



Carlisle Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers



Annual Report 2023

THE CARLISLE DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Patron: The Lord Bishop of Carlisle
President: The Venerable Dr Richard Pratt

The Carlisle Diocesan Guild was founded in 1975 in the areas formerly covered by the Cumberland Association, established in 1889, and the Cumberland and North Westmorland Association of Change Ringers, which was formed in 1947.

OUR PURPOSE

Carlisle Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (CDGCBR) works in partnership with local ringers, bands and towers, and with the Church in the Diocese as it serves and worships God, to:

1. Support ringing for Church services, and national and community events
2. Promote the enjoyment of ringing and fellowship amongst ringers of all faiths and none
3. Welcome, recruit, train, encourage, and develop – so that all are enabled to ring as well as they can
4. Take care of bells and their fittings, with advice, practical help and funding
5. Foster an appreciation of bells and ringing in the wider general public

The Guild Prayers

O God, we give You thanks for the bells we ring and the art of ringing: for benefactors and bell-founders; for those who have taught us and those with whom we ring. May we ring as well as we can, for the delight of those who hear, for the celebration of those for whom we ring, for the offering of wordless worship, for the reminding of all that the Church is here and You are here.
Amen

or

Lord God of joy and celebration,
we offer to you the sounding of our bells.
Let us ring out the good news of your Son our Saviour
and welcome all to come and know Jesus.
We celebrate the generosity of previous generations;
may we, in our day, ring out with joy and gladness
through the gifts of your Spirit. Amen

or

Loving God
We pray for the Guild of Church Bellringers, and the towers and ringers of Carlisle Diocese.
May the bells we ring tell out your name and sing your praise.
May our lives ring out your love as our bells call people to worship. Amen

OFFICERS in 2023

President:	The Venerable Dr Richard Pratt
Guild Master:	Ruth Gilbert Tel: 07970 273242 Email: ruth.m.gilbert@gmail.com
Guild Ringing Master:	Vacant
Guild Secretary:	Ed Matthews Tel: 01946 841076 Email: info@bellringingincumbria.com
Events Officer:	Vacant
Comms & PR Officer:	Sue Thomas Tel: 07584 484102 Email: Guildcomms@gmail.com
Finance Officer:	Duncan Walker (temporarily) Tel: 07879 430534 Email: tc0747@yahoo.co.uk
Compliance Officer:	Duncan Walker Tel: 07879430534 Email: tc0747@yahoo.co.uk
Central Council Representatives:	Duncan Walker (as above) Chris de Cordova Tel: 07880 663116 Email: chrisdecordova@gmail.com Jayden Milby (co-opted)
Additional Officers:	Julia Cater, Katherine Prince
Eastern Branch Ringing Officer: Secretary:	Ruth Gilbert (as above) Amanda Rodger Tel: 078767 80985 Email: mike.amandarodger@gmail.com
Western Branch Ringing Officer: Secretary:	Richard Green (temporarily) Margaret Miller Email: catbells1957@gmail.com Andrew Moncrieff

FEES

Resident Members	Adult	£10.00
	Junior	£1.00
	Senior	£5.00

Senior members are those of pensionable age who may choose to pay the reduced rate.

Non Resident Members	On election	£5.00
Peal Fees (tower) (hand)	Each rope	£0.50
	Each person	£0.50

Cover – St Andrew’s, Thursby – *by John Mather*

Guild Website: www.bellringingincumbria.com

SUMMARY OF TOWERS AND PRACTICE NIGHTS

Eastern Branch

Appleby (Monday with Shap)
Bampton (Thursday)
Brampton (1st and 3rd Thursday)
Brough
Cathedral (Friday)
Great Salkeld (Wed. with Lazonby)
Greystoke (Thursday)
Harraby
Keswick (Wednesday)
Kirkby Stephen (Thursday)
Lazonby (Wed. with Gt Salkeld)
Orton (Friday)
Penrith (Tuesday)
Shap (Monday with Appleby)
Thursby (Tuesday)

Western Branch

Arlecdon (Thursday)
Aspatria
Barrow-in-Furness (Wed)
Bridekirk (Monday)
Cockermouth (Wednesday)
Dalton-In-Furness (Tuesday)
Egremont
Hensingham (Tuesday)
Irton (Monday)
Moresby (Tuesday)
St Bees (Wednesday)
Whitehaven (Friday)
Wigton (Monday)
Workington (Monday)

AFFILIATED TOWERS

APPLEBY, St Lawrence 6 bells, 10cwt (508Kg) in G (GF) (NY683205)
Practice: Monday 7.30pm (alternating with Shap)
Enquiries: Sue Grainger, Laurel Bank, Kirkby Thore, Penrith CA10 1XN
(07876 403895)

ARLECDON, St Michael 8 bells, 14¹/₄cwt (725kg) in F (NY052198)
Sunday: 10.30am **Practice:** Thursday 7pm, contact to confirm.
Enquiries: Debbie Keighley (07999 806966) email: debbie.keighley@btinternet.com

ASPATRIA, St Kentigern 8 bells, 14cwt (712kg) in F# (NY147419)
Enquiries: The Vicar

BAMPTON, St Patrick 6 bells, 5cwt (258kg) in D (NY521180)
Sunday: 9am – not on 2nd Sunday of month. **Practice:** Thursday 7pm – contact to confirm. Enquiries: Bridget Kelly, Abbott House, Rosgill, Penrith, CA10 2QX (01931 716822) email: email@bridgetkelly.me

BARROW-IN-FURNESS, St James the Great
8 bells, 12cwt (621kg) in F (SD194699)
Sunday: 10.00am **Practice:** Wednesday 7.30pm
1st Wednesday of the month 'Target' practice – extra visitors encouraged
5th Saturday in a month – simulator Saturday 10-12noon contact to confirm.
Enquiries: Andy Pollock (07879 411824) email: ringing@barrowbells.org.uk
Website: www.barrowbells.org.uk

BRAMPTON, St Martin 6 bells, 9¹/₄cwt (470kg) in A (NY528610)
Sunday: 1st Sunday 3pm **Practice:** 1st and 3rd Thursday 7pm
Enquiries: John Proudfoot email: john53p@yahoo.com 07855 151773

BRIDEKIRK, St Bridget 6 bells, 11³/₄cwt (597kg) in G# (NY117337)
Sunday: 10.30am **Practice:** Monday 7.30pm
Enquiries: Richard Green (01900 824311) email: ragreen987@gmail.com

BROUGH, St Michael 4 bells, 887kg in E (NY792139)
Sunday: By arrangement **Practice:** By arrangement
Enquiries: Paul & Melissa Steadman 07816 765885
email: paul.steadman77@gmail.com

CARLISLE, Cathedral Church of the Holy & Undivided Trinity (NY398559)
13 bells, 21-0-6 (1071kg) in E^b Tower phone: 01228 597887
Sunday: 9.30am **Practice:** Friday 7.30pm – contact to confirm
Enquiries: Anne East, 65 Scotby Road, Scotby, Carlisle, CA4 8BG
(01228 513633) email: aeast65sr@btinternet.com
Veronica Taylor, (07929 069186) email: veronicataylor@hotmail.co.uk

CARLISLE, St Elisabeth, Harraby 8 bells, 14cwt (712kg) in F (GF) (NY422545)
Unavailable. Enquiries: Ron East, (01228 513633) ronald.east@btinternet.com

COCKERMOUTH, All Saints 8 bells, 12¹/₂cwt (636kg) in F# (NY124306)
Sunday: 9.25am **Practice:** Wednesday 7.30pm
Enquiries: Enquiries: Richard Green (01900 824311) email: ragreen987@gmail.com

Dalton-in-Furness, St Mary 10 bells, 21-2-25 (1104kg) in D (SD225738)
Sunday: 9.00am **Practice:** Tuesday 7.30pm
Enquiries: Jacqueline Preston (07921 132196) email: jp@romneyroad.co.uk

EGREMONT, Ss Mary and Michael 8 bells, 13¹/₂cwt (686kg) in F# (NY012105)
Sunday: **Practice:**
Enquiries: Colin Gates, 2 High Bank House, Egremont CA22 2DZ
(01946 820419 or 01946 820623)

GREAT SALKELD, St Cuthbert 6 bells, 11-03-22 (610kg) in F# (NY552368)
Sunday: 9.30am alt. Sundays **Practice:** Wednesday 7.30pm alt. with Lazonby
Enquiries: Mike Allison, 10 Barton Dale, Lazonby, Penrith, CA10 1BU
(01768 898806) email: allmickey@btinternet.com

GREYSTOKE, St Andrew 6 bells, 7¹/₄cwt (368kg) in A (NY443308)
Sunday: Usually 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10.30am **Practice:** Thursday 7.30pm
Enquiries: Katherine Prince email: kjprince349@hotmail.com

HENSINGHAM, St John Evangelist 8 bells, 13³/₄cwt (699kg) in F# (NX985166)
Sunday: 10.30am **Practice:** Tuesday 7.30pm contact to confirm
Enquiries: Gordon Gray, 4 Hensingham Road, Whitehaven CA28 8PR
(01946 65224) email: hensingham@bell-ringing.co.uk
website: www.bell-ringing.co.uk

