

LOOK TO !

ISSUE 135

March 2017



Llanblethian, St John Baptist

*J. H. S. 1914
Llanblethian*

Newsletter of the Llandaff Branch
of the Llandaff and Monmouth DACBR

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Newsletter Submission

ISSUE NUMBER	DATE	DEADLINE
135	June	15 May 2017
136	September	15 August 2017
137	December	15 November 2017

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Branch Officers

Chairman Neil Jones
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Master Yvonne John
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Treasurer Lynne Workman
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Secretary Tim Taylor
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Management Committee Representatives
Bob Hardy, Yvonne John, Pat Moore,
Lynne Workman, 2 vacancies.

Editorial

I am sorry this issue of the newsletter is so thin : it really does depend on your contributions to make it a success. I make no apologies, therefore, for returning to the words of my first editorial, in March 2005, to urge each and every tower to contribute some small piece of news for the next issue.

*The Newsletter is very much **yours** and, with your help, I look forward to publishing notes and articles from as many towers as possible in the near future. No one need fear that they should write a great deal : just a few lines would be welcome, simply to record activities. Perhaps you have been on a tower outing; maybe you have some new recruits or you've undertaken some maintenance work; there could be a birth, marriage or death to report; quarters and peals rung – or lost; any social events, such as a tower dinner. We'd all like to read about what you've been doing, it's a good way to keep in touch, so don't delay, send me something **now** for the next edition !*

Pat Moore

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Llandaff Branch AGM

The Llandaff Branch AGM took place on Saturday 4 February 2017. It had originally been scheduled to take place at Whitchurch but because ringing there is currently limited to the front 6 bells, Radyr kindly took over as hosts.

Ringing took place during the afternoon and was followed by a service and wonderful tea. At the business meeting the J Arthur Hoare trophy was on display, as our Association is the current holder, having won the All Wales competition at Dolgellau last September.

All the officers were re-elected :

Chairman - Neil Jones

Master - Yvonne John

Secretary - Tim Taylor

Treasurer - Lynne Workman

And Pat Moore was re-elected as Newsletter Editor.

A very sincere vote of thanks was extended to the ringers of Radyr for making all the arrangements and for providing a delicious tea.

Pat Moore

Neath

At St Thomas', Neath, ringing is currently suspended. Scaffolding has been erected around the tower to enable major repair work, including re-pointing, to take place.

The original plan was that work would begin on 4 January with a target completion date of 31 March. However, work actually began on 31 January so it is probable that the completion date will be later.

Following the exterior repairs redecoration of the interior will be required so we don't know when ringing will resume. An update will follow.

Theresa Edmunds

Cardiff

The Christmas season saw us with hardly any practices during December as Thursday seems to be the preferred night for Carol services. I wonder why? However we did, as usual, ring before the Order of St John service and also, by special request, the Alzheimer's service. There was also our traditional Christmas meal instead of one missed practice. For this we went, for the second time running, to Côte in Mill Lane. It's always a minor headache working out how much each person should pay as we don't all have the same so I was mighty impressed to find that on a bill of over £250 the total paid differed by only some 15p from the figure on the bill. I'm not going to say which way it was out but I will say well done everybody. Once again I'd like to thank Chris & Joy Kipling of Llandaff Cathedral who came and helped us ring on Christmas morning when we are usually short handed with people away.

As the result of a phone number left with the Cards for Good Causes shop during December we now have a new learner, Gordon, who has recently moved to Cardiff and is a bus driver. As I write this he has only had two lessons (due to Christmas services we could not start teaching until the New Year) but is already showing signs of good progress.

We've also had a visit from a photography student from the University of South Wales. I've just received from her by e-mail some of the photos she took. Some, I think, will cause a bit of amusement when I take them up the tower, due to the faces some of us make when concentrating on our ringing !

It was our turn to host the Surprise Major practice in January and this was a successful practice. We prefer this winter visit as the extra ringing, on a Monday night, causes less disturbance to the surrounding pubs and cafes. I've also resumed our monthly 10-bell practice. As the only 10-bell tower locally this provides a useful opportunity for the less experienced and I'm grateful for the more experienced who come along and support us.

At a recent practice, one of the strands on a tail-end broke. The problem, oddly enough, is that the top ends are of polypropylene and showing essentially no signs of wear. Whilst normally each rope would be adjusted on the bell-wheel every 2 years or so by moving it 2-3 inches up or down, with that not being necessary the tail-ends tend not get adjusted either so they start to break up where they hit the floor and at the tucks. The defective tail-end has now been replaced (we have lots of old ropes which can be cannibalised) but after a careful inspection there are now another four earmarked for repair in the not-too-distant future.

