated by Anthony and located in St. Barnabus Church, Kidderminster.

During the first hour 15 contacts were made, in addition to the first one above, another 4 of these were church stations in Norwich, Carmo Mid Wales, Goole and Somerset. The day became busier and busier and between 12.54 and 13.58 another 29 contacts were made all of which were other stations calling Holy Rude bell tower!

By the end of the day a total 64 contacts had been made, sixteen of which were churches! “ **Stirling**

Note: In last year's report, an article about Churches and Chapels on the Air was misattributed. My apologies go to Rob McGowan who contributed the piece. SHA

Articles



The *Ringing the Changes* Banners **Edward Bruce**

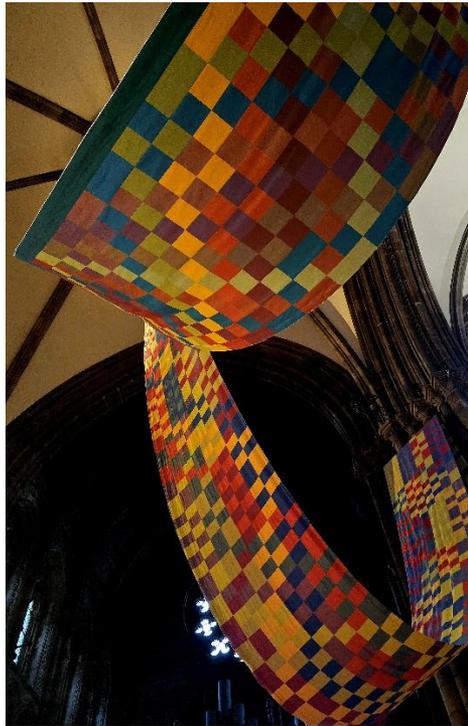
These banners were briefly displayed in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral during Liverpool's European Capital of Culture celebrations in 2008. For *Ringing the Changes*, architect Nick O'Neill from aalospace, was inspired to raise the banners once again, and he was determined to find a suitable setting large enough to do them justice and rooted in a tradition of change ringing. Realising this ambition, O'Neill reimagined *Ringing Banners* through a new installation specific to St Mary's, one of the great Edinburgh landmarks, and in a setting where bell ringing, choral music and art have underpinned the Cathedral's activities since its consecration in 1879.

The installation consists of two 33 metre and two 11 metre banners in a dramatic configuration suspending the longest of them from the crossing of the cathedral beneath the bell tower and 20 metres above the Choir. The banners swoop down and cascade from the oculus through which in 1879, the original foundry bells were raised into the belltower. Two 11-metre-long banners are suspended on each side of the nave from the Triforium, framing the whole display.

My inspiration for the banners stems from my fascination with bell ringing growing up - my father is a ringer in Oxford and I remember being fascinated with the various books depicting diagrams: *Rope Sight* and a little red book - they all had the 'red line' and sometimes the blue line 'intertwining' as it were, and I recognised that all the different bell tones were doing the same 'weaving' action - translated into sound when the bells are rung.

As an artist I wanted to explore this visually by printing out the methods and assigning colours to each bell. When I rendered the numbers that represent each bell into a colour, I was astonished how this revealed amazing patterns that seemed to dance and move. They were so beautiful, I knew I had to find a way of showing this to people.

The two small banners depict 'Little Bob Minor' and 'Stedman Doubles' while the large banners trace 'Grandsire Cinqes with Covering Tenor' and 'Bishop David Delight Major'. Bishop David Delight Major is a method named after the first-class cricketer, David Sheppard to commemorate his service as Bishop of Liverpool (1975-1997). These banners were first shown at Liverpool Cathedral in 2008 during the European Capital of Culture celebrations and the then Ringing Master, Len Mitchell, suggested this to me as an appropriate method when I was choosing which to have woven.



The idea of making them into banners came about when I realised that there is a similarity between bellringing notation, which goes back centuries, and jacquard weaving which is also very old, and how they both appear very modern to our current digital age. Jacquard weaving is known as a 'digital' method of weaving patterned cloth. Originating in the 18th century, the jacquard loom once used punch cards (a

precursor of early computers) to store information from which predesigned patterns could be woven. From this source, a woven fabric suggested itself to me, and my next thought was how could I get these patterns woven? - I knew nothing about weaving, but intuition led me to appreciate something that linked the two things together, and to learn more about the subject. I spent the next three years finding a way to do it. Eventually I came across Herbert Parkinson Ltd., a textile mill in Darwen, Lancashire who were willing to weave the banners, and these enormous, multi-coloured textiles were made there using a computerised jacquard loom.

Heather Metcalfe, former Design Manager at Herbert Parkinson, who oversaw the weaving of the banners, describes the process:

‘The yarns were dyed to specific colours as were the yarns for the many tapestries woven back in the day at Herbert Parkinson’s. The difference Parkinson offered was a bespoke design and sampling facility. We had jacquard looms, which allowed the full width of the loom for a pattern repeat, the latest CAD technology and a sample warping machine. The sample warper was key, this allowed short individually designed warps made to suit each design, unlike longer production warps, where one common warp was used to weave several designs.

‘So, the only limitation to a design or pattern repeat was the width of the loom and the length we could make on the sample warper... However, your brief [the Ringing Banners] did stretch our CAD system, the technical aspect of designing on such a large scale - 40 metre drops were not the norm, but we made it work and the looms coped admirably!

‘In 2017, six months after I retired, John Lewis announced the closure of the weaving operation at Herbert Parkinson’s. There are now very few UK weavers left, sadly a dying industry.’

The technical requirements to install the banners in such a unique configuration, at height and in a historic setting, presented a daunting challenge, but one that everyone involved rose to brilliantly. Luckily, we found the ideal people and the banners were installed by rope

access specialists, Hi Solution Rope Access, Edinburgh Ltd., and the team worked tirelessly throughout a long day to complete the task.

The work which was on display throughout the 2025 Edinburgh Festival and Fringe has been received very favourably by the public with many, including Edinburgh based gallerist and artist Richard Demarco, praising the work. *Ringin' the Changes* was featured on the front cover of *The Ringing World* and in the journal *Architecture Today*. The exhibition was due to finish in October last year but was so popular with the congregation at St Mary's that there was a request to extend it into the new year, finishing in mid-February 2026.

Born in Oxford, Edward Bruce studied Fine Art at Newcastle Polytechnic/Northumbria University, where he won the Alcan Sculpture Prize, and at the Glasgow School of Art. He has lived and worked in London and Liverpool and is now based in Glasgow.

Rev. Arthur Hallen of Alloa **Simon Aves**

On Thursday April 20th 1871, the ringers of St James Leith went to St. John's Episcopal Church, Alloa, for the opening ceremony of a new ring of six bells there (an inscription in the stone wall of the ringing chamber records the fact to this day).

Arthur Hallen, the incumbent of St John's, seems to have been the main instigator in getting a public subscription going to fund the purchase of these bells, putting in £30 of his own money. Hallen had grown up in Devon, attending Blundell's School in Tiverton, before going up to St John's College, Cambridge, and there he met Gildart Jackson who took up a post as Minister at St James, Leith, with Hallen as his Curate. It seems likely that the two men had learnt to ring in England before moving to Scotland: both had rings of bells installed in their Scottish churches, and are recorded as having rung their own bells, and both were admitted to membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths in the 1870s.

The bellhanger was Thomas Hooper of Woodbury, Devon (presumably known to Hallen) and he reportedly had some difficulty in assembling a frame to hang the bells - cast by William Blews & Sons of Birmingham - in such a tiny tower. Hallen then arranged for another Devon man (and College Youth) John Baxter, to come and teach some volunteers to ring. Both Baxter and the founder William Blews were friends of Rev. Henry Ellacombe who invented the famous apparatus for ringing all the bells of a church without the need for a band of ringers to be present. His motivation for this was made clear in a lecture he gave in 1849, advocating a Belfry Reform Movement to eradicate drunkenness from belfries:



'It has been my lot from childhood to have seen much of the practices in a country belfry. Such things as I remember would hardly be tolerated in a village alehouse; and yet the ringers were considered respectable, honest men in their way, and had the honour of being the ringers of the Cathedral; and yet it was a well-known fact that, as a body, a more drunken set of fellows could not be found. It is high time that some move should be made towards bringing the belfry and the occupiers thereof under regulations in accordance with church order

and discipline. There are those who have said, upon learning the number of the bells in the tower, 'Then, certain it is, there are as many drunkards in the village'; 'That man is a ringer' is quite enough in some places to intimate that he is an idle, sottish character.'

Whether Hallen knew Ellacombe personally in his youth in Devon is not known, but the Alloa Ringing Society adopted an elaborate code of rules and bye-laws that suggests that their author was familiar with the Belfry Reform Movement's proposals about discipline. It may well have been Baxter that introduced these ideas to Alloa, but Arthur Hallen certainly seems to have taken on the suggestion that a way to encourage ringers to have a close relationship with the church was for the Minister to maintain a personal association with the ringers.

The Society started off ambitiously with a membership of twelve - a band of six "firsts" and a band of six "seconds" with variable remuneration payable to them. The bells appear to have been rung quite regularly until the 1880s, although as usually happens when ringers are paid, there were frequent disputes about breaches of the rules, the imposition of fines and the distribution of the payment. In September 1874 a prize of £1 was offered by Hallen for the first band to ring a 720 but there is no record that it was ever won. The ringers had, however, begun a fairly active social life with a summer trip each year to the West Coast and Millport, and an annual dinner.

In the late 1870s Arthur Hallen fell out with the Earl of Mar in spectacular fashion. The Earl had been one of the main subscribers to the bells when they were installed and owned the estate on which St John's had been built. The Alloa Advertiser reported that in September 1879, at a meeting of the congregation the Earl of Mar publicly denounced Hallen as being:

unfit to be incumbent of the church, and unworthy of his office, the behaviour had been inconsistent with the character and office of a clergyman. He had intended to say a good deal more if there had not been ladies present; what he had to say could not be mentioned in the hearing of females or was unfit for female ears, but he would meet the

male communicants of the congregation and place before them something of which they had not yet heard.

Ironically, for someone who had taken pains to ensure that his belfry adhered to Ellacombe's strictures about the evils of alcohol, Hallen was being accused of drunkenness. Hallen sued the Earl of Mar in the Edinburgh Court of Session for slander in January 1880, claiming damages of £2,000. At the preliminary hearing the judges decided that there certainly was a case to answer, that the Earl should be forced to defend his claims in court or face the consequences.

The matter did not come back to the Court of Session, and it is to be assumed that there was some settlement between the men to discontinue the action. However, five months later the Earl had another attempt to discredit Hallen, this time before the Synod of the Diocese of Edinburgh. The charge was drunkenness while conducting a service, eighteen months before, on Advent Sunday 1878.

The main complainant was a local publican, but when cross-examined he admitted that he was not a member of the church, and that he had previously been employed as a groom by the Earl of Mar, and that his son was currently employed by the Earl's law agent. Another local dignitary gave evidence – the brewer George Younger- as did the Earl of Mar's brother. He too conceded that he was not a member of the church, 'but just happened to be there that night'.

In Hallen's defence appeared his wife, the verger, members of the choir, some of the congregation, and several of the ringers. Hubert Melville, a pottery worker, said: 'I acted as one of the ringers and I was in the belfry on Advent Sunday evening. Mr. Hallen chimed the tenor bell and afterwards took a hand on two smaller bells. I saw no signs of him having had drink.' Cross-examined, he added: 'If he was drunk that night, I am drunk now, and I have seen a few drunk men in my day.'

John Sinclair, a joiner, said that he too had been ringing that evening: 'There was no trace or smell of drink about him. The space from which the bells are rung is very confined and such a smell would be

evident to all. Mr. Hallen spoke quite intelligibly and there were no signs of him being tipsy.’

The Synod found that the allegation against Hallen had not been proved, and he continued as Rector of St John’s until 1899, regularly entertaining the ringers to dinner. Whether wine was taken at these events remains unknown.

Mike Clay has left the building

Late in 2025 Mike and Sandra Clay left Scotland to move to Chesterfield in Derbyshire. Mike originates from the area and still has elderly relatives nearby: their gain will be Scottish ringing’s loss.

Since ringing his first peal for SACR in January 1997, Mike has become both the association’s leading peal ringer, and peal conductor. It is likely that he has also rung more quarter peals than anyone else in Scotland, but that remains to be verified. Despite never having been Association President or Ringing Master, Mike’s contribution to Scottish ringing has been second to none, especially through two stints as Bells and Towers Advisor.

Jonathan Frye and **Jason Hargreaves** reflect on Mike’s time in Scotland.

Mike first visited St Andrew’s and St George’s in September 2001 in answer to a plea for help following a failure of the Ellacombe chiming apparatus. He found a badly deteriorated ring, to the point of raising concerns over its safety.

Mike was instrumental in garnering support for a larger project to return the bells to full circle ringing than what had originally been envisaged. His presentation to the Kirk Session set out that considerable, and expensive work, was necessary to return the bells and frame to safe working order. He was persuasive that instead of just undertaking this absolute minimum, that embarking on the much larger project of a total rehang would bring in additional sources of funding

(from SACR for example) and capture the imagination of the congregation and local community.

He was right, the Kirk Session approved the project in 2003 and fundraising started in 2004. The bells were removed in two tranches, the front five via the louvres at the top of the tower and then the back three several years later via the main trapdoors. In September 2006 Whitechapel returned to install the new ring and over the next two weeks, aided by an army of volunteers from SACR that Mike had arranged, the new frame was installed and the bells hung in it.

In parallel during 2006 Mike and other Edinburgh ringers had begun training a new band using other local towers in preparation for the bells returning. This meant that there was a new band ready to make use of the bells as soon as they were installed. Supported by other towers, the pace of training accelerated with lengthy tied practices on a Monday night dedicated to improving the skills of the new band.

Last year's report identified the considerable work Mike undertook in first rescuing the bells of Paisley and then pulling out all the stops to find a new home for them in Scotland. Mike arranged all the necessary permissions for the removal, engaged the bell-hanger and negotiated a place of storage. More than thirty suitable locations were examined, with a few incumbents enthused enough to explore the possibilities of full-circle ringing.