IRTON, St Paul 8 bells, 16cwt (814kg) in F# (GF) (NY092005)
Sunday: Special services **Practice:** Monday 7.30pm
Enquiries: Kathleen Egglestone, Spindle Craft, Drigg Station, Holmrook CA19 1XQ
(01946 724335) (daytime)

KESWICK, St Kentigern, Crosthwaite 8 bells, 12-02-24 (737kg) in F (GF)
Sunday: 9.30am **Practice:** Wed 7pm; visiting bands welcome (NY257243)
Enquiries: Nick Newby, 18 Skiddaw St, Keswick, CA12 4BY
email: nickjane.newby@gmail.com
or Jenny Humphreys (01768 772063) email: robandjenhumphreys@outlook.com

KIRKBY STEPHEN, (dedication unknown) 8 bells, 15³/₄cwt (801kg) in F (NY775088)
Sunday: 10.00am **Practice:** Thursday 7.30pm by arrangement
Enquiries: Colin Belsey, Burntling, Heggarscale, Kaber, CA17 4HZ (01768 372139)
or (07938 532735) email: colinbelsey1207@gmail.com

LAZONBY, St Nicholas 4 bells, 7¹/₂cwt (369kg) in B^b (GF) (NY549398)
Sunday: 9.30am alt. Sundays **Practice:** Wednesday 7.30pm alt. with Gt Salkeld
Enquiries: As Great Salkeld

MORESBY, St Bridget 8 bells, 5cwt (259kg) in D (NX982210)

Sunday: 10.15am (ringers MUST stay to the service; ringing can take place afterwards, for visitors for whom this is a problem, if requested in advance) **Practice:** Tuesday 7- 8.30pm Enquiries: Mrs Anne Denwood email: annedenwood@sky.com

ORTON, All Saints 8 bells, 12³/₄cwt (648kg) in F[#] (GF) (NY622084)

Sunday: 3rd at 10am **Practice:** Friday 7.30pm

Enquiries: Susan Thorpe email: s.thorpe669@btinternet.com (015396 24166)

PENRITH, St Andrew 8 bells, 19cwt (966kg) in E (NY516302)

Sunday: Usually 9.15am, contact to confirm **Practice:** Tuesday 7.00pm, contact to confirm. Enquiries: Helen Ruberry email: penrith.bells.secretary@gmail.com

Note: For security reasons, the church is locked during the practice, after 7.45. Entry is via the South door. There is a doorbell on the West door, for use if the South door is locked.

ST BEES, Priory Church of SS Mary and Bega 8 bells, 13cwt (661kg) in F

Sunday: 10.00am **Practice:** Wednesday 8.00pm (NX968121)

Enquiries: Doug Sim, 31 Main Street, St Bees CA27 0AA (01946 824898)
email: doug.sim@btinternet.com

SHAP, St Michael 6 bells, 8cwt (407kg) in G[#] (NY564154)

Sunday: 10.00 (1st) and special services **Practice:** Monday 7.30pm alt. with Appleby

Enquiries: Janet Labram, Spout House, Keld, Shap, Penrith, CA10 3QF
(01931 716311) email: janetlabram@btinternet.com

SILLOTH, Christ Church 8 bells (unringable), 23¹/₂cwt (1195kg) in E (NY110537)

Enquiries: The Vicar

THURSBY, St Andrew 6 bells, 6³/₄cwt (343kg) in A (NY324503)

Sunday: 10.30am **Practice:** Tuesday 7.00pm

Enquiries: Cynthia James, 5 Church Terrace, Thursby, Carlisle CA5 6PD
(01228 642994)

WHITEHAVEN, St James 12 bells, 16cwt (814kg) in F (NX977184)

Sunday: 9.30am

Practice: Friday 7.30pm Beginners taught to handle separately. Contact for details.

Enquiries: Mrs Chris de Cordova (01946 62986) email: chrisdecordova@gmail.com

WIGTON, St Mary 8 bells, 8cwt (407kg) in A (NY256483)

Sunday: 9.00am, 6.00pm (by arrangement) **Practice:** Monday 7.30pm

Enquiries: Martin Snape, 3 Greenfoot, Mealsgate, Wigton, CA7 1DF
(01697 371437) email: mary.snape1@btinternet.com

WORKINGTON, St Michael 8 bells, 12¹/₂cwt (636kg) in F[#] (NX997289)

Sunday: 9.00am **Practice:** Monday 7.00pm

Enquiries: Eric Martin (07796 828568) email: ericbells@yahoo.co.uk

Note: For security reasons the church is locked during practices. Please contact to arrange access before visiting.

GUILD MASTER'S REPORT

The sudden death of Pat and Gareth at the start of 2023 impacted the Guild throughout the year and will continue to do so. They were so key to the Guild and to progressing the ringing within the Guild.

In the week before they died Pat and Gareth shared the ringing aims of each individual member of the Workington band. They remain one of only a very small number of towers that have completed this exercise and it would be really useful if all bands could complete this and return to the Guild. The current constitution is based around being responsive to what Guild members want but this can only be achieved if there is knowledge of what that is.

Targeted workshops have proved useful for the progression of towers as a whole (eg Bampton Plain Bob Doubles and Cockermonth Ringing up and down) but these can also be done to meet the needs of small groups of individuals if appropriate. For example, a treble bob workshop which may enable individuals to progress in a way that is not possible at tower practices.

The Guild committee has a number of vacancies - when this was highlighted at the 2024 January Workington meeting a member stepped forward who is willing to stand as Finance Officer; however there are still some other vacant posts and the contribution of members elected to committee without an office is also extremely valuable. If you're interested in assisting the Guild develop and keeping the annual ringing dates going, please do contact us to see how this can be progressed.

Ruth Gilbert

GUILD SECRETARY'S REPORT

As Guild Secretary I am responsible for the day-to-day running of the Guild, including organizing meetings, keeping records, and communicating with members. I've been in post since April 2022 and have enjoyed my second year as Secretary. Following on from the untimely deaths of Pat and Gareth Evans, much of this year's work has been to support the Committee and other members to facilitate keeping the Guild afloat such that it can then achieve the Guild's aims and support and develop the ringing around Cumbria.

My activities during the past year included: Organizing the annual general meeting of the guild and six Committee meetings; Keeping minutes of all guild meetings; Corresponding with members of the guild by email using the newly populated Mailchimp software; replying to correspondence sent to the Guild.

I have also started to send a welcome email to all new members, so they know a bit more about the Guild. If anyone does not get the monthly bulletin, please let me know at info@bellringingincumbria.com.

The Striking Competition was back in 2023 and an enjoyable day was had. With this I believe we're back at a new normal for the Guild events; and how the Guild now supports its Members.

From all the work done I believe the Guild is in a strong position to continue its work in the coming year which needs to focus on training new bell ringers and developing the skills of current bell ringers.

Ed Matthews

EASTERN BRANCH REPORT

This was another year where the branch towers advised they did not want any branch practices, but that they felt supported by the regular visits from other ringers. Tony and Helen Rubery and Imogen Carrie's names continue to keep popping up and thanks go to them for their ongoing support of towers across the branch.

Thus, the focus has been on achieving the aims of the towers that have made an approach for help.

Brough tower is no longer silent and has a regular Sunday band. This is due to the teaching dedication of a small group of teachers, in particular thanks to Janet Shepherd and Ron East.

Brampton Church advised of an ambition to get their bells ringing again. They had a local recruitment drive and a small group of teachers have been working with a group of keen learners to try to achieve this. Many thanks to John Proudfoot, Sue Thomas and Barry Garrett. The hope of all involved is that Brampton will have a Sunday Service band ringing in the coming months. In the meantime, branch members are ringing for the monthly Family Service on the first Sunday in the month.

Bampton tower are the only tower that have expressed a desire to have some targeted workshops, and these have proved valuable to the progression of individuals within the band, as well as the band as a whole. Many thanks to those that have supported these workshops, in particular Charles Radcliffe, Gillian Powell, Sue Smith and Sue Thomas.

Please get in touch if you have a mismatch between the tower/individual ambitions and the local band strength/teaching capability so that support can be provided to achieve these ambitions.

Ruth Gilbert

WESTERN BRANCH REPORT

It had been noted that the general standard of ringing in the W. B. had started to deteriorate before Covid - and the pandemic made the situation worse. Couple that with the tragic loss of Pat & Gareth and we were in a poor place.

It was suggested that we tried to establish and develop a nucleus of ringers in the W.B. who could ring together to support each other and generally maintain / improve the standard of ringing. It was proposed that people from areas around Whitehaven, Workington and Cockermouth should try to get-together monthly to run ringing sessions that would help to keep standards high and would also help develop new ringers and those who want to progress beyond their current capabilities.

So, we held four open ringing practice sessions during the spring / summer at Whitehaven St James tower on the last Friday of the month. These sessions were not really that well attended. The road works on the A595 just outside Whitehaven possibly put people off travelling down from the north so perhaps we expected low-ish numbers but not many people turned up from the south side either.

The sessions we ran were well appreciated by those attending and we did manage to get all 12 bells ringing occasionally (rounds & call changes). There did not seem

to be an appetite for more advanced ringing beyond simple minor/triples/major, but we did try Cambridge, Kent and double Oxford a couple of times.

During discussions with other guild members we learned that, some time ago, the Eastern Branch changed their approach for developing and sustaining ringing. Towers were asked if they needed any particular help to advance their ringing capabilities. The E.B. would then respond by offering specific, focused ringing training sessions.

