

THE BELLS AND RINGERS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH PENTRE, RHONDDA, WALES 1890 – 1954



Remembering

Private Frank Augustus Wines, Welch Regiment
1898 – 1918

Harry Page
1886 – 1936

Dr Tudor P Edwards
1934 – 2013

**A message from
Matthew Turner, Master of the Llandaff and Monmouth
Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers
2018**

“As our Association reaches its 125th anniversary, the tower and bells at St Peter’s, Pentre have a unique place in the ringing history of the Association and in Wales. As well as being the heaviest ring of bells in Wales, the achievements of the Pentre band of the 1920s and 1930s are largely unsurpassed in Wales to this day.

The details of the band’s peal ringing achievements are well known amongst ringers, mainly due to the large peal board that greets visitors to the belfry. However, the bare details of which ringer rang which bell and what method were rung only cover part of the story. Details of the lives of the ringers themselves, where they lived and worked and what their lives were like has, until now, been largely forgotten. Andrew Giles has done a remarkable job in drawing together information from a wide variety of sources in order to stitch together the story of those admirable men.

Today, the tower at Pentre is largely silent and the bells are only rung occasionally by bands of visiting ringers. However, Andrew’s work gives us a fascinating window into what the atmosphere must have been like when the St Peter’s Society was in its prime. It is important that the story has been told and recorded for future generations. Thank you, Andrew.”

Please note: This is a true story accurately documenting a unique piece of local history. *Various fonts are used along with artistic license to bring the facts to life and to give Tom Page a voice.*

Designed for printing on a two sided printer as an A5 booklet.



Andrew Giles learned to handle a bell in Llantrisant in 1973. He started change ringing with the help of the ringers at Cowbridge and St John's Cardiff, ringing at Pentre for the first time in 1974. So began an interest in bell ringing that has stayed with him ever since.

His fascination with ringing history has prompted the research and narration of the Pentre story. What happened in that remote bell tower in the first part of the 20th century

was an isolated microcosm of the national progression of change ringing. All the conditions and facilities of the time pointed to success that could only have happened because the unique industrial and social circumstances of the time were conducive to that success:

- *The availability of the new bells and the chance to undertake a completely new activity, the like of which was not available locally.

- *The experience of a committed, forward thinking tutor in situ (William Page Snr)

- *The volume of people to draw on in a small geographical area that would cover the extremities from natural wastage to extreme competence.

- *The Victorian love of Societies and Groups

- *The mining ethic of teamwork and support

- *The concept of learning together with a competitive element

- *The combination of physical and mental exercise

*On the 13th of December 1938 a Mr William Page of Pentre Rhondda took part in a Peal on the bells at Pontypridd.....
40 years on. 13th of December 1978. Wednesday midday. Pontypridd market day. Torrential rain driven up through Market Square to Penuel Lane by incessant gusts of wind. The traders are packing up early, some more unhappily than others. Canvas flaps and skeletal stalls bow and creak. The covered fountain, wetter on the outside than within, silently proclaims its unheeded message. 'Heb Dduw Heb Ddim' and 'Duw a Digon'. Traffic at a standstill Taff Street to the Tumble.*

Nineteen year old lad. No coat. Stuffed awkwardly into a suit. Mad dash to The Prince's Café and the enveloping familiar aromata of Italian coffee pastries and bolognaise. Dripping everywhere. Free table by the pillar up the back. Short of time. Typical Italian fare ordered - steak pie chips and gravy. Pot of tea. Assignment yet to arrive. French mustard coloured pocket diary produced, strange patterns and numbers pored over diligently.

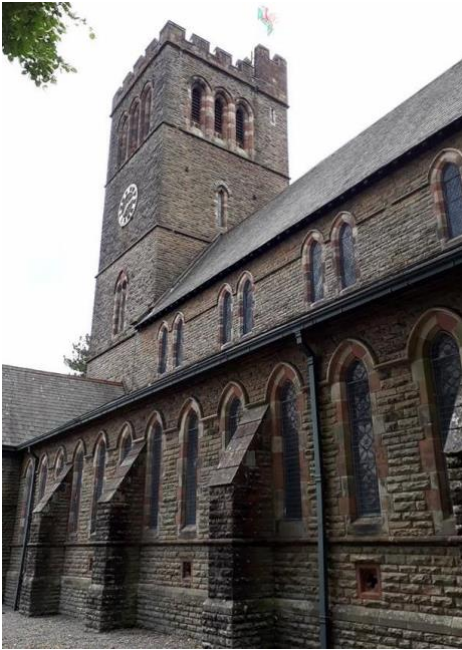
Creaky round back Bentwood chair scrapes the floor on the opposite side of the pillar as the occupier arises. Coat collar up, cap pulled down.

Awkward dance-like shuffle past the table colliding with Assignment on arrival. Small aged card edged in pink drops to the floor. Cap and collar were long gone.

Assignment takes a seat. Card recognised as a Peal Card for 40 years prior, 1938. Short of time. Card put in damp jacket pocket. Assignment takes precedence.

40 years on. The 13th December 2018 the one-time nineteen year old lad rummages around in the 'to be sorted' cupboard. Once concealed by obsolete letters and envelopes a small aged card edged in pink and slightly water damaged drops to the floor. Written on the back

"Tell the Story WP".



What follows has been written to pay tribute to a group of men from Pentre in the Rhondda Valleys who between 1890 and the early 1950s, against all odds rang the magnificent bells at St Peter's with the skill and accuracy that would, in those days, mostly be found in a handful of urban English conurbations. They are the largest set of bells by Tenor weight in Wales, the only set of bells in the Rhondda and are more than twice the average size with a combined weight of over 5 tons (5121 Kg).

The ancient Art of Change Ringing can be traced back through four centuries. It's a team effort and, by rope and wheel, the bells rotate full circle (360 degrees) and back again. Add on the required understanding of how "Methods" or groups of changes are performed then you open up a scintillating and absorbing activity that provides mental and physical exercise, teamwork and camaraderie that lasts lifetimes.

Ringing traditionally announces Church services and heralds Church, State and local occasions. In these cases what is rung depends entirely on the ability of the ringers present. In addition, practice sessions, visits to different towers, tours, organised meetings and quarter peals are rung. In all these the bells are rung not pealed. The term "peal" is used in its proper context in this article. It is the individual ringer's equivalent of marathon running but requiring the whole team to perform over 5000 different changes with no repeats and no rests.

The Pentre men were, in campanological terms, true Olympic athletes. Let's delve a bit deeper.....

*December
2018
Llewellyn
Street is
shining,
not from
sunlight
but as a
result of
the rain*



covered road reflecting the egg yolk yellow of the street lights. St Peter's stands proud in the gloom on the corner of Pentre Road, its belly closed and locked tight for the night its exterior drenched yet still majestic. The fountain, one time provider of the Elixir of Life perhaps, protects itself ironically from the rain. 'Heb Dduw Heb Ddim' and 'Duw a Digon' proclaim the basins silently to the passers-by, just like their sisters in Pontypridd. The passers-by respond with purposeful stride but fail to pause and wonder at the "Welsh Jones" family motto. The baskets that adorned the steps of the fountain were put away years ago and the Cockle Lady is resting now.

A figure emerges on to Upper Alma Place, coat collar up, cap pulled down and heads through the side gate to the church grounds seemingly invisible against the sodden backdrop and shimmering half light.

It is Thursday evening and the clock on the tower says 6:30. The bellringing practices, once scheduled for that day and time, have long gone. But wait! high above street level where the ringers would meet a sudden



chill throws itself across the dark deserted ringing chamber. Are those unheard faint and familiar footsteps on the stairs or just the wind rolling over the tower top? A bell rope moves slightly caught by a draught and the steps fall silent, but the long redundant dust covered oil lamp on the table flickers and spits a reflective yellowing flame-like glow from the street.

A faint whistle blows clear: the wind again? From the all-embracing memories of the people of Pentre who lived through the age of Coal and Steam, the specific memories of the ringers of long ago are shared with the room through the eyes of their pictures that line the walls. They have a story to tell.....

Llewellyn Street and the road that it follows didn't exist in the first half of the 19th century. Anyone venturing into the Valley would have discovered a peaceful, sparse, rural domain with stunning forested areas and sparkling water courses. The first nail had been hammered into this landscape when one Walter Coffin, Coal Owner and later Member of Parliament marked the start of phenomenal change by sinking the first deep coal mine in the area at Dinas near Porth in 1812.

1885. ILCHESTER, SOMERSET

"My name is Tom Page and I am 6 years old. I live in Ilchester, Somerset with Pa and Ma*. They were childhood sweethearts and wed in 1875. My brothers and sister** and me are used to the quiet rural life amongst the farm animals, the open fields and the fresh air.



Pa has been away for a while but Ma has received word from him.

He has decided that we are to join him on a big adventure where there is plenty of work for us and lots of people and shops and a school. Ma said we will never be cold in the winter again I will see trains and I am to have new boots. It is called R o n t h e rI think."

*[William Page born Ilchester 1853, Edith Ann Page (nee Farr), born Ilchester 1855]. ** [Elizabeth, William Jnr and Percy]

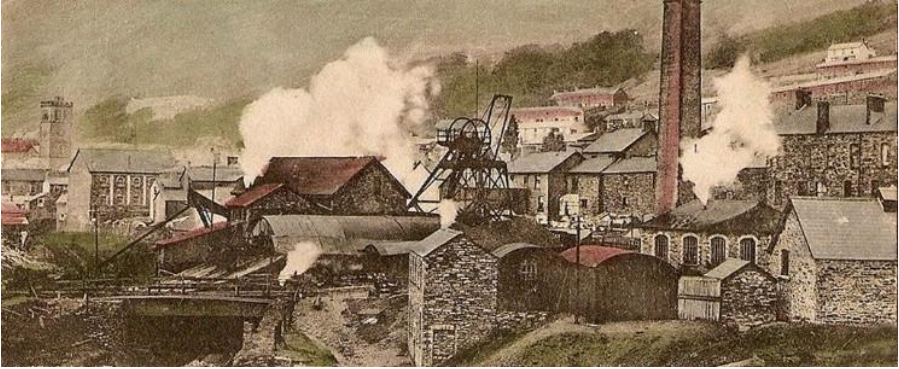
William Page's decision to move the family would not only change their lives and radically affect the lives of those yet born it would facilitate a period of local Rhondda and national bellringing history that is unlikely to ever be repeated.



Pentre Village is built on land that came from five different private Estates. The bricks that brought it to life were produced at Bodringallt Brickworks, south of Ton Pentre (the second largest producer of bricks in the Rhondda after Llwynypia). Bricks were exported for lining mine shafts, the construction of colliery buildings as well as the housing stock.

The demand for coal was rising and its quality and prevalence in the Rhondda Valleys meant that industry gradually crept its way through like the water from a burst dam, smothering the valley floor and changing the idyllic landscape beyond all recognition. By 1856 steam coal was being sent from Treherbert to Cardiff. The construction of Pentre Colliery started in 1857 and by 1864 shafts had been sunk to the deeper seams. Tragically just 7 years later on 24th February 1871 38 men and boys lost their lives in an explosion underground.

By 1875 the spine of the village was in place along Ystrad Road, Llewellyn Street and Carne Street. Interlocking terraces followed, including Albert Street, Elizabeth Street, Queen Street and Treharne Street among others. Over the following twenty years the settlements at Pentre expanded south of Albert Street including John Street, Baglan Street and Robert Street.



