

# TROYTE RINGING CENTRE

Registered Charity Number 1179374

What we did in 2023 - a review of our activities



**The TRC exists to:**

- **Recruit and train new ringers to handle a bell**
- **Develop the individual skills of ringers through training**
  - **Help bands of ringers to improve their skills**
- **Provide bands to ring for services at Bampton & Huntsham**
  - **To ring for local and national celebrations as requested**
  - **To raise public awareness & knowledge of bells and ringing**
- **To give ringers opportunities to perform extended ringing in peals and quarter peals**

*The next three pages show briefly what we achieved in 2023*

## Recruitment, Publicity & Fundraising

We recruited four adults interested in learning to ring and three have made sufficient progress to be able to ring with others for services. In the spring we restarted our **After-School Bell Club** for high school pupils using the bells at Tiverton St Paul's. The youngsters could already handle a bell and have been developing their ringing skills in weekly sessions where they come straight from school and, after ringing, are seen onto the bus to return to Bampton. The Bell Club has also restarted in 2024 for four younger pupils from Bampton Primary School.



In September we held an **Open Tower event** at Bampton as part of the national Heritage Open Days. 16 people were taken up the tower to see the church clock and bells. They then joined our ringers for a demonstration of how the bells are rung and an explanation of what ringers do and how they learn to ring. Those that wanted to had a go at ringing a bell with the assistance of an instructor.

Although we gained no new recruits, the event generated good public relations and increased public understanding for bells and bellringing in the local community.

As an independent charity the TRC must raise funds to support its activities. This year the ever-popular **Teddy Bear Parachuting** event attracted over 50 teddies who were launched from the top of St Michael's tower. Along with two coffee mornings and a summer cream tea event in the churchyard, our fundraising ventures raised over £1,500.

With this and other activities and donations the total income of the Centre in 2023 was £7,506. Money was spent on repairing bell ropes, making donations to Bampton and Huntsham churches and investing in funds to cover the cost of major work to the bells in the future at both churches.



## Service ringing and requested ringing

Members of the TRC ring for most Sunday services at Bampton and once a month at Huntsham. In addition, they rang for 13 weddings at the two churches and for other



celebrations including Huntsham Court weddings and family occasions. Of special note was the ringing for the Coronation of the new King in May.

### Group practices and Training Events

A weekly practice at Bampton on Thursday nights allows members to maintain and develop their ringing skills. Two of our young ringers have made exceptional progress and Fergus has achieved the top Level 5 of the national training scheme, Learning the Ropes. As well as receiving a certificate and being entered for a national award, he has received an invitation to a Masterclass with Birmingham ringers.



The TRC also offers training events to ringers across a wide area of Devon and Somerset. We ran 9 events, usually for three hours on a Saturday morning, and helped 45 students improve their skills in basic method ringing. Help with raising and lowering a bell in peal was in great demand in 2023 and events were arranged specially for bands from Cadbury, Broadhembury and East Devon.

### Recorded performances – peals and quarter peals



Here Eddie, one of our young ringers, is shown after ringing his first quarter peal, a continuous piece of ringing for 45 minutes.

Each week a varying band of ringers meets at Huntsham on a Thursday morning to ring a full peal of 5,000 or more changes lasting about 2¾ hours. 43 attempts were successful and included a wide variety of methods – some being rung for the first time.

Extended ringing in quarter peals and peals gives ringers the opportunity to hone their ringing abilities in a way which short touches of a few minutes' duration cannot give.

## Governance, Facilities Maintenance and Improvement

The TRC is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission and managed by group of trustees who meet 5 or 6 times a year. Currently, the trustees are Les Boyce (Chairman), Jenny Jones (Secretary), Mike Hatchett (Treasurer), Chris Bolt, Sheila Scofield and Mike Ward. Sheila runs the After-School Bell Club and Mike Ward and Chris are responsible for maintaining the bells and fittings at Bampton and Huntsham.

The main source of wear-and-tear in belfries is to the bellropes. In 2023 several ropes were sent away for repair and enquiries were made about purchasing new sets of ropes for both churches. The TRC meets the cost of repairing and replacing ropes, the cost of a set of 6 ropes being well over £1,000. The Centre has agreements with both churches which mean that it takes responsibility for carrying out and paying for all routine maintenance of the bells and their fittings.

### Interested in Bellringing? Why not join us?



#### Bellringing is great for:

- Fitness
- Mental stimulation
- Fellowship in your local tower and worldwide
- Visiting amazing places
- Making a glorious sound
- Fun
- A way to celebrate and commemorate events

### To find out more about learning to ring:

Pick up the leaflet “Learn to ring church Bells with the Troyte Ringing Centre” or go to: <https://troyteringingcentre.org.uk/> .

To find out more about bellringing go to: <https://bellringing.org/> .

To find out more about the Troyte Ringing Centre go to:

<https://troyteringingcentre.org.uk/>