So, I'm suggesting this year that the W.B start to think along these lines - looking at some aspect of ringing - either tower by tower or "everyone" in W.B. who requests help to develop an aspect of their capabilities and see if we can organise / encourage some wider guild assistance to support maintaining and developing W.B ringing capabilities.

With the approaching better weather, I wonder if it would also be good to try to resurrect the 'once-a-month' Friday evening W.B. ringing sessions. Would we want to keep this at one location (e.g. Whitehaven)? or should we move around the W.B. if towers are willing to accommodate an occasional extra Friday evening ringing?

Richard Green

REPORT FROM THE BELL ADVISER

2023 proved to be a notable year with the 'heaviest peal of four bells in the world' restored for ringing at Brough and the completion of the rehanging of the eight bells at Arlecdon with the installation of a sound proofing, false ceiling. Please do ring them.

Brough bells, of course, are unique and the first visiting band left £120 in donations to the church. Arlecdon bells are a classic 1904 ring of Taylor bells but note that the ringing room has yet to be renovated.

2024 raised the possibility of the restoration of the peal of eight bells at Harraby in Carlisle. Long neglected during the tenure of a non-ringing vicar and then under the threat of the demolition of the tower, there were positive moves to restore both tower and bells. Sadly, a survey of the tower and bells on Monday, 18 March, has revealed so many structural problems with the tower, that I suspect the PCC may not have the resources to renovate it. We can restore the bells and frame, of course, but there seems little point in doing so until the tower is made structurally sound and waterproofed.

Ron East

FINANCE OFFICERS'S REPORT

These accounts have been approved by the General Committee and the Independent Examiner, in the usual way. As for last year's accounts, due to the sad death of Pat and Gareth Evans, there are a small number of records for early in 2023 which weren't available – so a few items were allocated as possible based on the Bank Statements.

We are very grateful to tower contacts who collect subscriptions from their ringers and send them to us together. This is much appreciated and makes the job of the

Guild Officers easier. Subscription income has decreased a little during this year, following an increase last year.

A significant change, to the General Fund Balance Sheet, is the recognition of the value of the Guild Handbells, donated and refurbished a few years ago, based on valuation advice from the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain.

Our largest item of expenditure was the website redevelopment, which should last us a number of years but is shown in our type of accounts all in the year of completion.

It became apparent, shortly after the end of 2023, the Guild currently holds money from the former Arlecdon Bell Fund (£610.41). This was given to us when the church had agreed to close. However, given the closure has been reversed and the church and bells have been refurbished, with a new band being taught there, the General Committee has agreed that should be handed back, at the appropriate time. Given the timing, it was agreed not to show this in these accounts but include in this report.

Two grants were made from the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF), for a new wheel at Great Salkeld and the refurbishment of the clappers at Thursby.

We have continued to receive donations to BRF funds from Amazon Smile, but that scheme has now ended. This was as a result of them donating a small percentage of Amazon purchases from their customers, who nominated the Guild as their preferred charity. Thank you to those who have taken part in this scheme and we'll look to see if anything similar comes along.

Gift Aided donations from 2022 and 2023 are being claimed during 2024 and will appear in the next set of accounts. Many thanks to those who have made a regular commitment in this way. The need for this funding continues – so, if you can help by making a regular donation, please contact the Treasurer for the relevant forms, or download them from the Guild website.

Once again, a large contribution to the BRF has been raised from the 50-50 Club (£662), helping us to continue to fund future bell restoration. Thanks are due to Anne East for her continuing hard work in keeping this running. New members of the club are always welcome.

Overall, I continue to be of the view that we are holding too much in reserves, in both the General Fund and BRF. As discussed with the General Committee, I am recommending we look proactively for opportunities to promote ringing, which have a good chance of building ringing numbers at the grass roots and further develop our teachers and training (eg Stands or Mini Ring demonstrations at major local events). In addition on the BRF side, there may be opportunities to improve bell installations, to the same end, so we should try to seek those out as well (eg St Elisabeth, Harraby).

Duncan Walker

CDGCBR GENERAL FUND – RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Subscriptions	1274.00	1514.00
Peal Fees	17.50	4.50
Book Sales	23.10	0.00
Interest	18.87	2.72
Badge Sales	10.00	0.00
Donations other	37.59	0.00
	1381.06	1521.22
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Annual Report	55.00	170.00
Printing Guild Service Sheets	25.00	0.00
Public Liability Insurance	196.90	196.91
Handbell Insurance	104.92	137.49
Young Ringer Voucher	40.00	0.00
Website hosting / Domain	14.39	17.12
Central Council Subscription for 2020	50.00	80.00
Survey Monkey	0.00	20.00
Central Council donation – leaflets	42.60	20.00
Publicity Leaflets	0.00	89.00
Purchase of book stock	8.00	7.50
Miscellaneous expenditure	24.00	0.00
Ringing World AGM Advert	20.00	0.00
Central Council Annual Meeting Expenses	352.98	0.00
Website redevelopment	850.00	0.00
	1783.79	738.02
Excess of income over expenditure	-402.73	783.20

EXCEPTIONAL ITEM

Retrospective Handbell donation value	10513.80
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BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Fixed Assets		
Handbells	10513.80	0.00
President's Medallion & Bars	740.70	740.70
Fixtures and Fittings	50.50	50.50
	11305.00	791.20
Current Assets		
NatWest Bank Current Account	675.47	3570.97
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account	2770.43	1251.56
Transfer due from BRF	0.00	0.00
Cash in hand	0.00	10.05
	3445.90	4832.58
TOTAL ASSETS	14750.90	5623.78

Represented By:

Accumulated Fund Balance 1 st January	5663.78	4880.58
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-402.73	783.20
Retrospective handbell donation value	<u>10513.80</u>	<u>0.00</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND at 31st December	15774.85	5663.78

CDGCBR BELL RESTORATION FUND – RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2023

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Interest	214.12	36.73
Donations Gift Aid (standing order)	360.00	425.00
Donations Gift Aid (other)	0.00	0.00
CAF Donation	25.00	0.00
Income Tax Rebate (2020 donations)	0.00	231.11
Income Tax Rebate (2021 donations)	0.00	210.65
50/50 draw donation	662.00	639.00
Amazon Smile donations	26.58	25.32
Donations from towers	0.00	78.00
Donations other	15.00	0.00
	1302.70	1645.81
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Great Salkeld wheel renewal	500.00	0.00
Thursby clappers refurbishment	511.20	0.00
Keswick pulleys refurbishment	0.00	250.00
	1011.20	250.00
Excess of income over expenditure	291.50	1395.81

BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Current Assets		
NatWest Bank Charities Reserve a/c	18234.38	16956.68
Transfer due to CDGCBR Current Account	-1023.95	-40.00
Cash in hand	0.00	2.25
TOTAL ASSETS	17210.43	16918.93

Represented By:

Accumulated Fund balance 1 st January	16918.93	15523.12
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>291.50</u>	<u>1395.81</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND at 31st December	17210.43	16918.93

OBITUARY

Patricia Mary Evans (nee Seymour) And Martin Gareth Evans
28/06/1954 – 13/02/2023 27/05/1952 – 13/02/2023

The following tribute was published in 'Ringing World':

Pat'n Gareth spent the whole of their working lives in Cumbria, living first in Workington and then in Brigham, near Cockermouth. After leaving university Gareth got a job at the Sellafield nuclear plant, with Pat following him to Cumbria soon after to take up a mathematics teaching post at Newlands School (later becoming Stainburn) in Workington, jobs which they held for over 40 years. They married in Epping in July 1976 and brought up two children in Cumbria, Richard and Caroline.

Gareth was born in Wrexham in 1952, to Donald and Marjorie Evans. His father was a vicar, so Gareth's childhood was spent in three different parishes, the first – Tallern Green on the Welsh border – still without electricity in Gareth's early years. Then Towyn, near Rhyl, where Gareth enjoyed summers busy with holiday makers and the empty beaches of winter. The last was Seighford, a country parish in Staffordshire, and from there he gained his place to read Chemistry at Christchurch, Oxford from 1970.

Pat, born in 1954 in Epping, Essex, to Robert and Olive Seymour, enjoyed a happy childhood with her older sister Janet – Brownies & Guides, ballet lessons, and riding. They both attended Loughton High School for girls where Pat excelled in Maths and Science, winning a place at St Hilda's, Oxford going up in 1972. It was at school that Pat's love of music began, singing and playing the recorder. It was her sister Janet who introduced her to bellringing at Epping in the church youth group, and it was bellringing at Oxford which brought Pat and Gareth together and made them seemingly inseparable thereafter.

While at Oxford, both developed their ringing with the Oxford University Society (OUS), Gareth ringing over 40 peals during his time there and Pat ringing her first peal with the OUS and over 50 more while there. Some of Pat's fellow students remember her often being more interested in learning a new method than paying attention to a maths lecture, and being slow to get out of bed in the week, but first to be out and about on a Sunday when there was ringing to be done. Both Pat and Gareth enjoyed the Sunday circuit of OUS activities – ring at three towers in the morning, coffee in undergraduate rooms, lunchtime drinking in the King's Arms, followed by a curry, tea, evening ringing and finishing in a college beer cellar. The previous day there had usually been a cycle or car outing to towers near Oxford often ending in a Saturday evening curry. It was here in Oxford that the foundations for a lifetime's service to ringing were laid; both Gareth and Pat served as steeplekeepers for the OUS towers. It was not for nothing that Pat was known as "Wol" (the wise owl from Winnie the Pooh) by her fellow mathematicians.