The main period of expansion was between 1874 and 1884 when output trebled from 59,000 tons to 179,000 tons under the ownership of the Cory Brothers of Cardiff. The development of the area was, without doubt, encouraged by the construction of the Taff Vale Railway line. In 1858 Ystrad Station opened and by 1861 the line was carrying passengers.

The Engine Works and additional schools also date to that period. A direct relationship between the fortunes of Pentre Colliery, which reaches its peak output in 1884, and the expansion of settlement of Pentre is seen. The rate of housing development diminishes in the following period with minor expansion south and north of Pentre. The only notable additions were further schools and the generous provision of allotment gardens

1880 saw the law introduced that said all children aged 5 to 10 must go to school. Boys pushed trucks along mine tunnels ('Putters'). "Trappers" opened and shut wooden doors to let air through the tunnels. A Trapper boy sat in the dark, with just a small candle, and no-one to talk to. Some children started work at 2 in the morning and stayed below ground for 18 hours. Children working on the surface, sorting coal, at least saw daylight and breathed fresh air.

George WINES 1869 –1951 (82)

From Ilchester, Somerset

1891 living with the Page family 1 Thomas St aged 22

1911 3 Treharne St

Coal Miner, Hewer

Peals at Pentre 28 Total 32

George was a founder member of the St. Peter's Pentre Society of Change Ringers and for over 20 years its treasurer. In later life he suffered a debilitating chest disease in common with many miners. However he took an active part in ringing as long as possible and to the last maintained his enthusiasm by regularly reading The Ringing World magazine.

A man of genial and generous disposition, he was highly respected by all who knew him. As a ringer his standard was of the highest and he never lost an opportunity of urging learners to improve their striking and practise new methods. He helped the St. Peter's Society to become one of the foremost ringing societies in the country. He served as Master of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association during 1936.

He was a sound churchman, a regular communicant, chorister, sidesman, member of the Church of England Men's Society and the Men's Institute, ever ready to serve in anything concerning the welfare of the Church.



"28th of July 1890. I am 10 now and I live at 1 Thomas Street, which is never silent. There's Pa, Ma and Lizzie,

William, Percy, Me (Tom), Harry, Robert, Sarah, and our 3 lodgers (George Wines and the Smith brothers).

I left school last week to go and sort the coal with Pa. My brother William is 13 and works with Uncle George underground. When we came home today Ma made us all have a bath and dress in our best – on a Monday! William, Percy, Harry and me had to run around outside in the sunshine to get dry while our sisters had clean water in the tin bath. Me and Harry can speak Welsh and we tease Percy and Bill so Ma tells us off for scrapping in the dust. Harry always comes off worse for wear!

The church is being "Officially Opened" at 6:30 and Pa has to go across early because he will help ring the bells. He told me he had done it in Ilchester but there were only 4 bells there and they were much smaller than our village ones he said."

Over 1000 men worked in Pentre Colliery by this time. The Revivals were on their way and Chapel goer's curtains were twitching more than ever this evening. Even the sunshine couldn't hide the obvious. Everywhere was noisy, dusty, smelly, teeming busy, industrious, weary, loyal, rude and riotous. And yet their Sunday Bests were preserved like museum pieces and were now

moving ribbon like up the overcrowded streets to the Church. A spectacle of Victorian respectability and resilience.

105				
1890				
May 10	<p>^{21 May 90} The Box of the late M^r Jewellyn of Baglan Hall - Poriton Ferry To find of eight new bells for St. Peter's Church - Pentre - Glamorganshire according to est: 25 Sep: 1888.</p>		78 13 2	
	<p>1st - 5 - 1 - 20 2nd - 6 - 0 - 12 3rd - 7 - 3 - 3 4th - 9 - 3 - 27 5th - 12 - 0 - 24 6th - 13 - 0 - 9 7th - 19 - 1 - 18 8th - 26 - 3 - 10</p>			
278	<p><u>100 - 3 - 11</u> at J 6. 10.</p>		655 10 3	
	<p>clappers according to est: 35l.</p>		14 " "	
	fittings " " J 9. 10.		60 " "	
	iron frame " "		115 " "	
	ropes " "		5 12 " "	
	fining " "		40 " "	
	Chiming Apparatus " "		20 " "	
	carriage " "		30 " "	
	16 floor bosses " "		" " "	
	settled 21 Nov 90	2 1/2%	940 2 3	

John Taylor & Co, Loughborough Bellfounders
 Invoice for Pentre bells
 10th May 1890 settled 21 November 1890
 £940 2s 3d

St Peter's Church was commissioned by Griffith Llewellyn of Baglan, It was completed after his death at the expense of his wife Magdelina Georgina Llewellyn costing £20,000. The builders were Thomas Collins of Tewkesbury, and the Llandaff Diocesan architects F R Kempson and J B Fowler; it was consecrated on 28th July 1890. The eight bells were cast by Messrs John Taylor and Co of Loughborough the largest of which weighs 26 cwt. 3 qr 10 lb and the whole peal weighs 100cwt 3 qr 11 lb [5121kg]

1	05-1-20	Eb	29.00"	[276]
2	06-0-12	D	30.63"	[310]
3	07-3-03	C	33.13"	[395]
4	09-3-27	Bb	36.13"	[508]
5	12-0-24	Ab	39.38"	[621]
6	13-0-09	G	41.25"	[665]
7	19-1-18	F	46.50"	[986]
8	26-3-10	Eb	52.75"	[1360]

Bell weights are expressed in Hundredweights Quarters and Pounds with Kilogram weight in brackets

Bells 1-7 bear nothing but the date "1889" in the inscription band, and Taylor's circular bell medallion on the waist. The tenor bears the inscription "JOHN TAYLOR AND CO FOUNDERS MDCCCLXXXIX" and the bell medallion

They were rung officially for the first time on Monday 4th of August 1890 by members of the Llandaff Cathedral Society, who were "loud in their praises of the bells both as regards tune and tone, and also the excellent manner in which they are hung." The ringers on the occasion were J Clutterbuck (conductor) 1, J Wedlake 2, J Julian 3, R Hopkins 4, J Harris, 5 H Snell 6, H Day 7, J Thomas 8.

Just how many men learned to ring we may never know, but of those a good number stuck at it and progressed to become some of the finest in the United Kingdom.

Joseph Thomas Henry (Harry) CRABB



1886 – 1959 (72)

From Loders, Dorset,

9 Upper Alma Place

Lodged with the Hamlin family at 9 St Stephens Avenue Pentre when single

Married Elizabeth Amelia Pomeroy Chalker on the 20th January 1916

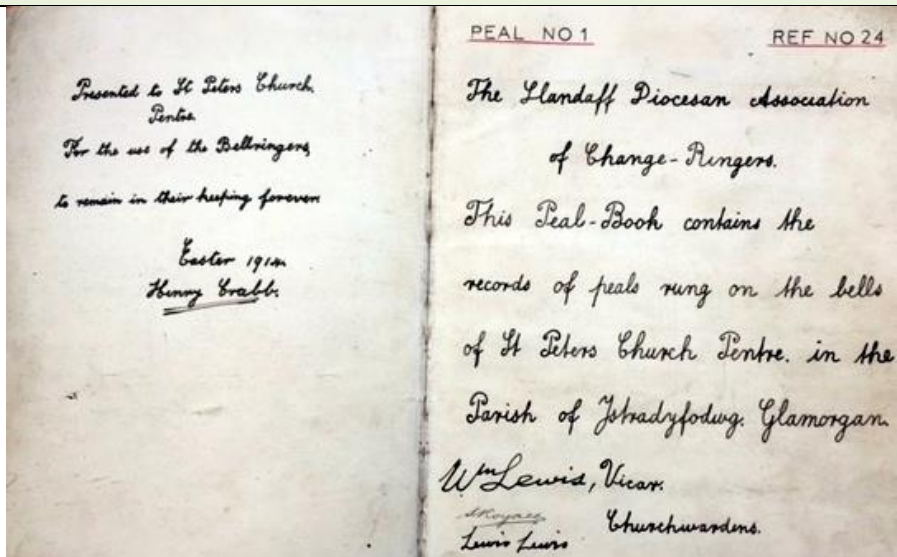
Colliery Labourer /Stoker, above ground

Devoted Service ringer for 51 years,

Secretary to the governing body for the Church of Wales.

Peals at Pentre 21 Total 22

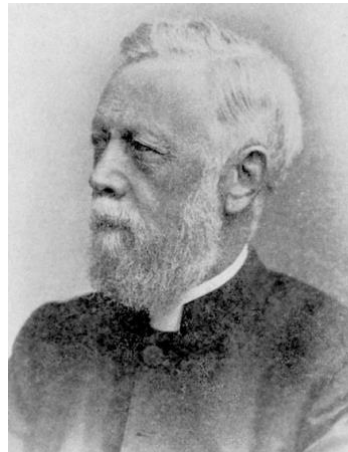
Donated the Pealbook to the Tower



The bells stood silent for a few years after the consecration and one Sunday evening the Vicar made an appeal for volunteers to learn. William Page (Snr) came forward, already able to ring and taught 3 of his sons, (William, Tom and Harry), his son in law (James Cross), George Wines and others. The practical side was taught in the tower and as the band progressed they bought a set of handbells to learn change ringing at home in Hill Side Street.

“We, the undersigned, having bought a set of 19 handbells at a cost of £6/10/0 do hereby agree that a member leaving the Society will sell his share to those who are left; each share is 14/6d for 9 with 1 1/2d left over.” Signed Thomas Lloyd, John Elford, William Page, W Horner, S Weaver, G Stokes, J Bridge, George Wines.”

In 1895 Pentre ringers joined The Llandaff Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers [LDA] and played host in September of that year to a Quarterly Meeting. The format of this meeting hasn't changed much to this day and the success of the event would be measured on the provision of the “Ringers’ Tea”. There is no doubt that Mrs Edith Page, with 5 ringers in the family, was involved in the preparation and delivery thereof.



The meeting on Saturday September 28th saw the Vicar Rev. W. Lewis in the chair. He was glad to say that his ringers worked in harmony with him, and were at all times ready to lend a helping hand to anything that was required of them. The Vicar invited the members to tea at 5.30 p.m., which was accepted with cheers. The members then adjourned to the infant school for tea, about thirty-five sitting down to a splendid knife and fork spread, presided over by the Vicar and Mrs. and Miss Lewis, Mrs. Daniels

and other ladies. The ringers then dispersed to the tower for a pull. After ringing a few short touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire, train time arrived all too soon. Several of the local ringers accompanied the visitors to the station.

"It's 1901 and I have been ringing for about 7 years now. Pa works hard teaching the handling skills and we learn the methods at home on the handbells. Our sister Lizzie married our friend and fellow ringer James Cross 4 years ago which was a joyous time, but we lost young Robert 3 years thence. He was only 8 and it hit us all hard. I was underground when they rang the peal last Saturday but all said it was completed with magnificence."

Llandaff & Monmouth D.A.
PENTRE, St Peter
Saturday April 13 1901 3h01
5040 Grandsire Triples
1 William Northey
2 John W Jones
3 Frederick Atwell
4 John Harris
5 Allen Rowley
6 William Coombes (C)
7 John Clutterbuck
8 Benjamin Tilley

The ringers subscribed 1 penny a week to the magazine "Bell News" and, from 1911 to "The Ringing World". They invited men from the Llandaff Association to ring the first full peal on the bells in 1901. It was rung as a birthday compliment to J. Harris "by his brother ringers, wishing him many happy returns of the day". Messrs. Jones and Atwell, came from Newport Mon, the rest were from

Cardiff. The ringers wished, through "The Bell News" to "thank the Vicar, the Rev. W. Lewis, for granting them the use of the bells, and also the Pentre ringers for having everything in readiness and also for their kind hospitality towards them".

