



MONMOUTH BRANCH NEWS

Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

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In this Issue

- 1 From the Branch Master
- 2 News from the Tower
- 6 Branch Training News
- 7 Bell Maintenance Group Update
- 7 Restructuring the Association's Financial Arrangements
- 8 Save the Date - Tower Open Day
- 8 Association Clothing
- 9 200 Club Draw
- 9 Association Quiz
- 9 Save the Date - Branch and Association AGMs
- 10 Central Council Update
- 11 Ringing World Update
- 14 Monmouth Branch Ringing Course 2026

Dates for the Diary

20th Dec, 10:00am (Bassaleg)
Branch Practice

8th Jan, 7:30pm (Usk)
Branch 8-bell Practice

17th Jan, 3:00pm (Caerleon)
Monmouth Branch AGM

12th Feb, 7:30pm (Usk)
Branch 8-bell Practice

14th Feb, (Newport Area)
Branch Training Day

12th Mar, 7:30pm (Usk)
Branch 8-bell Practice

21st Mar, 2:00pm (Usk)
Branch Practice

9th Apr, 7:30pm (Usk)
Branch 8-bell Practice

18th Apr, 3:30pm (Michaelston)
Association AGM

4th May
Tower Open Day

16th May (Location TBC)
Branch Striking Competition

FROM THE BRANCH MASTER

Since the last newsletter, we have had a branch practice at Llanedeyrn in September. This wasn't the best attended practice of the year but I was delighted to have 3 of the local ringers there and we had a very enjoyable and productive practice, followed by a good evening in the excellent pub next door.

October was rather busy from my point of view, we hosted the South West 12 bell striking competition at St Woolos. There was an advanced Surprise Major practice at Bassaleg in October, the Enthronement of Archbishop Cherry, again at St Woolos, and the quiz night at Llantarnam. Unfortunately the branch training day had to be cancelled due to a lack of helpers. But a great success was the branch quarter peal fortnight across the last week of October and finishing on Remembrance Sunday. There were 22 attempts across the fortnight (plus some others either side) of which 19 were scored and only 3 lost. This is very impressive. Of the 19 successes, there were 7 first quarter peals and 9 other firsts ranging from first on the treble to first of surprise major as conductor, with 12 different towers (including a handbell QP in Scotland!). We haven't had QP fortnight for a few years, but this shows we need to get it back in the calendar!! Well done to all the people who scored "firsts", rang to help others, conducted, organised. Fantastic effort.

November was the branch practice at Blaenavon in the afternoon and we had 18 ringers there with 7 towers represented. Plenty of different methods for everyone from Grandsire Doubles up to London S Major. And although an afternoon practice, the pub was open and almost everyone went for a beer.

I'm still organising quarters for people that ask, or dedicated practices if quarters aren't your thing. Please let me know if you have any requests for yourself or others. The branch 8 bell continues on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Usk and is well attended with a diverse range of methods rung.

Looking forward

- The next branch practice is at Bassaleg on 20th December at 10am
- January is the Branch AGM at Caerleon on 17th
- Branch training day on February 14th based around Newport.
- Association AGM - April 18th at Michaelston Y Fedw
- The Tower Open Day is on Bank Holiday Monday (4th May) and should be a worthwhile fundraiser. Please keep your eyes open for further details.

Anne Hayman
Branch Ringing Master

NEWS FROM THE TOWER

Bedwellty

Regular practices have continued on Monday nights at St Sannans. Although small, our band is continuing to make good progress in skills, and we are now booked for our first service ringing on Sunday 21st December at the annual Carol Service, which is always the biggest attendance of the year! Special congratulations go to this year's learner, Helena Hyatt, who rang her first quarter peal covering on the tenor in October.

In addition to practice ringing, Bedwellty tower entered a team in the Branch quiz night for the first time. With a little help from our friends we came second overall in the quiz, and won the prize for most innovative table theme, with Helena's medieval "St Sannans Canons"!

Congratulations also to Sal Starling who had their wonderful first baby in November. Maybe another future St Sannan's ringer in the making? We will have to sort out a crib in the church for next year!

Also congratulations to Beth Jones who has recently been put forward for NSLM (part time vicar) for the Church in Wales. Hopefully the start of bigger things, with the selection process set to go forward in February. We wish you every success!

Rob Bruce

Caerleon



Caerleon bellringers were delighted to take part in this year's St Cadoc's Church Caerleon Christmas Tree Competition. Our entry featured a decorated tree filled with hand-drawn fictional bellringing mice, tiny bells, and cheerful ringing-themed ornaments. It brought a lot of joy to visitors and was a lovely way to showcase the spirit of our band.

We're also pleased to share that Caerleon Church has recently been refurbished. The work has made a significant and very welcome improvement, and we are looking forward to welcoming branch members to Caerleon for the Annual General Meeting on 17th January

Lindsay Horth

Several members of the Caerleon band were involved with quarters during Branch Quarter Peal Fortnight.

On the first day, Saturday 25th October, Sandra Hitchen rang her first quarter hunting the treble to a doubles method. Then, on our Wednesday practice night, Richard Martin rang his first quarter on the tenor covering to a doubles method.

We were grateful for help from Anne Hayman, Pauline Morris and Jonathan Lewis on the Saturday and from Peter Bray (who regularly comes to our Wednesday practice) and Wendy Reilly on the Wednesday.

With the successful completion of both these quarters it felt as though the months of practice had paid off. Well done Sandra and Richard!