The final project that Mike worked on was also one of the first that he was involved with. The eight bells at St Paul's Dundee were rehung for the Millenium in a new metal frame with two pits left empty. The intention was always that they would be augmented to a ten. The project was restarted during Mike's second tenure as Bells & Towers Advisor, and he has been an invaluable source of advice, wisdom and tactful communication over the duration of the project. It was fitting that the order was placed with the bell hanger just a few weeks before Mike left Scotland ensuring that that this final project will be completed and Scotland will have another ring of ten. **JF**

Michael J Clay - Mike - moved up to Scotland in the mid-1990s and I think it's fair to say, Mike has had an impact on ringing in Scotland. You can split this into a number of different elements, and naturally, these are driven by your own personal experience, so I apologise for the many things I will have inevitably omitted.

Peal ringing: There are many different elements that you could call out here. Mike's desire to improve ringing has led to several achievements. General improvements of what has been rung are kind of obvious, but when you get into specifics, some memorable ones to me are - 'Horton's four' - eventually rung half muffled on remembrance Sunday; a progression towards the summit of Norman Smith's twenty-three spliced Surprise Major - when all three attempts in the planned weekend were scored. From there we were motivated by Mike to build up to an attempt on fourteen Spliced Surprise Royal, and again all three planned attempts were successful.

From a very personal perspective, Mike helped me conduct my first peal at the tower I learnt to ring at. Mike's ringing and conducting ability has enabled many people in Scotland to improve their ringing - either through support as a conductor, or opportunity to stretch the scope of what they ring.

Social: An important part of ringing is the social aspect. Mike's wider ringing connections have led to Scottish ringers benefiting from others visiting Scotland and being involved in their ringing - for example Roy Le Marechal's trips up (and reciprocal trips down south). These also included the odd road trip in Scotland - as well as some curries of questionable quality up north. Another mainstay of the ringing social scene was Inveraray. A lot of whisky was bought and consumed there! Indeed, Mike was a founding member of the Inveraray Triathlon (Munro, peal, gallon) - Mike, Tom, Martin and me. Given his clothing choices at the bottom of the Munro, it was quite impressive we got safely up and down. He even rang the tenor to what I believe is the only successful triathlon for the whole band.

College Youths: I was not a member of the college youths until Mike moved here and decided that their presence should increase in

Scotland. Quite a few people have been proposed as members, including some in the first female membership cohort. This also involved trips to the annual dinner in London, as well as quite a few ASCY peals in Scotland. Not content with that, there have even been ASCY dinners to coincide with the annual London dinner - more examples of the important social aspect of ringing.

New bells. It's also important to remember Mike's involvement in St Andrew & St George (now Edinburgh New Town Church) and the renovation of their bells. Mike played a key role in getting these bells "going" again. This was a major achievement, culminating with the first peal on the restored bells being rung in 2007 - naturally called by Mike from the tenor.

With Mike's departure from Scotland, he will be missed, as a ringer and a friend, but his impact on ringing in Scotland will remain long after his departure. **JH**

Towards Cyclic Spliced Surprise Royal **Susan Bryce**

'I do like a project' said Simon Gay sometime back in 2023. And two years later the 'project' is ongoing! Whilst I have been chief organiser, a group of sixteen of us have been ably guided by Mike Clay and Simon Gay into significantly improving our surprise royal ringing. The 'project' started with the aim of ringing a cyclic composition of 4-spliced - Bristol, Sgurr A' Chaorachain, Dumfries and Remus. We knew that as a band who do not ring Surprise Royal regularly, we would need to gather some building blocks before fitting pieces together.

So, we started with Bristol in September 2023 then rang peals of Sgurr A' Chaorachain in December 2023 and January 2024 and spliced Sgurr and Bristol in March. In June and August that year we rang Dumfries and then in November and December spliced the Dumfries with Bristol. I think it is fair to say that in the early attempts we struggled

with quite a few things, but perhaps primarily with striking and rhythm. Then, as we added complexity, the methods themselves needed real concentration. And a reliable and steady treble (thanks Sally and Simon!).

I'm not sure how long we expected to be working on this – but we have now entered year three. In February and March 2025, we rang peals of spliced Sgurr, Bristol and Dumfries, at which point we bit the bullet and went for all four. I cannot remember how many attempts we had at 4-spliced, but it was quite a few!

Thinking of recent articles in the Ringing World it seems to me that we were collectively attempting to ring at the upper end of the 'red zone' but our peal attempts were only every couple of months, and we gave ourselves no practice in between. It was certainly not easy, but after a bit of soul searching it was apparent there was a clear commitment and desire to keep going. In September we finally managed a peal of four-spliced Surprise Royal (Bristol Sgurr A' Chaorachain, Dumfries, Remus). Was the ultimate aim in reach? We weren't sure but were very keen to find out.

In November 2025 thirteen intrepid ringers headed to Tulloch for a weekend in which we would make three attempts at Simon Gay's cyclic composition, with the prospect of wonderful music to tempt us. I think we were successful, although of course the measure of success may vary for different people. We rang eight parts of the nine-part composition at the first attempt, completed the second attempt, (great excitement) and then rang around half of the third attempt.

This left four people who hadn't scored on an inside bell (and others who hadn't made the weekend trip), so early in 2026 a fourth attempt was arranged. Unfortunately, this too was lost in the seventh part, but we are keen to try again so that everyone who wants to can complete the project. We have rung a lot of the cyclic composition over the four attempts and been successful once. Perseverance and persistence have been key.

I have quite a few reflections on how I have found this and they are all positive. Personally, it has been challenging to learn methods well enough to really, really know them. As a band our rhythm and striking has improved almost out of all recognition – over the last year at least all the attempts have been a pleasure to ring in for long periods of time – and this must be beneficial for Scottish ringing. And we have (mostly) had fun! There have been eleven successful peals (and probably a similar number of lost attempts).

We couldn't have done this without Simon Gay and Mike Clay, – so thank you. I wonder what is next?

My introduction to bell ringing.

Morven Cross

I was one of about fifteen members of the congregation who learned to ring in 2006-7 when the bells of St Andrew & St George, Edinburgh (now New Town Church) were restored and rehung. However, I had an earlier ringing career as a teenager; I first started to ring bells when going for my bell ringing badge at Girl Guides.

This being Orkney though, things were a little different: there were no full-circle bells. The ring was at St Magnus Cathedral, Britain's most northerly Cathedral. There are only three bells, and they are hung to be clocked. The notes produced by the bells are not at diatonic intervals: they are about five quarter tones apart. With the lowest about a quarter tone above G, the others are A $\frac{1}{2}$ tone sharp and C $\frac{1}{4}$ tone sharp.

The bells were originally cast in 1528. One of them bears the inscription: "Made by master Robbert Maxwell, Bischop of Orkney, the year of God MDXXVIII. the year of the reign of King James the V. Robert Borthwik made me in the castel of Edinburgh." The heaviest bell had to be recast in 1682: eleven years earlier lightning had struck the tower and in the resulting fire the bells fell into the church. There is a story that the townspeople rushed to get some soft material into the church to catch the bells, (which sounds a very risky thing to do!) but

the bell was cracked. The recasting was done in Amsterdam, and extra metal was added so it came back weighing 28lbs more than when it left.

There were three of us studying for the badge: I and the other two girls climbed up an extremely worn sandstone spiral stair and were literally shown the ropes. One end of a short rope is fastened to the clapper and the other to the wall; a second rope is fastened to the middle of the first and the lower end of it pulled by the ringer, which of course pulls the clapper to one side to hit the inside of the bell. There was one rope for each hand, and one on a foot pedal. You do have a chair - it's not a balancing act!

After a couple of weeks, we were considered sufficiently proficient and were signed up to be on the bell ringing rota for Sunday mornings. It was a bit like joining a secret society, and this is how I don't know if the other two girls continued or not. Once on the rota, when it was my turn, a key to a side door of the cathedral would be dropped through my letter box by an unseen hand. I never met any of the other ringers, and for the most part I didn't know who they were. Once every sixteen weeks for four years I went up and rang the bells, but I never saw anyone at all. Not the most sociable type of ringing.

The ringing always lasted fifteen minutes and had to be done in a particular style, unique to St Magnus., Left arm for ten strikes starting at ten second intervals, then foot pedal, then right arm for ten by ten, starting at this slow speed, but then gradually increasing the pace to encourage the worshippers to church. There was an alarm clock counting down on a stand next to you. You really didn't want to be responsible for a cracked bell if the quarter hour hammer hit the outside of the bell you were clanging on the inside at the same time, and as you sat there wearing headphones looking up, and getting faster and faster though the pattern you could see the clock hammer retract. It really did focus the mind. One year I was on the rota when Remembrance Sunday came round. The fifteen-minute pattern had to be rung, but minus the first two minutes, with all the uniformed organisations standing outside on the green waiting for me to finish.

Not the same as proper bell ringing, but it started me off!

Neurodiversity in Bellringing

Brian Heys

I've reached that stage where I measure my ringing career in decades rather than years. If you've been ringing a while too, then like me you probably also fondly remember eccentric ringing characters from times past. When we read the Ringing World, we see that the history of ringing is rich with interesting people who didn't conform, some of whom were great pioneers in various aspects of our art. If those fascinating ringers were still with us today, we might understand some of them to be neurodivergent, which is a term that covers a number of different conditions in which the brain functions, learns or processes information differently from what some people consider typical. Autism (including what was known as Asperger's), ADHD and dyslexia are some examples.

I returned to ringing in 2024 after a break of several years during which I'd come to understand something of my own neurodivergence. I realised at that point how much I had missed ringing and how it could play an important role in my wellbeing. I also noticed that there were voices commenting on the prevalence of neurodivergence in the ringing community and the likely appeal of ringing to neurodivergent people.

Neuroscience in this area is developing all the time and so the diagnostic picture is often unclear, but there appears to be a growing understanding that different neurodivergent conditions can coexist and symptoms overlap. I have experienced this first hand, having been diagnosed with ADHD but subsequently encouraged by various professionals to accept the probability of autism. In the younger generations it's much more likely that problems will have been spotted and diagnosed at an early age. Older people coming to an understanding of their own neurodivergence may not have the opportunity or desire to obtain a formal diagnosis of their particular condition. For me the nuanced approach is more appealing, and I think that pigeonholing individuals can be unhelpful. None of these technicalities should matter very much to the ringing community which has long welcomed all neurotypes without perhaps being aware we were doing so.

But why might ringing be particularly appealing to people like me? Given the huge spectrum of neurodiversity and the variety of conditions covered, it's difficult to generalise, but we scratch the surface and identify some common themes. Many of us have a great affinity for patterns and numbers, and the connection to change ringing is very obvious. We're often very interested in collecting, and ringing provides endless possibilities, whether it be tower grabbing, collating quarter peal statistics or working through that all-important surprise major alphabet.

Though it's well known that some conditions like ADHD can present challenges around focus and distraction, the lesser-known flip side to this lies in an ability to hyperfocus on the matter in hand when it comes to a much-loved pastime or activity. We can all imagine how the ability to focus intensely for three hours might be useful in ringing!

The appeal associated with the human side of ringing is also significant. Though it's true that many neurodivergent people experience social anxiety alongside their particular condition, the common stereotype that neurodivergent people can't relate to or connect with others is disproved by bellringing, where social connection happens but is structured through participation in a shared physical activity. This has the great benefit of providing a comfortable environment that removes the stress of 'freestyle' socialising which might be expected at an informal or crowded event like a party.

We have all experienced the shared joy and satisfaction that comes when we stand our bells at the end of a particularly well-struck quarter peal, service touch, or some nice rounds and call changes. I firmly believe that all of us, neurodivergent and neurotypical, need the society of our fellow human beings to live fulfilled and mentally healthy lives. Ringing provides a space for everyone to find community, united by a love for and dedication to the art and science of ringing bells.

Neurodivergence does of course present challenges in some spheres of life, and that also applies to ringing. Again, it's difficult to generalise, but with a little thought and creativity challenges can be overcome. Differences in the ways neurodivergent brains process information can

often mean that we learn differently too, so flexibility and experimentation in teaching methods can be a huge help. Fortunately, the teaching of ringing has moved on from the ad hoc style of my youth. We now teach our teachers how to teach and learning resources like simulators have been game changers.

Sensory issues can present problems for some neurodivergent people, and in ringing there's obvious scope for noise sensitivity to be a concern. This might mean the noise of the actual bells is stressful, but it might also mean that extraneous noise or background chatter creates an intolerable distraction during ringing.

There could be more examples, but it remains the case that most problems can be mitigated. If you have a neurodivergent member of your band and challenges arise then please don't be shy - instead be curious, ask questions and explore solutions. You might find that some of us like to talk (a lot!), and those of us who have been bitten by the ringing bug will likely turn out to be very loyal, dependable and enthusiastic members of your band.

As my American partner observes, British culture itself seems to treasure and celebrate eccentricity, nonconformity and general geekiness, and Britain is a great nation of collectors, whether that be of objects, information or achievements. It strikes me that all these aspects of our national character are alive and well in the world of bellringing, and what's more, they're particularly attractive to neurodivergent people like me. If we take advantage of this compatibility and welcome as many people as possible, we will help to fortify ringing for future generations.

Method puzzles

Alison Stevens

A couple months into my relationship with my boyfriend, Matthew Frye, we had an exchange of text messages that went about like this:

Alison: I thought of an argument we could have

Matthew: Do we have to have arguments?

Alison: I thought we could argue about which of us thinks about methods in a weirder way.

Matthew: Oh lol. Yeah, we can have that argument. Anyway, it's definitely you. I think about methods perfectly normally and logically. It's not my fault no one else does.

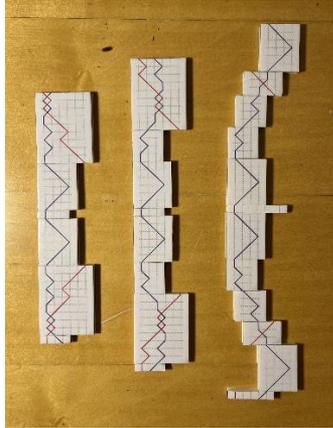
The funniest thing about this exchange to me is that at all other times Matthew is entirely willing to admit that he thinks about methods in weird ways! One of the things I love about ringing is the openness to different ways of thinking about methods.

It's accepted that different people need different strategies and those different strategies can all produce accurate ringing. At the same time, there are some concepts in method ringing that are pretty standard and recommended to everyone. As a nearly life-long teacher, I have some interest in making sure that if people reject a strategy, it's because it truly doesn't work for them, not because they don't understand it.