Pentre Association Subscriptions 1913 - 1922

✓ Pentre Noyer										
	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
J. Hamlin	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
H. Page	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
J. Page	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
H. Page	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
G. Wines	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
H. Crabbe	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
S. Weaver	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
G. Cross	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	^{p. 1921} /	/
J. Cross	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
B. Davies	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
J. Wines	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
J. Lasbury	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Rev. E. Boston	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
H. Rowley	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
J. Lovatt	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
H. Palmer	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
G. Palmer	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
H. Cross	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
G. Page	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/

At the Association meeting at Aberdare 1901, Pentre ringers Messrs. W. Page, A. Pitt, G. Wines, S. Weaver, J. Elford, T. Hamlin, H. Pitt, and R. Daniel, were all present. Mr W Biss who was assisting with "instructing" at Pentre told the attendees at the Abergavenny meeting the same year that good progress was being made.

On 19th July 1902 The LDA came back to Pentre. Members arrived by the 3.30 train, and at once proceeded to the belfry, and having raised the bells, some touches of Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major were rung. After the Service and meeting, a very kind invitation to tea was received from Mrs. Lewis, at the Vicarage, Mrs. Lewis taking great interest in all, after which a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mrs. Lewis for her generosity. Mr. Lewis, son of the Vicar, then invited the members to the library for a smoke, which was much enjoyed.

The members then returned to the tower where touches of Grandsire, Bob Triples and Bob Major were rung, and thus ended a very enjoyable afternoon and evening.

"1904. I am 25 now but still live with Ma and Pa along with Harry and Percy at 16 Hill Side St. William married Mary 2 years ago and stayed at 1 Thomas Street. We are some 30 strong on the tower books now and our new Society, The St Peter (Pentre) Society of Change Ringers has been formed. Once we had learned how to handle the bells we sent for instruction books from Mr Snowdon to understand the intricacies of half pull change ringing. We have 5 books, [Ropesight, Standard Methods, Grandsire, Double Norwich Court Bob Major and Treble Bob]

they cost 9shillings and 3d, but we have been collecting pennies every week at practice to get them We have been practicing hard and have mastered Grandsire Triples well. Our first local band Quarter Peal was achieved with great excitement for we have already booked the professional conducting services of Mr Sevier for the peal in December!"

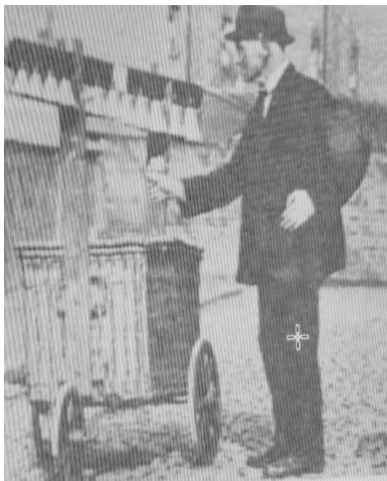
"1908 I am working with the horses underground now with my brother Percy and I am glad to be away from the face. We reached a major milestone in the tower on Sunday, May 3rd, when the first quarter-peal by the local band was successful: 1260 Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins. H. King (C), H Page, W. Page, J. Cross, T. Page, G. Wines, T. J. Hamlin, S. Weaver."

THE PROPHET AND THE LOCAL PEAL

1908 also saw the second peal on the bells, the first peal involving the locals - seven of them. The Conductor of the peal, Mr William J Sevier was invited by the Society to come especially to Pentre. It is highly likely that Mr Sevier, originally from Gloucester, was chosen because of his high profile in the Bell News. His nickname was "The Prophet" because of his interest in astrology. He would think nothing of walking five or six miles for a practice. He would occasionally go for a twenty or thirty mile walk at the week-end to visit some tower which could not be

reached in the week-day. One Sunday evening, after ringing at Thornbury he walked back to Gloucester twenty miles, and, on another occasion, when on the road from London he walked from Reading to Gloucester, 75 miles in one day.

As a bellringer he was a good striker and if there was a bell going badly, he would tackle it. Although he never mastered Surprise methods he was well at home in Stedman, Grandsire, Plain Bob, Treble Bob and Double Norwich. He was always willing to go and assist any band wherever his services were required. He travelled pushing a pram with 10 handbells adorning it, and he would play tunes on these in town squares to raise pennies for his onward journey.



THE LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

OF CHANGE RINGERS
IN THIS TOWER WAS RUNG
ON SATURDAY DEC 26th 1908

**A PEAL OF
GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.**
5040 CHANGES.

BY THE ST PETERS JUNIORS' SOCIETY
IN 3 HOURS AND 1 MINUTE.

MR J. J. PARKER'S ONE PART COMPOSITION

HARRY PAGE	TREBLE	TOM PAGE	5 th
WILLIAM SEVIER	2 nd	GEORGE WINES	6 th
WILLIAM PAGE	3 rd	THOMAS HAMLIN	7 th
JAMES CROSS	4 th	SAMUEL WEAVER	TENOR

CONDUCTED BY WILLIAM J. SEVIER

FIRST PEAL BY THE SOCIETY

REV CANON LEWIS R.D. VICAR

FREDERICK WISBEY
LEWIS LEWIS CHURCH WARDENS

No 2. 64

The St. Peters Society.

On Saturday Dec 26th 1908. in 3 hours and 1 minute.

A Peal of Grandsire Triples. 5040 changes

Parker's One Part.

<i>Harry Page</i>	<i>Treble.</i>	<i>Thomas Page.</i>	<i>5.</i>
<i>William J. Sevier</i>	<i>2.</i>	<i>George Wines.</i>	<i>6.</i>
<i>William Page.</i>	<i>3.</i>	<i>Thomas Hamlin.</i>	<i>7.</i>
<i>James Cross.</i>	<i>4.</i>	<i>Samuel Weaver. Tenor.</i>	

Conducted by W. J. Sevier.

First peal by all except the conductor. Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Weaver and Mrs. Frost. Also in honour of The Llandaff Diocesan Association's annual meeting, held that day at Cardiff.

Mr Sevier's way of announcing that he was intending to visit Wales comprised an advert taken out in the Bell News:

“It is Mr Sevier’s intention to further advance the circulation of the Bell News in all Wales. Where he finds one “Bell News” only in the belfry he will thoroughly advise each individual ringer to take in separately the valuable paper. Bell News (specially created for the wealth of knowledge and progress of the art in change-ringing by our valuable friend the editor). And in further support of the paper Mr. Sevier will demand from each ringer he may meet with in and throughout north and south Wales his constant thorough and continual support.”

It would be interesting to know what effect (if any) this had on sales of Bell News. Sevier conducted a peal of Grandsire Triples at Pentre on Boxing Day 1908, but he didn’t stay long in Wales and was back ringing a peal at Sandhurst, Gloucestershire shortly after.

Vivid confirmation of his eccentricity was given by Mrs. A. Richardson, of Surfleet. Lincs. *“On 3 July 1923 my husband Rupert was sent for by Miss Wander the Vicar’s housekeeper. A man named William Sevier had arrived at the Vicarage, complete with an old pram on which handbells were mounted The Vicar, Rev H Law James, [who was actually one of the ‘outstanding personalities’ of the ringing exercise] was away on holiday. She did not know what to do as he said he had taught Law James to ring. Rupert told her he was sure that Law James would have put him up for the night, so she did this. William Sevier had walked from Nottingham to Surfleet pushing his pram.”*

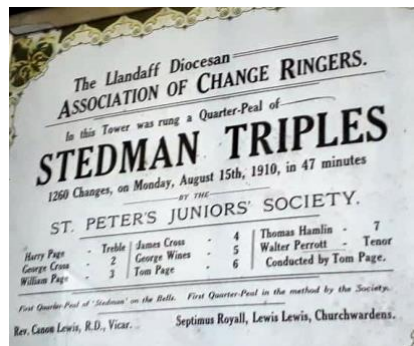
This was the first peal by all except the Conductor. Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Weaver and Mr. Frost; also in honour of the Llandaff Associations annual meeting held that day in Cardiff.

Llandaff & Monmouth DA
 PENTRE, St Peter 3h 01m
 Saturday December 26 1908
 5040 Grandsire Triples
 1 Harry Page
 2 William J Sevier (C)
 3 William Page
 4 James Cross
 5 Thomas Page
 6 George Wines
 7 Thomas Hamlin
 8 Samuel Weaver

The other visiting conductor we see at Pentre is Benjamin Thorp ringer at Ashton Parish Church for over 50 years, and Ringing Master of the Ashton-under-Lyne Society. The connection is unclear but probably via the ringing newspapers. Thorp travelled round peal ringing with

another eccentric character Joseph Sykes who visited Pentre on at least 4 occasions. Sykes was known for treading on peoples toes and writing controversial letters to the Ringing World under the names "Justicus" and "Samiwell Peppery" One such was printed in the Ringing World June 4 1927 entitled "The Antient Order of Peal Snatchers" and headings in response appeared such as Ringing World v 24th June 1927: "JOSEPH'S MENTAL ABERRATION"

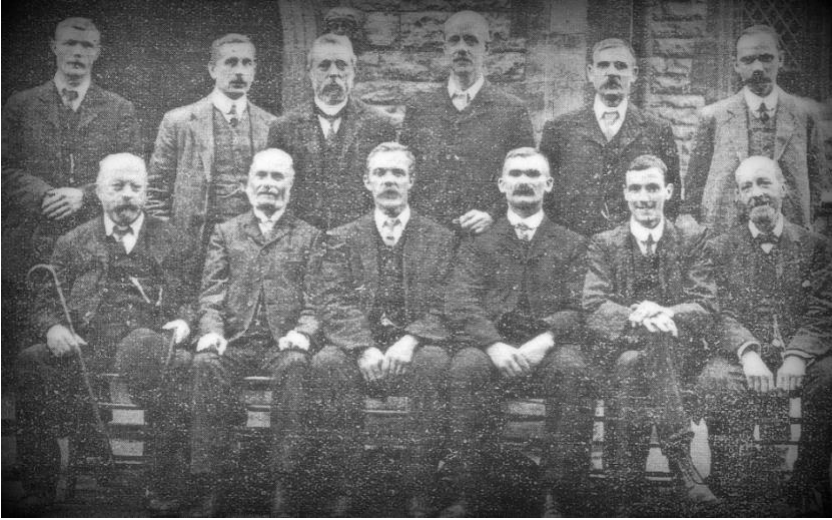
He was an employee of Messrs. W. C. Holmes and Co., the well-known gas engineers of Huddersfield, and travelled all over the world superintending the erection of gas manufacturing plant. He had been engaged in this work in Copenhagen and was found gassed in a room in the works, with one of the "gas cocks turned on". He died without recovering consciousness. He had given up ringing some 6 months earlier without any known reason.



"1910. I am a proud man indeed. I have been appointed Master of the Association for the year. We have been furthering our knowledge of methods and can now confidently add Forward, Duffield, and Double Norwich Major to our repertoire"

"1911. The Rhondda has suffered through the strike for nigh on twelve months and with the dispute thankfully ended we were, on the 14th September 1911, honoured to welcome the peal touring party of Mr Pye from London. The Company comprised men who are considered ringers of the highest order, and we spent an all too brief period in conversation with them over a light repast."





From left to right back row: Ernest Pye London, Gabriel Lindoff Dublin, George Dent Harlow, Rev. A. T. Beeston New Mills, John Flint Bolsover, Thomas T. Gofton Newcastle. Front row: William W. Gifford Salisbury, Isaac G. Shade Greenwich, William Pye London, John Holman Sheffield, Bertram Prewett Bushey, James George Rugby.

