



Photo L to R: J Burbidge, J Sansom, D Sheppard, D Burbidge, M Macdonald, M Burbidge, M Hart, M Sansom.

Berkhamsted Victoria Church of England First School Centenary Quarter Peal

Many events have been organised to celebrate 100 years in the life of Victoria School, including a visit by the Bishop of St Albans in June. Michael Hart retires on 31st August 1997 after 36 years in the teaching profession, 22 of them as Head of Victoria School.

As both the Headteacher and Chairman of Governors are ringers, in addition to a number of former pupils, parents and governors, it seemed very appropriate to ring a quarter peal at St Peter's Berkhamsted to mark the Centenary and as a retirement compliment to Michael. A musical composition was chosen, and a good quarter peal rung.

Mary who is an old pupil, and infrequent ringer these days rang very well. Her father John came out of quarter peal retirement to take part! The band extend compliments to Judith, also an old pupil, on her graduation from York University this summer with an upper 2nd class degree in Biology. Mary is also a York graduate. David Sheppard started his education at Victoria. Margaret and David Burbidge are parents of Judith, and Martin is the Auditor of the school's trust funds. Appropriately the quarter was conducted by the Chairman of Governors!

Berkhamsted, Herts. 5 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Mary Sansom 1, Margaret Burbidge 2, Judith Burbidge 3, John Sansom 4, Martin Macdonald 5, David Burbidge (C) 6, David Sheppard 7, Michael Hart 8. £7

Portsmouth District Quarter Peal Week

Altogether quite a successful week, with 14 quarters rung at 10 different district towers, containing 10 'firsts' of one kind or another, plus some useful consolidation in other cases. Only two were lost, at Bishops Waltham and Titchfield, while unfortunately there were no attempts at the other four towers. Nobody seemed to want to have a go at the three-bell towers this year! Alverstoke should be congratulated for going berserk and managing four in the week! Well done to all those who managed a first of one sort or another, especially Paul Brown, Clive Langham, Rod Warren and David Gay, who all rang their first quarter peals.

Alverstoke. 6 Jul, 1320 PB Minor: Frances Lancaster 1, Moira Hough 2, Heather Getty 3, Stephen Hough 4, Theo Getty 5, Graham Brown (C) 6, Paul Brown (1st Q) 7.

Portsmouth. (Cathedral) 6 Jul, 1260 PB Royal: Mavis Whitehead 1, Petra Ballantyne 2, Colin Podmore 3, Martin Hatfield 4, Kath White 5, Annabel Preston 6, Stuart Heath (C) 7, Lyndon Hatfield 8, Mike Pearce 9, Richard Harrison 10. For the Patronal Festival. 1st Royal inside: 2,3.

Catherington. 6 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Robert Goulson 1, John Nundy 2, Barbara Salmons 3, Penny Evans 4, Mark Esbester (C) 5, Noel Evans 6.

Soberton. 8 Jul, 1260 PB Doubles: Clive Langham (1st Q) 1, Penny Evans 2, Melissa Evans 3, Barbara Salmons 4, Mark Esbester (C) 5, Noel Evans 6.

Upham. 8 Jul, 1250 Cambridge S Major: Jim Twiney 1, Petra Ballantyne (1st S Major) 2, Richard Harrison 3, Annabel Preston 4, David Goss 5, Kath White 6, Martin Hatfield 7, Stuart Heath (C) 8.

Shedfield. 9 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Lyndsey Smith (1st on 8) 1, Betty Daysh 2, Tim Jackson 3, Angela Edwards 4, Colin Abel 5, Stuart Heath (C) 6, Lee Pinnington 7, Andrew Case 8.

Hambledon. 10 Jul, 1260 All Saints Doubles: Audrey O'Leary 1, Gill Hales 2, Michael Esbester 3, Mark Langtry 4, Mark Esbester (C) 5, Fred Hales 6.

Netley. 10 Jul, 1260 PB Doubles: Rod Warren (1st Q) 1, Paul Littlefair 2, Carolyn Wright 3, Robin Milford 4, Francis Mitchell (C) 5, David Gay (1st Q) 6.

Alverstoke. 11 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Muriel Brown 1, George Brown 2, Stephen Hough 3, Frances Lancaster 4, Heather Getty 5, David Atkins (C) 6, Theo Getty 7, Paul Brown (1st on 8) 8.

Swanmore. 11 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Fiona Goss 1, John Colliss 2, Lyndsey Smith 3, Sophie Goss (1st in m) 4, David Goss (C) 5, Charlotte Colliss 6.

Alverstoke. 12 Jul, 1320 PB Minor: Rachael Getty 1, George Brown 2, Carole Pym 3, Muriel Brown 4, Heather Getty 5, Theo Getty (C) 6.