This has been the motivation behind a thing I began creating in 2024, which I have been calling method jigsaw puzzles, though they lack the jigsaw element. I recently heard someone else call them dominos, which might give a more accurate impression of how they fit together!

Many of the supposedly weird ways Matthew and I think about methods are only weird in the sense that they're not easily visible in typical method diagrams. Cut those diagrams up into pieces in some fashion, and previously obscure features can become much more obvious!

My most basic sets of method "dominos" take the treble and blue line for a plain course of Plain Bob or Grandsire and cut it up at lead ends, so each piece is one lead long. This is useful for illustrating the concept of place bells, showing that each working bell is ringing the same line, and just showing that the method wraps around – the end of a method diagram connects back to the beginning of the diagram.



This last feature especially may sound trivial or obvious to experienced ringers, but no one is born knowing it! We all had to learn it somehow. “Seeing” it on the page of a method book involves a bit of imagination, mentally manipulating lines to understand how they connect. Not everyone is as skilled at that kind of mental manipulation, but even if someone is good at it, it can be helpful to do some physical manipulation to learn about it!

Another type of domino set I have made was inspired by the ringers who say you only have to learn a quarter of the line for a double method, and then you “just” flip it upside-down (and backwards, and both backwards and upside-down). This is a more complex kind of mental manipulation of lines than connecting a method together around the ends, so it can be especially helpful to see the four orientations side by side.

I made a set of pieces for showing the double symmetry of Bristol Surprise Royal and Tina Stoecklin got a photo of some ringers assembling them during last year’s Inveraray ringing festival! Other sets allow you to build two or more related methods, drawing attention to shared bits of line or actual rows shared in the plain courses. I began making all these sets just drawing on squared paper but have advanced to printed designs that I attach to foamboard, cover with clear plastic film, and cut into pieces. I quite enjoy playing around with my latest set,

for Bristol any stage, but my most satisfying moment came with the use of much simpler pieces. I was explaining place bells in Plain Bob at a pub after attending a practice in London, when suddenly one of the ringers listening and watching said: “I think I finally understand bobs!”

Living with the Past: Historic Environment Scotland and the Ruined Cathedral of St. Columba at Dunkeld
Elizabeth Wein

What’s it like sharing a building with Historic Environment Scotland (HES), as you practise an ancient but living art within ancient but crumbling walls? When funding is stretched and concern for safety is a priority, it can be a challenge to keep an active schedule of events going without disruption. One thing is sure: diplomacy and patience are the real keys to the bell tower.

At the ruined cathedral of St. Columba in Dunkeld, we’re not allowed to change a light bulb in the tower stairs without requesting permission. For years we kept a portable electric heater locked in a trunk because of safety issues. Maintenance work often makes access to the ringing room awkward if not downright unsafe; contractors employed by HES who are not familiar with bell mechanics leave cables threaded through the bell wheels and make holes in the bell chamber floor that raise the noise level in the ringing room to dangerous levels.

The last decade has been challenging for all parties involved. Work to repoint the ruined cathedral at Dunkeld began a year or two following the hard winters of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, when severe frost damage occurred to the medieval structure. The scaffolding has been there for over a decade, undergoing several iterations – once upon a time HES even erected an informational panel headlined, “Celebrating Scaffolding,” which gave a potted history of its use.

Some work has been done to the masonry; some has been postponed. A plan was made to erect a shed and train craftsmen in the art of stonecutting; the materiel for the shed arrived, but the pandemic intervened and the project never began. Everything was then taken

away again. New wiring was installed in the tower a few years later, but the project remains unfinished as the mortar has not been infilled around the wire. The Victorian clock was removed and an electronic clock replaced it. Repairs have been made to the roof. The scaffolding is a long-term fixture, and the ongoing works mean there are six locks to negotiate to get into the ringing room.

Dunkeld's small but determined band of ringers continue to ring, navigating the padlocks, protective fence, and an actual barricaded gateway, almost every week throughout the year. Even during the pandemic lockdowns, we were able to ring on a very limited basis. In 2021, renewed concern for the integrity of the masonry required us to be issued with hard hats in order to enter the tower. Further concern in 2025 prevented us from ringing for nearly nine months. We negotiated a deal to ring for Remembrance Sunday only under escort, wearing protective boots and high vis jackets in addition to our hard hats.

We work hard at communicating well with Historic Environment Scotland and have devised some strategies for maintaining our good relationship with them. It is counter-productive for either party to argue, point fingers, or get defensive; each new issue must be dealt with levelly and reasonably. Transparency is key to our relationship. Tim Gatland, our tower captain and steeple keeper, has been tireless in maintaining contact with HES. One of his tips is to update them once a month or so, even when there is nothing to report, just to maintain a cordial relationship and to remind them that we are here.

Another useful strategy is to keep higher powers apprised of what's going on. One of our band has the First Minister as her local MSP, and when the falling masonry lockout was going on, she wrote to alert him to the situation in this historic site. An MP has a legal duty to answer you when you write a letter! Although Mr Swinney's secretary politely replied that HES is run independently and so there was little he could do, the nudge magically led to HES building a protective tunnel of scaffolding over the part of the access route deemed to be dangerous - thus allowing us regular access to the tower once again. If we weren't celebrating scaffolding before, we are definitely celebrating it now!

We have also proposed suggestions for articles in Historic Scotland's newsletter. Although this didn't ultimately result in the media coverage we'd hoped for, we feel it established a cordial relationship with some of the HES leadership and helped to bring attention to bell towers in their care.

A written health and safety assessment is a key tool when dealing with officldom. The checklist should identify potential hazards and ways to mitigate them. An assessment was essential before we could re-establish ringing after the first pandemic lockdown; an updated version of this was necessary to re-establish ringing after the unsafe masonry was discovered.

Finally, we try to proactively identify and deal with potential issues. We put a simple system in place for counting people in and out of the tower as part of our fire safety plan; we apply anti-slip treads to the tower entrance when necessary; we called off ringing when the noise level was unsafe; we report back to Historic Scotland when Taylor's makes their annual inspection of the bells. We sweep the tower stairs and remove crows' nests from them! We immediately report damage to the cathedral grounds, such as fallen trees and leaking roofs. Indeed, our most recent adventure at Dunkeld involved a leak in the tower roof that resulted in a drenching flood in the ringing room. Three sodden classroom-sized layers of carpet had to be removed, dried out, and ultimately taken to the dump. It was a huge operation, and we pulled it off ourselves; but our good relationship with HES meant that we were able to contact them right away with the news, send them pictures, and let them know what we were doing to remedy the situation. On their side, they immediately sent workers to investigate and fix the damage to the roof. From their point of view, our regular access to the tower means that HES are kept regularly informed.

Having to call in certified workmen to change your lightbulbs certainly makes our ringing routine challenging. But knowing that we are helping to preserve a historic monument for future generations definitely helps to sweeten the challenge.

The most northerly bells, pealed by the SACR

Anthony Cole

During the weekend of the SACR meeting in October 2025 a peal was scored on the mini-ring in Forres. This was the first successful SACR peal on the bells following a number of previous attempts, and this peal certainly had its moments too. Why? Well, first the back story.

When we moved to Scotland, we decided we wanted to have our own mini-ring, having rung mini-rings in England (and had lots of fun). We commissioned Matthew Higby & Co to build us a ring of eight and on 28th March 2019 the big day came when the bells were installed in our loft. The ropes fall into a bedroom, and we also have sensors on the seventh and eighth bells which are connected to simulator software (Abel). The treble (6lbs 15oz) is only 2 ounces heavier than I was when I was born, and the tenor is just 15lbs 1oz. Our house is (by latitude) seven miles north of Inverness, making our bells the current holder of the most northerly bells hung for change ringing on the planet (Inverness cathedral is the most northerly “tower” with bells).

We hold practices each month (on the second Sunday of the month), and our regulars have rung several quarter peals on them. They do not have stays, so less experienced (at mini-ring) ringers do tend to let the bell over the balance more than you would on bells with stays but given the weight, this isn't an issue. We do however find that this can lead to mishaps with handling. Some visitors ring using the same style as tower bell ringing (two hands on the sally and tail-end), but we usually ring with alternating hands (e.g. hand stroke with the right hand, backstroke with the left hand).

One handling issue we often see is that if you miss the sally, and the bell goes over more than expected it raises your left hand which, in the heat of the moment, can make you think you're pulling the backstroke when it is a handstroke that has gone over balance; you then pull as though it is a backstroke and the rhythm goes. The other thing we've seen is that if you do not let the bell quite up to the balance you can easily end up ringing the bell down whilst trying to get control back.

The bells were first pealed in Dec 2019 by a band of mini-ring owners (and conducted by the bell founder Matthew Higby). Since then, there were two failed peal attempts and a number of failed quarter peals nearly all due to handling issues like those I've listed above. I do not think the bells are difficult to ring, but being so light does pose a challenge for ringers experienced at handling much heavier bells.

For the peal in October we all had some practice at quickly recovering a bell (from down to up) prior to starting and this proved useful for several ringers during the peal. I am particularly pleased to have scored the peal this time though, not least because it was my first peal as conductor in over thirty years, and my first on eight bells. Huge thanks to the amazing band (willing victims) who rang with me. Details of the peal are in the attached photo of the newly made peal board.



An Edinburgh Controversy Simon Gay

I have spent some time browsing through copies of *The Ringing World* from the 1920s, and there is a lot to be found there – especially some lively debate in the letters pages. It was an active time in the development of methods and compositions, with surprise methods in particular being worked out, rung for the first time and named. Many famous names in the history of the Exercise, such as H. Law James, Gabriel Lindoff, J. Armiger Trollope and others, were writing in week by week to discuss matters of interest and often disagreeing with each other. This article describes a thread about the naming of a new method: Edinburgh Surprise Major.

Nowadays there are several thousand named surprise major methods, but up to the end of 1923 there were only 22 and the naming of a new method, by ringing a peal of it, was considered a news item by *The Ringing World*. On 14th December 1923 the following report appeared.

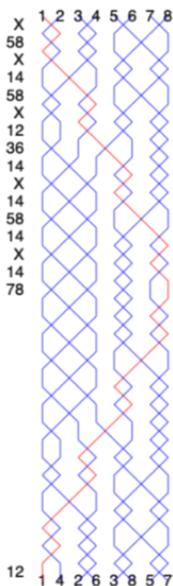
The Leiston ringers have rung another Surprise method. It has been named Edinburgh Surprise and is a product by Mr. Gabriel Lindoff. The band found the method interesting to ring, and something different to existing ones. A composition on the “in and filths” plan shortens the courses and increases the musical features.

Edinburgh Surprise Major (from boojum.org.uk)

X	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	②	1 4 2 6 3 8 5 7	③	1 6 4 8 2 7 3 5	⑤	1 8 6 7 4 5 3 2	⑦	1 7 8 5 6 6 3 4 2	⑧	1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4	⑩	1 3 5 2 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 3 7 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		6 7 5 5 4 3		7 7 5 8 3 4 4		5 7 3 7 8 4 6		3 5 6 4 7 8 6
14	3 4 8 6 5 7		4 6 7 8 5 3		6 8 4 5 7 5		8 7 6 3 5 4		7 7 5 3 3 4 6		5 3 7 4 8 8		3 5 6 4 8 7
X	4 3 8 6 7 5		4 6 7 8 5 3		6 8 4 5 7 5		8 7 6 3 5 4		7 7 5 3 3 4 6		5 3 7 4 8 8		3 5 6 4 8 7
50	4 3 5 8 6 7		4 6 3 7 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 8 5 6 3 4 4		5 5 7 4 8 6		3 5 6 4 7 8 6
X	4 3 5 6 7 8		4 6 3 8 5 7		6 8 4 7 7 5		8 7 6 4 5 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
12	3 4 5 6 7 8		4 6 3 8 5 7		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 5 6 7 8		4 6 3 8 5 7		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 5 6 7 8		4 6 3 8 5 7		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
14	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
X	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4		5 3 7 8 6 4		3 5 7 4 8 6
50	4 3 6 5 8 7		4 6 4 8 3 7 5		6 8 4 7 7 5		7 8 6 5 4 3		7 5 6 6 3 4 4				

The band included five of the famous eleven Bailey brothers of Leiston. I will not reproduce the composition here, but it can be found in Composition Library (complib.org) with reference number 103338.

Edinburgh (from boojum.org.uk)



It looks like a reasonable method and we can identify several familiar features that would help when learning and ringing it. The front work looks rather like Kenninghall, which is an “also try” method from Project Pickled Egg, with wrong hunting on the front four. The back work starts in the same way as Bristol and then shifts into other patterns including long fishtails at the back and a triple dodge across the half lead as part of a long piece of work in 5-6. It could well appeal to surprise major bands in Scotland and perhaps should be revived.

Not everyone looked so favourably on it, however. On 28th December 1923 this letter appeared:

While congratulating the Leiston men on their achievement in ringing a peal of the above, I must object to them calling it a new method. It is

rather an arrangement, consisting of half of each of two different Double Surprise methods, viz., Bristol and Peterborough Surprise, spliced together at the quarter sections by the use of adjoining places in 1-2. I think this is a very unfortunate thing to do with two such perfect methods. Bristol Surprise has stood 25 years as the only Surprise method which contains none of these adjoining places, and I append two more Surprise methods to share this distinction with Bristol.
Arthur Craven

The author, Arthur Craven, is perhaps not as well-known as he deserves to be. He composed Yorkshire Surprise Major and was involved in a discussion, also in *The Ringing World* in 1923, about how to extend Bristol Surprise Major to Royal and Maximus. His grave, in the Abbey Green cemetery in Sheffield, has an elaborate headstone and is worth a visit.

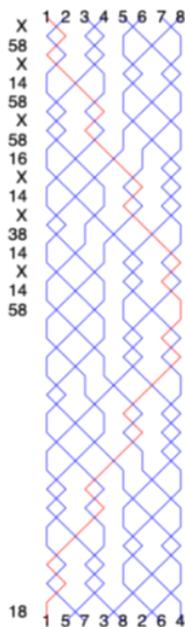


The two methods he referred to in his letter had not been named at the time but were subsequently rung to peals and named Essex (17th September 1932) and Princess Marina (29th November 1934, the day of her marriage to Prince George, the fourth son of King George V and Queen Mary).