In Cumbria alongside bringing up two children and building a home, they both continued to ring a few peals most years, indeed they had each scored well over 100, but other ringing activities gained greater prominence. They

remained loyal ringers at St Michael's in Workington, Cumbria throughout their lives, despite being regular worshippers at St John's in the town, a church without bells. Gareth was Tower Captain at St Michael's for many years and undertook several Branch and Carlisle Guild roles, including Western Branch Ringing Master, Education Officer and Guild Webmaster. Pat was Guild Treasurer for over 30 years and latterly was Vice-Chair of the PCC at St John's. Both were heavily involved in many aspects of church life at St John's and were committed to preserving the fabric of the church, helping initiate and steer a number of repair and conservation projects. It will be as supreme teachers and supporters of ringing that they will be remembered by many ringers in the west Cumbrian area. Two comments from local ringers sum up that support:

"Gareth was what I called my Bell Whisperer, he would stand behind me and gently coach me with his gentle voice. He always made me feel that I was progressing, and his encouragement was so appreciated."
"Both Gareth and Pat were so helpful to all of us at St Michael's Church, Arlecdon, in recommending adjustment to the position of the bell-ropes to make the bells as easy as possible for us beginners to ring. During his last visit to look at rope positions, Gareth recognised the ropes were getting damp due to the on-going refurbishment programme, and offered to take the ropes down, and to his house to dry and air. This showed he was happy, not just to advise us, but to go that extra mile to provide much appreciated practical help."

Although ringing kept them busy in Cumbria, Pat'n'Gareth developed a range of other interests in the home and outside. Not least was a love of the Lake District, and it was therefore appropriate that the first reading at their funeral was from one of Alfred Wainwright's books. In retirement they revisited many hillwalks in the Lakes and managed to climb all 214 of the Wainwrights. Between them they pursued interests in music, gardening, cookery, DIY and knitting. A love of the hills and mountains featured when they went on foreign holidays. Over the years, often with the children and both walking and skiing, they managed to visit the Alps, Pyrenees and Dolomites, as well as the Canary Islands, Russia, USA and Canada and finally in 2016 they took a holiday of a lifetime to Australia and New Zealand. They were also good at keeping in touch with friends around this country. An annual trip to Devon, for example, enabled them to enjoy a different countryside and different bells while catching up with old college friends. The ringing community across the country and their friends in Cumbria were stunned to get the news that on the 13th February, Pat and Gareth had lost their lives in a road accident. Typically, they had been on their way to St Michael's in Workington to run a ringing practice. Two weeks later St John's was filled to capacity with standing room only for their funeral, an emotional occasion filled with much sadness, but also with joy. Many of the mourners remained after the service for a wake lasting for several hours. An OUS party continued the wake in a Whitehaven pub and curry house afterwards. Pat and Gareth's children, Richard and Caroline have summed up the feelings of many when they write: "We have received so many beautiful letters and cards these past few days, many of them commenting on the

strength of Mum and Dad's love and devotion to each other – some even referring to them as “Pat’n’Gareth”, all one word. They always used to say, “We make a good team”, (indeed we found a recent anniversary card to Dad from Mum saying, “We still make a great team!”) And they really did – whether it was wallpapering the house, navigating all over on holidays long before sat nav, or more recently fixing the coffee machine. They were always on the same wavelength and were the epitome of unity and togetherness.” May they rest in peace.

Adapted from the Funeral Eulogy of The Very Revd Dr Frances Ward with contributions from Leslie Boyce, Chris de Cordova, Edwin Matthews and Cumbrian ringers.

THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution can be found on our website www.bellringingincumbria.com at: <https://bellringingincumbria.com/the-guild/constitution/>

Also on the website are various resources, including the current stock of books and pamphlets available to buy from the Guild: <https://bellringingincumbria.com/resources/>

TOWER REPORTS

APPLEBY

We have justified our presence within the Guild this year by hosting handling lessons for the new Brough band throughout the summer and autumn. It was rewarding to see the learners make progress and enjoy the process. In July, we held a focused practice at the request of ringers from Bampton, supported by Ruth Gilbert and other helpers, from Eastern Branch.

Our own practices thrive, thanks to regular visits by Jan Labram, Janet Shepherd and Julian Thorpe, from Shap, Bampton and Orton respectively. Unfortunately, the level 2 ART course we organised last spring had to be cancelled for lack of subscribers. However, we still have the wherewithal to host such a course if this is wished and sufficient people will commit to attend.

Our change ringing is not adventurous, yet, because we have preferred to work on basic skills of handling, listening, counting and striking. Our rounds are much better than they were, as long as we all listen carefully and pay attention to gaps and lumps in the ringing. With a recent beginner in our band, it has been very useful to ring a lot of Bastow minimus and, occasionally, minor. This combines practice in handling the bell, listening, counting, ringing by rhythm and reasonably easy ropesight.

The general aim in our tower is for every ringer to develop to the point that they can be a real asset for the next learner who comes along. At the moment, we are using Bayles method to iron out fluffy dodging in bob doubles before we can declare total war against uneven striking.

We remain a happy band and we all get on well together, balancing social harmony with a relentless quest for improvement in small, achievable steps. As we build a critical mass of capable, regular ringers, we will become better able to help each other to achieve modest ringing ambitions. We have made definite progress since the outbreak of Covid and we are indebted to the stalwart friends who regularly come from nearby towers to support our practices.

Nick Harrop

ARLECDON

During 2023 Arlecdon Bell Tower returned to being fully operational, with the installation of soundproofing in the ringing room ceiling, and a unique ventilation hatch to help keep the insulation dry and aired.

A small bellringing team of three was established, as part of the "Ring for the King" campaign, and has been generously supported by ringers from neighbouring towers. The group have been practising weekly, and can now ring rounds and simple call changes, and have started ringing for each Sunday service at Arlecdon Church. These services are held at 11.15am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, and support from other more experienced ringers has been much appreciated.

It is hoped to recruit more local people to learn to ring, and help with teaching any new recruits would be welcome, due to the limited experience of the Arlecdon Team.

Debbie Keighley

BAMPTON

Regretfully, Bampton did not get a Tower Report out in time for 2022. Just to say not all our ringers returned post COVID for various reasons which placed us on low ringer numbers for some time. However, I am pleased to say that we have since gained three enthusiastic new ringers.

There are a few updates to St Patrick's scheduled ringing - Service ringing now at 9.00am on Sundays (not the 2nd Sunday of the month) and Weekly Band Practice is on Thursday.

A few successful Target Sessions were organised during the second half of 2023 which were supported by Ruth Gilbert, Charles Radcliffe, Sue Thomas, Sue Smith and Gillian Powell and we remain extremely grateful for their ongoing support. These Sessions work well if homework is carried out by a ringer prior to a Session, more time is then spent with hands on ropes. The Sessions have been rewarding, relaxed, great fun and have helped to progress a number of our ringers which in turn has opened up more of a repertoire for the band to ring out. Further Sessions are being planned and I would encourage contact with Ruth Gilbert if there is something similar that may help in other towers.

It was great to have had the opportunity of joining the Codgers at a number of their Outings in 2023. In the second half of the year visits to other tower practices were arranged (to augment the learning from Target Sessions) where we were made to feel very welcome and more of the same will be scheduled in for the coming year. As well as weekly practice, Sunday service and Target Sessions, requests for Tolling services; Quarter Peal rung out to celebrate our new King's coronation; Half Muffled ringing prior to Remembrance Sunday Service and a Quarter Peal rung out for Remembrance Sunday. We have enjoyed ringing with visiting ringers throughout the year who have joined us for weekly practice, and we have welcomed visiting bands for QP and Peal.

Our 2023 December Open Tower morning (combined with Christmas Gift and Coffee morning in church) was well attended and ringing demonstrations attracted a number of visitors up into the ringing room and belfry with the usual 'have a go' at bellringing on offer. These events are great fun for all - the last 3 ringers to join our band were recruited from our Open Tower events and we continue working toward further recruitment.

Bridget Kelly

BARROW-IN-FURNESS

Membership has been fairly static with one new member Alison Bolt, and loss of Ken Parkinson who died in September.

2023 proved a good year for Quarter Peals with 5 scored and only one lost. Jason Pollock rang first quarter peal on 8 bells to start the new year, and Alison rang her first (and impromptu) quarter peal on practice night at the end of November.

On a less positive note, the tower continues to suffer severe ingress of damp, with flooded upper staircase in inclement weather and extensive spalling from walls in ringing room and belfry affecting the restored bells/frame. There has also been falling sandstone from windows, and a loose window creating health and safety issues close to the tower. Regrettably the quinquennial report this year did not identify the problems as a priority unlike the previous report, and there is little chance of improvement except for emergency repairs in the near future.

On a more positive note, we were very pleased to host the CDGCBR Western Branch AGM in March and welcome many guild ringers to the tower.

Other notable events included half muffled tolling for Holocaust Memorial Day, and open ringing and quarter peal for the coronation weekend and the Heritage Open Days.

