

# Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter



July 2013, Summer Issue



## New window at Easthampstead

At this time last year, we were busy celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a Flower Festival, from which some of the proceeds were going to help finance a stained glass window in the porch to commemorate the occasion.

Local businessman John Nike was so taken with our efforts when he visited the festival that he generously offered to donate the entire cost of the window.

The new window would stand beside our internationally renowned stained glass windows by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones. It was therefore decided that we ask one of the best stained glass artists of the 21<sup>st</sup> century to take on the commission.

We were very lucky that Thomas Denny, who has made windows for several cathedrals, agreed to design and make our window.

Thomas Denny writes "The theme is baptism, an appropriate subject to be installed in the place of entering in. Specifically the design depicts the baptism of King Cynegils of Wessex by St. Birinus in 635, an event witnessed by King Oswald of Northumbria and that probably took place in Easthampstead.

Birinus, Cynegils, Oswald and two onlookers (daughters of Cynegils, one of whom was to marry Oswald) are seen by a spring on a hill top, a great vale stretching away in the distance. Cynegils has put aside his sword and crown and kneels in humility as water and light pour onto his head".

*Continued overleaf*

## Diary of Events

### Saturday 17 August

Waltham St Lawrence  
4 —6pm Branch Practice

### Saturday 21 September

Arborfield  
4 - 6pm Branch Practice

### Saturday 19 October

Easthampstead  
4pm—6pm  
8 bell striking competition  
Followed by Branch Practice

Monthly Tuesday afternoon practices (2-4pm)  
at Binfield on 6 August, 3 September and 1  
October (provisionally).

**Thanks to Andrew Dugdale from Arborfield  
who has kindly offered to print the newsletter  
for us free of charge.**

## 9th June - A Memorable Day at Easthampstead continued

The window was duly installed last month, but was kept hidden from view until the unveiling and dedication of the window could be organised and for John Nike (who had only seen a sketch of the design) to reveal it to the assembled dignitaries and congregation.

Whilst everyone was gathering outside the porch, we rang a quarter peal for the occasion and just managed to get downstairs in time for the unveiling.

Earlier in the week, the restored War Memorial was put back into the Churchyard, having been dismantled and taken away earlier in the year, as it had become structurally unsafe.

As all the local dignitaries would be present for the window unveiling, it was hurriedly decided to rededicate the War Memorial later on in the afternoon.

### **Easthampstead War Memorial.**

The War Memorial was erected after the First World War following a public appeal by the Parish Council, under the guidance of Lady Haversham. As a result, £325 was raised by donations from 113 separate families around the parish. It seems that Lady Haversham was a lady of some influence for she managed to engage the noted architect Mr Temple Moore to design the monument – a free standing elegant cross on a stepped pedestal on which was to be engraved the names of 65 men from the parish who laid down their lives for their country.

The material chosen for the monument was Ham Hill stone which “would look better than granite”. Unfortunately, this choice would create structural problems in the future. In all the total cost of the cross was £312 4s 6d.

In 2005, the War Memorial was deemed to be of Significant Architectural and Historical Importance and was granted the status of a Grade II listed monument.

For several years, there had been growing concern about the structural integrity and safety of the memorial, in particular of the Cross head and shaft.

Bracknell Forest Council and local councillors generously funded the recarving of the Cross head, the shaft and a general restoration of the base.

The original cross head has been installed in the Garden of Remembrance.



More general ringing followed, prior to a celebration choral evensong, to end a memorable day.

***Barbara Wells, Easthampstead***

## Two Choirs Festival – with Bells

Invitations to ring can come from unexpected sources, which is how ringing came to be an official part of a music festival in Wokingham over Pentecost weekend.

Our new musical director Richard Smith was still around after a special practice for young children one Monday evening when I arrived for our weekly pre-practice session in the tower, so I invited him to come up and see what ringing was about. I showed him the bells and explained how they worked, using the model. He couldn't see 'real ringing' but he saw three of our ringers each practising with a simulator, and he could listen in on what one of them was doing. He was fascinated, and asked lots of questions, many relating to performance and the skills needed.

Around that time he was planning the festival, and he asked me if we could include ringing as a part of it. As well as a concert and a recital there were two choral services, one at each church. We agreed on a quarter peal at each church – after the service at All Saints (before would be impossible because we are open to the church and couldn't have rung through the choir rehearsal) and before the service at St Paul's (where the ringing room is upstairs).

As we were part of the official programme he wanted to know what we would be performing, to include it in the publicity. I didn't know who would be available to ring, so Ken Davenport (tower captain at St Paul's) and I decided to keep it simple. We also decided to ring a quarter each of Triples and Major in order to vary the music.

Then Richard asked me for a couple of pages of notes to be included in the glossy festival programme. I decided on a very brief introduction to the instrument and the music (illustrated with some pictures) followed by a brief description of the musical aspects of the two performances. It all had to be in language that non-ringers could understand, as well as fitting into the required space (two pages). You can read it here: [allsaintswokinghambells.org.uk/notices/ProgrammeNotes2013.pdf](http://allsaintswokinghambells.org.uk/notices/ProgrammeNotes2013.pdf)

After the ringing Ken and I both received appreciative comments from people who had heard the performances including from Canon Angela Tilby, guest preacher at the final Eucharist, and who said that she recorded some of the ringing because it was so good. That was praise indeed. For those who don't know of her she is no stranger to ringing – I first met her when she was a guest at the Cambridge University Guild dinner.