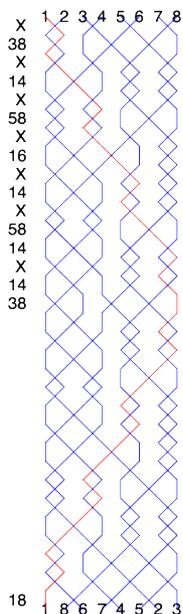
Craven's criticism of Edinburgh Surprise looks rather odd to modern readers. He seems to be saying that a new method should consist of entirely new structure and not contain parts of other methods. However, one could equally criticise Princess Marina for being

Yorkshire until the treble leaves 3-4, then Lancashire (first rung in 1922) for the rest of the lead, with a different half lead place. Following the subsequent correspondence leads us to suspect that Craven's negative views were not purely about the method.

Essex (from boojum.org.uk)



Princess Marina (from boojum.org.uk)



The *Ringing World* of 25th January 1924 printed two letters in response to Craven's. First, one by the conductor of the peal:

Please allow me a small space of your valuable paper to reply to Mr Craven on Edinburgh Surprise. We wish to thank him for his congratulations. He states, however, that the method is not new, as we used Peterborough Surprise front work, and Bristol Surprise back work. We should like to know if Peterborough has been rung with a whole turn in it, also if Bristol Surprise has been rung with a triple snap in 7-8, and a three-pull dodge in 5-6. Perhaps Mr. Craven will be kind enough to reply to these two questions and satisfy us on the subject.

C. F. BAILEY, on behalf of St. Margaret's Society, Leiston.

I think the point being made here is that although Edinburgh contains parts of the structure of Bristol and Peterborough, the blue line looks very different. The backwork, which Craven says is Bristol, contains triple dodges and long fishtails (“triple snaps”) that are not in Bristol, while the frontwork, which Craven says is Peterborough, contains a Stedman whole turn that is not in Peterborough.

The composer of Edinburgh also joined the fray:

Does Mr. Craven intend people to take him seriously when he refers to “Edinburgh”? If he does, why publish method No.2?

I would remind him that it has equal right with Superlative to have a name of its own. I would also remind him that the peals of Royal (14 courses) with 6th extent belong to me, they were all rung about thirty years ago for the first time. I note one was rung for the first Yorkshire Royal, another as Princess Mary, another (I presume) published this week, New Cambridge. I would also be obliged if he would cease claiming my 7,616 two-part Treble Bob.

G. LINDOFF.

Craven’s Method No. 2 is Essex, which could be viewed as a combination of blocks from Bristol and Lancashire, joined with different cross-section places (i.e. when the treble moves between dodging positions), and therefore does not seem any more original than Edinburgh according to Craven’s own argument. I am not sure why Superlative is mentioned.

Clearly there is some history between Craven and Lindoff. The “peals of Royal (14 courses) with 6th extent” means that the compositions contain the maximum number (the extent) of course ends with the 6th in 6th place - that maximum number is 12 for compositions without singles. Such compositions, all attributed to Lindoff in Composition Library, include reference numbers 11193, 11195, 29162, 145396, 29160 and 56746. The 7616 Treble Bob might be the one with reference number 146263 in Composition Library.

Dragging other ongoing disputes into the correspondence is something I have noticed in other threads during the same period. Craven's reply on 8th February 1924 continues the debate on all three fronts:

Kindly allow me space to answer Mr. C. F. Bailey's questions and defend myself against Mr. Lindoff's accusations.

My objections to "Edinburgh" were plainly stated and are as follows: It is an unfortunate course to take, with the object of producing a new method, to select two perfect double methods and splice half of each together by introducing two sets of adjoining places in 1-2, which is degrading to both the methods employed. If Mr. Bailey is satisfied because the arrangement produces a whole pull at lead and a triple snap behind, I don't mind in the least. My reason for publishing No. 1 and 2 methods was to show that two methods can be connected without any detrimental effect. No.1 is half Lancashire and half Yorkshire, and No. 2 half Bristol. I have several others which are like Bristol, clear of the blemish of adjoining place-making, which is my ideal.

Regarding Mr. Lindoff's allusion to a 5,040 Yorkshire Royal, that composition was by Mr. Sam Thomas. The 5,040 Princess Mary Royal I published was arranged from a peal of Superlative I have had for 29 years, and consists of four blocks of three bobs Wrong, each connected with two, making up courses with the 5th in 6th's place. Now I am surprised at Mr. Lindoff, even if he did produce this before me, making a claim for strict originality. Benjamin Annable might have done, but certainly nobody in our generation. Regarding Mr. Lindoff's allusion to a 7,616 Treble Bob. This peal, along with five others, is undoubtedly mine. What I want to know is when did it occur to Mr. Lindoff that they were his? I challenge him to give proof of date of his producing the same. I will do likewise, and I suggest, sir, that we each send our case to you, and that you act as judge. This is perfectly fair to both, parties. Will Mr. Lindoff agree?

ARTHUR CRAVEN.

Here Craven clarifies that he does not object to combining structure from two methods, as indeed he has done to produce Essex, but he doesn't like the use of adjacent places (1st and 2nd in the case of Edinburgh).

There have been a couple of references to Princess Mary Surprise Royal. Searching for it in Composition Library reveals that there is no method of that name, but that Goldsborough Surprise Royal was previously known as Princess Mary. The method was composed by Craven and published in a letter to *The Ringing World* on 3rd March 1922. He described it as “the Bob Major of Surprise” and said that he constructed it while trying to remove the 12 place notation (he really doesn’t like it!) from Yorkshire and keep the bells in their natural coursing order. The first peal was rung on 14th April 1923, and the “Belfry Gossip” section of *The Ringing World* noted that the method had been rung with 2nd place at the lead end instead of 10th as proposed by Craven, and that “it was decided to publish it under the name given it by the author, although the ringers think a more suitable name might have been found for it”. In 1925 the Nomenclature Committee of the Central Council proposed a list of method renamings, declaring that some names were “unsuitable and inconvenient”; the renaming of Princess Mary to Goldsborough was among them, although not all of the other proposals have stuck.

Now, back to Edinburgh. In a letter on 15th February 1924, Bailey tried to refocus the debate.

In reply to Mr. Craven's letter, we do not want to know about his No.1 and No.2 methods. We desire an answer to the two questions asked. If we are to believe that a triple snap is a whole turn, and that the back work of Edinburgh is Bristol, then London Surprise is only Bob Major, hunt and dodge.

C. F. BAILEY

The argument is becoming a little cryptic, but we can sense some frustration, coming out as sarcasm. The following week saw another contribution from Lindoff, also cryptic but not following Bailey’s example in sticking to the original point:

Mr. Craven objects to Edinburgh being called a new method, simply because it does not come up to his idea of perfection; or, in other words, “He would have made a better job of it himself.” But I fail to see how better or worse affects the question. Take Grandsire, Oxford Bob,

Union and St. Clements Triples, to say nothing of Double Oxford Bob and Double Norwich, or Cambridge and Superlative Major, and others too numerous to mention. How is it that each has a name of its own?

I have rung at least one peal on six bells, which Mr. Craven called, in which Oxford and Kent were counted two different methods. How does that fit in with his present attitude?

Regarding my 5040 Royal, did it never occur to Mr. Craven that what is original enough for himself and others to put their names to, when they thought they were first in the field with them, are original enough for me who has the prior claim?

The 7616's Treble Bob were published by me in 'The Ringing World' in a straightforward manner, together with a table showing how to obtain them. This was about eight years ago. They will also be found in the C.C. Collection. My authorship of them has never been questioned. A few months ago, it came to my knowledge that Mr. Craven was passing them round under his name, even though one gentleman pointed out to him that they had been previously published by me.

Now he wishes to toss me for them. Why not add the few coppers I have in my pocket! The claim would be just as good

Possibly he wishes to clear the way for the publication of his "Sottanstallisation" of Harrison's 8896, which is being passed round also.

G. LINDOFF

The last sentence seems to refer to William Sottanstall. I think we can interpret it as an insult.

In conclusion, it seems that Craven's real objection was to adjacent 1st and 2nd places, and his irritation rekindled an old rivalry with Lindoff, leading to a hasty letter putting him into a position which he then had difficulty defending. A century later we can observe similar disagreements on social media, the main difference being the faster pace of exchange. Ringers are people after all, and people don't change much!

A summer in Inveraray

Zoe Bennett

Over the summer I was incredibly fortunate to take over the day-to-day running of Inveraray Bell Tower, despite having to become a little too familiar with the A83 and the Rest and Be Thankful!

The experience was wholly enjoyable, whether that be explaining to visitors the history and architecture of the tower (my favourite topic) or reassuring them that the 176 stairs to the top were definitely achievable. I was able to interact with a broad range of people, welcoming guests from as close as Inveraray Main Street and as far away as Japan, Australia, and Canada. I also had the opportunity to brush up my GCSE French skills with a very small child who was very eager to tell me what his parents had learnt about the cloches (bells) despite not speaking a word of English.

Over the course of five weeks, I had seven canines, one cat, and a wasp come to see me in the tower. In the case of the wasp, a visitor wanted me to remove it from the belfry; I said I'd do what I could but finding a wasp in that room would have been like finding a needle in a haystack. I think the dogs mainly came inside to get out of the warm, as did their people, as for the most part temperatures stuck in the late teens and early 20s outside but stayed significantly cooler indoors.

I found, contrary to what I was expecting, that busier days at the tower were more overcast, perhaps as people wanted to find somewhere indoors to visit instead of wandering up to Dun na Cuaiche. The busiest days were when the castle was closed, while my quietest day was when the roads were shut both towards Glasgow and Oban. In this instance I had only half a dozen visitors, but they were all more than happy to ask a multitude of architectural and historical (and campanological) questions and spend a lot of time at the tower. The traffic jam was adding an additional two hours to journey times between Inveraray and Oban!

For those unfamiliar with Inveraray, the grounds of All Saints Church are home to a very large Giant Rhubarb. I have never seen so many people interested in plant life and have consequently become rather

familiar with the relevant RHS and Wikipedia websites. Fortunately for me, it did encourage a large number of people to come inside either on their way to look at it or to ask what it was.

I greatly enjoyed my time at Inveraray Bell Tower and hope that whoever takes over the role for the 2026 season meets just as many interesting people and learns as much as I learnt about such a fascinating piece of heritage. Oh, and if you're ever in Inveraray, we have a fantastic exhibition and gorgeous views over Loch Fyne from the roof!

Ringling Courses at Tulloch

Chris Frye

Since the first ring of twelve was installed in 2012, the Tulloch Ringing Centre has hosted a wide variety of activities from the teaching of handling to record peals of Maximus. There are now two rings and two dumbbell simulators, plus lecture space, social area and accommodation.

Members of SACR will know that Tulloch has become our preferred location for our annual training day(s). As well as day and weekend ringing events, one of the successes of Tulloch has been the full week events organised by various groups. A band from the Reading area (and friends) has been pre-eminent with an annual October fortnight organised since 2013. Many other bands have organised similar week-long events. These usually include ringing at all levels with many "firsts" for band members. Over 1,100 performances are recorded on Bellboard!

In recent years there have been two annual ringing weeks that address specific training needs and that are open to book, subject to suitability and available space. This includes ringers based in Scotland. One course, usually held in November, is for "improvers", taken as ringers who can handle a bell and who are ready to tackle skills leading to plain hunt. The week covers good bell control, raising and lowering, covering, plain hunt and plain bob. Course tutors have an excellent

experience of early-stage teaching, and they use theory and extensive practical sessions to ensure a firm foundation for future progress. A high number of experienced helpers are on hand, so a supportive band is always available.

The second course, usually held in February, addresses method ringing beyond the basic level, and has recently concentrated on minor methods beyond plain bob through to surprise minor and method splicing. Again, theory is combined with practical sessions to give a strong set of skills for learning more advanced methods. Longer lengths of ringing, especially quarter peals, are used to provide reinforcement of the methods learned. The easy-going bells in “the Last Tower” are ideal for this purpose. Teaching can continue in parallel on the light six of “the Ringing Centre” which provides an excellent learning environment.

If you are interested to organise an event at Tulloch for your own band, see tullochbells.com. This has an excellent video and article about a one-week stay by a visiting band. SACR members wishing to discuss opportunities for training at Tulloch, please contact the training officer (training@SACR.org).

Performances



St Cuthbert's new rope 'pentapus' created by Alex Hunsley

Half Peal

St Cuthbert, Edinburgh

Sunday, 14 December 2025 in 1h 34

2528 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed by C. Middleton

1	Elinor Farquharson
2	Anne M Brechin
3	William Stafford
4	Talon Ashryver
5	Simon H Aves
6	Edmund G N Smith
7	Tina R Stoecklin
8	Simon J Gay (C)

First of surprise and longest length to date: 4

Quarter Peals

During 2025 147 quarter peals were credited to SACR (or rung by members), of which 46 were rung on handbells.

First quarter peal congratulations:

Andrew Cumming (St Mary, Edinburgh 2/3/25)

Gerda Grase (St Cuthbert, Edinburgh 27/5/25)

Weihe Yang (St Andrews 30/6/25)

Catriona James (Glasgow 26/10/25)

Olivia A Clark (St Andrews 2/12/25)

Max O Coady (St Andrews 3/12/25)

Felix Charlton (St Mary, Edinburgh 14/12/25)

9 January: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1260 Stedman Triples: 1 Simon J Gay, 2 Anne M Brechin, 3 Sally L Thomas, 4 Jonathan S Frye, 5 Susan E Bryce, 6 Edmund G N Smith, 7 Michael J Clay (C), 8 Peter J Williamson.

11 January: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1600 Spliced Surprise Royal (3m: 560 Bristol, Dumfries; 480 Sgùrr a' Chaorachain): 1 Sally L Thomas, 2 Susan E Bryce, 3 Christopher J Frye, 4 Jason R Hargreaves, 5 Simon J Gay (C), 6 Peter J Williamson 7 Clyde W Wallbanks, 8 Tina R Stoecklin, 9 Jonathan S Frye, 10 Michael J Clay.

27 January: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1280 Bristol Surprise Major:

1- 2Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C). Birthday compliments to Jonathan.

30 January: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Heather A Preece, 3 Ian B Turner, 4 Rachel M

Milner, 5 Matthew D Hubbard, 6 Nicholas C Sturgess, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Michael C Pearce. Rung half muffled in celebration of the life of Robert George Preece.

3 February: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1280 Bristol Surprise Major:

1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C).