A recruitment and public relations project was launched with successful bids for over £4000 to purchase a Wombel one bell simulator and Audio-Visual presentation equipment which aims to be available for public relations, educational and recruitment activities by CDGCBR, LACR and towers. This should complete in spring 2024, when there are plans afoot to recruit and run some Learn2Ring sessions.

Andy Pollock

BRAMPTON

My thanks go to Mike Hall for his part in running the ringing over the past years, and for the many quarters in which I have been invited into since the 90's. I take this opportunity to wish him best regards in his new location.

As cathedral ringers, with the encouragement of Ron East, we rang in support of the "Ring For The King" initiative at some of our local towers. Brampton being one of them, is very close to my home. The Church were very pleased to hear their bells ringing once again, after a break of over 3 years. They were also keen on my suggestion of attempting to train a local band. Since making that rash suggestion, we have been teaching on a regular basis; for which my thanks go to Ruth Gilbert, Sue Thomas and Barry Garrett for their involvement. Our students - Val, Jackie, Tricia, Sally, Whizzy and Eden are all well on their way to good bell handling. With assistance from cathedral ringers and the help of Steve Long, a local ringer returning, we have been ringing for the family service once a month and we hope to continue this in the future.

With the aid of Barry Garrett and David Steel, the pulleys were removed and taken to Nick Meadwell of Thackthwaite for refurbishing. The bells now go incredibly well. I'm looking forward to a local band once more ringing for services in St. Martin's tower.

John Proudfoot

BRIDEKIRK

We hold regular Monday evening practice sessions, thanks to ringers from Cocker mouth who swell our numbers and make the practice sessions viable. Sunday ringing is usually 2 or 3 of us depending on other commitments – but we

get a lot of positive comments from members of the congregation and local community, which really helps.

Last year we rang in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III and hosted the Cumbria Codgers ringing group at short notice when All Saint's Cockermouth was double booked.

We rang a quarter peal of bob doubles, becoming the first mostly 'local' band to ring a quarter since way before the year 2000 - rung in celebration of the engagement of one of the Cockermouth ringers.

The local churches youth group visited for an evening bell ringing experience - a good opportunity to raise the profile of ringing.

We need to recruit more people to keep bell ringing alive in the village. It's a few years since we had an open day - so we will try to organise one this year. There have been comments that the bells sound better and ring better now that they are in regular use - we need to keep that 'feel good' factor going.

Richard Green

COCKERMOUTH

We hold regular Wednesday night practices and ring for Sunday services most weeks of the year.

We rang for the Coronation of King Charles III in May and rang two quarter peals - bob doubles in memory of Pat & Gareth and St Simon's doubles to mark the ordination of two lady curates in our mission community. It was the first time anyone in the band had rung a quarter of St Simons!

We opened our tower for two and a half "Heritage" Open Days in September. A big thank you to the people who came from around the county to help us during those days. As in previous years we had quite a lot of visitors and got lots of positive comments and 2 new recruits. One is doing really well and just started ringing rounds un-aided while the other person has stopped for a while but is hoping to be back ringing soon.

A few of our ringers enlisted the help of Ruth Gilbert, Anne East and lots of experienced ringers from Carlisle and other towers to run a "taking up & down" training session. Everyone agreed that it was really beneficial - as well as enjoyable - thank you Ruth, Anne and team.

Our annual ringing outing in July was to Orton, Appleby, Great Salkeld & Greystoke. Some good ringing, good craic and a lovely meal in the Horse & Farrier rounded off a great day.

We had an enjoyable Christmas social evening starting with ringing at Crossthwaite, Keswick (thanks to Nick Newby) followed by a lovely meal at the Coledale Inn.

Our aim for the next year is to try to swell our numbers back to pre-Covid levels, such that we can use all of our 8 bells more regularly. We are trying to move away from dependence on bob doubles so are trying methods like St Simons, St Nicolas, St Clement's and we are working through Bistow / Bastow and Cloisters with the aim of ringing Stedman and treble bob methods in the future.

Richard Green

CATHEDRAL

There are 31 members of the tower, Recruitment has been put on hold for the moment while the progress of our most recent recruits is consolidated, and all have now rung on the twelve bells for Sunday services. There are three teaching sessions each week together with three evening and one whole day method practice each month. The Cathedral band is now working with other towers recruiting and teaching new bands at Brampton and (with Janet Shepherd) at Brough and supporting the ringing at Thursby, Wigton and occasionally at Aspatia. In 2023, Cathedral volunteers completed the restoration of the eight bells at Arlecdon and of the 'heaviest ring of four bells in the world' at Brough. 2024 will see the first stages of the restoration of the eight bells at Harraby. The Cathedral ringers have a ring of eight minibells hung in a garage at Powfoot and meet once each month to ring them. The bells have a portable frame and will be rung again this year at Dalemain to open the World Marmalade Competition. The tower organises three Saturday open days each year, one of which is a Heritage Open Day, and last year a number of midweek open days were also piloted to raise money for the Cathedral. The bells are rung for services every Sunday morning and also for many other events that this year included the installation of a new Dean and the coronation of King Charles III. The tower is allowed to organise two peals each year and to ring one quarter peal each month, conducted by Duncan Walker, for a Sunday Evensong service. The tower has never considered itself elitist, it welcomes all and is working hard to develop ringing in other towers.

Ron East

GREYSTOKE

It feels like we have made great improvements in Greystoke over the last year, with most members having learnt a new method and/or skill. We are still ringing alternate Sundays but since September 2023 this is now 2nd and 4th Sundays.

As always, we are very grateful for the continued regular support from Imogen Carrie, Jennifer Graham, Helen and Tony Ruberry and Mike Allison from Penrith and Lazonby towers, who help both on Thursdays and to make up our Sunday service band.

We have rung quarters of Bob Doubles, Reverse Canterbury and Southrepps this year, and have plans for Kennington, Bob Minor and Grandsire in 2024.

A band from Penrith rang a quarter at Greystoke for the King's Coronation in May, which included Ian Godfrey from the band.

We rang for Easter, Remembrance and Christmas and for 3 weddings. In addition we tolled the tenor following a new service at Greystoke on All Souls Day, 2 November.

We are happy to say that Lorna Hall has joined us this year, after a break from ringing, and we have two new recruits who are making good progress.

We even managed a Christmas meal!

Katherine Prince

KESWICK, CROSTHWAITE

2023 has been an active year with our ringers gaining more experience and confidence in well supported practices. We regularly welcome visiting ringers to our Sunday Service and practice nights who bring variety to our ringing. Sunday ringing continues to remain strong.

We have two up and coming potential ringers, the four-year-old came as a baby in a pram and his brother first came as a bump and now attends practices in his pram or play pen. The latter has become a permanent fixture in the ringing room. He is content whilst we are ringing but shouts if the bells are silent too long.

We rang for two weddings this year and the sixth of May saw us ringing for the Coronation of their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla.

Robin and Jenny Humphreys have now retired from active ringing.

Jenny took over from Bob Clark as Tower Captain and kept ringing alive through difficult times before passing the baton on to me.

This year we hosted the striking competition and entered a Crosthwaite team for the first time in living memory.

A legacy of £100.00 has been left to the Crosthwaite ringers by Evan Lawley who was a former Crosthwaite ringer. This will be put towards improving the lighting which has been inadequate for many years.

Our Church Clock has remained silent for a number of years although the Cumbria Clock Company undertook the job of fitting a winding mechanism and regulator in memory of Peter Champion who maintained the clock for many years. Despite several attempts to no avail, the Clock Co. have decided to make and fit a new escapement (fingers crossed).

Welcoming in the New Year, firing the bells at midnight and finishing the old year with mince pies and "fizz" launched us into 2024.

Nick Newby

KIRKBY STEPHEN

Our four local ringers - Jo, Anne, Wendy and Colin - keep the bells ringing as much as they can on Sunday mornings and are occasionally joined by visiting ringers. Extra ringing in 2023 included ringing for the Coronation of King Charles III and a handful of weddings, for which we are grateful to ringing friends from neighbouring towers, enabling us to ring all eight bells.

Colin Belsey

MORESBY

It's been a different year for Moresby, our tower captain had a nasty accident which led to being incapacitated for most of the year. One ringer fell off a haystack which necessitated an helicopter ride. Sadly, one of our well-loved ringers has had to bear a serious operation and one a family bereavement. However, we have a lot to be thankful for, John and Barbara Shallcross and Gordon Gray have helped with practice leading to few missed nights. We are immensely grateful to them and to our regular local ringers who visit us regularly on Tuesday evenings.

We capable of ringing on a Sunday for our church service, might only be three of us, but we thank God that we can call the faithful to worship and that others might hear us.

We have rung at two weddings, for the King's coronation, even inviting church members and visitors to come up to the tower to pull a rope for the king which proved popular! and on new year's eve, so our presence is being heard. We pray that our little band get back to full strength again this year and thank once again those who have helped us through this difficult time

Jim Barwise

PENRITH

Ringling at Penrith continues to be in a very healthy state. During 2023 we were able to ring all eight bells for all except one Sunday morning service thanks to our own ringers and frequent visitors.

Our Tuesday night practices are particularly well attended, again thanks to our many regular visitors, and ringling ranges from rounds up to Surprise Major. They are usually divided into 2 sessions starting with a short session dedicated to our learners followed by the main practice.