The Tour Report stated:

“Thursday morning found us amongst the collieries in Pentre, where a heavy ring by Taylor hangs. Superlative was on the order sheet, and was tapped off in an enjoyable manner. There was just time for a snack before returning to Cardiff.”

Llandaff & Monmouth D.A.
 PENTRE, Rhondda, St Peter
 Thu September 14 1911 3h24
 5056 Superlative S Major
 1 John Flint
 2 Rev A T Beeston
 3 Isaac G Shade
 4 Bertram Prewett (C)
 5 Thomas T Gofton
 6 William Pye
 7 James George
 8 Ernest Pye

Not such happy conclusions however for four of the ringers in this peal whose lives came to very sad endings:

Isaac Shade (Greenwich) rang the third. He was a gas fitter with South Metropolitan Gas and by the time he died he had rung 1450 peals. On 19th July 1926 he was returning home from a

practice at St Botolph Bishopsgate, London when he was knocked down and killed by a motor car travelling at 15 miles per hour. He was 72 when he died.

Ernest Pye (London) rang the tenor. He died on 8th December 1915 after suffering a nervous breakdown and wandering onto a railway line in front of the 5 a.m. Liverpool Street to Colchester Express. He had rung 852 peals.

Bertram Prewett (Bushey, Watford) rang the fourth. He was born in 1878 in Hampstead and learned to ring in 1897. He was killed in action on 31st August 1918 having been 'shot through the throat with a machine gun bullet'.

He was a prolific ringer and had rung 953 peals when he died. The Ringing World 1st November 1918 reads: *'Of all the ringers that have made the great sacrifice, none we think, will be more widely mourned or greatly missed than Bertram Prewett who fell in action on the last day of August. Without any exaggeration, one can say that Bertram Prewett was among the greatest of all ringers, and had he lived there was no saying to what degree he might have extended his already remarkable record'*.

William Pye (London) rang the sixth. He was one of the most prolific ringers of his time and rang over 1950 peals during his lifetime (including the first ever peal of Surprise Maximus). His thousandth peal came in the same year as the peal at Pentre... William, like his brother Ernest, also suffered in later life from mental health problems and died suddenly in March 1935.

The St. Peter's Society.

On Wednesday Dec 20th 1911. in 3 hours and 8 minutes.

A Peal of Grandsire Triples. 50.00 changes.

Holt's Original.

Harry Page.	1.	Thomas Hamlin.	5.
George Cross.	2.	William Page.	6.
James Cross.	3.	George Wines.	7.
Thomas Page.	4.	Harry Crabtree.	Tenor

Conducted by H. Page.

The St. Peter's Society.

On Thursday Dec 7th 1911. in 3 hours and 15 minutes.

A Peal of Stedman Triples. 50.40 changes.

A variation of Thurstens.

Harry Page.	1.	Thomas Hamlin.	5.
George Cross.	2.	William Page.	6.
James Cross.	3.	George Wines.	7.
Thomas Page.	4.	Harry Crabtree.	Tenor

Conducted by H. Page.

First peal as conductor in the method. First peal of "Stedman" on the bells. First in the method by all the band. Also the first peal of Stedman for the Association, by an entirely local band.

"I spent Christmas week 1911 with brother Harry and Bill Richards down in Plymouth. Harry is very pleased with himself after calling Holt's Original last week. In fairness I doubt many Welsh ringers- yes, he WAS born here - have done this. He would pace the back yard reciting the figures out loud, so much so I think Ma and half the street could have called it! If that wasn't enough he called a peal of Stedman Triples 2 weeks before which was another triumph for our fledgling Band."

[What makes this even more remarkable is that before calling Holts Original Grandsire and Thurstens Stedman, Harry had only rung 6 peals in total. 1925/6

then saw him call 3 peals of Kent Royal in Cardiff on the trot.]

"On Tuesday, December 26th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at Kenwyn, Cornwall, W. Hornbrook, E. C. Friend, H. Page, B. Knight, T. Page (conductor), W. Richards, W. I. Sleeman, W. Hooper. In the evening an attempt for a peal at Kea came to grief. On Sunday and Christmas Day several touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters were rung, this being our first touches on ten bells. On Thursday a quarter-peal of Caters was lost at St. Andrew's, after 900 changes had been rung.

On Friday an attempt for a peal of Stedman Triples at Plympton St. Maurice came to grief after 50 mins.' splendid ringing. At St. Mary's Church, Plympton, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung. The bells here go very badly, and the belfry is in a very dilapidated condition, and not fit for a ringing chamber. The place is in a sad state of neglect, which is a great pity, as the tenor is reputed to be one of the finest bells in the country..."

"1913. Much improvement and development in the tower in the last two years Kent Treble Bob and Oxford Bob Triples have been pealed, and Harry and I are now confident in conducting Peals of Stedman Triples. Harry has gone one better and called Erin Triples – the first in Wales!"

"1914. In March my brother in law James Cross called his first peal in any method: Stedman Triples! War came to us and coal mining became a "reserved occupation". We miners were, as a whole, not allowed to join the Army and the government took control of the pits. This was good for us and resulted in increased safety standards, and higher wages with the same wage rate in all areas.

At the ripe old age of 37 I wed Annie Stone back in Somerset in 1915 and we have been blessed with two sons William George in 1918 and Arthur in 1920"

By the age of 16 George Wines' son Frank was already a competent ringer, and on Monday 11th February 1918 he took part in a very significant touch, 672 of Cambridge Surprise Major, the first Cambridge Major by all and the first on the bells: B Davies 1, F Lasbury 2, F Wines 3, H Page (conductor) 4, J Cross 5, G Wines 6, W Page 7, T Page 8.

Frank signed up and was off to join the Army in April 1918 but his Service was to be short lived

Frank Augustus WINES

1898 – 1918 (aged 20)

Frank lived with his parents George (tower Treasurer) and Caroline at 3 Treharne Street Pentre. He took to ringing very



quickly when he started in 1913, and in the five years up to his untimely death he became accomplished in a set of methods that was quite remarkable. At the age of 16 he was ringing Stedman Triples, Double Norwich Court Bob Major, Kent TB and Forward Major and by 1917 Cambridge Surprise Major and Middlesex Triples

He joined up in April 1918 and was sent to France in September. He lost his life the following month, twenty two days



before the end of World War 1 and is buried in Monntigny Communal Cemetery, Nord.

245
B
10

SHORT SERVICE. 356

Card No.
336

(When filled in for the use of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve.)

ATTESTATION OF

Name Frank Wines Corps

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. your Name? ... 1. Frank Wines

2. your full Address? ... 2. 3. Fisher St

3. your full Address? ... 3. 100

4. your Age? ... 4. 18 Years ... Months

5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 5. None

6. Are you Married? ... 6. No

7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military? If so*, which? ... 7. No

8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... 8. No

9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... 9. Yes

10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... 10. Yes { Name John ... Corps ...

11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?
For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct., 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.

11. 110

I, Frank Wines do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Frank Wines SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
John ... Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.
I, Frank Wines swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.
The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Scire on this 27 day of July 1916
Signature of the Justice John Davies

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the ...
If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.
Date ... 19 ...
Place ... Approving Officer.

* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him, consequently endorsed in red ink, as follows, viz:—(Sign)
† Here insert the "C" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

0009

"1919 .Harry's been "touring" again. On Saturday, 28 September he joined a party made up of ringers from Llandaff, Cardiff and Whitechurch. They took the Steamer to Weston and Charabanc on to Yatton and Congresbury. At Wrington he rang on the newly augmented 10 and their visit was gatecrashed by some ringers from Taunton keen to try them out! Harry said that the Taunton men were offered the first touch and then they left, satisfied."

"1924. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent with our friends at Usk following an invitation from MR P T Clift to visit them and demonstrate change ringing on their 6 bells. They certainly were a handful to ring but we are used to bells twice their size and completed 6 scores of Grandsire and Stedman and touches of Plain Bob and Cambridge Surprise and we fully concur with Canon Morgan and the proposal to remove them and replace them with a more worthy ring" [The bells were restored in 1925].

Thursday 9th December 1926 St Peter's belfry Pentre. 6 30 pm and the lamp on the table glows warm and bright. There is a low hubbly bubble of chatter as jackets are removed and placed with coat and hat on the pegs allocated around the walls. Much talk was of the visit to Llantrisant Saturday last to ring on the bells which had been augmented from 6 to 8. Shadows of the general strike last May still dance in the flame but these and the issues of the working day, the toil and strife of life are put away now. The Leader moves stealthily around the room furtively placing ringers on specific bells "Harry, call 'em up from the treble. Mr Roberts on the box if you please"

The room falls silent some sitting some standing behind the ringers in anticipation of learning from them. The bells themselves are standing proud, mouths and tongues facing the ceiling. The eight ringers chosen take their ropes and the Treble cues the start "Look to!, Trebles going.... ..!" With that the ropes stiffen as the slack is taken up..... [silent pause]...."Gone!"...and the bells from lightest to heaviest tumble over the balance coining a description that Miss Dorothy [Sayers would come to use in 1934:

"Tin Tan Din Dan Bim Bam Bom BO!"

In 1927 the Pentre ringers celebrated the marriage of Mr A Wines, (George's son) and Miss E Cross (James' daughter). Also, another milestone in the tower's achievements was reached on 5th November 1927 when they rang the first quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Major by a local band anywhere in Wales,

James CROSS

1873 – 1928 (55)

From Upper Weston,
Somerset

8 Thomas St (1901)
28 Elizabeth St
(1911)

Shoeing Smith /
Ostler

1896 married

Elizabeth Emma

Page (sister of Tom
Page)

Peals at Pentre 36

Total 41

James Cross' end
came with tragic
suddenness. He was



at work in his garden an hour prior to his death, and had attended to his duties at the colliery during the day. On the previous Sunday he visited the tower and rang for both morning and evening services, and attended evensong. A man of apparently good health, the news of his unexpected death came as a great shock to his many friends.

He had been a member of the St. Peter's Society of Change Ringers for nearly 25 years, during which period had served as treasurer, deputy-leader, and for eight years as leader. His

attendance at the LMDA meetings was always highly appreciated. His services as a ringer will be missed, for he was thorough and safe, and an excellent striker. His genial nature and even temperament commanded the respect of those who knew him.

With the bells half-muffled, a quarter-peal of 1260 Grandsire Triples E G Palmer 1, H Davies (conductor) 2, Royden Davies 3, W J Palmer 4, J Lovett 5. G Wines 6, F Lasbury 7, H Crabb 8 First quarter-peal for the ringers of the treble and 4th. The ringer of 3rd was a friend of James from Llantrisant.

"Early in 1928 we started to plan a peal attempt at Llantrisant of Kent Treble Bob Major. This was to be an extended length for a specific composition. On Saturday 21st July 1928 we set out for Llantrisant but only seven in number and in somewhat sombre mood. We were met by local ringers, Messrs Royden Davies and Frank Rowsell. Mr Bolton our 'Tenor man' for the day from Cardiff St John had already arrived

The Llandaff and Monmouth
Diocesan Association
on Saturday July 21st 1928 in
3 hours and 48 minutes
At the Parish Church
A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major
6240 Changes.