It was unfortunate that one of the ringers did not achieve a quarter of Grandsire on an inside bell and be affected by all the calls. This is because we are usually one short so there is no 'minder' on practice nights to help with ringers learning methods. Other ringers in the tower are trying to learn plain courses of Grandsire and touches of Bob Doubles but, as I wrote in the last Newsletter, there is always a shortage of an extra person as a 'minder'.

So that leads me on to:

What methods can your tower ring on a practice night?

Even if people do go to other practices during the week, they can often find there are not enough there to ring with a 'minder' or there are so many people there that they only get one go – in some ways that latter situation is very good as it says the tower is flourishing. But I think that is fairly rare.

A few months ago I did organise a specific Grandsire practice at Caerleon and I guess that could be the answer again. Unfortunately, for medical reasons, I haven't been able to ring for a couple of months so I've not been able to help or organise another 'in house' training.

But this situation has posed a question in my mind: **How do I know which tower to suggest anyone who is learning a particular method might go to for a bit more practice?**

So, to this end, with permission from the Branch Committee, I'm going to try to find out what methods towers regularly ring on their ordinary practice nights so that people might, **with prior warning and the agreement of the tower captain**, be able to occasionally go along for a bit of extra practice.

I'm willing to contact every tower in the Branch to find out this information but, if tower captains/correspondents would like to tell me the information first, then you can email me at: revcanjen63@btinternet.com Thank you.

Jenny Mole

Llanedeyrn

September and October were quiet months with many of the band taking holiday or busy with work. We managed to ring most Wednesdays and Sunday mornings, and we continue to develop 2 of our ringers in training and one is ringing regularly on Sunday mornings and is able to ring plain hunt on a couple of bells. The other trainee due to work commitments is progressing more slowly but can ring rounds and stand the bell and can make basic call changes and dodge. For the first time we can remember there has been no weddings in 2025, but over the year we have rung at funerals including that of the late Rob Peace who was a former ringer at Llanedeyrn. Rob and his late wife Elsie have left £1000 to the tower which we plan on restoring the Ellacombe, replacing 2 ropes and purchase 2 sets of stays. It was very generous of them and when the Ellacombe is restored, we will put a plaque on to remember them both and of course Rob for being a ringer and a lovely gentleman.

At the end of October the poppy cascade which was made last year by local volunteers was hung from the bell tower and looked stunning. Inside the church Amanda Gilbert decorated the church with support from volunteers and the church looked stunning. As a veteran I laid poppy wreaths at the inside memorial and the service continued outside in the grounds at the main war memorial where Last Post and Reveille were played on the trumpet by a 3rd year music student – Katy, before more wreath laying. The band rang half muffled and the ringing and service was perfect.

We now get ready for Christmas and the many lovely services we ring for in December. B&Q Pontprennau has donated a Christmas tree to the church, and the bell ringers will decorate on Wednesday 26th November whilst Amanda puts the Advent wreath together. Christmas at Llanedeyrn is a lovely time of year and we look forward to Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.

Daniel Beattie one of our bell ringers and his partner Kayla had a baby girl 2 weeks ago and named her Hazel. Everything is good with the three of them and we look forward to welcoming Dan back to the tower when things calm down at home. I think he will be glad to return to the tower for a rest!.

Martin Gilbert



Llantarnam

Sat 1st November saw us travel just over the border into Herefordshire. This was a very relaxed outing with only two towers planned and then a leisurely lunch.

We started at Abbey Dore an 8cwt Anticlockwise ring of 6. We were warned prior to visiting that there was no electric lighting on the stairs so to bring torches. This is due to the fact there are 4 different species of Bats who live in the tower.

Once you get used to the fact, that they are anticlockwise they are a nice set of bells but very loud. The tower is very bare I assume due to the mess the Bats make. If it's cold there is an open fire which I believe is used on occasions.

The 2nd tower was St Andrew's, Allensmore. A slightly heavier set of bells, being 12cwt and a ground floor ring, the right way round. These are very nice bells.

We finished the day in The Three Horseshoes pub in Allensmore, where a very relaxed lunch was partaken of. This is a very old pub and the food was excellent.

Pauline Morris

Mathern

[Ed: Apologies - this was written for the last newsletter, but I managed to miss it! I promise it wasn't just an excuse to avoid my photo appearing...]



We left you in the spring Newsletter with ringing suspended and scaffolding surrounding the tower. This has now all been removed and the work completed – both on time and, even better, under budget! Unfortunately ringing has not recommenced although, at the time of writing, this will happen tomorrow. We were given the go-ahead by the architect as soon as the scaffolding was down but we still had no clappers back from Matthew Higby. These have now been collected and with the valiant efforts of Simon Lockhart, lying on his back on a filthy floor – maybe we should have vacuumed it first – under each bell in turn, he got the crown staple pins up through the bell where Vic Duke and Andrew rapidly fitted the new nyloc nuts so Simon could relax underneath with no fear of the clapper dropping on him. Only one bell gave problems with trying to get the pin through the hole in the top of the headstock. Now to see what the odd-struckness is like.

Very good stone reproductions of the bell chamber pierced stone windows have been cut and fitted, both panels in the south side and one in the west having been replaced. The mystery of the missing '5' on the sundial was solved – by the time it is 5pm, as the sundial is on the south facing wall, the sun has gone round and can no longer cast a shadow on the wall so there was little point in having the number. The sundial, of course, shows local time as it

would have been installed before GMT had been invented. It is therefore about 12 minutes late on GMT.