6 February 2025: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1320 Cambridge

Surprise Minor: 1 Nicola A Marshall, 2 Hugh G Collins, 3 Matthew D Hubbard, 4 Brian Heys, 5 Rachel M Milner. 6 Anthony C Cole (C). First Surprise inside: 5.

6 February: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1600 Spliced Surprise Royal (3m: 560

Bristol, Dumfries; 480 Sgùrr a' Chaorachain): 1 Sally L Thomas, 2 Richard J W Tibbetts, 3 Christopher J Frye, 4 Anne M Brechin, 5 Peter J Williamson, 6 Jason R Hargreaves, 7 Edmund G N Smith, 8 Estella J Haynes, 9 Michael J Clay (C), 10 Jonathan S Frye.

16 February: St John the Evangelist, Dumfries: 1260 Grandsire Doubles:

1 Janet Yasities, 2 Debbie Johnson, 3 Judith Horne, 4 David Horne, 5 Guy Beaumont (C), 6 Ian Cooper. Rung in memory of Ralph Beaumont (father of 5), Ringing Master Whiston Parish Church, Rotherham 1979 - 2004, formerly All Souls, Halifax.

22 February: Tulloch Lodge, Tulloch: 1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major:

1-2 Jennifer A Holden, 3-4 Ian P Bell, 5-6 Simon J Gay (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole. AND

1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Jenny M Page, 3-4 Sue Turner,

5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Susannah M Ewens, 9-10 Dawn A McAleer. AND

1296 Kent Treble Bob Maximus: 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 Susannah M Ewens,

5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Ian P Bell, 9-10 Rachel M Milner, 11-12 Sue Turner. AND

1320 Hitcham Delight Minor: 1-2 Elinor Farquharson, 3-4 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C).

23 February: Last Tower, Tulloch: 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Helen

M McGregor, 2 Barbara Busby, 3 Julia Lee, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Elspeth Craig, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). AND

1320 Ipswich Surprise Minor: 1 Julia Lee, 2 Barbara Busby, 3 Helen M

McGregor, 4 Kate Millar, 5 Ian B Turner, 6 Ashley Law (C). First in method: 2. AND

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Jenny M Page, 2 Kate Millar, 3 Barbara

Busby, 4 Peter J R Bevis, 5 Andrew Craig, 6 Ashley Law (C). AND

1320 London Surprise Minor: 1 Paul J Wells (C), 2 Helen M Wells, 3 Kate

Millar, 4 Barbara Busby, 5 Ashley Law, 6 Anthony C Cole. First quarter of London: 4, First quarter of London since 2002: 6. AND

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Elspeth Craig, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Helen

McGregor, 4 Helen M Wells, 5 Ashley Law, 6 Paul J Wells (C).

23 February: Ringing Centre, Tulloch: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Penelope

Bellis, 3-4 Helen M McGregor, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C). First quarter in hand: 1-2.

24 February: Last Tower, Tulloch: 1320 Norwich Surprise Minor: 1 Ashley Law, 2 Judith Frye, 3 Jenny M Page, 4 Lynne Sydes, 5 Paul J Wells, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C). First in method: 4. AND

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Barbara Busby, 2 Kate Millar, 3 Chris Frye, 4 Jane Le Conte, 5 Rachel M Milner, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). 150th tower bell QP as conductor. AND

1272 Primrose Surprise Minor: 1 Rachel M Milner, 2 Elspeth Craig, 3 Jenny M Page, 4 Ashley Law, 5 Paul J Wells, 6 Chris Frye (C). First in method: 2.

25 February: Last Tower, Tulloch: 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor:

1 Penelope Bellis, 2 Jenny M Page, 3 Peter J R Bevis, 4 Kate Millar, 5 Andrew Craig, 6 Ashley Law (C). AND

1320 Norwich Surprise Minor: 1 Chris Frye, 2 Aileen Wilson, 3 Barbara Busby, 4 Helen McGregor, 5 Ian B Turner, 6 Paul J Wells (C). First quarter of Norwich: 3,5. AND

1320 Norwich Surprise Minor: 1 Julia Lee, 2 Elspeth Craig, 3 Kate Millar, 4 Anthony C Cole, 5 Ashley Law, 6 Judith Frye (C). First in method: 2. AND

1320 Norwich Surprise Minor: 1 Bridget Taylor, 2 Julia Lee, 3 Kate Millar, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Ashley Law, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). First quarter of Norwich inside: 2. First Norwich as conductor.

26 February: Last Tower, Tulloch: 1296 Bourne Surprise Minor: 1 Ian B Turner, 2 Elspeth Craig, 3 Kate Millar, 4 Barbara Busby, 5 Anthony C Cole, 6 Ashley Law (C). First in method: 2, 4. 250th QP as conductor. AND

1320 Bourne Surprise Minor: 1 Andrew Craig, 2 Ian B Turner, 3 Helen McGregor, 4 Penelope Bellis, 5 Ashley Law, 6 Paul J Wells (C). First quarter of Bourne: 2,4. AND

1250 Primrose Surprise Minor: 1 Helen McGregor, 2 Aileen Wilson, 3 Ashley Law, 4 Helen M Wells, 5 Chris Frye, 6 Paul J Wells (C). First quarter of Primrose: 4. The Conductor's 1,000th quarter peal on tower bells.

27 February: Tulloch Lodge, Tulloch: 1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Peter J R Bevis, 3-4 Helen M McGregor, 5-6 Jenny M Page (C), 7-8 Jane Le Conte.

27 February: Last Tower, Tulloch: 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Kate Millar, 3 Jane Le Conte, 4 Penelope Bellis, 5 Jenny M Page, 6 Ashley Law (C). AND

1320 Bourne Surprise Minor: 1 Helen M Wells, 2 Bridget Taylor, 3 Barbara Busby, 4 Aileen Wilson, 5 Helen McGregor, 6 Paul J Wells (C). First quarter of Bourne: 2, 4. AND

1320 Primrose Surprise Minor: 1 Elspeth Craig, 2 Barbara Busby, 3 Ian B Turner, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Anthony C Cole, 6 Judith Frye (C). First in method: 2,3.

28 February: Last Tower, Tulloch: 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Helen McGregor, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Penelope Bellis, 4 Anthony C Cole, 5 Paul J Wells (C), 6 Helen M Wells. AND

1272 Norwich Surprise Minor: 1 Julia Lee, 2 Bridget Taylor, 3 Barbara Busby, 4 Kate Millar, 5 Ian B Turner, 6 Ashley Law (C). First in Method: 2.

1320 Beverley Surprise Minor: 1 Barbara Busby, 2 Elspeth Craig, 3 Jenny M Page, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Peter J R Bevis, 6 Ashley Law (C). First in method: 2. AND

1296 London Surprise Minor: 1 Jane Le Conte, 2 Aileen Wilson, 3 Kate Millar, 4 Helen McGregor, 5 Paul J Wells, 6 Chris Frye (C). First in method: 2. AND

1320 Bourne Surprise Minor: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Judith Frye, 3 Paul J Wells, 4 Jenny M Page, 5 Andrew Craig, 6 Ashley Law (C). First in method: 5. AND

1320 York Surprise Minor: 1 Bridget Taylor, 2 Jenny M Page, 3 Peter J R Bevis, 4 Helen McGregor, 5 Ashley Law, 6 Paul J Wells (C). AND

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1 Paul J Wells (C), 2 Ashley Law, 3 Jenny M Page, 4 Jane Le Conte, 5 Chris Frye, 6 Peter J R Bevis, 7 Judith Frye, 8 Anthony C Cole. Circled the new bells to Quarter Peals: 1. By Stepping Stones helpers. Rung at Anthony speed!

2 March: St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Fiona Bridge, 2 Susannah M Ewens (C), 3 Ian P Bell, 4 Elinor Farquharson, 5 Geoffrey Farquharson, 6 Andrew Cumming, First quarter: 6.

2 March: 21B Palmerston Place, Edinburgh: 1360 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Geoffrey Farquharson, 3-4 Barbara J Bell, 5-6 Ian P Bell (C), 7-8 Elinor Farquharson. First at the address.

4 March: Silvermills, Edinburgh: 1280 Malpas Surprise Major: 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 James W Holdsworth (C), 5-6 Susannah M Ewens, 7-8 Ian P Bell.

6 March: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1280 Remus Surprise Royal: 1 Sally L Thomas, 2 Susan E Bryce, 3 Simon J Gay, 4 Richard J W Tibbetts, 5 Christopher J Frye, 6 Peter J Williamson, 7 Tina R Stoecklin, 8 Clyde W Wallbanks, 9 Michael J Clay (C), 10 Jonathan S Frye.

8 March: Last Tower, Tulloch: 1344 Superlative Surprise Major: 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Susannah M Ewens, 5-6 Simon J Gay (C), 7-8 Ian P Bell.

16 March New Town Church, Edinburgh: 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1 Ian P Bell, 2 Judith Stark, 3 Ian Stark, 4 Susan E Bryce, 5 Simon H Aves, 6 Alex G Hunsley, 7 Chris W Thomas, 8 Edmund G N Smith (C).

20 March: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1280 Remus Surprise Royal: 1 Sally L Thomas, 2 Zoe A Bennett, 3 Simon J Gay (C), 4 Anne M Brechin, 5 George W K Stevens, 6 Peter J Williamson, 7 Christopher J Frye, 8 Edmund G N Smith, 9 Estella J Haynes, 10 Michael J Clay.

23 March: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Doubles (2m: 780 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob): 1 Ian B Turner, 2 Michael C Pearce, 3 Brian Heys, 4 Matthew D Hubbard, 5 Anthony C Cole (C), 6 Sue Turner. First Grandsire: 2. For evensong.

23 March: 27 House o'Hill Crescent, Edinburgh: 1440 Cambridge Surprise Royal: 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 Susannah M Ewens, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C), 9-10 Ian P Bell. First of Cambridge Royal in hand: 1-2, 9-10.

29 March: Holy Rude, Stirling: 1260 Doubles (2m: 540 Grandsire, 720 Plain Bob): 1 Susan P McGowan, 2 Magnus M Peterson, 3 Jennifer A Dearie, 4 Rob Ferguson, 5 Robert D McGowan (C), 6 Ian Brown. Rung for Stirling 900th Anniversary Weekend Finale.

30 March: 16 Hillpark Brae, Munlochy: 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Anthony C Cole, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Rachel M Milner. First of Surprise in hand: 7-8.

31 March: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1440 Yorkshire Surprise Royal: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C), 9-10 Peter G Kirton.

3 April: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1260 Doubles (2m: 660 Grandsire, 600 Plain Bob): 1 Quenton W Hurst, 2 George W K Stevens, 3 Matthew J Andrews, 4 Al Rossin, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 Rachel C Williamson.

6 April: St Mary, Haddington: 1274 Plain Bob Triples: 1 John Elcock, 2 Elinor Farquharson, 3 Sally L Thomas, 4 Jenny Mackie, 5 Hugh C Pumphrey, 6 Alastair George, 7 Chris W Thomas (C), 8 Arthur S Kidner. First quarter on eight: 8. Rung to celebrate and give thanks for the life of Robin Salvesen, 4th May 1935 - 10th March, 2025. Robin was a major donor to the project to install the bells at St Mary's Haddington in 1999.

6 April: St John the Evangelist, Dumfries: 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Janet Yasities, 2 Judith Horne, 3 Debbie Johnson, 4 David Horne, 5 Guy Beaumont (C), 6 Ian Cooper.

7 April: 20 Kingshill Avenue, Cumbernauld: 1280 Rhodium Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C).

16 April: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1260 Doubles and Minor (3m: 60 Stedman, 720 Plain Bob Minor, 480 Plain Bob Doubles): 1 Rachel C Williamson, 2 Briony Harding, 3 Peter J Williamson, 4 Al Rossin, 5 George W K Stevens, 6 Matthew Andrews (C). Rung in celebration of Al passing his PhD viva earlier that day.

26 April: St Mary, Haddington: 1274 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Ruth Ellis, 2 Mike Clay, 3 Sally L Thomas, 4 Annie Brechin, 5 John Lawrence, 6 Alastair George, 7 Chris W Thomas (C), 8 Arthur S Kidner. Rung to congratulate Revd. Alison Macdonald on her retirement as Minister at St Mary's, Haddington.

27 April: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Ian B Turner, 3 Rachel M Milner, 4 Matthew D Hubbard, 5 Michael C Pearce, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). First PB Minor: 5.

1 May: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1344 Plain Bob Major: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Ian B Turner, 3 Nicola A Marshall, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Matthew D Hubbard, 6 Brian Heys, 7 Nicholas C Sturgess, 8 Anthony C Cole (C). For May Day. First Plain Bob Major on tower bells: 1,4.

6 May: 27 House o'Hill Crescent, Edinburgh: 1282 Spliced Surprise Major (6m: Bristol, Cornwall, Deva, Lessness, Malpas, Superlative): 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 James W Holdsworth (C), 5-6 Susannah M Ewens, 7-8 Ian P Bell.

10 May: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1296 Kent Treble Bob Maximus: 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin, 3-4 Estella J Haynes, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Nicholas W Jones (C), 9-10 Alison N Stevens, 11-12 Peter G Kirton. First on 12: 9-10. First on 12 in hand: 3-4. First quarter on these 12 bells. AND

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Jennifer A Holden, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C). AND

1440 Yorkshire Surprise Royal: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton,

5-6 Nicholas W Jones, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C), 9-10 Alison N Stevens. First blows of surprise royal on handbells: 9-10. AND

1440 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Barbara J Bell, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye (C), 7-8 Ian P Bell, 9-10 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton. Birthday compliment to Barbara Bell. AND

1280 Spliced Surprise Major (5m: 480 Bristol; 320 Yorkshire; 160 Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Superlative 35 com): 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Jennifer A Holden, 5-6 Tina R Stoecklin, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C). Most spliced in hand: 3-4. AND

1312 Oxford Treble Bob Major: 1-2 Alison N Stevens, 3-4 Barbara J Bell, 5-6 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton, 7-8 Ian P Bell (C). AND

1296 Kent Treble Bob Maximus: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Barbara J Bell, 5-6 Susannah M Ewens, 7-8 Nicholas W Jones (C), 9-10 Alison N Stevens, 11-12 Ian P Bell. AND

1440 Cambridge Surprise Royal: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C), 9-10 Ian B Turner. First of surprise royal: 9-10. Rung at the Scottish Handbell Day.

