

## **Report for the year 2018 from the ringers at St Mary's Tower, Barnes**

Our year started on a sad note with the death of our Deputy Tower Captain, Charles Turnbull, on 28<sup>th</sup> January. He has been sorely missed. He had been a member of the band for nearly 20 years, was an excellent ringer and a superb and patient teacher for our learners.

For our Winter Outing on 27<sup>th</sup> January we visited five towers in the Godalming & Haslemere area, mostly set up by Charles some weeks earlier. We were joined by friends from Chiswick, Mortlake, Richmond and Fulham. The pub lunch at The Star in Godalming proved particularly good!

Eleven of our band attended our AGM in February and, with other local ringers and guests, 22 of us enjoyed a return visit to the Alma for our Annual Dinner.

We heard in March that Colin Yandle, our Honorary tower member, had died at his home in Dulverton. His memorial service was held on 16<sup>th</sup> June at St Mary's and we were able to ring in celebration of his life.

When Richard Worrall, who had rung with us for a number of years, moved away from Barnes in the spring and Andrew was recuperating after a hip operation, we felt rather low in numbers for service ringing, but with our more recent learners and new recruits all gaining in competence, we recovered our strength as the year went on. Claude, the first of our Ringing Remembers recruits, joined us for service ringing for the first time on Easter Day.

Eddie and Trisha attended the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) conference in Royston early in March and were delighted when it was announced that Barnes had won the 2018 Award for 'Inspirational Leadership in Ringing' and a prize of £500. This was dedicated to Charles who had been very much part of the leadership team.

For our Summer Trip we returned to the two hotels/pubs in Thornham Magna, Suffolk, in July. Mike was again responsible for organising all the towers over the five days. We thank him for undertaking this huge task and also Jill for looking after the finances. One highlight of our trip was the visit to St Edmundsbury Cathedral where we were met by their new Dean, Joe Hawes, formerly Team Vicar in Barnes then Vicar of All Saints' Fulham, just a week after his arrival there! Some of our ringers joined some of their ringers for a celebratory quarter peal on the magnificent 12 bells.

During the year we were able to host various events on behalf of the Surrey Association. In April Ruth Suggett led an extremely helpful ART listening course, in June we hosted the Surrey Call Change Striking Competition (where a 'Barnes and Friends' team came 3<sup>rd</sup> – out of 4 entries) and in October the Ringing Remembers recruits from both northern and southern districts were invited to a special event where Alan Regin was the guest speaker and talked about his research into ringers who had lost their lives in WW1 and showed us the beautifully illuminated Book of Remembrance.

We were very sorry when our Rector, Richard Sewell, who had been so supportive of the band and our ringing, left St Mary's in September for his exciting new post as Dean of St George's College in Jerusalem. His departure prompted us to add two boards for peals rung during his incumbency and these were blessed by The Bishop of Kingston prior to Richard's last service.

Much of our focus during the year was on how we could fund a £10,000 project for updating our training facilities. This includes upgrading the laptops, sensor facilities and modifying the existing simulator system as well as the installation of two dumb bells to enable easier learning for beginners and provide others with the opportunity to practice method ringing without the need to clamp bells. We were fortunate to be awarded a grant from the Surrey Association of £4,000 towards the project which enabled us to make a start confidently and order the two dumb bells from Matthew Higby & Co Ltd. These were duly delivered at the end of November and one fitted temporarily until we have confirmed the structural requirements and then obtained a Faculty from the Diocese. We have put money into the project from running the St Mary's Coffee Shop on three occasions. We have received generous donations from ringers, from Colin's family, from members of the congregation and friends, but the fundraising will need to continue for some while!

We are grateful to Mike for organising the quarter peals and for running the ringing at our Friday practices. These continue to draw other ringers from quite a distance from both Middlesex and Surrey towers. Through these quarter peals he enables some to ring methods not rung by them before as well as to offer the opportunity for conducting.

Saturday training and practices continue to be very busy with our own learners along with others from the wider area. We could not run these as we do without support from Eddie who is there most weeks as well as other members of our own band. We are also grateful to teachers who come to assist from Battersea, Fulham and Richmond. During the year we have passed the following for ART achievement levels:

L1: Claude, Louise and Mark.

L2: Chris Mahalski

L3: Freya

L5: Sophie (with Chiswick)

Others who come to us have passed assessments at their own towers. The trainees have enjoyed ringing at Fulham on two occasions when we were unable to ring in Barnes.

Remembrance Sunday, this year the centenary of the end of WW1, was a special day for some of the Ringing Remembers recruits, Jo and Wendy, who rang both for the 10 am service and later on at 7.05 pm when towers were asked to ring to coincide with the lighting of beacons around the country.

We were not directly involved with handbell ringing performances this year, but Mike & Jill gave valuable support to the junior church when they rang for the Barnes Christmas Festival in the High Street while others shook tins and collected £61.63 for Under Tree Schools. We also helped out with the ringing before the nativity services. The senior handbell ringers continue to develop their skills enthusiastically.

We were delighted to welcome Poppy Worlidge during the Christmas holidays. Poppy started to ring at school in September and rang with us for the midnight service and again

on Christmas morning. It was also wonderful to have Freya and Georgie around to keep the numbers up when others are away.

Finally, thanks go to all our tower members who are so willing with their support, both in service ringing and in other ways. Everyone contributes in different ways and working together we achieve so much!

**Members of St Mary Barnes Bellringers (as at December 2018)**

Trisha Hawkins (Captain)

Jill Wigney (Treasurer)

Andrew Howard-Smith (Steeple Keeper)

Aquayemi-Claude Akinsanya

Wendy Archibald

Mark Fielker

Michael de Freitas

Giles Dimock

Freya Fraser

Eddie Hartley

Eddie Heath

Andrew Howard-Smith

Sophie Jermine

Louise Johnson

Isabelle Johnson

Dominic Johnson

Katharine Malvern

Jimmy May

Joanna Teverson

Monica Trow

Naomi Smart

Georgina Stein-Hemmings

Emma Wellesley

Michael Wigney