The ringing chamber has been re-decorated and is almost finished but still lacking a carpet. When we get the clapper bill, we will know if there is enough left for a new carpet.

A Blessing of the tower service was arranged for 9th October – yes I know, it's Usk Branch Practice but the only day our MP is available, who has been following the work progress, and they want the bells rung as part of it before we all head for the Millers Arms.

We are very grateful to Tidenham, with Vic Duke, and Caldicot, with Peter Bray, for allowing us to use their bells for our practice. Several Mathern ringers did not know they were so capable of ringing on eight! Maybe we should plan an augmentation.

So, not much about ringing but a lot has been going on over the last 2 months.

Andrew Mead

Netherwent MA

Quarterpeal Fortnight (Three Weeks). As you all know, since 2023, the band in the Netherwent Ministry Area has been rebuilding. From the intakes of 2023 and 2024 it is now time for first quarters, or firsts of varying stages. Over the course of the three weeks, we completed four out of our five quarters in total.

- Brian – 1st Quarter
- James – 1st inside - Bob Doubles
- Les – 1st Quarter
- Liam – 1st trebling to doubles

Sadly, we lost the QP of Cambridge Minor.

The highlight of was Les's quarter, which we rang half-muffled for the all souls service at Llanwern. Les started learning in February 2023, to paraphrase the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, of riper years – aged 72. Needless to say it hasn't come easy to him, but I have never seen a man so dogged and determined. Because of all the effort, this was the one that we all wanted the most.

Not only did we get it, it was beautiful. The quarter ticked along nicely; the striking was excellent and the musicality of Single Court Place Minimus half-muffled was gorgeous. Afterwards, Lucy and Kim went to up Les and gave him a big hug.

As much as we like ringing complicated methods etc..., we mustn't lose sight of the one thing that is more important - fellowship.

Peter Bray

St Woolos

Autumn saw a busy program for St Woolos ringers, including a notable boost in 10 and 12 bell ringing, helped by practice quarters for the SW 12 bell competition. These included 2 quarters of Little Bob Maximus, 2 of Grandsire Caters (one of which was rung half muffled for Remembrance Sunday), and a special quarter of Grandsire Cinques rung by an Association band, for the enthronement service of Archbishop Cherry, on Saturday 8th November.

The SW 12 bell competition was of course the big focus of the year, with up to 150 ringers gathering at the cathedral for a fabulous day of ringing, which had required months of preparation by the St Woolos team. All our efforts, ably headed up by Gemma Wheeler, were rewarded with a record number of 10 bands entering, and excellent feedback from everyone who attended. The project team also managed costs and donations exceptionally well, including managing to sell 216 pints of beer on the day, plus some cider! Overall, the event raised over £1,300 towards the tower restoration fund. A huge thankyou to everyone who helped with the day - there are far too many to mention by name, but we are very grateful to you, for all your hard work! Our own South Wales band (which included 8 ringers from St Woolos) rang very creditably, coming in 6th out of 10. In judging this result it's worth remembering that all 5 towers that came above us ring methods on 12 once, or twice every week. This should challenge us to get at least one practice night in South Wales upto ringing methods on 10/12 which would be quite an achievable goal, if we can get everyone to St Woolos on a Tuesday, and hopefully introduce more up and coming ringers into 10 and 12 bell ringing going forward, to boost. A stretch challenge for 2026 perhaps?

In addition to all the above, St Woolos also entered a band in the quiz night at Llantarnam, rang for the CADW open towers event in September, and rang a record number of 7 successful quarters in quarter peal fortnight (including some rung at Usk, Bassaleg and Bedwellty, using mostly St Woolos band members).

This resulted in an impressive number of firsts for the autumn season, which bodes very well for our future progress!

- Becky Cheshire - first quarter peal on the treble (bob doubles)
- Josh Booth - first quarter peal on the treble (bob doubles)
- Francis Tanti - first quarter peal covering on tenor
- Helena Hyatt - first quarter peal covering on tenor
- Peter Bray - First quarter of surprise major (Cambridge)

- Rob Bruce - First quarter as conductor of surprise major (Cambridge)
- Pauline Morris - First quarter of spliced methods (Plain & Little Bob Major)

Meanwhile, the major faculty application for tower masonry repairs to has at last been approved. This will allow the long path of fund-raising to start, for which the last cost estimate was over £2M ! Linked to this work we have now also submitted a faulty application for a sound control system in the belfry, which would allow us to ring the bells at almost any time. Timescales may depend on progress of the main project, but once achieved this could give a further boost to the critical role St Woolos plays in developing ringers right across the South Wales region.

Rob Bruce

Shirenewton

We rang for Remembrance on Sunday 9th November. Ringing before 11 o'clock was half-muffled. About 10 minutes before 11 o'clock we ceased ringing and the muffle from the 5th bell was removed. The tenor bell was then tolled still muffled until just before 11, when the 5th bell was rung to strike exactly 11. We needed to do this as currently the Memorial clock is up in Cumbria undergoing full restoration, so there would be no cue from the normal hour strike for those gathered outside around the War Memorial as to when to proceed (apart from all the mobile phones present which is hardly traditional). We expect the clock to return in the early part of next year.



Three of our ringers have progressed with their training, 2 having achieved Level 2 of the “Learning the Ropes Scheme” namely Carol Stoker and Leigh Ayland, and 1 having achieved Level 3 – Cheri Oliver. We rang 2 quarter peals during the Branch QP fortnight scoring a first for Leigh covering to Bob Doubles, and first on the treble for Cheri to Grandsire Doubles.