11 May: New Town Church, Edinburgh: 1288 Little Bob Major: 1 Talon Ashryver, 2 Sandra Clay, 3 Judith Stark, 4 Elinor Farquharson, 5 Ian Stark, 6 Simon H Aves, 7 Edmund G N Smith, 8 Mike J Clay (C). First on eight: 1. For Christian Aid Week.

13 May: 27 House o'Hill Crescent, Edinburgh: 2242 Spliced Surprise Major (6m: Bristol, Cornwall, Deva, Lessness, Malpas, Superlative): 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 James W Holdsworth (C), 5-6 Susannah M Ewens, 7-8 Ian P Bell.

17 May: Alison House, Edinburgh: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Matthew D Frye, 3-4 Stephen R Aldridge, 5-6 Alison N Stevens (C).

18 May: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Kathryn C Darley, 3 Judith M Horne, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 David A Horne, 6 Hugh G Collins, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Michael C Pearce. For evensong and Bell Sunday.

19 May: Thistle Lodge, Kilfinnan 1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Sue Turner, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Brian Heys. First quarter in hand: 7-8. Believed to be the first change ringing performance in Kilfinnan.

25 May: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Peter J Williamson, 2 Briony Harding, 3 Graeme M B Booth, 4 Rachel C Williamson, 5 George W K Stevens, 6 David Hird (C). Rung on the final Sunday of the Candlemas semester and before the service of Baptism of Rory Christopher Mann.

25 May: St John the Evangelist, Dumfries: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Heather Barrington, 2 Judith Horne, 3 Debbie Johnson, 4 Guy Beaumont, 5 David Horne (C), 6 Emma Westmancott. Rung in memory of Bill Cussons, who was greatly involved with the installation of the bells at St John's Dumfries in 2012.

25 May: 21B Palmerston Place, Edinburgh: 1264 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Elinor Farquharson, 3-4 Barbara J Bell, 5-6 Ian P Bell, 7-8 Susannah M Ewens (C).

27 May: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Gerda Grase, 2 Anne M Brechin, 3 Elinor Farquharson, 4 Ian D B Stark, 5 Edmund G N Smith (C), 6 Simon H Aves. First quarter: 1.

3 June: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Lyra Burgess, 2 Anne M Brechin, 3 Elinor Farquharson, 4 Talon Ashryver, 5 Alex J Linton, 6 Simon H Aves, 7 Edmund G N Smith (C), 8 Christopher de Burgh. Rung to celebrate Pride month. First on eight and away from cover: 1. First inside to Grandsire & Triples: 4.

7 June: Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, Glasgow: 1320 Sgurr A' Chaorachain Surprise Royal: 1 Jennifer Tomkinson, 2 Judith L Frye, 3 Simon J Gay (C), 4 Christopher J Frye, 5 Angela H Deakin, 6 Peter G Kirton, 7 Zoe A Bennett, 8 Jonathan S Frye, 9 Tina R Stoecklin, 10 Matthew D Hetherington. To welcome Rev Canon Sarah Shaw who is to be installed as Vice Provost of the Cathedral tomorrow.

11 June: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1272 Norwich Surprise Minor: 1 Ian P Bell, 2 Judith Stark, 3 Linda M Thomson, 4 Simon H Aves, 5 Alison N Stevens, 6 Nicholas Thomson (C).

15 June: St John the Evangelist, Dumfries: 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Heather Barrington, 2 Judith M Horne, 3 Debbie Johnson, 4 Guy Beaumont, 5 David A Horne (C), 6 Lynne Sydes.

16 June: 20 Kingshill Avenue, Cumbernauld: 1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Simon J Gay, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Tina R Stoecklin (C).

22 June: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Michael C Pearce, 2 Kathryn C Darley, 3 Catherine Pellemounter, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Samuel R B Cole, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). First minor inside: 5.

28 June: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1260 Doubles (2m: 660 Grandsire, 600 Plain Bob): 1 Jason W Pollock, 2 Rachel C Williamson, 3 Peter Jupp, 4 J Andrew Pollock, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 Quenton W Hurst. Rung following the marriage service and nuptial mass for Lauren Winkler and Trevor Hecht in this chapel.

29 June: 21B Palmerston Place, Edinburgh: 1264 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Geoffrey Farquharson, 3-4 Barbara J Bell, 5-6 Ian P Bell, 7-8 Susannah M Ewens (C).

29 June: St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Fiona Bridge, 2 Wilma Tolmie, 3 Susannah M Ewens, 4 Simon Aves, 5 Matthew D Frye, 6 Ian P Bell, 7 Alison N Stevens (C), 8 Christopher de Burgh. First on eight: 1. In affectionate memory of Karin Farnworth, who rang at the cathedral for a number of years.

30 June: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1260 Doubles (5m 60 Stedman, 120 each St Simons, St Martins, 360 Grandsire, 600 Plain Bob): 1 Rachel C Williamson, 2 Matthew J Andrews, 3 George W K Stevens, 4 Al Rossin, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 Weihe Yang (杨苇荷). First quarter: 6. Weihe learned to ring in St Andrews and graduated in 2024.

1 July: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1289 Grandsire Doubles: 1 David Groves, 2 Al Rossin, 3 Peter J Williamson, 4 Matthew J Andrews, 5 George W K Stevens (C), 6 Christina G Howie. First Quarter away from cover: 1. Rung for University of St Andrews graduations.

1 July: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Talon Ashryver,

2 Judith Stark, 3 Annie Brechin, 4 Lyra Burgess, 5 Elinor Farquharson, 6 Simon Aves, 7 Edmund G N Smith (C), 8 Ian Stark. First inside: 4.

2 July University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Geoffrey Farquharson, 2 David Groves, 3 Peter J Williamson, 4 George W K Stevens, 5 Matthew J Andrews (C), 6 Andrew MacKenzie. First quarter on an inside bell: 2. Rung in celebration for all those graduating from University of St Andrews.

3 July: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1320 Minor (2m: 720 Plain Bob Minor, 600 Cambridge S 600): 1 Peter J Williamson, 2 Elinor Farquharson, 3 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton, 4 Jason W Pollock, 5 Matthew J Andrews, 6 George W K Stevens (C). Rung for the University graduations today, especially that of Al Rossin, tower captain emeritus, who graduated this morning with his PhD.

4 July: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Carly Cooper, 2 David Groves, 3 Rachel C Williamson, 4 Peter J Williamson, 5 George W K Stevens, 6 Matthew J Andrews (C). First quarter of minor: 2.

19 July: 7 Boarstone Court, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Brian Heys, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Peter Church (C). First Minor on handbells: 1-2. Rung in the Man Cave. AND

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Peter Church, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole. 21st Birthday compliment to Sam Cole.

30 July: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal: 1 Simon H Aves, 2 Simon J Gay, 3 Zoé Martin, 4 Anne M Brechin, 5 Angela H Deakin, 6 Ian P Bell, 7 Edmund G N Smith, 8 Stephen R Aldridge (C), 9 Tina R Stoecklin, 10 Jonathan S Frye. First on ten bells: 3.

7 August: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Sue Turner, 2 Ian B Turner, 3 Sarah E Cole, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5 Brian Heys, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). Rung to celebrate the Silver Wedding of Anthony & Sarah Cole, and Sarah's birthday.

18 August: 20 Kingshill Avenue, Cumbernauld: 1280 Cornwall Surprise Major: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye (C), 7-8 Simon J Gay. Rung to celebrate the birth of Alba Elizabeth Johnston.

24 August: St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh: 1298 Grandsire Cinques: 1 Susannah M Ewens, 2 Simon J Gay, 3 Peter J Williamson, 4 Peter G Kirton, 5 Ian P Bell, 6 Alison N Stevens, 7 Mark A Bell (C), 8 Edmund G N Smith, 9 Michael J Clay, 10 Tina R Stoecklin, 11 Jonathan S Frye, 12 Ruth M Marshall. To mark the retirement of The Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh.

24 August: 27 House o'Hill Crescent, Edinburgh: 1344 Kent Treble Bob Maximus: 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin, 5-6 Mark A Bell, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C), 9-10 Ian P Bell, 11-12 Susannah M Ewens.

25 August: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow: 1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Royal: 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Peter G Kirton, 5-6 Jonathan S Frye, 7-8 Simon J Gay (C), 9-10 Tina R Stoecklin.

30 August: Cathedral Church of St Blane and St Laurence, Dunblane: 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1 Sheila Scofield, 2 Jennifer Herriott,

3 Jenny Dearie, 4 Leslie Boyce, 5 Judith Frye, 6 Nigel Herriott (C), 7 Chris Frye
8 John Grainger. Rung to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Ruth and Stuart
Bamforth, and the blessing of the marriage of Victoria and Michael Bamforth
in May 2025

7 September: Balnaferry Campanile, Forres: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Sue
Turner, 2 Sarah E Cole, 3 Ian B Turner, 4 Kathryn C Darley, 5 David B
Wilson, 6 Rachel M Milner, 7 Anthony C Cole (C), 8 Michael C Pearce.

**12 September: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1260 Plain Bob
Minor:** 1 David Groves, 2 Rachel C Williamson, 3 Matthew J Andrews,
4 George W K Stevens, 5 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton, 6 Peter J Williamson (C).

21 September: St John the Evangelist, Dumfries: 1260 Grandsire Doubles:
1 Heather Barrington, 2 Judith Horne, 3 David Horne, 4 Lynne Sydes, 5 Guy
Beaumont (C), 6 Debbie Johnson. To celebrate the birth of twins, Roland and
Joseph, grandchildren of Judith and David Horne.

**24 September: Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, Glasgow: 1320 Sgurr
A'Chorachain Surprise Royal:** 1 Margaret Williams, 2 Susan E Bryce,
3 Simon J Gay (C), 4 Zoe A Bennett, 5 Angela H Deakin, 6 Peter G Kirton,
7 Stephen R Aldridge, 8 Ruth M Marshall, 9 Clyde W Wallbanks, 10 Jonathan
S Frye.

**27 September: 27 House o'Hill Crescent, Edinburgh: 1250 Yorkshire Surprise
Major:** 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 Susannah M Ewens, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C)
7-8 Ian P Bell. Rung to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the opening of
the Stockton & Darlington Railway, the first railway in the world to operate
freight and passenger services with steam locomotives.

**28 September: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob
Minor:** 1 Sue Turner, 2 Michael C Pearce, 3 Ian B Turner, 4 Rachel M
Milner, 5 Matthew D Hubbard, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). 100th quarter: 4. For
Evensong. Birthday compliment to Jess Lynch.

**30 September: 27 House o'Hill Crescent, Edinburgh: 1280 Yorkshire Surprise
Major:** 1-2 Barbara J Bell, 3-4 James W Holdsworth, 5-6 Ian P Bell,
7-8 Susannah M Ewens (C). First surprise as conductor.

**4 October: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob
Doubles:** 1 Sue Turner, 2 Ian B Turner. 3 Sarah E Cole, 4 Rachel M Milner, 5
Anthony C Cole (C). For the Diocesan Ordination Service. In loving memory
of Rosalind Andrews, aunt of 4. Also, birthday compliment to Anthony Cole.

5 October: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1296 Grandsire Caters: 1 Elinor
Farquharson, 2 Judith Stark, 3 Annie M Brechin, 4 Ian Stark, 5 Talon
Ashryver, 6 Edmund G N Smith (C), 7 Susan E Bryce, 8 Simon H Aves,
9 William Stafford, 10 Alex G Hunsley. First on 10: 5.

11 October: Balnaferry House, Forres: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Dawn A
McAleer, 3-4 Brian Heys, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C). AND

1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Dawn A McAleer,
5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Sue Turner.

**18 October: Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, Glasgow: 1440 Yorkshire
Surprise Royal:** 1 Jennifer Tomkinson, 2 Angela H Deakin, 3 Tina R
Stoecklin (C), 4 Zoe Martin, 5 Ruth M Marshall, 6 Michael R Harrison,

7 Peter G Kirton, 8 Zoe A Bennett, 9 Clyde W Wallbanks, 10 Jonathan S Frye.

19 October: Clachan Lodge, Isle of North Uist: 1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Sue Turner, 3-4 Helen M McGregor, 5-6 Ian B Turner (C), 7-8 Jenny M Page. Believed to be the first handbell quarter peal in the house.

19 October: St John the Evangelist, Dumfries: 1320 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Judith Horne, 2 David Horne, 3 Debbie Johnson, 4 Guy Beaumont, 5 Ruth M Marshall, 6 Jonathan Frye (C). To celebrate the marriage of Benjamin Beaumont (son of 4) to Jess Nicholson on 27th September 2025.

26 October: Ringing Centre, Tulloch: 1311 Stedman Cinques: 1 June D Wells, 2 Mariko Whyte, 3 Janet John, 4 Donny Brock, 5 Dominic Ellis, 6 Stephen A Rossiter, 7 Helen McGregor, 8 Paul J Wells (C), 9 Justin Read, 10 Louise Read, 11 Graham John, 12 E. John Wells. First quarter peal of Stedman Cinques: 4. First quarter peal of Stedman Cinques as conductor.

26 October: Last Tower, Tulloch: 1250 Superlative Surprise Major: 1 Helen McGregor, 2 Debbie Turner, 3 Louise Read, 4 Helen M Wells, 5 William Read, 6 James Champion, 7 Paul J Wells (C), 8 Stephen A Rossiter.

26 October: Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, Glasgow: 1260 Stedman Doubles: 1 Jonathan S Frye (C), 2 Margaret Williams, 3 Terry G Williams, 4 Angela H Deakin, 5 Zoe A Bennett, 6 Catriona James. First quarter peal: 6.

29 October: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1320 Spliced Surprise Minor (3m: Cambridge, Beverley, Surfleet): 1 Rachel C Williamson, 2 Helen L Scott, 3 George W K Stevens, 4 Peter J Williamson, 5 Stephen Elwell-Sutton, 6 Pat Wheeler (C).

2 November: Ringing Centre, Tulloch: 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Gail Norwood, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Robert H Newton, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Richard Hérrissier, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C). First treble bobbing; 1. AND
1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 E. John Wells, 2 Jenny M Page (C), 3 Gillian M Blair, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Ian B Turner, 6 June D Wells, 7 Patricia M Newton, 8 Robert H Newton. First in method: 3.

3 November: Ringing Centre, Tulloch: 1250 Bristol Surprise Major: 1 Ian Turner, 2 Jenny Page, 3 June Wells, 4 Helen McGregor, 5 John Wells, 6 Peter Bevis, 7 Patricia Newton, 8 Robert Newton (C).