* Joseph Lovatt. Treble	Thomas Hamlyn 5
George Wines. 2	William Page. 6
Frederick Lasbury. 3	Harry Page. 7
Tom Page. 4	William Bolton. 8

Composed by A Knight's (No. 29.)
Conducted by Harry Page
* First peal in the method.
Longest length by all the band and
for the Association. First peal of
Treble Bob on the bells since they were
augmented to 8. Longest length on the
bells. This composition is now
rung for the first time.

having walked, as we had, from Llantrisant Station. The station is actually sited in the village of Pontyclun, and is a two mile trek ending with a heavy haul up the steep cobbled streets to the church. Mr Bolton had the unenviable task of filling the position of our own recently departed friend and Pentre ringer from the start, Mr James Cross who was taken from us suddenly on 30th April last and who was due to ring the tenor today. We all took a minute to reflect on our ringing brother's memory whilst gazing silently at the magnificent views on the south side of the church towards the coast."

1929 the bells at Pentre were overhauled and rehung on ball bearings making them easier to control

William PAGE (Jnr) 1878 – 1958 (80)

From Limeton, Somerset

1 Thomas Street, 15 Hill Side St, 22 Hill Side St, 5 John St, 11 Upper Alma Place,
Coal Miner Hewer

Peals at Pentre 57 Total 78

William was a pioneer of change-ringing in South Wales for over 60 years. The funeral service was on June 14th 1958 and in brilliant sunshine handbells were rung at the graveside to his memory.



Frederick C LASBURY 1897 - 1953 (57)

From Compton Martin, Somerset
3 Hermon Street, Treorchy
Underground Coal Hewer Heavy Worker

Killed whilst following his occupation as a miner.

Peals at Pentre 31 Total 57

Fred was an efficient and capable change ringer and was a member of the local band who in 1931 rang the first peal of



Cambridge Surprise Major by a local band in Wales. His 31 peals on St. Peter's bells included all the standard methods and he conducted a peal of Superlative Surprise Major there. Other peals were rung in various South Wales towers, where he was popular and highly respected. Keenly interested in church affairs, Fred was a chorister and sidesman. His genial disposition, even temperament and readiness to help displayed all that was truest and best amongst men. Brother ringers acted as bearers at his funeral, and immediately

after the service the bells of St. Peter's were rung half-muffled, Mr. Trevor Roderick assisting by conducting touches of Stedman Triples.

"On the 12 of September 1931 a quarterly meeting of the LMDA was held in the old world Borough of Cowbridge, The bells are, as all the Evans' bells are hung, left handed, [anticlockwise] and are hanging to-day in the

same frame and fittings as when placed there in 1722. Call changes are rung by the local ringers, who appear to have no ambition to remedy things. We found it almost impossible to get change ringing with our men. A few plain courses of Stedman were rung or rather struggled through.

At the meeting we unanimously resolved that the Association should send a report to the Vicar pointing out the difficulty and danger of ringing the bells, suggesting that every effort should be made to restore such a fine old ring of eight. [The bells were restored in 1935]

We then journeyed out to Llanblethian Church, about a mile distant. This tower contains a ring of six, restored in a new iron frame some 20 years ago. No ringing is done here though and when Llanblethian was suggested to be available a week or two ago, it was discovered there were no ropes and that only chiming was done. Our ringers at Pentre offered six discarded ropes, and we took them there the day before the meeting, the result that after a few minor repairs and adjustments the bells were rung in

various methods. It is hoped this will stimulate the Cowbridge ringers to get practice at Llanblethian.”

EIGHT FIRSTS ON THE “BIG” PEAL BOARD OF 1932

“Few of the inhabitants of the Rhondda are aware of the high standard of efficiency and professionalism displayed by the ringers at Pentre.”

So says a press report in the Rhondda Leader October 1932. One was made very aware of it in the ringing chamber however.

The men perfected Change Ringing to a level unseen in most of the UK and were very proud of their achievements. This is highlighted no better than with the installation in the ringing chamber of a Peal Board recording seven “firsts” (the last space on the board was filled later in 1932 when the Superlative was rung).

Mr Percy Davies from Ton Pentre made the board and it was unveiled by Thomas Hamlin in a service in the belfry. The ringers rang plain courses of the seven methods during the service.



William ROBERTS 1899 - 1973 (74)

“The Tenor Man” for forty years
(1920 – 1960)

Peals at Pentre 2 Total 2
17 Alma Place (1901, 1911)



Note that "Stedman" is spelt incorrectly on the board.

"On 7th January 1933 Harry was with our old pals at Newport Cathedral where he participated in a quarter peal of Stedman Caters following a failed peal attempt."

Fred Atwell 1, John W Jones 2, Donald G Clift 3, Charlie Greedy 4, George Large 5, Harry Page 6, George Popnell 7, Ernie Stitch 8, Fred Chamberlain (C) 9 A Thomas 10.

"This turned out to be his last Quarter Peal. We became more and more concerned for his health as the year progressed."

At the Association AGM at St Woolos on 26 Dec 1933 Ernie Stitch brought to the notice of the meeting that Harry was ill and unable to follow his employment or ringing & suggested that a letter of sympathy be sent to him by the Hon. Sec. This was agreed to. Similarly at Llandaff on 26 Dec 1934 On the proposition of Mr Stitch, who reported that Harry was still very ill, the Hon Sec. was requested to write a letter of sympathy to him expressing the wish that he would soon be restored to health and ringing again and at All Saints Newport on 26 Dec 1935 it was agreed that letters of sympathy be sent to his brother on Harry's behalf"

"1936 has like so many years been tinged with sadness. We celebrated early in the year our own Uncle George Wines becoming Master of the LMDA, and success with

our 232 years' service peal."

PENTRE RHONDDA, GLAMORGANSHIRE.
 THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
 On Saturday, February 15, 1936, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
 A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
 THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 27 cwt.

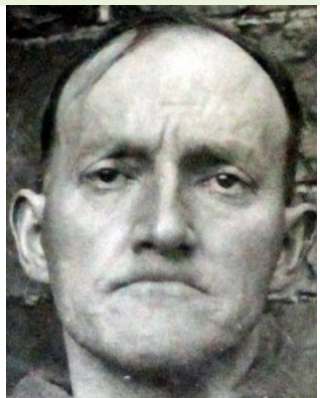
GEORGE WINES Treble	WILLIAM PAGE 5
FREDERICK LASBURY 2	JOSEPH LOVETT 6
HERBERT DAVIES 3	TOM PAGE 7
THOMAS HAMLIN 4	HENRY CRABB Tenor

Conducted by TOM PAGE.

Rung as a birthday compliment to ringer of the 4th, who was 74 years old the same day. All are Sunday service ringers at the above church, and, between them, have put in 232 years' service at this tower, viz.. 42, 23, 26, 41, 30, 12, 30 and 28 years respectively.

"However, I am sad to say that we lost our Harry on the 11th August."

Harry PAGE 1886 – 1936 (50)



Born in Pentre, Harry lived all his life with his parents or siblings. 3 locations with his parents (1 Thomas St, 15 Hill Side St, 22 Hill Side St), with his brother William & Hannah (11 Upper Alma Place), with his widowed sister Elizabeth Cross (28 Elizabeth St [1928]), with his brother Tom & Annie (5 John St [1930]) and with a Mrs Harries (29 Queen St [1935])

He as a Haulier below ground a tough and demanding job more dangerous some said than working at the coal face.

Peals at Pentre 47 Total at least 82

Harry was one of the true pioneers of change ringing at Pentre, Pontypridd and beyond and as a conductor he was second to none. Enthusiastic and talented he rang his first peal in 1908 aged 22 and by 25 had called Holts Original Grandsire Triples and Thurstan's Stedman Triples. He was by far the most

PONTYPRIDD, GLAMORGANSHIRE.
 THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Monday, November 9, 1925, in Three Hours,
 AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,
 GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.

JOHN HALLETT <i>Treble</i>	SYD RIDGWAY 5
IDRIS MITCHELL 2	JOHN DARCH 6
FRED J. THYER 3	HARRY PAGE 7
ALBERT E. GRAY... .. 4	*ROBERT DARWARD <i>Tenor</i>

Conducted by JOHN HALLETT.

Rung to commemorate the golden wedding of Mr. A. Burgess, one of the local ringers, and 'father' of the band. All the above are local ringers except H. Page, who was the instructor of the band. * First peal and first attempt.

adventurous of the early Pentre Band. He became instructor to Pontypridd in 1919 and rang peals in at least 10 other towers including 6 at Llandaff Cathedral, 14 at St John's Cardiff and 1 at Huntsham, Devon (9 August 1923). His final peal was an "all local" band peal of Superlative S Major in 1932 at Pentre.

In 1933 Harry started to lose his health mentally and physically and was unable to work or ring. By May 1935 he was a troubled soul and was admitted to Parc Hospital in Bridgend on the 12th May 1935 where he died on 11th August 1936. Four of his fellow ringers together with Mr. J W. Jones of Newport and Mr. A. W. Heath of Cardiff acted as bearers at the funeral in Treorchy Cemetery 15th August 1936.

After the funeral, a half- muffled peal was attempted, but, unfortunately it came to grief after an hour's ringing.

Wilfred Joseph PALMER 1910 - 1984 (74)



84 Regent St, Treorchy (1910)
20 Penygarreg Road, Tonyrefail (1939)
Penarth (1950s)
Buried Penrhys Cemetary
Peals at Pentre 8 Total 10

Wilfred or rather “Jack” and his twin brother were born shortly after their parents moved to Treorchy from Compton Martin, Somerset. They both took to ringing quite quickly and were competent in Cambridge Surprise Major at 19 years old. Neither brother returned to Pentre belfry after World War 2, Jack moved to Tonyrefail and later settled in

Penarth.

When experienced ringers were sought to train recruits at Penarth in the mid 50s Jack put himself forward and worked with locals Jack Garrett and Roy Escott to build a band. They were assisted by Tim Yeomans and Fred Hannington from St Johns Cardiff. Jack’s last peal in 1957 was the first peal for the rest of the band- Grandsire Doubles called by 16 year old Anthony Coombs and including Eddie Hartley, Jeffrey Wallace, Gordon Harding and his sister Yvonne (Apsitis).

Yvonne recalls that Jack was very proud of being a Pentre ringer and that he was a “quiet, modest and private person, generous by nature with a pale fragile smile who enjoyed the enthusiasm and company of the new band at Penarth”

He was the last of the Pentre Band from the “golden” era and was buried in Penrhys Cemetery in 1984.

Twin brother of

Ernest George PALMER 1910 -1968 (58)

Peals at Pentre 1 Total 4

Thomas James HAMLIN 1862 - 1953 (91)

14 / 9 St Stephens Ave
Peals at Pentre 35 Total 38

A native of Congresbury, Somerset, he came to Pentre during the 1890s and was a member of the St. Peter's Society of Change Ringers for 45 years, its secretary for 30 years. During this period the Society became the most progressive band in Wales, and between 1910 and 1933 rang, as a local band, the first peals of Stedman, Erin, Oxford Bob Triples, Bob Major. Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise for the Association.

He was employed at the Pentre Colliery until closure. (The Colliery worked on until 1932 when it mostly closed, however it lingered on until final closure in 1936. At that time it was owned by Cory Bros. & Co. Ltd.)

His church activities extended far beyond ringing. He was for many years a member of the Church of England Men's Society (CEMS), a sidesman for over 40 years, Sunday School Teacher, vergers and secretary of the local C.E.M.S. He had charge of the tower clock for 38 years, and the inhabitants of Pentre remember with gratitude these many years of voluntary service.

He left Pentre in January 1940 and a suitably inscribed framed photo of the St. Peter's Society was presented to him by the Rev. D. Spenser Jones, Vicar of Ystradyfodwg, on behalf of his fellow ringers. He will be remembered by his many friends for his loyalty, faithfulness and punctuality.