Preparing for Christmas ringing we are now practising St Nicholas Doubles. Over the Christmas period we ring the bells from the nave in full view of the congregation, moving the ropes down from the ringing room. We extend this period to New Year and ring the bells half-muffled from 11.30pm until just before midnight to mourn the passing of the year, then un-muffled after midnight for a few minutes to welcome in the New Year.

Finally the Shirenewton ringers wish to give a big thank you to the Bell Maintenance Group. They visited on Friday 14th November and amongst other things finally sorted the odd-striking 4th bell, which is now a joy to ring.

Mike Penney

BRANCH TRAINING NEWS

The scheduled Monmouth Branch training session for October, which was going to be learning to ring up and down in peal, was unfortunately cancelled due to a shortage of helpers available on the day. Thank you to those students and helpers that put themselves forward for the session in October. I will look to try and run it again sometime during 2026.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information and the booking form for next year's annual Monmouth Branch ringing course.

This will take place on Saturday 14th February 2026, and will be based around Newport as in previous years. (For those with a leaning towards Six Nations rugby, Wales are not playing that day)

The online form has a google form at the following link - [Monmouth Branch Ringing Course](#)

Closing date for entries is Friday 9th January, but the sooner you get your request in, the more chance you have getting a place as a student.

The dates for next years training days have been pencilled in for 18th July and 17th October 2026. These are likely to be confirmed at the Monmouth Branch AGM being held Caerleon on 17th January 2026.

Andrew Phillips

MonmouthTraining@llanmon.org.uk

BELL MAINTENANCE GROUP UPDATE

This quarter has been very atypical. September, half the group were away and the other half checked over St. Woolos', Newport bells in readiness for the S.W. striking competition held on 11th October. This was not an 'official' BMG inspection.

October, again the BMG did not meet. This time half the group were not well enough to climb over a frame and crawl beneath bells so the proposed inspection of Shirenewton had to be postponed at the last minute.

November 14th, the BMG went to Shirenewton to both inspect the peal and sort out the oddstruckness. We tightened 4 clappers and corrected the extraordinarily slow back stroke on bell IV. The bells are now evenly struck.

If any member of the L. and M. has a bell maintenance query or would like their peal of bells inspected (free of charge) then please do get in touch with me and the BMG will do its best to help.

Joy Kipling
bmg@llanmon.org.uk

RESTRUCTURING THE ASSOCIATION'S FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A reminder: what's the current system?

- Branch Autonomy: Each Branch collects its own subscriptions, sets its own membership categories and subscription rates, and manages its own spending.
- Association Levy: The Association Management Committee (AMC) charges each Branch a levy to fund central services, which have expanded in recent years to include training, recruitment, and maintenance initiatives.
- Branch Reserves: Both Branches hold substantial reserves (£2,000 for Llandaff, £3,400 for Monmouth) but have limited outgoings and few plans to spend these funds.

The Proposal: Centralising Our Finances

The AMC proposes a major restructuring: combining Branch funds into a single, centrally managed Association account (excluding the Bell Restoration Fund which will remain as a separate charitable fund). Key elements include:

- One Bank Account: All non-charitable funds pooled under the Association.
- Single Treasurer: One person responsible for budgets, reporting, and annual accounts.
- Membership Officer(s): Responsible for collecting subscriptions and maintaining a unified membership database, potentially with online payment options.
- Annual Expenditure Budget for Branches: following a discussion between the two Branch Chairs and the Association Treasurer, each Branch will be allocated an expenditure budget for the delivery of Branch activities with no need to gain approval from the AMC for expenditure within that budget.
- Grant System: Branches or groups can apply to the central fund for grants to run activities, training, or events.
- Designated Funds: The central fund could have specific pots for administration, young ringers, maintenance, PR, training, and social activities, with annual budgeting based on need and income.
- Avoiding bank charges: one of our Branches currently pays bank charges on its bank account. This expense can be avoided if funds are pooled.

What Are the Benefits?

- Consistent Membership Fees: Consistent subscriptions and categories across the Association.
- Transparency: A clear, consolidated view of the Association's finances.
- Flexibility: Easier to fund cross-Branch projects and larger initiatives.
- Reduced Admin: Less duplication, fewer accounts, and lower banking fees.
- Modernisation: Opportunity to adopt new technology for membership and payments.
- National Engagement: Better positioned to participate in national initiatives and adapt to future changes, such as becoming a charity or joining national membership schemes.
- Organisational Agility: More freedom to trial new ways of organising and supporting ringing in South Wales.

What needs to happen next?

Since the 2025 Association AGM there have been several consultation sessions and an Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document has been produced. The [FAQ document](#) is available on the Association website (you will need to log in to view the document).

The next stage is that the two Branches will be asked to vote on the motion below at their respective AGMs in early 2026.

Motion for approval at Branch AGMs

This proposal is about future-proofing our Association—making sure we have the right structures to support ringing for years to come.

The motion that the Branches will be asked vote on is as follows:

“That the Branch resolves to transfer the funds in its bank account to the Association’s General Fund and to authorise the current Treasurer and other account signatories to close the account thereafter.”

As a result of this proposal there will be no need for each Branch to elect a Treasurer for the coming year. However, it would be useful if the incumbent Treasurer’s could be empowered to assist with the transition.

Assuming that both Branches vote to approve the motion above, the 2026 Association AGM will be asked to approve the minor rule changes that result from this proposal.

