

Latest 'News from the Guild' – May 2026

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 9th May: Guild Striking Competition at Hensingham
- 15th May – 11th June: Bellringing Exhibition at the Cathedral
- 23rd May: General Ringing Meeting at All Saints', Cockermouth – 10.30am start
- Saturday 4th July: Ringing World National Youth Contest – Cumbrian Herdwicks to attend.
- NEW: Saturday 3rd October: Autumn Ringing Meeting in the East
- CHANGE OF DATE: Saturday 23rd January 2027: Guild Ringing Meeting, Service and Tea at Workington (note this has moved to a later date from that previously used)
- Saturday 6th March 2027: Western Branch AGM at Whitehaven
- Tuesday 9th March 2027: Eastern Branch AGM at Penrith

Guild Striking Competition at Hensingham – 9th May

The striking competition will be held in the afternoon at St John Evangelist, Hensingham. The judge is Stephen Hall. There are the usual two competitions – the Call Change Band and the Method Band competition. All bands are expected to ring something of a similar complexity to what they would normally ring together. It is expected that the Call Change band contains at least one ringer that has not rung a quarter peal (on any working bell, including the treble).

The competition is just for fun – it's the taking part that matters! Unless you win – then it's the winning that matters! There are trophies to be won and certificates for ALL bands – so you won't go away empty-handed.

The anticipated schedule is as follows:

14.00 Bells available for practice

14.45 Draw for ringing order

15.00 Competition Begins

Bring and share tea to follow.

The striking competition rules can be found here:

<https://cumbriabellringing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/P09-Striking-Competition-Rules-from-2024-v1.pdf>

Entry forms can be downloaded here:

<https://cumbriabellringing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Entry-Form-for-Striking-Competition-2025.docx.pdf>

AGM at St Bees

A splendid afternoon was had by everyone that attended the AGM at St Bees. The ringing was fun and varied. Everyone was happy. The Rev'd Canon Richard Lee gave us a wonderful service and an excellent address. The bellringers tea was delicious and the meeting was uncontentious (and quick).

Doug Sim and his band gave us a huge St Bees welcome. And the sun shone – a perfect Saturday afternoon!

2025 Young Ringer Award

The 2025 Young Ringer Award was won this year by Paisley Cater. The award was presented to Paisley at the Eastern Branch AGM by Immy Carrie, as Paisley was unable to attend the Guild AGM due to work commitments. However, our President, the Venerable Stewart Fyfe, Archdeacon of West Cumberland did announce Paisley's success at the Guild AGM. He outlined what qualified her to be the winner and you can read all about it here:

<https://cumbriabellringing.org.uk/young-ringer-of-the-year-paisley-cater/>

Bellringing Exhibition at The Cathedral

The bellringing exhibition will run from 15 May to 11 June. Whether you want to visit it or help out with it – you can find out more information here:

<https://cumbriabellringing.org.uk/bellringing-exhibition-at-the-cathedral/>

General Ringing Meeting

The Western Branch is organising a General Ringing Meeting on Saturday 23rd May – starting at 10.30am. It is open to all ringers from 'rounds and above'. You will be very welcome – so do come along.

50:50 Club Draw Results

Prizes for February, March and April 2026 plus Bonus – drawn at Guild AGM

February

£25 Rosamund Shirreff

£15 Duncan Walker

£12 Keith Amey

March

£25 Alan Ellison

£15 Andy Pollock

£12 Margaret Nichol

April

£25 David Batten

£15 Judith Horne

£12 Gordon Gray

Bonus Prize for end of year

£18 Hilary Ward

The wonderful support from you all keeps the Bell Restoration Fund topped up ready to support bell installations and restorations around the Guild. We are always happy to have NEW MEMBERS of the 50/50 Club so why not give it a go? The club is organised by Anne East, who can be contacted at aeast65sr@btinternet.com, if you would like to take out a subscription.

News from CCCBR:

2026 Westley Award for Belfry Maintenance and Improvement

Towers and bells in good condition will make the environment for ringing more pleasant, easier for ringers to develop their skills and, in particular help new recruits.

Are you relatively new to finding your way around bell installations? Perhaps you are gaining experience in what to check upstairs in a tower, what may be unusual and interesting, or in poor condition and likely to cause ringers difficulties while ringing? Hopefully, you are starting to make some improvements and share your experiences with others.

The Ringing 2030 Environments Workgroup of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is launching the 2026 award for people who have recently become involved in belfry maintenance and improvement, developing their own skills and helping others to do so. The award will be presented at the CCCBR AGM in Rugby in September 2026. The winner will receive £100, kindly donated by Westley Group, and a certificate. Full details and an application form will be on the CCCBR website here:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/about/workgroups/ringing-2030-environments/westley-award-2026>

The closing date for applications will be 12 noon on Friday 31st May 2026.

Congratulations to...

Cathedral

1280 Superlative Surprise Major

1st Superlative and 50th Quarter - Janet Yasities

For Choral Evensong with the Installation of Canons

1320 Primrose Doubles

Rung with simulated sound

First in this variation for all the band

1320 Primrose Doubles

Rung with simulated sound

First in this variation: Janet Yasities, Ron East, Ruth M Gilbert

St Mary, Wigton

1280 Superlative Surprise Minor

1st Superlative - Lynne Sydes

For Evensong

All Saints, Orton

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

First on Treble - Eliza Steadman

St James, Whitehaven

1260 Plain Bob Minor

First inside and first of minor - Boniface Dobell

For Easter

St Patrick, Bampton

Plain Hunt and Call Changes

For St Patrick's Day

St Andrew, Greystoke

1260 Mixed Doubles (3m) 240 St Simon's; 480 Grandsire; 540 Plain Bob

1st quarter of three methods - Katherine Prince, Alison Foster, Ian J Godfrey

1st quarter of St Simon's and of Grandsire - Katherine Prince, Alison Foster

A birthday compliment to the Conductor!

St Mary, Dalton in Furness

120 London Surprise Minor

First blows in method – Jacqueline Preston, Jason W Pollock

For LACR 150 'firsts' in the 150th anniversary year

St Mary, Ambleside

1260 Grandsire Triples

Rung in memory of Peter H Gardner, long time tower captain at this church and stalwart of ringing in Cumbria. The band would like to associate this quarter with Kevin Mayfield and Jill Sherry who were unable to ring at the last minute. With thanks to Nigel and Carolina Goodship for stepping in to ring

St Paul, Birmingham

1259 Grandsire Caters

Janet Yasities – Rung at the 'Learning the Ropes' Masterclass – Birmingham 2026

Website name change:

The Guild website is now www.cumbriabellringing.org.uk and mirrors our Facebook Group name of Cumbria Bellringing – if you have any issues accessing either of these – please let us know at guildcomms@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/479827378371419>

It would be great if you have something to post - or want to comment on posts.

It will be a means of the Guild contacting members and members being able to contact other members and the Guild – such as requests for ringers for a wedding or last-minute requests for Sunday service ringers... getting help for an Open Day; relating about a special occasion. That kind of thing.

This 'News from the Guild' can be viewed on the Guild website at

<https://cumbriabellringing.org.uk/the-guild/documents/>

We would love to hear the news from your tower – so get in touch at guildcomms@gmail.com