

St Mary's Bell Ringers, Ruabon

Annual Report - 2014



Bell ringing in Ruabon continues to play a part in village and church life, ringing for regular church services as well as for weddings, funerals and local and national occasions. Although we have an active band of ringers our numbers have depleted over the last twelve months.

The main points of the year are as follows:

- **Muffles**
 - We received a new set of muffles for the bells (a muffle, for the uninitiated, is a pad of leather that is attached to the clapper of the bell and creates a mournful sound). The muffles were blessed on the 3rd November during the service for the rededication of the windows.
- **New Ringers**
 - Although we have a good band, we need new ringers. All are welcome from the age of 10 upwards. It's better exercise than going to the gym!
- **Activities that are taken for granted**
 - Flying the flag
 - We continue to fly a flag on top of the tower for church and National occasions, all thanks to John Griffiths. The church flag is flown for major church events and saints' days, and we fly the Union Flag for Remembrance Sunday and significant State occasions.
 - The Church Clock
 - Our clock is clockwork and requires winding weekly. We need to thank Daniel Thomas for ensuring the clock is wound and the time is accurate.

Maintenance:

- **Tower**
 - A recent inspection of the tower by the church architect has recommended:
 - Access improvements to bell chamber.
 - Repairs to the louvers and to replace the mesh that covers them.
 - Improved access on to the roof with the addition of hand rails.
 - Re-pointing some of the stonework on the tower.

A full list of recommendations has been provided to the PCC.

- **Clock**
 - Generally the clock is in good shape and it has an annual maintenance check. There have been a couple of minor issues with the clock, all of which have been rectified without the need to call out a clock engineer.
- **Bells**
 - A recent inspection of the bells by Taylors of Loughborough has identified that the clapper bushes for the six bells need replacing. Although this isn't an urgent piece of maintenance the work should be done in the next few years; the tenor bell being a priority. If we remove the clappers and take them to Taylors in Loughborough the (current) cost will be circa £120 per clapper; £720 in total.

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- The walk areas of the bell frame have painted with non-slip paint. During periods of wet or humid weather the bell frame became very slippery, which posed a risk to individuals when carrying out essential maintenance.

Social Responsibilities:

As a band we are very conscious of our neighbours and aware that we play some of the largest musical instruments available to man. As a result, it is difficult to hide our practice activities. We try to reduce our impact by having a silent practice for new ringers, but this isn't always possible.

Our published ringing times are:

Practice night: Thursday 7pm – 8:30pm

Sunday morning: 9am – 9:30am

Christmas Eve: 10:45pm – 11:30pm (depending on service times)

Please also expect us to ring for other services and special event. Where possible these will be publicised in the Ruabon Newsletter (issued by Sybil Bremner) and in the 'Ruabon News' area of the Wrexham Leader.

Gordon Richardson

Tower Captain