

## BELLRINGERS' REPORT FOR A.P.C.M. 2023

The St Andrew's Society of Change Ringers exists to provide ringing for services on Sundays and for church festivals, weddings and other special events throughout the year. Our tower houses eight large bells hung for change ringing, plus a small *Angelus*, or service bell. Practice sessions are held weekly on Thursday evenings and are generally open to visitors.

Our Society is affiliated to the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, and lies within its North and East District. Members of our Society play a very active role within the District, frequently supporting bands at other towers and ringing for weddings and special events elsewhere. Our present membership stands at seventeen: twelve adults and five juniors, although not all of our members are able to ring regularly and two are currently away at university, where they are ringing with their respective university societies.

In addition to our existing members, the recent 'Ring for the King' media campaign to recruit more ringers for the Coronation has prompted several enquiries from members of the public, and we are currently teaching six new recruits, all of whom have joined us in the last three months.

Throughout the past year, we have continued to support the band at St Mary Magdalene, in Windmill Hill, their numbers having yet to recover from the recent pandemic. We now regularly join them for their practices on Tuesday evenings, and on Sunday mornings we ring for services at both towers: St Andrew from 8.45 to 9.15, and St Mary Magdalene from 9.30 to 10.00.

Since the date of the last APCM, the band has rung for a number of important national events at St Andrew, most notably of course for our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, and then following Her Majesty's death in September. During the period of national mourning, the bells were rung 'fully muffled', with just the tenor left 'open' at backstroke. Memorial ringing was undertaken at various points that week, including the morning of Her Majesty's State Funeral.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September we opened the tower to the public for the annual Open House London event and on 2<sup>nd</sup> October our novices rang for the Harvest Festival at St Mary, Islington. The bells were rung 'half muffled' for our All Souls' Day service on 30<sup>th</sup> October and, again, for our Remembrance Sunday service the following month. On 4<sup>th</sup> December we rang a quarter peal as part of Enfield's 'Christmas Parade of Light'. During the Christmas period, we rang for all our services, including our Carol Service, our Midnight Communion and our Christmas Day Service itself. We also rang for the St Andrew's Primary School Carol Service and were joined by friends and family as we revived the tradition of 'Ringing In the New Year' at midnight.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January our District Planning Meeting was held in the church hall at St Mary Magdalene. Ringers from around the District rang at both Enfield towers during the course of the afternoon while our own members provided afternoon tea. This year's Annual District Meeting was held at St Matthew, Bethnal Green, on 18<sup>th</sup> February, and our juniors were honoured to be invited to read the lessons during the service. In March we rang a quarter peal for our District's annual 'Quarter Peal Week'. Most recently, during the Easter holiday, our juniors enjoyed a day out with friends from St John-at-Hackney, ringing at four towers in the Essex countryside.

The past year has seen our novices go from strength to strength, with many ringing their first ever quarter peals. The achievement of so many significant milestones in such a short space of time is undoubtedly a reflection of all the hard work they have put in over the last four years, and we look forward to enjoying many more successes in the months ahead.

Chris Trawin  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2023