4 November: Ringing Centre, Tulloch: 1264 Plain Bob Major: 1 Gail Norwood, 2 June Wells, 3 Sue Turner, 4 Jenny Page, 5 Patricia Newton, 6 Richard Hérrissier, 7 Robert Newton, 8 John Wells (C). First Major: 1. First Plain Bob Major: 3.

5 November: Ringing Centre, Tulloch: 1280 Lincolnshire Surprise Major: 1 Gillian M Blair, 2 Ian B Turner, 3 June D Wells, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Jenny M Page, 6 Peter J R Bevis, 7 E. John Wells, 8 Robert H Newton (C). 1st of Treble Bob: 1. 1st of Lincolnshire on tower bells: 2.

6 November: Ringing Centre, Tulloch: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Helen M McGregor, 2 Gail Norwood, 3 E. John Wells, 4 Jenny M Page, 5 June D Wells, 6 Peter J R Bevis (C). First quarter of minor inside: 2. AND

1344 Plain Bob Major: 1 Richard Hérrissier, 2 Sue Turner, 3 June D Wells, 4 Helen M McGregor, 5 Ian B Turner, 6 Jenny M Page, 7 E. John Wells, 8 Peter J R Bevis (C). AND

1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Sue Turner, 2 June Wells, 3 Gillian Blair, 4 Helen McGregor, 5 Jenny Page, 6 Richard Herrissier, 7 John Wells (C), 8 Peter Bevis.

7 November: Ringing Centre, Tulloch: 1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles: 1 Helen M McGregor, 2 Gail Norwood, 3 June D Wells, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Peter J R Bevis (C), 6 E John Wells. First in method: 2. AND

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 John Wells (C), 2 Sue Turner, 3 June Wells, 4 Helen McGregor, 5 Ian Turner, 6 Peter Bevis.

9 November: Tulloch Lodge, Tulloch: 1344 Plain Bob Major: 1-2 Peter J R Bevis (C), 3-4 Helen M McGregor, 5-6 Ian B Turner, 7-8 Sue Turner. In Remembrance.

9 November: St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh: 1260 Plain Bob Triples: 1 Wilma Tolmie, 2 Geoffrey Farquharson, 3 Susannah M Ewens, 4 Elinor Farquharson, 5 Edmund G N Smith, 6 Ian Stark, 7 Ian P Bell (C), 8 Andrew Cumming. First on eight: 8. First inside on eight: 2. Half muffled for Remembrance Sunday.

23 November: Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness: 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Rachel M Milner, 2 Sue Turner, 3 Catherine Pelleymounter, 4 Ian B Turner, 5 Kathryn C Darley, 6 Anthony C Cole (C). For evensong.

2 December: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1260 Doubles (2m 180 Grandsire, 1080 Plain Bob): 1 Rachel C Williamson, 2 David Groves, 3 George W K Stevens, 4 Matthew J Andrews, 5 Peter J Williamson (C), 6 Olivia A Clark. First quarter- 6. For all those graduating today from St Andrews University and especially Jason Pollock who rang here as a student. This is the 100th quarter on these bells.

3 December: University Chapel of St Salvador, St Andrews: 1260 Doubles (2m 540 Grandsire, 720 Plain Bob): 1 David Groves, 2 Rachel C Williamson, 3 Peter J Williamson, 4 Matthew J Andrews, 5 George W K Stevens (C), 6 Max O Coady. First quarter: 6. AND

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Peter J Williamson, 2 Jason W Pollock, 3 J Andrew Pollock, 4 Cameron Pollock, 5 George W K Stevens, 6 Matthew J Andrews (C). For all those graduating today from the University of St Andrews.

6 December: 1 Malvina Lane, Tornagrain: 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major: 1-2 Marcus A Wheel, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Sue Turner. AND

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major: 1-2 Marcus A Wheel, 3-4 Ian B Turner, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole. AND

1400 Kent Treble Bob Royal: 1-2 Ian B Turner, 3-4 Dawn A McAleer, 5-6 Nicholas W Jones (C), 7-8 Anthony C Cole, 9-10 Sue Turner. AND

1440 Plain Bob Minor: 1-2 Marcus A Wheel, 3-4 Brian Heys, 5-6 Jennifer A Holden (C).

7 December: Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, Glasgow: 1320 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Catriona James, 2 Angela H Deakin, 3 Terry G Williams, 4 Margaret Williams, 5 Zoe A Bennett, 6 Jonathan S Frye (C). First away from cover: 1.

9 December: Cathedral of St Mary the Virgin, Glasgow: 1296 Plain Bob Caters: 1 Ruth M Marshall, 2 Peter G Kirton, 3 Zoe A Bennett, 4 Zoe Martin,

5 Terry G Williams, 6 Samuel R B Cole, 7 Tina R Stoecklin (C), 8 Angela H Deakin, 9 Simon J Gay, 10 Jonathan S Frye. First on more than six: 6.

9 December: St Cuthbert, Edinburgh: 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Lyra Burgess, 2 Talon Ashryver, 3 Simon H Aves, 4 Gerda Grase, 5 Anne M Brechin, 6 William Stafford, 7 Edmund G N Smith (C), 8 Nicole Fox. First on eight: 4.

14 December: St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Fiona Bridge, 2 Wilma Tolmie, 3 Susannah M Ewens (C), 4 Geoffrey Farquharson, 5 Ian P Bell, 6 Felix Charlton. First quarter: 6. To celebrate the marriage of Helen Cross to Ian Brown.

21 December: Cathedral Church of St Blane and St Laurence, Dunblane: 1320 London Surprise Minor: 1 Miranda Jones, 2 Chris Frye, 3 Judith Frye 4 Stephen M Jones, 5 Jonathan S Frye (C), 6 Alex Frye.

24 December: Cathedral Church of St Blane and St Laurence, Dunblane: 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major: 1 Judith L Frye, 2 Matthew D Frye, 3 Elizabeth C Frye (C), 4 Jennifer A Dearie, 5 Alison N Stevens, 6 Angela H Deakin, 7 Alex P Frye, 8 Jonathan S Frye.

24 December: Blairgarry, Doune Road, Dunblane: 1280 Bristol Surprise Royal 1-2 Angela H Deakin, 3-4 Elizabeth C Frye, 5-6 Alex P Frye, 7-8 Stephen M Jones (C), 9-10 Jonathan S Frye.

Quarters were rung in the following towers: Last Tower, Tulloch 26, St Andrew, Inverness 14, St Cuthbert, Edinburgh 13, Ringing Centre, Tulloch 11, St Salvator, St Andrews 10, St John, Dumfries 6, St Mary Glasgow 6, St Mary, Edinburgh 5, St Blane and St Laurence, Dunblane 3, New Town Church, Edinburgh 2, St Mary, Haddington 2, Balnaferry Campanile, Forres 1, Holy Rude, Stirling 1.

Handbell quarters were rung at the following locations: 1 Albany Quadrant, Glasgow 12, 27 House o'Hill Crescent, Edinburgh 6, Tulloch Lodge 6, 20 Kingshill Avenue, Cumbernauld 4, 1 Malvina Lane, Tornagain 4, 21B Palmerston Place, Edinburgh 3, Balnaferry House, Forres 2, 17 Boarstone Court, Inverness 2, 16 Hillpark Brae, Munloch 1, Silvermills, Edinburgh 1, Alison House, Edinburgh 1, Last Tower, Tulloch 1, Ringing Centre Tulloch 1, Thistle Lodge, Kilfinnan 1, Blairgarry, Dunblane 1, Clachan Lodge, N Uist 1.

The following members rang ten or more quarter peals in the year (these totals include the half peal):

Ian B Turner 37, Helen M McGregor 28, Anthony C Cole 27, Sue Turner 27, Jonathan S Frye 26, Simon J Gay 25, Ian P Bell 24, Angela H Deakin 20, Peter J Williamson 20, Susannah M Ewens 18, Tina R Stoecklin 18, Nicholas W Jones 17, Peter J R Bevis 16, Barbara J Bell 14, Rachel M Milner 14, Edmund G N Smith 14, George W K Stevens 14, Elinor Farquharson 13, Christopher J Frye 13, Matthew J Andrews 11, Simon H Aves 11, Annie M Brechin 11, Peter G Kirton 11, Rachel C Williamson 10.

Peals

During 2025 29 peals were credited to SACR, of which 12 were rung on handbells. 46 people rang at least one peal, of whom 8 are not currently resident members.

Edinburgh, St Cuthbert

Saturday, 8 February 2025 in 3h 16 (21-0-0 in E)

5040 Spliced Surprise Royal (3m)

1920 Sgùrr a' Chaorachain; 1600 Bristol; 1520 Dumfries; 81 com; atw

Composed by Simon J Gay inspired by John S Warboys

- 1 Sally L Thomas
- 2 Peter G Kirton
- 3 Simon J Gay
- 4 Anne M Brechin
- 5 Christopher J Frye
- 6 Richard J W Tibbetts
- 7 Peter J Williamson
- 8 Ruth M Marshall
- 9 Edmund G N Smith
- 10 Michael J Clay (C)

1,150th peal: 10

100th together: 2 & 7

Edinburgh, New Town Church

Wednesday, 12 February 2025 in 3h 6 (14-2-23 in E)

5056 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by Mark B Davies

- 1 Simon J Gay (C)
- 2 Sally L Thomas
- 3 George W K Stevens
- 4 Richard J W Tibbetts
- 5 Simon H Aves
- 6 Peter J Williamson
- 7 Edmund G N Smith
- 8 Alan Regin

Rung to welcome Rev. Dr Conor Fegan as the new Minister of the New Town Church

St Andrews, University Chapel of St Salvator

Friday, 28 February 2025 in 2h 42 (7-3-20 in A)

5040 Surprise Minor (2m)

3 ext. Bourne, 4 ext. Cambridge

- 1 Christopher de Burgh
- 2 Elinor Farquharson
- 3 Peter J Williamson
- 4 Zoe A Bennett
- 5 Richard J W Tibbetts
- 6 George W K Stevens (C)

Edinburgh, St Cuthbert

Saturday, 1 March 2025 in 3h 7 (21-0-0 in E)

5040 Spliced Surprise Royal (3m)

1920 Sgùrr a' Chaorachain; 1600 Bristol; 1520 Dumfries; 81 com; atw.

Composed by Simon J Gay and John S Warboys

- 1 Sally L Thomas
- 2 Susan E Bryce
- 3 Simon J Gay (C)
- 4 Estella J Haynes
- 5 Tina R Stoecklin
- 6 Peter J Williamson
- 7 Jason R Hargreaves
- 8 Clyde W Wallbanks
- 9 Michael J Clay
- 10 Jonathan S Frye

Newtongrange, 15 Jenks Loan

Tuesday, 11 March 2025 in 2h 30 (10)

5056 Superlative Surprise Major

Composed by J W Holdsworth (no. 4)

- 1-2 Barbara J Bell
- 3-4 James W Holdsworth (C)
- 5-6 Susannah M Ewens
- 7-8 Ian P Bell

Alloa, St John the Evangelist

Thursday, 13 March 2025 in 2h 54 (13-0-20 in F#)

5024 Spliced Surprise Major (8m)

640 Bristol, Pudsey, Rutland, Superlative, Yorkshire; 608 Cambridge, Lincolnshire, London; 120 com; atw.

Composed by Noel J Diserens

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Simon H Aves |
| 2 | Susan E Bryce |
| 3 | Anne M Brechin |
| 4 | Christopher J Frye |
| 5 | Richard J W Tibbetts |
| 6 | Peter J Williamson |
| 7 | Edmund G N Smith |
| 8 | Michael J Clay (C) |

Celebrating the life of Enid Mary Aves (20/8/29 - 21/2/25)

Edinburgh, 27 House o' Hill Crescent

Sunday, 6 April 2025 in 2h 39 (11)

5120 Malpas Surprise Major

Composed by D F Morrison (no. 4051)

- | | |
|-----|------------------------|
| 1-2 | Barbara J Bell |
| 3-4 | James W Holdsworth (C) |
| 5-6 | Susannah M Ewens |
| 7-8 | Ian P Bell |

First peal in the method: 1-2, 5-6, 7-8.

First peal in the method in hand: 3-4.

Wigton, St Mary

Wednesday, 23 April 2025 in 2h 53 (8-0-0 in A)

5120 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by Alan G Reading (3)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | David A Horne |
| 2 | Richard J W Tibbetts |
| 3 | Susan E Bryce |
| 4 | Nicholas C Tithecott |
| 5 | Simon H Aves |
| 6 | Stephen B Bell |
| 7 | Peter J Williamson |
| 8 | Michael J Clay (C) |

Alloa, St John the Evangelist

Thursday, 1 May 2025 in 2h 52 (13-0-20 in F#)

5184 Imogen Delight Major

Composed by Robert D S Brown

- 1 Simon H Aves
- 2 Anne M Brechin
- 3 Susan E Bryce
- 4 Alex S Riley
- 5 Peter J Williamson
- 6 Michael J Clay
- 7 Edmund G N Smith (C)
- 8 Estella J Haynes

Rung to celebrate the birth of Imogen Irene Saunders, niece of the conductor.
50th on the bells 5

Glasgow, 1 Albany Quadrant

Sunday, 11 May 2025 in 2h 52 (12 in F)

5040 Bristol Surprise Royal

Composed by Anthony R Carter

- 1-2 Nicholas W Jones
- 3-4 Tina R Stoecklin
- 5-6 Jonathan S Frye
- 7-8 Simon J Gay (C)
- 9-10 Peter G Kirton

Rung in memory of Gareth Thom.

Edinburgh, New Town Church

Wednesday, 14 May 2025 in 3h 6 (14-2-23 in E)

5120 Spliced Surprise Major (3m)

1920 Lessness; 1600 Cambridge, Yorkshire; 40 com; atw.

Composed by Robert D S Brown

- 1 Alexander J Linton
- 2 Estella J Haynes (C)
- 3 George W K Stevens
- 4 Simon J Gay
- 5 Simon H Aves
- 6 Peter J Williamson
- 7 Stephen R Aldridge
- 8 Michael J Clay

Birthday compliment to Annie Brechin.