By 1944 the Pentre Band was still as strong as ever as evidenced by a (tenth of a peal) touch of Grandsire triples by the locals: 29th July 1944, 504 Grandsire Triples by the St Peter's (Pentre) Society prior to the ringers service at the Association meeting: Harry Crabb treble, George Wines 2 James Evans 3, Tom Page

4, William Page 5, Fred Lasbury 6, Joseph Lovett 7, William Roberts tenor

Joseph Lovett served as LMDA Master after the second World War, in 1945. Some of the old band didn't return to the tower after the War such as The Palmer twins, W Cross and G Page. but maintained a keen interest for the rest of their lives. Tom rang on until 1949.

September 1949, 1260 Grandsire Triples: G Williams (first of Triples) 1, Roy Brabham (first of Triples) 2, J Edwards (first inside of Triples) 3, James Evans 4, Tom Page (cond.) 5, Fred Lasbury 6, Josh Lovett 7, Harry Crabb 8. A 70th birthday compliment to Tom Page

Joseph LOVETT	1901– 1966	(64)
1 Llanfoist St (1911), 8 Baglan St (1939) Colliery Hower, below ground Peals at Pentre 20 Total 29		



“Josh” as he was affectionately known, was one of the band who taught themselves at Pentre, and reached the heights of ringing the first peals by a local band of Cambridge and Superlative in South Wales. Considering the relative remoteness of the tower, these were indeed remarkable achievements. How true must be the inscription in the peal book at Pentre, “Perseverance is crowned with success.” He had not been employed since 1941 due to the dreaded miner’s disease of silicosis, but this terrible

handicap never altered his cheerful nature. He was unable to climb the steps to the belfry in the last few years, but he still

maintained his interest in ringing, and nothing gave him greater pleasure than welcoming visitors to Pentre and, after listening to their ringing, partaking of a pint of beer with them at the "Club." A faithful churchman, he maintained a deep interest in St. Peter's all his life

The late Trevor Roderick once recalled that there were monthly Saturday practices at Pentre, which he attended in the 1940s where "*they could ring anything*". On one occasion he was ordered by Tom Page to catch hold of the third for a touch of Double Norwich and this ended as his first quarter in the method. The bread, cheese, pickles and beer at the pub opposite the church were always great he said!

"1950 Another war has come and gone. My ringing days have seen their last. The steps, so familiar, are beyond me now. When Pa brought us to Pentre all those years ago work was easy to come by. In these latter years I did not think that I would be without a job for so long. I am comforted however that the Valleys of Wales have provided the framework for the new National Health Service which succeeds the Tredegar Workmen's Medical Aid Society, and I am being well looked after.

I wish that it had been available to help my brother. I miss him very much for our rivalry in the tower and

debate across the dinner table. He was born a Welshman of course, I was not but I am so glad we learned to speak Cymraeg together as children for when the debates heated up so the language would change.”

Tom Page died on the 18th of August 1950.

Tom PAGE 1879 – 1950 (72)

Lived at 1 Thomas St, 15 Hill Side St, 22 Hill Side St and 5 John St, Pentre

Collier, Haulier and horseman (below ground)

Peals at Pentre 55 Total 66

One of ringing's ablest performers well known over a wide area, and an outstanding character, both as a ringer and conductor. The son of a former "Founder Member" William Page Snr. he was one of five brothers, three of whom have rendered a full measure of service to change ringing, and were members of the original Pentre Society of Change Ringers, founded in 1904.

From the modest foundations he helped to build up a standard of change ringing which eventually included Little Bob, Forward and Duffield Major, Double Norwich, Cambridge and Superlative.

In pre-war years St. Peter's tower was the centre of regular practice for visitors over a wide area, and his efforts on these occasions always aimed at all-round improvement, striking, learning of methods, and all that was best for ringers. He served as Master of the LMDA during 1910. His quiet disposition, punctuality, loyalty and a readiness to help a beginner commended him to his many friends. Up to October 1949 he

continued to ring at St. Peter's Church, and also served as a chorister from when the church was consecrated in 1890.

Following the funeral, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was called by his son George and rung by the following: J. Thomas 1, J. Lovett 2, J. Edwards 3, F. Lasbury 4, G. Page 5, E. Thorley 6, J. Evans 7, H. Crabb 8.

Herbert DAVIES 1885– 1968 (82)



From Kingsland Herefordshire
24 John St (1939)
Colliery Fitter, above & below
Peals at Pentre 23 Total 37

Bert came to the Rhondda from Kingsland, Hereford, at the age of 26, joining the St. Peter's Society in 1911. He rang 37 peals for the Association, amongst them Cambridge, Superlative and Double Norwich, but it is for his conducting of Grandsire and Stedman that he was better known, preferring methods in which the heaviest bell in Wales was rung behind. The 74 tower steps finally led to his calling the last bob in 1957, but he will always be remembered by the Society for his patience and perseverance with its younger members, who never once heard his voice raised, even when things were not going quite as they should.

The events in late 1954 marked the end and beginning of consecutive chapters in the tower's history. The last peal with any of the "Old Guard" came in October 1954 (Messrs Josh Lovett and Harry Crabb). This peal did however also include Tudor

Edwards, Roy Brabham and Ken Hartnoll from the “next generation”.

A practice in October of the same year saw 22 learners present. Sadly the enthusiasm was not long term and to this day the bell tower at Pentre has never seen the like again.

Roy Brabham looked after the tower for many years thereafter, and the welcome received from him and Mrs Brabham was second to none. The Pentre Outings, more often than not to Somerset, always featured bells the size they were used to i.e. large! In September 1982 a joint outing to Yeovil and nearby towers was organised between Pentre and Llanbradach, the primary connection being Rev Jim Dunstan who was Vicar of the former before becoming Vicar of the latter. With one coach departing Pentre and one at Llanbradach, the trip numbered just under 100 ringers, parishioners and friends.

Who knows, one day there might be footsteps on the stairs once again.

ONE FINAL MYSTERY: The man who never was

On 3rd May 1901, the first local quarter peal was rung. This infers that all eight ringers were affiliated to Pentre tower. Seven of the names are familiar, but the Conductor on the treble is as yet unknown to me despite considerable research.

Who was **H KING**, and what is his story?.....

Peals at Pentre 21 Total 1132



When he left home to go to Bristol University in 1952, Tudor had visited the tower in Pentre just a few times, and could barely handle a bell. He continued to learn to ring at St Thomas' church in Bristol during 1953. The instruction was fruitful, and on 17th May 1954 Tudor rang his first peal, Grandsire Doubles at St Michaels, Bristol. Later that year he rang his second peal,

Grandsire Triples at Pentre, for the LMDA.

Tudor made conducting Stedman his speciality, developing amazing skills in keeping the ringing right especially in Stedman Triples. This mirrored his predecessors at Pentre, Tom and Harry Page and James Cross. He called 714 peals and was a regular conductor on tours, and on many other occasions around the UK.

After completing his PhD, Tudor went to work in the Reading area. From there he had easy access to London for College Youth practices where he met and rang with many prominent and nationally known ringers of the time.



Tudor had been proposed for membership of the Ancient Society of College Youths by Albert Tyler in 1957 and rang his first peal with the Society the next year. He went on to propose many ringers [*the Author included in 1979*] as members in the ensuing

years. The annual Wilfred Williams Peal Tour was always a must. He first toured in 1959, to Ireland, and continued touring up to 1979. Tudor enjoyed the opportunity to ring with great ringers such as Peter Border and Ralph Edwards. These tours enabled him to cover nearly every corner of the British Isles. He went overseas to Australia, New Zealand, North America and Africa and once mentioned that for just five days he had rung a peal on every twelve in the world!

It was in the mid-60s that Tudor decided to move back to the Rhondda. He loved all sport especially rugby, cricket, football and snooker. It was unusual for there to be a weekend when you would catch Tudor at home! He loved travelling and had a strong appreciation for the culture and history of the places he visited. On his trip to South Africa, he had the opportunity to fulfil an ambition to go on safari, a truly memorable experience for him given his love of animals.

Together with other experienced South Wales ringers, great strides were made in the quality and scope of ringing in the area. As a result of his infectious enthusiasm a number of projects were undertaken in the next decades.

[Tudor helped the Author to progress in 12 bell ringing, he “kept an eye out” when said Author called his first peal, Plain Bob Major in 1981 at Llantrisant), and was always prepared to help when he could in local events].

The funeral was held at St Peter’s Pentre “The Cathedral of the Valleys” before a large Congregation.

Professor John Owen, who was born in Pentre, wrote in July 2018:



“The Pentre Bellringers of the early 1900s were noted for being almost entirely self-taught. The source of my very limited knowledge of that Band came from Josh Lovett who taught me to ring. Fred Lasbury and William Page were both alive in the 1950s when I started and occasionally

after Sunday Morning ringing we would visit them for a cup of tea. I was just a kid so spent my time sitting quietly while Josh reminisced of times gone by. Quite a few of the notables still lived close by but most had given up ringing during the war years. Josh was severely limited by lung problems and it was a major effort for him to climb the tower. Tudor Edwards and Roy Brabham had started a few years before me. I remember there were West Country connections with members of the old Band and our annual ringing outing was usually to Somerset. I think I remember one or two of the former ringers coming along for the “Scrumpy”! We crossed the Channel by Campbell’s Steamer from Cardiff to Ilfracombe.

Peals at Pentre 1 Total 342 to date (Jul 2018)

**OTHER (KNOWN) MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL BAND
1890 – 1954**

George CROSS 1885 – 1954 69

Upper Weston Bath Somerset
28 Elizabeth Street Pentre
James Cross' brother
Peals at Pentre 26 Total 28

William J G CROSS 1912 – 1956 45

Paint Sprayer
James Cross' son
Peals at Pentre 10 Total 14

Robert DANIEL 1853 -

Braunton, Devon
1881 3 Alma Place
1911 21 Llewellyn St Pentre
Tailor
July 1897 licensed as lay reader during a
confirmation service. 102 candidates
Sept 1897 Rang at St Woolos Cathedral

James (Jim) EVANS

Peals at Pentre 2 Total 2

Kenneth HARTNOLL 1931 –

Peals at Pentre 1 Total 1
Son of Elsie Page and Christmas H Hartnoll
Grandson of William Page (Jnr) and Mary Hannah
Watkins
Great Grandson of William Page and Edith Ann Farr
8 St Stephens Avenue, Pentre

Roger JONES

Joined the Navy 1954

H KING

Conducted first local Quarter Peal in 1908

William PAGE (Snr) 1853 - 1921

Taught most of the early ringers
Founder member of Society
From Ilchester Somerset
1 Thomas St (1891)
16 Hill Side St (1901)
22 Hill Side St (1911)

W George PAGE 1918 –

Tom Page's son
Peals at Pentre 4 Total 4

Percy PAGE 1882 – 1954 72

21 Carne Street
Colliery Horsekeeper (below ground)

Walter PERROTT 1884 -

From Clatworthy, Somerset,
32 William Street
Coal Miner Hewer
Peals at Pentre 1 Total 1

William RICHARDS

Peals at Pentre 2 Total 2

Eli Samuel WEAVER 1881 - 1926

Tydfil House 69 Stuart St Treorchy
Coal Miner Hewer
Peals at Pentre 4 Total 4

Thomas WEAVER

Peals at Pentre 1 Total 1.