Association Management Committee

SAVE THE DATE - TOWER OPEN DAY

Monday 4th May 2026

Some of you will be aware that Anne Hayman and Pauline Morris are organising a tower open day to raise funds for the BRF. The tower route has nearly been planned and will include towers from Magor to Llantrisant. (18 in total) We will be looking for volunteers to help man these towers on the day so if your available and willing to help please contact either Anne at annejones5040@gmail.com or myself, pauline.p.morris@hotmail.co.uk

Pauline Morris

ASSOCIATION CLOTHING

We are pleased to say Association Clothing is now available to order!

There is a selection of clothing items available - t-shirt, polo shirt, rugby top, sweatshirt, fleece or hoodie - in a variety of colours, embroidered with the association logo and your tower name.

See the website for the order form.

<https://www.llanmon.org.uk/association/association-clothing>

Or contact Yvonne John for more information – clothing@llanmon.org.uk or Tel: 07779 925015



ASSOCIATION QUIZ

The 2025 Association quiz hosted by Llantarnam Ringers was held on Saturday 25th October in Llantarnam Church Hall. There were 48 people in attendance making a total of 8 teams and representing 14 towers.

Phillipa was a superb Quiz master and kept the evening running at a smart pace. In between quiz rounds Jonathan had devised a tower bingo game which was used to replace the raffle.

The winners of the Quiz were the Llantarnam Legends, with a score of 72 points out of the 99 available with St Sannans Cannons a close 2nd.

The theme of the evening, was a bring your own picnic and people really entered into the spirit of this. There was a prize for the most innovative table which was won by a team made up from new ringers and their helpers who have only been learning to ring since January, St Sannans Cannons (Bedwellty)

Other team names were, Mad Hatters, Happy Anniversary, Confuseddotcom, White Rabbits, Mixology and Madwellty.

It was a very enjoyable evening and £119.00 was raised for the training fund.

Thank you to everyone who came from the Llantarnam Ringers. See you in 2026.

Pauline and the Llantarnam Ringers.



SAVE THE DATE - BRANCH AND ASSOCIATION AGMS

Monmouth Branch AGM - 17th January 2026 at Caerleon

Association AGM - 18th April 2026 at Michaelston Y Fedw

200 CLUB DRAW

August 2025

Prize	Number	Winner
£30	128	Cyril Sedgebeer (Rumney)
£15	185	Kevin Musty (ex Aberavon)
£10	129	James Davies (Llanwern)
£10	114	Helen Barrie (Cowbridge)
£10	181	Llanedeyrn Tower

October 2025

Prize	Number	Winner
£30	30	Barbara Hull (Magor)
£15	65	Andrew Hurd (Caerphilly)
£10	20	Sheila Denison (ex Newport)
£10	189	David W Jones (Cowbridge)
£10	39	Donna Jones (Friends & Family)

September 2025

Prize	Number	Winner
£30	175	Allan Hair (Friends & Family)
£15	38	Jon Hiscox (Llangybi)
£10	124	Jane Dumont-Jones (Rumney)
£10	130	Mike Gunter (Llantarnam)
£10	11	Barry Hayman (Newport)

November 2025

Prize	Number	Winner
£30	92	Ken Phillips (Usk)
£15	20	Sheila Denison (ex Newport)
£10	113	Simon Lockhart (Shirenewton)
£10	21	K Denison (ex Newport)
£10	122	Sue Bradshaw (Rumney)

CENTRAL COUNCIL UPDATE

The 2025 Central Council AGM and Ringing Roadshow

The Association has the right to send 3 representatives to the Central Council of Church Bellringers (CCCBR) AGM each year – so what's it all about and how does it benefit us?

The aim of the Council is to create a vibrant community of ringers, with bell ringing widely valued as an enjoyable mental and physical exercise and unique performing art, which enhances the life of both community and church.

Members come from all over the world. The AGM is a great opportunity to swap ideas and be inspired – share the challenges we're all facing, and how to overcome them.

Ringling 2030

The key focus of the council is on a project called "Ringling 2030" - what do we need ringling to be like so that it will flourish in the future, and what is our role in making sure that happens?

Lots of us learned to ring as teenagers, but it won't have escaped your notice that these days most of us are 60 or over. For ringling to have a future we need to find new ways to engage with young people.

The Council is looking at ways of creating awareness of ringling among young people – using mobile belfries, working with the Scout and Guide Movement and supporting lesson plans in schools. Ringling draws on so many different aspects of the curriculum, whether that's maths, science, music, or history; if we can provide teachers with good quality materials that support their teaching, it's a great way of raising awareness of ringling.

Initially, they've focused on supporting the Year 6 Science curriculum but there are more in the pipeline, and they are looking for volunteers to trial the lesson plans in schools.

Keeping young ringers engaged when they leave home to go to University is another challenge, and Tristan Lockheart from Rumney is involved in the design of a Young Ringers' website and efforts to support university ringling societies.

The highlight of the Ringling World AGM was the report from the National Youth Contest – 37 teams of young people entered and 950 people were involved in total – it was hugely successful and a great advert for ringling as an activity for young people.

Safeguarding

If we're going to encourage young people to take part in ringling, we need to assure their parents that their children will be safe and encouraged to thrive.

The Church in Wales has been working closely with the Safeguarding Team at the Central Council on the design of their "Safeguarding for Bellringers" course – in contrast to England, we have a common approach across the whole of Wales, and the scenarios used to help people think about how to deal with safeguarding issues have been written by bellringers with safeguarding expertise rather than being based on Sunday School or Choir situations that might not be relevant to us.