Tulloch, Tulloch Ringing Centre

Saturday, 24 May 2025 in 3h 11 (7-2-4 in Bb)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus

Composed by Robert W Lee

- 1 Peter J Williamson
- 2 Judith L Frye
- 3 Christopher J Frye
- 4 Anne M Brechin
- 5 Michael J Clay (C)
- 6 Susan E Bryce
- 7 Richard J W Tibbetts
- 8 George W K Stevens
- 9 Edmund G N Smith
- 10 Tina R Stoecklin
- 11 Ruth M Marshall
- 12 Jonathan S Frye

First on twelve: 8

Newtongrange, 15 Jenks Loan

Tuesday, 27 May 2025 in 2h 30 (10)

5026 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by M B Davies (no. 2)

- 1-2 Barbara J Bell
- 3-4 James W Holdsworth (C)
- 5-6 Susannah M Ewens
- 7-8 Ian P Bell

The conductor's birthday peal.

Alloa, St John the Evangelist

Thursday, 12 June 2025 in 2h 53 (13-0-20 in F#)

5056 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by Alex S Riley (Op. 4)

- 1 Estella J Haynes (C)
- 2 Elinor Farquharson
- 3 Zoe A Bennett
- 4 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton
- 5 Susan E Bryce
- 6 Peter J Williamson
- 7 George W K Stevens
- 8 Edmund G N Smith

Circled the tower: 1

Edinburgh, 27 House o' Hill Crescent

Sunday, 15 June 2025 in 2h 35 (11)

5056 Spliced Surprise Major (6m)

1120 Bristol; 1056 Cornwall; 896 Deva; 704 Lessness; 640 Malpas, Superlative;
115 com, atw.

Composed by M B Davies

- 1-2 Barbara J Bell
- 3-4 James W Holdsworth (C)
- 5-6 Susannah M Ewens
- 7-8 Ian P Bell

Edinburgh, 27 House O'Hill Crescent

Sunday, 6 July 2025 in 2h 36 (11)

5056 Spliced Surprise Major (6m)

1120 Bristol; 1056 Cornwall; 896 Deva; 704 Lessness; 640 Malpas, Superlative;
115 com, atw.

- 1-2 Barbara J Bell
- 3-4 James W Holdsworth (C)
- 5-6 Susannah M Ewens
- 7-8 Ian P Bell

Glasgow, 1 Albany Quadrant

Monday, 1 September 2025 in 2h 47 (15 in C)

5056 Spliced Surprise Major (7m)

960 Superlative; 896 Cambridge; 832 Cornwall; 704 Lessness; 640 Bristol; 576
Yorkshire; 448 London; 79 com; atw.

Composed by David B Wilson

- 1-2 Tina R Stoecklin
- 3-4 Jonathan S Frye
- 5-6 David B Wilson
- 7-8 Simon J Gay (C)

First of spliced surprise: 5-6.

Edinburgh, 27 House o' Hill Crescent

Saturday, 6 September 2025 in 2h 39 (11)

5184 Spliced Surprise Major (7m)

1536 Cornwall, Lessness; 576 Bristol; 384 Cambridge, London, Superlative,
Yorkshire; 108 com.

Composed by D F Morrison (no. 8908)

- 1-2 Barbara J Bell
- 3-4 James W Holdsworth (C)
- 5-6 Susannah M Ewens
- 7-8 Ian P Bell

Edinburgh, New Town Church

Wednesday, 24 September 2025 in 3h 2 (14-2-23 in E)

5024 Bristol Surprise Major

Composed by Alan G Reading (No 4)

- 1 Richard J W Tibbetts
- 2 Ian P Bell
- 3 William Stafford
- 4 Alex G Hunsley
- 5 Simon H Aves
- 6 Peter J Williamson
- 7 Edmund G N Smith
- 8 Michael J Clay (C)

First in Scotland: 3

Rung to celebrate the safe arrival of Finn William Linton, grandson of 5.
Fifty years and six days since Richard and Simon's first peal together.

Edinburgh, St Cuthbert

Saturday, 27 September 2025 in 3h 9 (21-0-0 in E)

5000 Spliced Surprise Royal (4m)

1400 Bristol, Dumfries; 1200 Sgùrr a' Chaorachain; 1000 Remus; 89 com.

Composed by Simon J Gay

- 1 Simon H Aves
- 2 Susan E Bryce
- 3 Simon J Gay (C)
- 4 Anne M Brechin
- 5 Christopher J Frye
- 6 Jason R Hargreaves
- 7 Edmund G N Smith
- 8 Ruth M Marshall
- 9 Clyde W Wallbanks
- 10 Michael J Clay

250th peal in Scotland: 1

Birthday compliments to Clyde.

Haddington, St Mary

Saturday, 4 October 2025 in 2h 56 (11-1-20 in F#)

5120 Iceland Surprise Major

Composed by C. Middleton (Johnson's variation)

- 1 George W K Stevens
- 2 Edmund G N Smith
- 3 Anne M Brechin
- 4 Susan E Bryce
- 5 Zoe A Bennett
- 6 Paul N Harden
- 7 Simon J Gay (C)
- 8 Peter J Williamson

Forres, Balnaferry Campanile

Sunday, 26 October 2025 in 2h 36 (15lb 1oz in E)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by Simon Humphrey

- 1 Rachel M Milner
- 2 Angela H Deakin
- 3 Ruth M Marshall
- 4 Zoe A Bennett
- 5 Brian Heys
- 6 Susan E Bryce
- 7 Jonathan S Frye
- 8 Anthony C Cole (C)

First peal of Major as conductor

First SACR peal on the bells

Rung in memory of Pauline Andrews



Newtongrange, 15 Jenks Loan

Tuesday, 4 November 2025 in 2h 38 (10)

5152 Adelaide Surprise Major

Arranged by J R Mayne

- 1-2 Barbara J Bell
- 3-4 James W Holdsworth (C)
- 5-6 Susannah M Ewens
- 7-8 Ian P Bell

Alloa, St John the Evangelist

Wednesday, 12 November 2025 in 2h 53 (13-0-20 in F#)

5120 Cornwall Surprise Major

Composed by Robert DS Brown

- 1 Matthew J Andrews
- 2 Zoe A Bennett
- 3 George W K Stevens
- 4 Susan E Bryce
- 5 Simon H Aves
- 6 Peter J Williamson
- 7 Peter G Kirton (C)
- 8 Edmund G N Smith

Best wishes to Mike and Sandra Clay on their move to Chesterfield.

First on eight: 1

Edinburgh, 27 House o' Hill Crescent

Tuesday, 25 November 2025 in 2h 35

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by J S Warboys

- 1-2 Barbara J Bell
- 3-4 James W Holdsworth
- 5-6 Ian P Bell
- 7-8 Susannah M Ewens (C)

1st peal as conductor.

Tulloch, Tulloch Ringing Centre

Saturday, 29 November 2025 in 3h 2 (7-2-4 in Bb)

5040 Spliced Surprise Royal (4m)

1440 Remus, Sgùrr a' Chaorachain; 1080 Bristol, Dumfries; 108 com; atw.

Composed by Simon J Gay

- 1 Peter J Williamson
- 2 Susan E Bryce
- 3 Jason R Hargreaves
- 4 Simon J Gay (C)
- 5 Christopher J Frye
- 6 Estella J Haynes
- 7 Clyde W Wallbanks
- 8 Edmund G N Smith
- 9 Tina R Stoecklin
- 10 Michael J Clay

150th for the Association: 4.

Edinburgh, 21b Palmerston Place

Saturday, 6 December 2025 in 2h 30

5056 Plain Bob Major

Composed by James W Holdsworth

- 1-2 Elinor Farquharson
- 3-4 Barbara J Bell
- 5-6 Alison N Stevens
- 7-8 Susannah M Ewens (C)

First women's peal by St Mary's Cathedral Society, Edinburgh

First peal on handbells: 1-2

First peal on these bells



Glasgow, Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin
Saturday, 6 December 2025 in 3h 29 (32-1-6 in C#)
5040 Sgurr A' Chaorachain Surprise Royal
Composed by Simon J Gay

1 Tina R Stoecklin
2 Clyde W Wallbanks
3 Simon J Gay (C)
4 Peter J Williamson
5 Angela H Deakin
6 Zoe A Bennett
7 Peter G Kirton
8 Ruth M Marshall
9 Jonathan S Frye
10 Matthew D Hetherington

Rung in memory of the Right Reverend Dr Gregor Duthie Duncan, former
Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway.

Edinburgh
27 House o' Hill Crescent
Saturday, 13 December 2025 in 2h 32
5056 Bristol Surprise Major
Composed by Donald F Morrison

1-2 Barbara J Bell
3-4 Ian P Bell
5-6 James W Holdsworth
7-8 Susannah M Ewens (C)

First in method as conductor.

Leading peal ringers for the year were:

15	Peter J Williamson
11	Susan E Bryce
11	Edmund G N Smith
10	Barbara J Bell
10	Ian P Bell
10	Michael J Clay
10	Susannah M Ewens
10	Simon J Gay
9	James W Holdsworth
8	Simon H Aves
7	George W K Stevens
7	Richard J W Tibbetts
6	Zoe A Bennett
6	Anne M Brechin
6	Jonathan S Frye
6	Tina R Stoecklin
5	Christopher J Frye
5	Estella J Haynes
5	Ruth M Marshall

Peals were conducted by: Simon J Gay 8, James W Holdsworth 7, Michael J Clay 5, Susannah M Ewens 3, Estella J Haynes 2, Anthony C Cole 1, Peter G Kirton 1, Edmund G N Smith 1, George W K Stevens 1.

Congratulations to:

First peal on handbells: Elinor Farquharson
First peal as conductor: Susannah M Ewens
1,150th peal: Michael J Clay
250th peal in Scotland: Simon H Aves
150th for the Association: Simon J Gay
Circled tower (Alloa): Estella J Haynes

Leading peal ringers for the Association (at 31 December 2025):

	<u>Tower</u>	<u>Hand</u>	<u>Total</u>
Michael J Clay	400	29	429
Peter J Williamson	386	30	416
Susan E Bryce	393		393
Clare Y Caley	243	8	251
Simon H Aves	244		244
Jonathan S Frye	171	49	220
Robin R Churchill	187	30	217
Michael G Barker	215		215
W John Grainger	191		191
Paul N Harden	183		182
Edmund G N Smith	172		172
Simon J Gay	82	69	151
Robert J Hancock	145		145
Tina R Stoecklin	85	60	145
Christopher J Frye	133		133
Peter G Kirton	100	28	128
William A Brotherton	126		126
Jason R Hargreaves	125		125
Ruth M Marshall	124		124
Rose M Hancock	121		121
Sally L Thomas	115		115
Peter J Shipton	96	7	103
John M Jenkins	91	11	102
Christopher W Thomas	102		102
Stephen A Elwell-Sutton	93	8	101
Helen M Brotherton	100		100
Colin P North	95		95
Nigel E Booth	76	10	86
Angela H Deakin	65	20	85
Clyde W Wallbanks	83		83
Richard J W Tibbetts	82		82
Matthew J Edwards	77		77
Matthew D Hetherington	76		76
Jennifer Tomkinson	65		65
Ian P Bell	21	41	62
Magnus M Peterson	60	2	62
Daniel J Smith	53	8	61
Judy A Barker	60		60
Michael B Broc	44	13	57
Nicholas C Sturgess	57		57
Oliver Coldrick	55		55
Margaret C Gamble	51	3	54

Other peals rung in Scotland during the year:

15/02/2025	Edinburgh, St Cuthbert	T	5160	Sgurr A'Chaorachain Surprise Royal	SRCY
15/02/2025	Edinburgh, St Mary	T	5040	Bristol Surprise Maximus	SRCY
15/02/2025	Haddington	T	5088	Cambridge Surprise Major	ASCY
16/02/2025	Tulloch RC	T	10032	Spliced Treble Dodging Maximus (5m)	SRCY
17/02/2025	Tulloch Last	T	5024	Spliced Surprise Major (8m)	SRCY
17/02/2025	Tulloch RC	T	5184	Orion Maximus	SRCY
17/02/2025	Tulloch RC	T	5016	Spliced Maximus (6m)	SRCY
19/02/2025	Tulloch Last	T	5088	Belfast Surprise Major	SRCY
19/02/2025	Tulloch Last	T	5184	Bristol Surprise Major	SRCY
19/02/2025	Tulloch Last	T	5088	London Surprise Major	SRCY
20/02/2025	Tulloch RC	T	5088	Orion Surprise Maximus	SRCY
20/02/2025	Tulloch RC	T	5042	Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	SRCY
12/04/2025	Glasgow	T	5040	Bristol Surprise Royal	Non-association
12/04/2025	Inveraray	T	5040	Yorkshire Surprise Royal	Beverley & D RS
12/04/2025	Tulloch Last	T	5056	Spliced Surprise Major (7m)	ASCY
03/05/2025	Inveraray	T	5016	Stedman Caters	S Cambridge Youths
07/06/2025	Inveraray	T	5000	London (No3) Surprise Royal	Derby DA
08/06/2025	Edinburgh, NTC	T	5024	Spliced Surprise Major (4m)	Non-association
16/08/2025	Dundee, St Paul	T	5024	London Surprise Major	Peterborough DG
16/08/2025	Dunkeld	T	5040	Spliced Surprise Minor (7m)	Peterborough DG
17/08/2025	St Andrews	T	5040	Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)	Peterborough DG
30/08/2025	Inveraray	T	5000	Spliced Royal (16m)	ASCY
18/09/2025	Inveraray	T	5080	Cambridge Surprise Royal	Chester DG
27/09/2025	Glasgow	T	5000	Cambridge Surprise Royal	Non-association
27/09/2025	Inveraray	T	5085	Spliced Royal and Caters (2m)	Northern Powerhouse G
27/10/2025	Tulloch Last	T	5184	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	Oxford DG
27/10/2025	Tulloch RC	T	5055	Stedman Caters	Oxford DG
28/10/2025	Tulloch RC	T	5019	Stedman Cinques	Oxford DG
29/10/2025	Tulloch RC	T	5040	Yorkshire Surprise Royal	Oxford DG
30/10/2025	Tulloch Last	T	5088	Yorkshire Surprise Major	Oxford DG
30/10/2025	Tulloch RC	T	5088	Spliced Surprise Maximus (3m)	Oxford DG
31/10/2025	Tulloch Last	T	5056	Spliced Surprise Major (7m)	Oxford DG
03/11/2025	Tulloch Lodge	H	5088	Lincolnshire Surprise Major	Oxford DG