J BRIDGE **John ELFORD** **G WILLIAMS**

J EDWARDS **J GILLARD** **H HARRIS**

W HORNER **Thomas LLOYD** **A PITT**

H PITT **G STOKES**



Many Quarter Peals were rung. Below are examples showing the band's capabilities

23rd January 1910: 1260 Stedman Triples 49 mins W Richards 1, G Cross 2, H Page 3, J Cross 4, W Page 5, T Hamlin 6, T Page (C) 7, S Weaver 8

28th January 1912: 1260 Erin Triples, in 45 mins H Page 1, J Cross 2, W Page 3, T Hamlin 4, G Wines 5, T Page (C), S Weaver First quarter-peal in the method on the bells and by the band for Morning Service

6th January 1931: 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major in 50 mins: H Crabb 1, G Cross 2, H Page (C) 3, G Wines 4, F Chamberlain 5, W Page 6, J Cross 7, T Page 8 First quarter-peal in the method by all, and first quarter on the bells

16th April 1931: 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major 52 mins H Crabb 1, W Palmer 2, G Wines 3, H Davies 4, J Lovett 5, F Lasbury 6, W Page 7, T Page (C) 8

13th December 1931: 1280 Superlative Surprise Major: W Cross 1, W Palmer 2, G Palmer 3, J Lovett 4, H Page 5, W Page 6, F Lasbury 7, T Page(C)
8. First Quarter Peal in the method by the band, who are all Sunday Service ringers

29th November 1932: 1260 Oxford Bob Triples: G Page 1, W Palmer 2, T Page (C) 3, W Cross 4, T Hamlin 5, H Davies 6, F Lasbury 7, G Wines 8 First quarter-peal in the method by the ringers of the treble, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 7th

13th April 1936: 1280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major G Page 1, G Palmer 2, W Palmer 3, W Cross 4, F Lansbury 5, W Page 6, J H Howell 7, T Page (C) 8 First quarter-peal in the method for ringer of the 7th, who hails from Hull It was rung after failing for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major

PEALS 1901 – 1954

Saturday April 13 1901
3h01

- 5040 Grandsire Triples
1 William Northey
2 John W Jones
3 Frederick Atwell
4 John Harris
5 Allen Rowley
6 William Coombes (C)
7 John Clutterbuck
8 Benjamin Tilley

Saturday December 26
1908 3h01

- 5040 Grandsire Triples
1 Harry Page
2 William J Sevier (C)
3 William Page
4 James Cross
5 Thomas Page
6 George Wines
7 Thomas Hamlin
8 Samuel Weaver

Thursday December 16
1909 3h06

- 5040 Grandsire Triples
1 George Cross
2 Thomas Page (C)
3 Harry Page
4 William Page
5 James Cross
6 George Wines
7 Thomas Hamlin
8 Samuel Weaver

Saturday April 30 1910
3h08

- 5040 Grandsire Triples
1 Harry Page
2 Thomas Page (C)
3 George Cross
4 William Page
5 James Cross
6 George Wines
7 Thomas Hamlin
8 Samuel Weaver

Thursday September 15
1910 3h10

- 5040 Grandsire Triples
1 Harry Page
2 Thomas Page (C)
3 William Richards
4 William Page
5 George Cross
6 George Wines
7 Thomas Hamlin
8 J T Henry Crabb

Thursday March 30 1911
3h00

- 5040 Grandsire Triples
1 George Cross
2 Harry Page (C)
3 James Cross
4 Thomas Page
5 William Page
6 Thomas Hamlin
7 George Wines
8 Walter Perrott

Thursday June 22 1911
3h02

- 5040 Grandsire Triples
1 Harry Page (C)
2 George Cross
3 James Cross
4 William Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 Thomas Page
7 William Richards
8 J T Henry Crabb

Thursday September 14
1911 3h24

- 5056 Superlative S Major
1 John Flint
2 Rev A T Beeston
3 Isaac G Shade
4 Bertram Prewett (C)
5 Thomas T Gofton
6 William Pye
7 James George
8 Ernest Pye

Thursday December 7
1911 3h15

- 5040 Stedman Triples
1 Harry Page (C)
2 George Cross
3 James Cross
4 Thomas Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 William Page
7 George Wines
8 J T Henry Crabb

Wednesday December
20 1911 3h08

- 5040 Grandsire Triples
1 Harry Page (C)
2 George Cross
3 James Cross
4 Thomas Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 William Page
7 George Wines
8 J T Henry Crabb

Wednesday January 10
1912 3h10

- 5040 Stedman Triples
1 Harry Page
2 George Cross
3 James Cross
4 Thomas Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 William Page
7 Charles R Lilley (C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Thursday March 7 1912
3h07

- 5040 Stedman Triples
1 Harry Page
2 George Cross
3 James Cross
4 William Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 George Wines
7 Thomas Page (C)
8 Samuel Weaver

Monday May 27 1912
3h07
5040 Stedman Triples
1 George Cross
2 Harry Page (C)
3 James Cross
4 William Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 Thomas Page
7 George Wines
8 Samuel Weaver

Thursday November 14
1912 3h09
5040 Stedman Triples
1 Harry Page
2 George Cross
3 James Cross
4 William Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 Frederick Chamberlain
7 Thomas Page (C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Thursday February 27
1913 3h12
5040 Erin Triples
1 Harry Page (C)
2 George Cross
3 Thomas Page
4 George Wines
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 William Page
7 James Cross
8 J T Henry Crabb

Thursday June 12 1913
3h07
5088 Kent T B Major
1 Harry Page
2 George Cross
3 Thomas Page
4 Joseph E Sykes
5 Frederick Chamberlain
6 William Page
7 James Cross
8 Benjamin Thorp (C)

Thursday September 25
1913 3h04
5040 Grandsire Triples
1 Herbert Davies
2 Harry Page
3 William Page
4 Benjamin Thorp (C)
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 James Cross
7 Thomas Page
8 J T Henry Crabb

Thursday November 20
1913 3h03
5040 Oxford Bob Triples
1 Herbert Davies
2 Thomas Page (C)
3 Harry Page
4 George Cross
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 George Wines
7 William Page
8 James Cross

Thursday December 4
1913 3h07
5040 Plain Bob Major
1 George Cross
2 Harry Page
3 Benjamin Thorp (C)
4 James Cross
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 William Page
7 Thomas Page
8 Joseph E Sykes

Thursday March 12 1914
3h05
5040 Stedman Triples
1 George Cross
2 George Wines
3 Harry Page
4 William Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 Thomas Page
7 James Cross (C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Thursday March 26 1914
3h10
5088 Kent T B Major
1 Charles H Perry
2 Harry Page
3 James Cross
4 Frederick Chamberlain
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 William Page
7 Thomas Page
8 Benjamin Thorp (C)

Monday May 4 1914
3h10
5040 Plain Bob Major
1 Herbert Davies
2 George Cross
3 Harry Page (C)
4 William Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 George Wines
7 James Cross
8 Thomas Page

Thursday January 27
1916 3h15
5056 Oxford TB Major
1 Harry Page (C)
2 Frank Wines
3 Frederick C Lasbury
4 George Cross
5 James Cross
6 George Wines
7 William Page
8 Thomas Page

Wednesday November
13 1918 3h10
5040 Stedman Triples
1 Harry Page
2 George Wines
3 George Cross
4 Thomas Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 William Page
7 James Cross (C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Saturday February 8
1919 3h10
5040 Stedman Triples
1 Harry Page
2 Frederick C Lasbury
3 Herbert Davies
4 George Cross
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 William Bolton
7 Thomas Page (C)
8 William Page

Tuesday February 17
1920 3h08
5040 Grandsire Triples
1 James Cross
2 Thomas Page (C)
3 Herbert Davies
4 Thomas Hamlin
5 Frederick C Lasbury
6 William Page
7 Harry Page
8 William Roberts

Monday April 5 1920
3h09
5120 Kent T B Major
1 Thomas Page
2 James Cross
3 Frederick C Lasbury
4 Herbert Davies
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 George Wines
7 Harry Page (C)
8 William Page

Saturday January 22
1921 3h12
5120 Kent T B Major
1 Harry Page (C)
2 Clarence O Hobbs
3 Frederick C Lasbury
4 John W Jones
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 Frederick Chamberlain
7 James Cross
8 William Page

Monday March 28 1921
3h11
5088 Oxford TB Major
1 Harry Page (C)
2 George Wines
3 William B Biss
4 Frederick Chamberlain
5 Frederick C Lasbury
6 James Cross
7 Thomas Page
8 William Page

Tuesday December 27
1921 3h02
5040 Grandsire Triples
1 George Cross
2 Thomas Page (C)
3 Frederick C Lasbury
4 Herbert Davies
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 William Page
7 James Cross
8 J T Henry Crabb

Thursday February 2
1922 3h15
5040 Stedman Triples
1 Harry Page
2 Frederick C Lasbury
3 George Cross
4 William Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 Thomas Page
7 James Cross (C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Thursday July 27 1922
3h08
5040 Double Norwich C B
Major
1 George Cross
2 George Wines
3 Harry Page
4 Frederick C Lasbury
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 James Cross
7 William Page
8 Thomas Page (C)

Thursday August
17 1922 3h15
5184 Kent T B Major
1 Frederick C Lasbury
2 William Page
3 Herbert Davies (C)
4 George Cross
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 James Cross
7 Harry Page
8 Thomas Page

Wednesday September 6
1922 3h02
5040 Stedman Triples
1 William Page
2 George Wines
3 Harry Page
4 Thomas Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 George Cross
7 James Cross (C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Saturday September 30
1922 3h05
5088 Kent T B Major
1 George Wines
2 George Cross
3 Frederick C Lasbury
4 James Cross
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 Thomas Page
7 Harry Page (C)
8 William Page

Saturday November 11
1922 3h05
5040 Plain Bob Major
1 George Wines
2 Harry Page
3 James Cross
4 Herbert Davies
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 Frederick C Lasbury
7 Thomas Page (C)
8 William Page

Saturday December 9
1922 3h00
5040 Stedman Triples
1 John W Jones
2 Herbert Davies
3 Harry Page
4 Albert J Pitman
5 Frederick C Lasbury
6 James Cross
7 Thomas Page (C)
8 William Page

Saturday May 2 1925
3h15
5088 Kent T B Major
1 Harry Page (C)
2 George Large
3 William B Biss
4 John W Jones
5 Frederick Chamberlain
6 Thomas Page
7 William Page
8 William Bolton

Monday June 6 1927
3h15
5120 Double Norwich C B
Major
1 J T Henry Crabb
2 George Wines
3 Harry Page
4 Herbert Davies
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 James Cross
7 Thomas Page (C)
8 William Page

Saturday November 19
1927 3h12
5040 Stedman Triples
1 Harry Page
2 Ernest Stitch
3 Frederick C Lasbury
4 William Page
5 James Cross
6 Albert J Pitman
7 Thomas Page (C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Monday April 9 1928
3h10
5008 Plain Bob Major
1 Joseph Lovett
2 George Wines
3 James Cross
4 William Page
5 Thomas Hamlin
6 Frederick C Lasbury
7 Harry Page (C)
8 Thomas Page

Saturday June 1 1929
3h20
5120 Spliced TB Major
1 Albert J Pitman (C)
2 George Popnell
3 Harry Page
4 Wilfred Williams
5 Ernest Stitch
6 Frederick C Lasbury
7 Thomas Page
8 William Page

Saturday February 14
1931 3h10
5088 Kent T B Major
1 Harry Page (C)
2 Ernest Stitch
3 George Popnell
4 Alfred W Heath
5 Joseph Lovett
6 William Page
7 Frederick C Lasbury
8 Thomas Page