If you're a Tower Captain, I'd encourage you to sign up for this course – I think the team are still learning about ringers and ringling, but the most valuable part is the opportunity to discuss real life situations with other ringers and safeguarding specialists and how we might handle them in future.

How we organise ourselves for the future

Like many other Associations, it's becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers to get involved in leading and organising ringling. The structures that worked really well when our ringling societies were formed over 100 years ago might not work so well today when people have busy lives and competing interests.

The Bedfordshire Association is similar in size to our own, both in terms of the number of members and the geographical spread of towers. Linda Garton gave an excellent presentation on how they had looked at the way they were organised and what they were trying to achieve as an Association in the wake of Covid, and the changes they had made to make the Association more effective – certainly food for thought!

Future impact of church closures

Another "hot topic" is how we plan for future church closures – it seems inevitable that in the future there will be

fewer active churches, and the rings of bells that are important to us may not necessarily be in churches with thriving worship communities.

The Central Council has provided advice on how to identify if a church is at risk of closure, and we've used that guidance in deciding whether to award significant grants from the Bell Restoration Fund. They have also advised ringing societies to carry out an audit of their "ringing estate" – to identify the churches at risk, the bells that we would want to save, and what we might do to save them. This is one of the things the Association Management Committee will be looking into shortly.

Ringling Roadshow

Every couple of years, there is a Ringing Roadshow that runs alongside the Central Council meeting and is open to anyone. As well as a chance to talk to the Central Council workgroup leaders in more detail about their work, there were exhibition stands from most of the major suppliers to ringing. The L&M was well represented, with the new treble for Llantrisant on one stand, a wheel for Llantrisant on another stand, and Barry Hayman from Newport helping out on the Avon Ropes stand – again, a great opportunity to talk to people about new developments in technology. Several mini-rings were available to try, including "Peals on Wheels", which is the latest mini-ring available from Matthew Higby and relatively easy to ring – I'm hoping that we'll have that available in the Association during the summer next year.

Helen Phillips
Association Chair

RINGING WORLD UPDATE

Autumn greetings from the Ringing World team!

At the end of a busy summer producing your magazine while leapfrogging each other's holidays, we were delighted to spend a weekend in Sheffield at the Central Council AGM and Roadshow. We met lots of readers and other creators in the world of ringing – seeing an eBell being 3D-printed in front of us was quite something!

Our big news of autumn is the **Little Blue Ringing Book**, which will be printed in just a few weeks and is already available to pre-order. It focuses on methods ranging in difficulty from Plain Bob Doubles to Little Bob Major. Like its companions, the "green book" and the "purple book," it aims to contain everything you might meet at this stage of ringing, and much more besides – with explanations, diagrams, and tips aplenty.

We're already looking ahead to our **Christmas special issue** of the Ringing World which is a bumper triple issue in full colour - and we'd love your help to make it sparkle! Anything happening in the first ten days of December is especially welcome, as the issue goes to press mid-month. If your tower is planning a carol service, Christmas tree festival, or any other festive ringing, please send us your photos and short write-ups. If you get early snow or a picturesque frost, don't forget us, and help us share the joy of Christmas ringing!

Start preparing for Christmas and the next year for yourself as well. Don't forget the annual [Ringing World Diary](#) and [Ringing World Calendar](#), both ideal for planning and for gifts. We would be thrilled to see a copy of the calendar on every tower noticeboard – please send us a photo of yours! We've also launched a brand-new **"Bell Ringers' Outing" Tea Towel**, illustrated by award-winning children's illustrator Sarah McIntyre. It's a fun and colourful addition to any kitchen, and makes a perfect stocking filler, or a thank-you for the ringing organiser in your life.

Other stocking-sized ideas include:

- **Methodoku Mayhem** – a puzzle book full of ringing-themed Sudoku-style challenges that will stretch both ringers and puzzle-lovers. Sit by the fire at Christmas and learn how methods fit together at the same time!
- **The First Hundred Years USB stick** – a digital archive of the first century of The Ringing World, perfect for anyone who wants to explore the history of ringing in their family or village at the click of a button.

Looking further ahead, the **2026 RWNYC** is already very much on the horizon, and we're really looking forward to zipping around Nottingham on the trams! And beyond that, we've started preparing for the **6,000th issue of The Ringing World**, a major milestone for the magazine shortly after Easter.

William Bosworth
Editor, The Ringing World

QUARTER PEAL FORTNIGHT

We haven't had a quarter peal week (or fortnight) since before COVID but at a recent Branch Committee meeting, it was suggested reinstating it for the last week of October / first week of November, and so everyone threw themselves into it. We had 22 attempts set up, with only 3 losses. The losses are all being reorganised too.

Of the 19 successes, there were 7 first quarter peals and 9 other firsts ranging from first on the treble to first of surprise major as conductor, using 12 different towers (including a handbell QP in Scotland!)

Thank you to everyone who rang in any of these - the ringers themselves, the organisers, the conductors, the towers. So much organising goes into an event like this and many congratulations to all the "firsts" achieved!

Anne Hayman

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn Caerleon, Newport

St Cadoc
Saturday, 25 October 2025 in 45m
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Sandra Hitchen
- 2 Pauline P Morris
- 3 Anne D Hayman
- 4 Stephen Taylor
- 5 Jonathan W Lewis (C)
- 6 Lindsay Horth

1: first on six.