Some of our ringers also regularly visit other local towers to help out on both practice nights and with service ringling.

In May we were delighted to win both the Guild method and call change striking competition trophies. Special mention must be made of Paisley Cater who not only rang in our winning call change band but also in the winning Durham & Newcastle call change band at the Ringling World National Youth Contest. Hopefully we can enter a Cumbrian band into this competition sometime in the near future.

Several of our ringers have made pleasing progress during the year with a number of quarter peal and peal firsts both as ringers and conductors.

The main highlight was ringling for the Coronation of King Charles III, with general ringling before the service and a number of quarter peals at local towers followed by a peal of Stedman Triples at Penrith in the evening.

We had two tower outings during 2023: the delayed 2022 outing in March to Northumbria and the real 2023 outing in September to County Durham.

Helen Ruberry

SHAP

Shap St Michael's remained an active tower during 2023. The core band is only 3 regular and one occasional ringer, but we are assisted for services by ringers from Appleby, Orton and Penrith, and for Christmas Day from Greystoke and The Cathedral – for this we are very grateful.

Congratulations to Shap ringer Mrs Emma Gerrard King who was married in 2023. Mrs Ivy Tatters no longer rings now, after thirty plus years in the tower; the 5 is still 'Ivy's bell'.

Sadly we lost a ringer during 2023, Mr Harry Patrick, much loved for his humour and gentle ways.

And just recently Jan rang the passing and funeral bells for former Shap ringer Mr Bill Martindale aged 92.

They are greatly missed, and we thank them for their service.

The historical 'tie-in' with Appleby St Lawrence's continues with practices on alternate Monday nights – the pattern never varies despite bank holidays, lockdowns, snow, lambing, etc, so we know where to go each Monday – visiting ringers are welcome but should call to check which church is holding the practice! The 'tie-in' with Orton All Saints continues with ringers attending each other's practices, and now since the re-hanging of their bells with Brough St Michael's.

During 2023 Shap proudly rang for the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, and for the induction of our new Vicar Rev Stephen Tudway. The bells continue to mark key events in the life of the nation, and also the personal milestones in the lives of those within the village.

The Shap ringing room continues to dry out now that we have a radiator installed, and further refurbishment remains a distant hope.

Shap now has an ART 1 and 2C teacher, so we are looking for more recruits in 2024.

Janet Shepherd

ST BEES

2023 has been a year of consolidation, rather than significant progress, but we usually have spare ringers on Sundays. On practice night Plain Bob Triples is a regular feature and Stedman and Grandsire, absent for over 30 years have made a re-appearance.

At New Year it was the usual open house in the belfry for ringing by candlelight in formal dress. Muffled ringing, hot punch, reading of Tennyson's *Ring out wild bells!* 12 strikes of the tenor at midnight and open ringing afterwards all featured as usual. This time we had 32 visitors in the tower despite the relatively dry weather. This year we inaugurated illumination of the Royal Arms.

Our well-supported annual dinner was once again held in the Queens Hotel in early December with the formal dress code; which makes it look rather grand. The Queen's dining room was at capacity and port was again kindly donated by the landlord.

We are very grateful for Soo and Gordon Gray, and Andrew Moncrief, for joining us for practice, and Hilary Chadwick for supporting us both for practice and Sunday ringing.

John A Haile 1934 - 2023

Sadly John, a lifetime ringer at St Bees Priory, died on 22nd November 2023. He was the last link with the ringers who got change ringing going again in west Cumberland after WWII. That era saw the old Cumberland Association reborn as the Cumberland and North Westmorland Association in 1947, which incorporated towers in Westmorland.

John started ringing soon after WWII ended, when he had to leave the choir as his voice had broken. It was suggested he take up ringing. There was a local upsurge in change ringing, and the Haile family boasted three new change ringers, John and his sister Muriel, and brother Neville. John and Neville rang two hand bells peals at the family home 1 Main Street in 1951, of doubles in 5 methods then in 8 methods, conducted by Stanley Richardson. John rang 13 tower bell peals, starting in 1950. Seven of these were at St Bees; previously only 2 peals had been rung here in 92 years. The Haile family was strongly involved in the rehanging and re-tuning of the Priory bells in 1953.

John was born in the village and his family have lived in the St Bees area since before the Reformation. His other main interest was in the Boy Scout movement, serving for many years as a scout leader, but he had also served as a church warden, and a Chairman of the parish council. He met his wife Eleanor, who rang at Cleator Moor, in the belfry.

The Priory bells were rung for the funeral un-muffled by request, and during the extended ringing his grandson Alexander was able to ring before his duties as a pall bearer.

Doug Sim

THURSBY

We have had an excellent year with regular well attended weekly practices. We are fortunate that Les and Liz, having moved north from London to Carlisle, joined our band. Julie, also from Carlisle, has also joined us. Our practices are supported by members of Carlisle Cathedral band which is really helpful and enables us to extend our ringing. Barry has run half hour raising and lowering practices which have been really appreciated. We have been able to ring regularly on Sundays for the morning service. We rang, half muffled, when Queen Elizabeth died and then again open bells to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. We have also rung for two weddings. The bells have been used on occasion by visiting ringers. The bell clappers, which were showing an increasing amount of play, were all rebushed and renovated. We are very grateful for the work that Ron East did, not just physically in the belfry, but also in arranging for the clappers to be transported to and from Taylor's in Loughborough. Finally, we are grateful for the financial assistance that we received from the Guild Bell Restoration Fund.

Robin Swindells

WIGTON

We have managed to ring six for all the main church services with the invaluable help of Susan Sewell. The bells were also put to good use during practice nights with the help of mainly Cathedral ringers.

Over the year there were 20 quarters and two peals rung by various bands.

With the rest of the Guild we were shocked by the death of Pat and Gareth Evans in a car crash in February. A quarter of Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung in their memory as well as a Peal of 5054 Minor on the eve of their funeral. On Mothering

Sunday a further quarter was rung by our local band also in thanksgiving for their lives.

Jean Barnes from Lancashire was remembered in a quarter and a peal in April.

On 7th May there was a quarter rung for the Coronation and on 3rd September a quarter was rung to welcome Richard Corrie as Curate in Charge at St Mary's.

Two other notable quarters were one on 21st May in thanksgiving for the life of James Hutton Wannop (father of Alison and grandfather of Kate) and on 1st October as a 100th Birthday compliment to the father of Sue Thomas (who rang the 2nd to St Simon's Doubles).

Mary Snape

WORKINGTON

2023 was a particularly difficult year for Saint Michael's ringers and the Diocesan Guild following the tragic accident that took Pat and Gareth from us. Like everyone who knew them, we were devastated emotionally and physically and wondered where we would get the strength from to carry on.

We need not have worried for help was given without reservation by many people in the wider guild and members of the western branch. Thanks are due to Christine de Cordova, who came along to our practice nights and contributed greatly to the evenings by giving us the benefit of her skills and knowledge.

Many other people have made regular appearances to add to the skills level including Andrew, John and Barbara that has helped us to move forward with some success and we are most grateful for their support.

Throughout the year we have continued to meet our obligations by ringing for all services and especially the main ones in the church calendar. We even managed to ring the Old Year Out and the New Year In - that was always a favourite ringing opportunity of Pat and Gareth.

Saint Michael's entered a team into the Guild Striking Competition at Crosthwaite - a daunting challenge but one that we felt we must do to support the guild and in memory of, and tribute to, our dear departed friends. We were quietly delighted at our efforts and result.

A major achievement has been the successful acquisition of two new ringers, Mike and Jacob Knights, a father and son team who approached me to ask if they could learn how to ring bells. This opportunity was seized upon and under the supervision of Jeanne Clements and Margaret Miller, with help from Christine, they have become very keen and loyal members of the band.

Mike and Jacob were accepted as guild members at the January meeting held in St Michael's and were presented with their ART Level 1 Bell Handling Certificate by the Very Reverend Dr Francis Ward at a very enjoyable evening meal in the Rectory, followed by hand bell ringing "My Grandfathers Clock" that went surprisingly well after a couple of dry runs.

There has been so many 'first times' since the passing of Pat and Gareth to contend with over the year but the band has stuck firmly together and has come through a very difficult and emotional time with flying colours.

The band has been a huge help to me in my first year as a fledgling tower captain for which I am sincerely grateful.

Looking forward to another year and more success with ringing and particularly recruitment. Once again, many thanks to everyone who has helped us in various ways.

Eric Martin

QUARTER PEAL REPORT

("Health warning": Once again, this analysis is based on information gleaned from Bellboard. I make no claim to the accuracy of the results, so please don't shoot the messenger! **And please do post your quarters, including footnotes, on Bellboard, otherwise they won't be included**).

The following analysis covers tower quarters. In addition, six handbell quarters were recorded, and I have also included the four peals recorded in 2023, one of those being on handbells.

Our quarter peal numbers have increased again this year from the 41 tower quarters (and 1 handbell quarter) of 2022 to 66 tower quarters (and 6 handbell quarters). This is a pleasing improvement on 2022, although that was historically low due primarily to the after-effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Because of the Coronation of King Charles III, and more sadly the terrible loss of Gareth and Pat Evans, many other performances - from call changes and general ringing to plain courses of methods on 9 and 10 bells - were recorded during the year. I estimate that around 70 guild members were involved, which is a significant proportion of all Carlisle Guild members.