Bob Hardy

Llanishen

The last three months have been quiet with just the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve being rung for over Christmas, other services being chimed for owing to lack of numbers.

Practices continue to be well supported by ringers from other towers and ringing ranges from the basic methods upwards and the current vogue is for Wells, Oxford, Double Bob and Variable Cover Stedman.

Only one quarter has been attempted since the Quarter Peal Fortnight but this allowed our Branch Secretary, Tim, to score his first quarter of London Surprise at the first attempt. Thanks to Bob for conducting and Father Michael for allowing it while he was meeting with a wedding couple in church.

Monday 30th January. 1272 London Surprise Minor in 36 minutes. 1. Mary Hardy, 2. Martin Batten, 3. Tim Taylor, 4. Fred Jackson, 5. Julian Parker, 6. Bob Hardy (C). To mark the retirement of Most Rev Dr Barry Morgan as Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Llandaff.

Minds are turning towards questions for the Association Quiz which we are hosting on Friday 13th October at our Church Hall and we look forward to seeing some of you then, and for the July 28th Association Daytime Practice.

Roger Harpole

Kids.Ring.Out

I have organised 3 towers.

Bedwellty 9.45 - 11

Merthyr 11.30 - 12.30

Aberdare following lunch and possible activity

Whilst in Merthyr we will have lunch and the suggested activity is at Laser Quest. I can book 2 games for £8.50. When booking I have to pay £50 deposit and we must have 10 participants. Before I make any payment I need to know that this is what you would like to do. Please let me know if you would like Laser Quest or just lunch. I will go with the majority. If you can email me with your option ASAP it would be greatly appreciated.

Yvonne John TheJohns9@aol.com

Kids.Ring.Out

Saturday 26th November saw another Kids Ring Out trip, this time to Penarth and area.

The Band was 11 Young ringers aged from 8 to 20 years :

Evan - Aberdare,

Rebecca - Cadoxton,

Lily & Caitlin - Llandaff,

Olivia - Merthyr,

Tom - Newport,

Simon, Mark & Isaac - Porthkerry,

Pip & I from Shirenewton.

plus

10 helpers and 2 non-ringing parents.

We rang a range of methods including plain hunt, Grandsire and call changes in all three churches.

The first tower we rang at was St Augustine in Penarth, with 8 bells and a 12cwt tenor. The bells were tied and we rang on the simulator. Many thanks to the people who tied the bells for us before we arrived.

The second tower was St. John the Baptist in Sully, a 6 bell tower with a 6cwt tenor. These bells were easy and a pleasure to ring. Yvonne had made some lovely cake for us to share, which is always a very popular part of our tours !

After ringing for another hour, we went for lunch in the Schooner Inn, a Harvester in Penarth. We were served quickly and enjoyed a choice of food.

The last church we rang at was St Curig in Porthkerry, another 6 bell tower with a tenor of 7 1/2 cwt. This presented us with a few challenges as the ropes are quite short and so are some of us. We had to try Tom on a pile of boxes, but as this left the other ringers unable to reach their bells, we had eventually to stand him on a chair.

Many thanks to all those involved. We'd particularly like to thank Yvonne, the Llandaff Branch Maste, for organising the whole event and particularly for providing delicious cake. This motivates the band no end. We'd also like to thank the helpers who made the course possible, and our parents for ferrying us about from church to church. Thank you too, to the ringers from the churches we used who prepared their bells for us.

Eleanor

Forthcoming Events

March

3 Fri	Assn 12 Bell Practice	Llandaff	19.15
4 Sat	Llandaff Br Practice	Pontypridd	14.30
13 Mon	Assn Minor Practice	Sully*	19.30
18 Sat	Monmouth Br Practice	Rumney	15.00
20 Mon	Assn S Major Practice	Pontypridd*	19.30
24 Fri	Assn Daytime Practice	St Mellons	10.30

April

7 Fri	Assn 12 Bell Practice	St Woolos	19.45
22 Sat	Association AGM	Llandaff	15.30
28 Fri	Assn Daytime Practice	Sully	10.30

May

5 Fri	Assn 12 Bell Practice	Llandaff	19.15
8 Mon	Assn Minor Practice	Coity*	19.30
13 Sat	Llan. Branch Striking Comp.	Llanblethian	14.00
15 Mon	Assn S Major Practice	Radyr*	19.30
20 Sat	Mon. Branch Striking Comp.	Blaenavon	16.00
26 Fri	Assn Daytime Practice	Whitchurch	10.30

June

2 Fri	Assn 12 Bell Practice	Llandaff	19.15
3 Sat	Llandaff Br Practice		

* to be confirmed : please check the Association website

April 22
Association AGM
Llandaff Cathedral 15.30

May 13
Llandaff Branch Striking Competition
Llanblethian 14.00