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn Newport, Newport

Cathedral Church of St Woolos
Sunday, 26 October 2025 in 42m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Pauline P Morris
- 2 Andy Parry
- 3 Anne D Hayman
- 4 Mark C Bennett (C)
- 5 Robert P Bruce
- 6 Francis Tanti

1st Quarter Peal: 6
For Evensong

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn Bedwellty, Caerphilly

St Sannan
Monday, 27 October 2025 in 43m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Anne Hayman
- 2 Pauline Morris
- 3 Lisa Drury
- 4 Andy Parry
- 5 Stephen Avery (C)
- 6 Helena Hyatt

6 - First Quarter Peal

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn Shirenewton, Monmouthshire

St Thomas a Becket
Tuesday, 28 October 2025 in 47m
1300 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 James Davies
- 2 Lucy Bailey
- 3 Pip Penney
- 4 Peter Bray
- 5 Michael D Penney (C)
- 6 Leigh Ayland

First Quarter Leigh Ayland

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn Caerleon, Newport

St Cadoc
Wednesday, 29 October 2025 in 43m
1300 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Karen Jones
- 2 Wendy Reilly
- 3 Lindsay Horth
- 4 Stephen A Taylor
- 5 Peter J Bray (C)
- 6 Richard J Martin

1st Quarter of Cover - 6

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn Usk, Monmouthshire

St Mary
Thursday, 30 October 2025 in 44m
1256 Spliced Major (2m)
848 Plain; 408 Little; 30 com; atw.

- 1 Marianne A Elliott
- 2 Pauline P Morris
- 3 Harriet G Moncrieff
- 4 Anne D Hayman
- 5 Robert P Bruce
- 6 Andrew J Phillips
- 7 Philip J Huxley
- 8 Mark C Bennett (C)

1st Spliced: 2

First in Methods: 1,2 & maybe others.

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn Tulloch, Highland

Tulloch Ringing Centre
Friday, 31 October 2025 in 28m
1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1-2 Nicholas W Jones
- 3-4 Matthew Turner (C)
- 5-6 Adam Turner

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn St Mellons, Cardiff

St Mellon
Friday, 31 October 2025 in 43m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Madison Grant
- 2 Harriet Moncrieff
- 3 Rob Bruce
- 4 Anne D Hayman
- 5 Andrew J Phillips (C)
- 6 Jen Mundy

First quarter peal : 1

Rung as an 80th birthday compliment for the organist of many years at St Mellons, Gaynor Cotter.

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn Shirenewton, Monmouthshire

St Thomas a Becket
Friday, 31 October 2025 in 44m
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Cheri Oliver
- 2 Pip Penney
- 3 Simon Lockhart
- 4 Simon Stanley
- 5 Michael D Penney (C)
- 6 Christine Stanley

First quarter on Treble Cheri Oliver

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn
Caerleon, Newport
 St Cadoc
 Saturday, 1 November 2025 in 40m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Julia Jones
- 2 Lucy Bailey
- 3 Robert P Bruce
- 4 James R Davies
- 5 Peter J Bray (C)
- 6 Stephen A Taylor

1st Inside - 4
 Rang on the Feast of All Saints

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn
St Mellons, Cardiff
 St Mellon
 Sunday, 2 November 2025 in 43m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Leigh Grant
- 2 Wendy Reilly
- 3 Jane Craddock
- 4 Helen Phillips
- 5 Andrew J Phillips (C)
- 6 Jen Mundy

First quarter peal : 1

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn
Newport, Newport
 Cathedral Church of St Woolos
 Sunday, 2 November 2025
1344 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

- 1 Anne Hayman
- 2 Catherine Turner
- 3 Helen Phillips
- 4 Andy Parry
- 5 Robert Bruce
- 6 Andrew Phillips
- 7 Matthew Turner (C)
- 8 Philip Hopkins

Rung on the Daisy Eight for Evensong.

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn
Llanwern, Monmouthshire
 St Mary
 Sunday, 2 November 2025 in 40m
1272 Single Court Place Minimus

- 1 James R Davies
- 2 Kim Sumner
- 3 Lucy Bailey
- 4 Peter J Bray (C)
- 5 Leslie M Mackenzie

1st Quarter - 5
 Rang half-muffled for All Souls Service - A
 Light for a Life

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn
Usk
 St Mary
 Thursday, 6 November 2025 in 44m
1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

- 1 Anne Hayman
- 2 Helen Phillips
- 3 Andy Parry
- 4 Rowan Rushton
- 5 Peter Bray
- 6 Andrew Phillips
- 7 Robert P Bruce (C)
- 8 Philip Huxley

First Surprise Major - 5
 First Surprise Major as conductor - 7

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn
Michaelston-y-Fedw, Newport
 St Michael
 Saturday, 8 November 2025
1344 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

- 1 Catherine Turner
- 2 Wendy Reilly
- 3 Debbie Turner
- 4 Jane Craddock
- 5 Anne Hayman
- 6 Aled Jones
- 7 Matthew Turner (C)
- 8 Andrew Phillips

First in method: 2.

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn
Mathern, Monmouthshire
 St Tewdric
 Saturday, 8 November 2025 in 41m
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Liam A T Jacques
- 2 Lucy Bailey
- 3 Geoffrey S A Gillman
- 4 Peter J Bray
- 5 Alex Osley (C)
- 6 James R Davies

1st Quarter on Doubles - 1

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn
Rumney, Cardiff
 St Augustine
 Sunday, 9 November 2025
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Liz Ferrand
- 2 Perry Turner
- 3 Owen Francis
- 4 Andrew Muir
- 5 Matthew Turner (C)
- 6 Tristan Lockheart

First away from cover: 1.
 First for 20+ years: 3.
 Rung half-muffled for Evensong on
 Remembrance Sunday.