Conducting was shared between 15 ringers, a good result, and one quarter was conducted jointly by three of the participants. Duncan Walker led the field with 23 quarters, significantly ahead of the next conductor Richard Last with 8. Next up was Andrew Warboys with 7, closely followed by Mike Hall and Ruth Gilbert with 5 each. Imogen Carrie was a star, conducting 4 quarters from a standing start. She was followed by two apiece from the quartet of Richard Green, Andrew Holland, David Horne and Norman Brock. Finally, Julia Cater, Nick Harrop, Kevin Price, John Proudfoot and Michael Matthews called one quarter each.

It should be noted that James Perrins conducted no less than 5 of the 6 recorded handbell quarters, the remaining one was conducted by Julia Cater, who also conducted 3 of the 4 recorded peals. The fourth peal was conducted by Andrew Holland.

Well done to everyone involved and a special thanks to the long-suffering conductors!

I have not tried to comment on footnotes to the individual quarters or peals again this year, but I have included the footnotes as far as practicable in the table to read yourself.

David Horne

Date	Place	Time	Changes	Method	Conductor	Footnotes
12 th Jan	Moresby	39 mins	1260	Plan bob triples	Richard Last	1 st Q – Margaret Miller
15 th Jan	Wigton	44 mins	1320	Carlele S minor	Duncan Walker	First in method – Ruth Gilbert, Anne East, Simon Durant
15 th Jan	Carlele	45 mins	1320	Cambridge S & Kent TB minor	Duncan Walker	First treble bob – Hilary Ward
29 th Jan	Wigton	45 mins	1260	Plan bob triples	Andrew Wamboys	
29 th Jan	Whitehaven	40 mins	1260	Doubles (6 methods)	Richard Last?	Farwell to Rev. Robert Jackson on his last Sunday as Priest in Charge of the Parish of Whitehaven
1 st Feb	Penrith	31 mins	1320	Norwich & Pirbright S minor	James Pennis	Handbell quarter 30 Brunswick Sq.
5 th Feb	Greystoke	48 mins	1260	Rev Canterbury & PB doubles	Michael Hall	In thanksgiving for the life of David M Jones who was Ringing Master for many years at Greystoke
12 th Feb	Wigton	44 mins	1280	Cambridge S major	Duncan Walker	Remembering David M Jones, who died recently.
12 th Feb	Carlele	45 mins	1280	Bristol S major	Duncan Walker	
18 th Feb	Wigton	45 mins	1280	Yorkshire S major	Duncan Walker	2023
22 nd Feb	Cockermouth	44 mins	1260	Plan bob doubles	Richard Green	In memory of and celebrating the life of Pat & Gareth Evans. 1st quarter by local band since before Covid
24 th Feb	Whitehaven	44 mins	1260	Doubles (5 methods)	Richard Last	With thanks for the life of Pat and Gareth Evans
27 th Feb	Wigton	2h 40m	5040	4x PB minor, 3x Cambridge S minor	Julia Cater	Rung on behalf of the Guild, with grateful thanks and fond memories, on the eve of the funeral of Pat and Gareth Evans, tragically killed in a car accident on 13 February 2023.
3 rd March	Whitehaven	45 mins	1260	Grand sire doubles	Richard Last	Rung in memory of Jean Barnes, a ringier at Blackburn
12 th March	Wigton	44 mins	1280	Yorkshire S major	Duncan Walker	First of Yorkshire, Lynne Sydes
12 th March	Greystoke	50 mins	1260	Rev Canterbury & PB doubles	Michael Hall	In celebration of the Conductor's 66th Birthday
12 th March	Carlele	47 mins	1260	Plan bob royal	Duncan Walker	First in method – Ruth Gilbert
14 th March	Hensingham	?	1260	Plan bob doubles	Richard Last	In memory of and in thanks for the many good works of Gareth and Pat Evans
19 th March	Wigton	42 mins	1260	Plan bob doubles	Joint	Cond. Susan Sewell, Alison Robinson, Martin Snape. In thanksgiving for the lives of Pat and Gareth Evans.
19 th March	Penrith	45 mins	1274	Plan bob triples	Duncan Walker	On the 300th anniversary of the rebuilding of the church and for Mother's Day.
25 th March	Wigton	43 mins	1260	Grand sire triples	Andrew Holland	In memoriam Peter C Harboys (1931-2021), father of Andrew whose friends formed this band.
2 nd April	Wigton	39 mins	1260	Grand sire doubles	Andrew Wamboys	Remembering Jean Barnes, who was a good friend and a great companion
9 th April	Wigton	42 mins	1264	Plan bob major	Duncan Walker	1 st of major – Barry Garrett. For Easter Sunday evensong
9 th April	Carlele	52 mins	1282	Yorkshire S royal	Duncan Walker	1 st S royal Simon Durant, 1 st S royal inside Ruth Gilbert
10 th April	Wigton	3h 2m	5040	Grand sire triples	Andrew Holland	Rung with fond memories of Jean Barnes, her favourite method & composition. And we didn't turn up late!
23 rd April	Wigton	43 mins	1260	Grand sire doubles	David Home	On St George's Day, remembering Jeremy Mermington and Joe Graham who died this week.
23 rd April	Penrith	42 mins	1282	Yorkshire S royal	Julia Cater	Handbell quarter 30 Brunswick Sq.
27 th April	Penrith	2h 45m	5040	Yorkshire S royal	Julia Cater	1st on 10 in hand – Simon Percy. First as C in hand – Julia Cater. First royal in hand for the guild.
30 th April	Greystoke	45 mins	1260	Rev Canterbury & PB doubles	Michael Hall	In memory of David M Jones who was ringing master at Greystoke for many years
6 th May	Penrith	32 mins	1320	Cambridge S & Norwich s minor	James Pennis	Handbell quarter 30 Brunswick Sq.
6 th May	Bampton	45 mins	1260	Grand sire doubles	Nicholas Harrop	To celebrate our new King on his coronation day and pray for the success of his reign
6 th May	Greystoke	44 mins	1260	Plan bob doubles	Duncan Walker	1 st Q at 1 st Attempt – Rachel Jack. Rung for the Coronation of King Charles III.
6 th May	Penrith	3h 5m	5040	Steedman triples	Julia Cater	Rung in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III. First peal – Belinda Loyd. First of Steedman as C.
7 th May	Wigton	45 mins	1260	Plan bob triples	Norman Brock	Rung before Evensong for the Coronation of King Charles III
7 th May	Penrith	32 mins	1260	Grand sire Steedman, PB doubles	James Pennis	Handbell quarter 30 Brunswick Sq. Celebrating 50 yrs of ringing – Esther Pennis. Pealed by a cheeky wine.
8 th May	Whitehaven	43 mins	1260	Ken TB, Plan & Little bob minor	Richard Last	For the coronation of King Charles III
8 th May	Orton	44 mins	1260	Plan bob doubles	Duncan Walker	Rung for the Coronation of King Charles III. First quarter on Treble – Rachel Jack
8 th May	Shap	44 mins	1260	Cambridge S major	Duncan Walker	Rung for the Coronation of King Charles III. First quarter for over 40 years – Charles Radcliffe.
10 th May	Stutton, Suffolk	?	1260	Plan bob minor	Kevin Price	Rung in memory of Betty Jeanette Webb and Hilary Jane Bell, previously of this parish, mother and sister of Sally Stankey
17 th May	Carlele	43 mins	1260	Plan bob doubles	Ruth Gilbert	First quarter – Sue Thomas
21 st May	Wigton	42 mins	1260	Plan bob triples	John Proudfoot	In loving memory of James Hutton Wannop who died aged 102 on 6th May 2023, father of Alison and grandfather of Kate
21 st May	Greystoke	45 mins	1260	Rev Canterbury doubles	Michael Hall	Graham, Ian, Goulfer,

