Landbeach Bell Ringers

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In 2015 we rang for all services for which bells were requested. The children rang handbells during the Christingle service.

We started 2015 with our usual midnight bell chiming, including our oldest-ever chimer, a visitor aged 90. Our next, sad, duty was to ring for the funeral of well-loved church member Margaret Patterson. We have all missed Margaret during the year. Later in the year, we rang for the funeral of Julia White, former Landbeach bell ringer and another stalwart supporter of church and village. We also said goodbye to our long-standing member Allan Whyte, when he moved to March. We wish Allan and Sharon every happiness, and do hope that Allan will continue his bell ringing.

Looking to the upcoming generation, we were pleased to welcome the Waterbeach Rainbows for an evening learning about bell ringing.

We rang two quarter peals during 2015. The first was an eightieth birthday compliment to the Rev Brian Macdonald-Milne, former Rector of this parish. This was the first time that the local band have ever achieved a high enough standard for the type of ringing known as Minimus (where all four bells change order). Every member of the quarter peal band had been taught to ring by Nicholas Small, our Ringing Master, who also conducted the quarter peal. Without Nicholas' dedication, there would be no local band, and we thank him.

Our practices have continued on Tuesdays and Fridays on the simulator. In order to develop our ringers' expertise (since most types of bell ringing require at least 5 bells), we continued our collaboration with the ringers from the churches at Chesterton (6 bells), Fen Ditton (8 bells) and Horningsea (5 bells). Our second quarter peal of 2015 included one Chesterton and one Fen Ditton ringer, each achieving a "first" in his part.

Our ringers attended, or presented, several training courses during 2015. We supported the moves by the Association of Ringing Teachers to increase the professionalism of bell ringing teaching, by enrolling our learners in their "Learning the Ropes" scheme. We continued to be involved with the activities of the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers. For the first time ever - as far as we know - the Landbeach band entered one of their bell ringing competitions, ringing call changes on 6 bells. We came last, but it was valuable experience.

The bell ringers have enthusiastically supported the campaign to save the Tudor Tithe Barn, by ringing to announce the start of their Open Days. The first time, we rang Tudor-style (very rapid), but this was rather hard work, so the next time we rang in the modern style. We also supported the Church Cleaning and Church Maintenance Day. On three occasions, we collected money for charity. We held our usual Anniversary Lunch in the autumn.

Fourteen visitors rang at Landbeach, including a number who relocated from the new Ringing Education Centre at Stretham church, when their own simulator was temporarily unavailable. In addition, another eighteen adults and children chimed a bell or had a mini-lesson at some point during the year. A highlight for us was welcoming a group of Kenyan bell ringers to a practice we were having at Horningsea church.

Our steeplekeepers recently constructed a rope warmer, to keep the ropes flexible in damp weather. The bell ringers paid for this themselves. To raise a little money for our funds, we have produced a Bell Ringing Limericks Book. The limericks are by villagers and ringers and the book is available from the church or from the ringers at a price of 1 guinea.

The number of people ringing regularly at Landbeach is currently 10 (9 adults and 1 junior). Sadly, only one of these actually lives in Landbeach. If you know of anyone who might like to learn to ring, please put them in touch with us.