Saturday September 5
1931 3h10
5088 Kent T B Major
1 Harry Page (C)
2 John W Jones
3 George Popnell
4 Charles Davies
5 Joseph Lovett
6 William Page
7 Thomas Page
8 George H Daynes

Saturday November 7
1931 3h12
5056 Cambridge S Major
1 William J Cross
2 Wilfred J Palmer
3 E George Palmer
4 Harry Page
5 Joseph Lovett
6 Herbert Davies
7 Frederick C Lasbury
8 Thomas Page (C)

Saturday January 9 1932
3h15
5040 Stedman Triples
1 George Wines
2 Wilfred J Palmer
3 William J Cross
4 Ernest Stitch
5 Harry Page
6 Herbert Davies
7 Albert J Pitman (C)
8 Thomas Page

Saturday February 13
1932 3h08
5056 Cambridge S Major
1 William J Cross
2 Wilfred J Palmer
3 George Popnell
4 Joseph Lovett
5 Harry Page
6 William Page
7 Frederick C Lasbury
8 Thomas Page (C)

Saturday May 28 1932
3h15
5120 Double Norwich C B
Major
1 William J Cross
2 Wilfred J Palmer
3 George Wines
4 Joseph Lovett
5 Harry Page
6 William Page
7 Frederick C Lasbury
8 Thomas Page (C)

Wednesday September
14 1932 3h10
5056 Bristol S Major
1 Nelson Elliott
2 Keith Hart
3 Jack M Cripps
4 Frederick W Rogers
5 Alfred T Greenwood
6 Oliver Sippetts
7 Charles W Roberts
8 Wilfred Williams (C)

Saturday October 29
1932 3h11
5056 Oxford TB Major
1 Thomas Page
2 Ernest Stitch
3 Joseph Lovett
4 Herbert Davies
5 Harry Page
6 William Page
7 Albert J Pitman (C)
8 Frederick C Lasbury

Thursday December 15
1932 3h20
5120 Superlative S Major
1 George Wines
2 Wilfred J Palmer
3 Joseph Lovett
4 Herbert Davies
5 Harry Page
6 Frederick C Lasbury
7 William Page
8 Thomas Page (C)

Saturday July 14 1934
3h17
5040 Grandsire Triples
1 George Page
2 Joseph Lovett
3 Wilfred J Palmer
4 Herbert Davies
5 William J Cross
6 Ernest Stitch (C)
7 William Page
8 J T Henry Crabb

Saturday February 23
1935 3h15
5088 Superlative S Major
1 Ernest Stitch
2 William J Cross
3 George Popnell
4 Wilfred J Palmer
5 Joseph Lovett
6 Herbert Davies
7 William Page
8 Frederick C Lasbury
(C)

Saturday March 16 1935
3h20
5120 Double Norwich C B
Major
1 Ernest Stitch
2 Joseph Lovett
3 George Popnell
4 William J Cross
5 Frederick C Lasbury
6 Herbert Davies
7 Thomas Page (C)
8 William Page

Monday May 6 1935
3h09
5040 Stedman Triples
1 Joseph Lovett
2 Wilfred J Palmer
3 William Page
4 Herbert Davies
5 Thomas Page
6 Frederick C Lasbury
7 William J Cross (C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Saturday July 27 1935
3h13
5040 Grandsire Triples
1 William Page
2 John W Jones
3 George Page
4 George Popnell
5 Joseph Lovett
6 William J Cross
7 Ernest Stitch (C)
8 Frederick C Lasbury

Saturday August 24 1935
3h09
5040 Stedman Triples
1 William J Cross
2 John W Jones
3 George Popnell
4 Albert J Pitman
5 Alfred W Heath
6 William Page
7 Christopher Gudgeon
(C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Saturday February 15
1936 3h15
5040 Stedman Triples
1 George Wines
2 Frederick C Lasbury
3 Herbert Davies
4 Thomas Hamlin
5 William Page
6 Joseph Lovett
7 Thomas Page (C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Saturday March 14 1936
3h15
5056 Plain Bob Major
1 Benjamin J Williams
2 John W Jones
3 Joseph Lovett
4 Herbert Davies
5 William Page
6 Gwyn I Lewis
7 Thomas Page
8 Ernest Stitch (C)

Saturday May 2 1936
3h26
5024 Kent T B Major

1 James H Shepherd
2 John W Jones
3 Albert J Pitman
4 Frank Bennett (C)
5 George Popnell
6 Ernest Stitch
7 Thomas Page
8 Frederick C Lasbury

Thursday April 8 1937

3h22

- 5152 Kent T B Major
1 George Wines
2 Frederick C Lasbury
3 Herbert Davies (C)
4 John W Jones
5 Joseph Lovett
6 Alfred W Heath
7 Thomas Page
8 William Page

Wednesday May 12 1937

3h18

- 5040 Stedman Triples
1 Joseph Lovett
2 Herbert Davies
3 George Page
4 Thomas Hamlin
5 Frederick C Lasbury
6 William Page
7 Thomas Page (C)
8 J T Henry Crabb

Monday June 6 1938

3h20

- 5040 Grandsire Triples
1 Alfred W Heath
2 George Page
3 Ernest Stitch (C)
4 Joseph Lovett
5 George Popnell
6 Thomas Page
7 William Page
8 William Roberts

Wednesday December

26 1945 3h03

- 5056 Plain Bob Major
1 William L Lambert
2 Alfred W Heath
3 James Evans
4 Ernest Stitch
5 Joseph Lovett
6 Sidney M Bailey
7 Frederick C Lasbury
8 A Patrick Cannon (C)

Saturday March 23 1946

3h17

- 5040 Stedman Triples
1 Clement Glenn (C)
2 Frank J Bailey
3 James Evans
4 George Large
5 Albert J Pitman
6 Ernest Stitch
7 Alfred W Heath
8 William Lambert

Saturday October 2 1954

3h20

- 5040 Grandsire Triples
1 Joseph Lovett
2 William L Lambert
3 Keith G Jones
4 Tudor P Edwards
5 A Ryan Price (C)
6 W Roy Brabham
7 Kenneth Hartnoll
8 J T Henry Crabb

BELLRINGING TERMINOLOGY

This is not an exhaustive list of bellringing terminology, but it will assist the non-ringer in appreciating some of the terms used in the article.

Band	The general term used to describe a group of ringers e.g. <i>'the band rang regularly on Sundays'</i> .
Call Changes	Changes in the order in which the bells ring. They are called out by the Conductor , e.g. if the bells were ringing in the order 12345678 (the change known as rounds) and the Conductor called '3 to 4', the bells would then ring in the order 12435678 until another call is made.
Change Ringing	This requires the order of the bells to change every time they sound, in line with the method being rung at the time.
Clappers	Are mounted inside the bell and strike the side of it thus producing the sound.
Conductor	The person who gives instructions to the other ringers whilst the bells are being rung.
Covering	This occurs when one bell (usually the tenor) rings in the same place in the changes whilst the other bells change position.
Full Circle	The term used to describe the way change ringing bells are hung in the tower. The bell rings through 360 degrees on its bearings, starting from the inverted position where it is supported by the stay . It will sound once on the initial revolution and again on its return journey.

Half Muffled Ringing	Takes place for funerals, memorial services etc. and involve one side of the clapper being covered with a piece of leather or rubber. The result is that the bells will sound normally on their first revolution and on their return journey will emit a much quieter 'echoing' effect.
Headstocks	Made of metal or wood, these enable the bell to be secured in the bellframe. The bell is attached directly to the headstock and the bearings at the end of the headstock are mounted on the bellframe.
Lowering	The reverse process to raising . It involves the bell rotating from its upturned position through its axis, gradually getting quicker and quicker until it rests mouth downward in the frame.
Methods	Learned and rung by change ringers . They are the set patterns that change the position of the bells each time they sound. Familiar methods include 'Grandsire Triples' and 'Plain Bob Major'.
Peal	A performance by change ringers which involves more than 5000 different sequences being rung without a break and with bells changing position every time they sound. Typically a peal will last 3 hours.
Quarter Peal	A performance by change ringers which involves more than 1260 different sequences being rung without a break and with bells changing position every time they sound. Typically a quarter peal will last 45 minutes.
Raising	The reverse process to lowering . The

bell starts mouth downwards in the bellframe and is swung on its bearings until eventually it is rotating through 360 degrees. The bell is then rested mouth upwards on its **stay**, and is ready for **full circle** ringing.

Rope Circle

The way the bell ropes hang in the room where ringing takes place. Most rings of bells are hung with the ropes falling in a clockwise circle.

Rounds

Involves the bells being rung **full circle** starting with the **treble** and ending with the **tenor**.

Six Score

Is a (now out of date) term that describes 120 changes being rung in a **method**.

Stays

Pieces of wood that enable the bell to be supported in an inverted, mouth upwards, position ready for **full circle** ringing.

Striking

If a piece of ringing is 'struck well' it means that the bells are rung in a rhythmical and regular fashion and the ringers make little or no mistakes. 'Bad striking' produces unwanted clashes and an erratic rhythm.

Tenor

The deepest toned (and generally the largest) bell in the tower.

Touch

A **change ringing** performance rung in a specified **method** e.g. 'a touch of Plain Bob Doubles was rung before the Sunday service'.

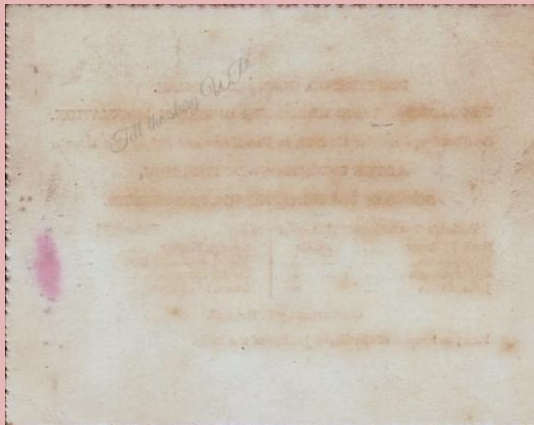
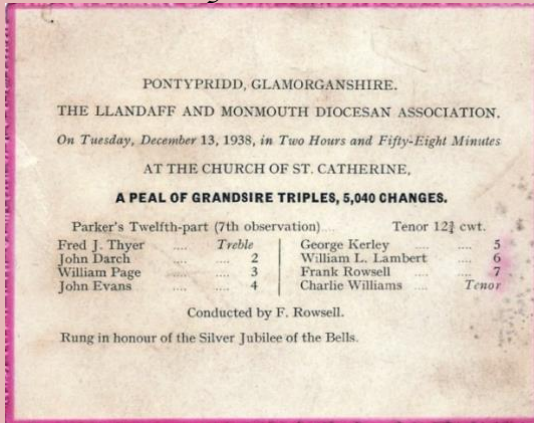
Tower Captain

A person who takes responsibility for the activities in the bell tower.

Treble

The highest toned (and generally the lightest) bell in the tower.

“A small aged card edged in pink drops to the floor”.



*The sun shines and the rain is easing.
Coat collar down, cap off.*

Home now.

Story told.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS with thanks.

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Lyn Tebbett

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Bell News Magazine

Andrew Bull

Margaret Evans

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John Owen

Susan L Apter

Tudor P Edwards (RIP)

Barry J Hayman

Matthew Turner

Gwen Rogers

Ringing World Magazine

John Taylor & CO

Ryan Power

W John Kinchin

The Central Council of Church Bellringers

The Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Genealogy websites: Ancestry.com, Genes Reunited, Free BMD

Rhonddavalleys.com

Simon Golding, Treorchy Library

Glamorgan Archives