Date	Place	Time	Changes	Method	Conductor	Footnotes
2 nd June	Whitehaven	?	1260	Plain bob minor	Richard Last	With thanks for the life of Mary Wilson, 29 July 1929 to 18 May 2023
18 th June	Wigton	44 mins	1320	Carleile S minor	Duncan Walker	First in method: John Proudfoot, David Home, Norman Brock.
18 th June	Carlisle	47 mins	1260	Plain bob doubles (766 cover)	Andrew Warboys	Ring on Father's Day, in celebration of the birth of Hamish Roderick Francis MacLachlan, firstborn to Alex and Lizze.
21 st June	Carlisle	42 mins	1260	Plain bob doubles	David Home	First q on treble: Veronica Taylor
21 st June	Carlisle	44 mins	1260	Plain bob doubles	Ruth Gilbert	First Q: Sarah Steel, birthday compliment to Emily Steel, daughter of Sarah.
2 nd July	Shap	44 mins	1260	Plain bob doubles	Ingen Carie	First as conductor. In memory of Joe Graham, husband of Jennifer Graham, and grandad of conductor.
2 nd July	Penrith	46 mins	1260	Plain bob doubles	Ingen Carie	In memory of Joe Graham, grandad of conductor. First & second as conductor today!
2 nd July	Cockermouth	46 mins	1260	St Simons bob doubles	Richard Green	July, and Rev Barbara Robinson, ordained Priest on 2 nd July.
19 th July	Wigton	48 mins	1260	Plain bob doubles	Ruth Gilbert	First quarter – Sally Nicholson
26 th July	Greystoke	44 mins	1260	Plain bob doubles	Ingen Carie	1 st quarter on treble and birthday compliment to Hannah Sudek.
5 th August	Bradkirk	49 mins	1260	Plain bob doubles	Michael Matthews	Beleated engagement compliment to Edwin Matthews & Naomi Hudson. First at home tower Richard & Dana Green. 0 th year
6 th August	Penrith	44 mins	1260	Plain bob doubles	Duncan Walker	
19 th August	Wigton	48 mins	1344	Cornwall S major	Norman Brock	
3 rd Sept	Wigton	42 mins	1320	Cambridge S minor	Andrew Warboys	First touch of Cornwall – Anne East
7 th Sept	Penrith	32 mins	1320	Cambridge S & Norwich s minor	James Perms	First S on inside bell – Judith Home. To welcome The Reverend Richard Corrie as Curate in Charge.
7 th Sept	Penrith	32 mins	1320	Annables s London & Norwich s minor	James Perms	Handbell quarter 30 Brunswick Sq.
17 th Sept	Wigton	42 mins	1280	Annables s London & Norwich s minor	James Perms	Handbell quarter 30 Brunswick Sq.
17 th Sept	Carlisle	43 mins	1264	Yorkshire S major	Duncan Walker	First of Yorkshire – Inogen Carie
20 th Sept	Carlisle	43 mins	1260	Plain bob major	Duncan Walker	For Battle of Britain service
20 th Sept	Carlisle	43 mins	1260	Plain bob minor	Andrew Warboys	First treble to minor – Christine Bennan. Remembering Douglas Fraser who died 19 th September 2023.
20 th Sept	Carlisle	43 mins	1260	Plain bob minor	Andrew Warboys	First treble to minor – Sue Thomas. First in home tower – Lynne Sydes.
1 st Oct	Wigton	43 mins	1260	St Simons bob doubles	Ruth Gilbert	100 th birthday compliment to Reginald Peacock, father of 2 nd ringer Sue Thomas, who listened with his wife and other family
14 th Oct	Meresby	40 mins	1260	Grandstre triples	Andrew Holland	Richard C Last.
15 th Oct	Wigton	?	1260	Grandstre triples	Duncan Walker	1 st cover on 8 - Chris Lamb, 1 st Grandstre Triples inside - Lynne Sydes.
15 th Oct	Carlisle	?	1274	Plain bob triples	Duncan Walker	First cover on 8 - Rachel Jack.
21 st Oct	Church Brough	46 mins	1260	St Remigius place singles	Andrew Warboys	First quarter peal on the bells since restoration. Bells 2,3,&4 rung by the volunteers who worked on the restoration.
12 th Nov	Hensingham	48 mins	1332	Plain bob minor	Richard Last	Ring half-muffled for Remembrance Sunday.
12 th Nov	Barnston	39 mins	1260	Plain bob triples	Julia Cater	First inside – Bidget Kelly, Ring for Remembrance Sunday.
15 th Nov	Carlisle	44 mins	1340	Plain bob doubles	Ruth Gilbert	First Q on treble: Sarah Steel, Ring to celebrate the birth of Florence Robson, 2 nd granddaughter of 1 & sister to Peggy.
16 th Nov	Penrith	46 mins	1274	Plain bob triples	Duncan Walker	First on 8 away from cover – Chris Lamb. For the annual Ringing to Rememba service in church.
26 th Nov	Carlisle	47 mins	1280	Yorkshire S major	Duncan Walker	Celebrating the 16th birthday of Isaac Bleything, grandson of Anne East and nephew of conductor.
3 rd Dec	Penrith	46 mins	1260	Plain bob doubles	Ingen Carie	10th anniversary of first quarter peal – conductor.
10 th Dec	Wigton	45 mins	1274	Plain bob triples	Duncan Walker	First treble on 8 – Rachel Jack.
10 th Dec	Greystoke	44 mins	1260	Southpeeps doubles	Michael Hall	To celebrate the licensing of Michael Hall as Reader of St Michael's Church, Sleiton. First in variation for all except C.
10 th Dec	Carlisle	46 mins	1264	Plain bob major	Duncan Walker	1 st Major and 1 st on 8 inside – Hlay Ward. Ring in memory of Alan Sheard, a former ringier at Penrith who died recently.

PEALS 2023

Wigton St Mary

Monday, 27 February 2023 in 2h 40

(8–0–0 in A)

5040 Minor (2m)

7 extents; 4 x Plain Bob Minor, 3 x Cambridge

1 Michael Hall

2 Christine B J de Cordova

3 Nicholas C Tithecott

4 David A Horne

5 Andrew J Holland

6 Julia R Cater (C)

Rung on behalf of the Guild, with grateful thanks and fond memories, on the eve of the funeral of Pat and Gareth Evans, tragically killed in a car accident on 13 February 2023. Whilst we unintentionally met short for a peal of major, it proved poignant that we had two empty ropes for a Guild peal – an activity that would have ordinarily included Pat and Gareth.
£6.00

Wigton St Mary

Monday, 10 April 2023 in 3h 2

(8–0–0 in A)

5040 Grandsire Triples

1 John B Shallcross

2 Wendy Belsey

3 Barbara M Shallcross

4 Jane Holland

5 Colin Belsey

6 Howard EJ Smith

7 Andrew J Holland (C)

8 David A Horne

Rung with fond memories of Jean Barnes, her favourite method & composition. And we didn't turn up late!
£8.00

Penrith 30 Brunswick Square
Thursday, 27 April 2023 in 2h 45
(12 in F)

5040 Yorkshire Surprise Royal

Composed by Anon

1–2 Julia R Cater (C)

3–4 Tina R Stoecklin

5–6 James W Perrins

7–8 Nicholas C Tithecott

9–10 Simon A Percy

First on 10 in hand: 9-10.

First as conductor in hand.

First royal in hand for the Guild.

£5.00

Penrith St Andrew

Saturday, 6 May 2023 in 3h 5

(18–3–6 in E)

5040 Stedman Triples

1 Stephen J Hall

2 Simon A Percy

3 James W Perrins

4 Matthew D Hetherington

5 Ceri J Bicknell

6 Esther M Perrins

7 Julia R Cater (C)

8 Belinda L Lloyd

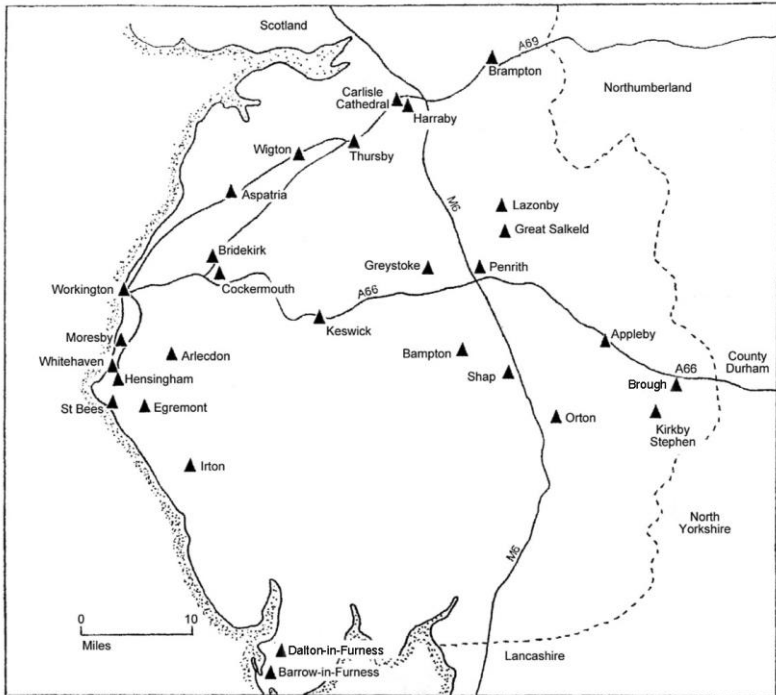
Rung in celebration of the coronation of King Charles III.

First peal: 8

First of stedman as conductor.

£8.00

LOCATION OF RINGING TOWERS AFFILIATED TO THE CARLISLE DIOCESAN GUILD



POSTCODES OF RINGING TOWERS

Appleby	CA16 6QW	Hensingham	CA28 8QW
Arlecdon	CA14 4RY	Irton	CA19 1YH
Aspatria	CA7 3AL	Keswick	CA12 5QG
Bamptom	CA10 2QR	Kirkby Stephen	CA17 4QX
Barrow-in-Furness	LA14 5UE	Lazonby	CA10 1BW
Brampton	CA8 1NU	Moresby	CA28 6PJ
Bridekirk	CA13 0PE	Orton	CA10 3RH
Brough	CA17 4EJ	Penrith	CA11 7YA
Cathedral	CA3 8TZ	St Bees	CA27 0DR
Cockermouth	CA13 9PJ	Shap	CA10 3LA
Dalton-in-Furness	LA15 8LH	Thursby	CA5 6PF
Egremont	CA22 2AY	Whitehaven	CA28 7PY
Great Salkeld	CA11 9NA	Wigton	CA7 9AU
Greystoke	CA11 0TL	Workington	CA14 2EZ
Harraby	CA1 3QA		