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn
Newport, Newport
 Cathedral Church of St Woolos
 Sunday, 9 November 2025 in 47m
1259 Grandsire Caters

- 1 Pauline P Morris
- 2 Wendy Reilly
- 3 Helen Phillips
- 4 Anne D Hayman
- 5 Rowan Rushton
- 6 Jane Craddock
- 7 Andy Parry
- 8 Robert P Bruce
- 9 Mark C Bennett (C)
- 10 Andrew J Phillips

Rung half-muffled on the Paul 10 for
 Evensong on Remembrance Sunday.

Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Assn
Newport, Newport
 Cathedral Church of St Woolos
 Saturday, 8 November 2025 in 52m
1320 Grandsire Cinques

- 1 Harriet G Moncrieff
- 2 David F Moore
- 3 Philip D Hopkins
- 4 Andrew C John
- 5 Anne D Hayman
- 6 Barry J Hayman
- 7 Andy Parry
- 8 Frederick B Jackson
- 9 Mark C Bennett (C)
- 10 Andrew J Phillips
- 11 Matthew S Turner
- 12 Jonathan W Lewis

Rung prior to the Enthronement of
 Archbishop Cherry as Archbishop of Wales
 in the Cathedral.

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MONMOUTH BRANCH RINGING COURSE 2026

Saturday 14th February 2026

It's time to think about the annual Monmouth Branch BIG ringing course again! Please can those ringers who are interested in either being students, or are willing to act as helpers or tutors, please fill in the attached form and return it to Andrew Phillips by **Friday 9th January 2026**.

The courses available are given in the following list. The number of courses run on the day will depend on demand and availability of tutors and helpers. Please fill in your availability for both the morning and afternoon sessions, your requirement for lunch.

- Call Changes & Kaleidoscope exercises
- Learning to Plain Hunt.
- Advanced Plain Hunt.
- Introduction to Plain Bob Doubles.
- Ringing touches of Plain Bob Doubles.
- Plain Course of Grandsire Doubles
- Touches of Grandsire Doubles

Some courses may have more than one group, but each group will usually be limited to a maximum of 4 students per group. Attached is a synopsis with the information of each course to help you decide which one best suits your needs. The synopsis also includes the prerequisites for entry for each of the courses. **When deciding to enrol on a course, please remember to be realistic about your anticipated progress between now and the course. You may well end up ringing on bells you are not familiar with, which can hold some people back on the day, so students invariably find that they get most out of the course if they are realistic about their current ringing ability.** Your tutor's flexibility will ensure that being over-modest does not hold you back.

We reserve the right to take the students based on **first come first served** to suit the group numbers mentioned above, depending on courses and the number of helpers and tutors available on the day.

We are ALWAYS short of helpers, so **please, please, please** put your names down to volunteer as helpers on the day if you not intending to be a student. This will save us from conscripting students or others as "volunteers" later! The more helpers we have, the better the learning experience will be for the students and the more courses we will be able to run.

We would particularly like to see people who have been students on courses in previous years make themselves available as helpers this year. This is great fun for the helpers as well as the students. It is also a good opportunity for concentrated practice as well as being a good social occasion.

The format of the course will be the same as in previous years with morning and afternoon ringing sessions being punctuated by lunch. The course will be based at Newport Cathedral.

The cost of the course will be **£5** for students and helpers who are having lunch (Pizzas). This will include Tea, Coffee, and lunch. There will be no charge for Teas & Coffees. As in previous years we will have pizzas for lunch (from The Square Pizza company which seem to enjoy year after year), so it is **important to know exact numbers** for lunch, so please could everyone indicate on the form if they need lunch.

Course Details and Prerequisites

Which is the right course for me?

Call Changes & Kaleidoscope exercises

- If you can competently handle a bell and can ring rounds unaided
- The session will concentrate on a mixture of Call Changes and kaleidoscope exercises such as Mexican wave.

Learning to Plain Hunt

- If you are competent at handling a bell in rounds and can ring call changes and do kaleidoscope exercises without any additional prompting, then the next stage for you is Plain Hunting.
- If you have just started with Plain Hunt and want more practice

Advanced Plain Hunt

- If you can ring plain hunt on one or more bells and can do this without too much additional prompting, then the next stage for you is Advanced Plain Hunt.
- If you would like to learn to hunt the treble to a method, then this is the course for you.
- If you need to further develop your rope sight

Learning Plain Bob Doubles

- If you ring Plain Hunt competently including hunting the treble to a method.
- Have you just started to learn Plain Bob Doubles and need more practice?

Touches of Plain Bob Doubles

- If you are competent at ringing plain courses of Plain Bob Doubles, and now want to ring touches.
- Have started to ring touches and want more practice.

Learning Grandsire Doubles

- If you ring Plain Hunt competently including hunting the treble to a method.
- Have you just started to learn Grandsire Doubles and need more practice?

Learning Touches of Grandsire Doubles

- If you can ring Plain courses of Grandsire competently including.
- Have started to ring touches and want more practice.

If you do have any questions or queries as to which is the right course for you then please don't hesitate to contact Andrew (contact details on the attached form).