Droxford. 13 Jul, 1260 Doubles (3m): Francis Mitchell 1, Gill Hales 2, Fred Hales 3, John Foot 4, Mark Esbester (C) 5.

Hambledon. 13 Jul, 1260 PB Minor: Audrey O'Leary 1, Gill Hales 2, Mark Langtry 3, Fred Hales 4, Doug Boniface 5, Jim Twiney (C) 6.

Alverstoke. 13 Jul, 1250 Cambridge S Minor: Frances Lancaster (1st TB) 1, Moira Hough 2, Heather Getty 3, Theo Getty 4, David Atkins (C) 5, Stephen Hough 6, Paul Brown 7. £10

Barnes in the West

There were fewer than usual on this year's trip to the West Country, however those who came included three of our latest recruits who were introduced to all the adventures of a timetable packed with towers, pubs and quarter peals held together by navigational exercises! One car managed three fords in one day! Unaware of the hazards of white roads another car (driven by newcomers) decided to take a short cut and be first at the tea stop and as a consequence missed two towers while a tractor rescued them! They also missed being part of a rather large party welcomed to a wedding rehearsal by a vicar who had forgotten all about the visiting bell ringers!

Over the four days we visited 12 towers new to us and returned to nine old favourites. Eight of the eleven quarter peal attempts were successful including a first (and second) for one of our beginners.

We are grateful to all those who arranged for us to ring and who met and welcomed us. It was another very enjoyable trip with some excellent bells and we do like Devon cream teas – we shall be back again next year!

E.J.R.H.

Ilton, Som. 17 Jul, 1320 Cambridge S Minor: Adrian Udall 1, Stella Shell 2, Edmund Hartley 3, Nicholas Ley 4, Ian Church 5, Jill Hupman (C) 6.

Sampford Arundel, Som. 17 Jul, 1260 P B Doubles: Edmund Hartley 1, Jill Hupman 2, Stella Shell 3, Ian Church 4, Nicholas Ley (C) 5, Tricia Hawkins (1st Q) 6.

Langford Budville, Som. 18 Jul, 1260 P B Minor: Stella Shell 1, Nicholas Ley 2, Edmund Hartley 3, Ian Church 4, Jill Hupman 5, Adrian Udall (1st minor as C) 6.

Uffculme, Devon. 19 July, 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Ann-Marie Crocker 1, Stella Shell 2, Jill Hupman 3, Monica Trow 4, Edmund Hartley 5, Ian Church 6, Mike Brady 7, Mark Smith (C) 8.

Honiton, Devon. 19 Jul, 1280 P B Major: Ann-Marie Crocker 1, Nicholas Ley 2, Monica Trow 3, Stella Shell 4, Ian Church 5, Adrian Udall 6, Mark Smith 7, Jill Hupman (C) 8.

Bampton, Devon. 20 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Colin Yandle 1, Jill Hupman 2, Nicholas Ley 3, Adrian Udall 4, Edmund Hartley (C) 5, Tricia Hawkins 6. For Morning Service.

Morebath, Devon. 20 Jul, 1320 Cambridge S Minor: Adrian Udall 1, Stella Shell 2, Edmund Hartley 3, Nicholas Ley 4, Michael Brady 5, Mark Smith (C) 6.

Uplowman, Devon. 20 Jul, 1260 Stedman Doubles: Jill Hupman (C) 1, Michael Brady 2, Monica Trow 3, Edmund Hartley 4, Ian Church 5, Adrian Udall 6. £15

Surprise, Surprise!

Ten ringers crossed the bridge from Wales into England, arriving at Weston-in-Gordano in good time, and in the pouring rain. The bells were rung up in peal and good touches of Cambridge, Norwich and Primrose were rung. We heard the bells clearly but hardly the calls! Julian arrived a bit late as he had to get a hire car – bright red, and he was dressed in a dashing eco-friendly outfit.

We left in a deluge, then arrived at Rowberrow a bit late due to holiday traffic on the A38 which we had to join, then cross. "Please do not feed the monkeys while ringing is in progress" was the sign which greeted us here. There was no contest – we were the only people about. The church had raised over £24,000 in two months for their tower fabric restoration fund. The fund was over-subscribed such that they had enough to restore the tower and lay a beautiful carpet which covered the main aisles and the groundfloor ringing room. We rang courses of Carlisle, Surfleet and London here. We would like to meet Roger sometime – the ringer whose teacher needed two boxes to be at the correct level to teach him to ring. Roger is believed to be 6ft 9ins tall.

We then proceeded to East Harptree. We mounted a lovely metal spiral staircase to a polished cork belfry floor with specially made mats. We rang Beverley, Cambridge, Berwick and Norwich on these lovely bells – I don't understand why our organiser hadn't put this church in his original list! We then walked to 'The Waldegrave' (no political innuendoes please) where the brew was Ushers.