*John Harrison, All Saints Wokingham*

**Wokingham, Berks, All Saints**  
**Saturday, 18 May 2013 in 42 minutes**  
**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Susan E Davenport
- 2 Julie B Goodchild
- 3 Sian J Haseldine
- 4 Jane A Mellor
- 5 Geoffrey K Cook
- 6 Alan K Barsby
- 7 John A Harrison (C)
- 8 Jonathan P Goodchild

**Wokingham, Berks, St Paul**  
**Sunday, 19 May 2013 in 44 minutes**  
**1264 Plain Bob Major**

- 1 Stephen C Wells
- 2 Susan E Davenport
- 3 Barbara E Wells
- 4 Graham E Slade
- 5 Lavinia Sullivan
- 6 Alan K Barsby
- 7 John A Harrison
- 8 Kenneth R Davenport (C)

## Warfield update

Please note that Warfield church is undergoing major reordering, including underfloor heating and new seating, and installation of a new boiler in the tower. Ringers are unable to enter any part of the tower until the builders release the premises on completion. This is likely to mean no ringing until at least mid-October.

When ringing is possible, the tower's website entry will be amended to show this, as will the Dove Online entry.

*Aidan C A Hopkins, Tower Captain*



## Peals & Quarter Peals

**Saturday 27 April 2013 in**  
**2 hours 53 minutes**  
**St Paul's Wokingham**  
**5056 Superlative Surprise Major**  
 Composed by AJ Cox

- 1 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 2 Geoffrey K Cook
- 3 Catherine M A Lane
- 4 E John Wells
- 5 June D Wells
- 6 Alan K Barsby
- 7 Christopher P Cole
- 8 Jon P Tutchner

Rung in memory of Keith Begrie, Ringer and former Tower Captain at this tower and Rev. Arthur Lloyd Davies, Rector of this Parish 1973 to 1984.

**Sunday 2 June 2013**  
**Sonning**  
**1288 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Lavinia Sullivan (Wargrave) (C)
- 2 Pam Elliston (Sonning)
- 3 Jenny Page (Caversham)
- 4 Sue Davenport (Wok. St Paul)
- 5 Andrew Elliston (Sonning)
- 6 Ken Baker (Whitchurch)
- 7 Simon Milford (Sonning)
- 8 Keith Vernon (Reading St Giles)

Rung to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. Many thanks to visiting ringers for making this possible.

**Monday 1 April 2013**  
**Shottesbrooke**  
**1260 Bob Doubles**

- 1 Richard Hazell
- 2 Lesley Graves
- 3 Jacqueline Hazell (C)
- 4 Derek Smith
- 5 John Payne
- 6 Derek Titford

A 21st Birthday compliment to Martha Hazell.  
 First as conductor (3).

**Sunday 21 April 2013**  
**Easthampstead**  
**1260 Plain Bob Minor**

- 1 Eddie Martin
- 2 Barbara Wells
- 3 Tom Helyer
- 4 Anna Barker
- 5 Paul Fox
- 6 Steve Wells (C)

Rung as a Ruby Wedding Anniversary to Pamela and Pete Tyers, sister of the 2nd ringer. First inside 3. First inside to minor 4.

**Sunday 16 June 2013**  
**Wokingham, All Saints**  
**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Barbara G Smith
- 2 Mary Spence
- 3 Sian J Haseldine
- 4 Jane A Mellor
- 5 Nigel A L Mellor
- 6 Stephen R Smith
- 7 John A Harrison (C)
- 8 Evan Kozakiewicz

Rung as a farewell compliment to Revd. Tony Kemp, former Music Director and curate at this church, on his retirement to Hayling Island.

**Sunday 14 April 2013**  
**Shottesbrooke**  
**1260 Bob Doubles**

- 1 Martha Hazell
- 2 Jacqueline Hazell
- 3 Derek Smith
- 4 John Payne
- 5 Caroline Andrew (C)
- 6 Richard Hazell

A Ruby Wedding compliment to Jacqueline and David Hazell, married 40 years ago on this day

**Tuesday 23 April 2013**  
**White Waltham**  
**1260 Mixed Doubles (360 St. Simon's, 360 St. Martin's and 540 Plain Bob Doubles)**

- 1 Martha C Hazell
- 2 Lesley A Graves
- 3 Jacqueline M Hazell
- 4 Derek R Smith
- 5 Caroline S Andrew (C)
- 6 Derek G Brayne

For St George's Day  
 Most doubles methods – 2 & 5

**Sunday 16 June 2013**  
**Wokingham St. Paul**  
**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 David J Creasy
- 2 Susan E Davenport
- 3 Elizabeth J Davenport
- 4 Nigel A L Mellor
- 5 Andrew Elliston
- 6 John A Harrison
- 7 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 8 Christopher P Cole

Rung with the best wishes of the Ringers to Fr. Tony Kemp before his last service at St. Paul's prior to retirement to Hayling Island.

|                       |                                 |                                       |               |                          |
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