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Newsletter - May 2024

The Reverend Giles Galley



It with much sadness that we report the death of the Reverend Giles Galley last month at the age of 91 years. Giles was a long-standing Guild member who rang 7 peals for the Guild (his personal total was over 600) of which one was as a member of the band that rang in the 1987 Guild peal of Stedman Cinques in Bedford, with his last peal for the Guild being in 2003 in Hedon, East Yorkshire. Giles was born in 1932, and ordained Deacon in 1958 and priested in 1959. His ordained ministry included being an Assistant Curate of King's Lynn (1962-66); Leeds (1966-69); Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Hull (1970-79); and Strensall, North Yorkshire (1979-2000). He was also Rural Dean of Easingwold (1982-97). At Strensall Giles had a key role in the 1980s installation of the light 6 bell peal. The Guild rang there on tour in both 1995 and 2003.

Giles funeral will be held at St Mary's Church, Strensall, North Yorkshire, on Thursday 9th May at 3.15pm. It is anticipated that Guild members will be present. We thank him for his most able service and contribution made to the Clerical Guild. May he now rest in peace and rise in glory.

See also for Giles: https://bnd-online.co.uk/in_memoriam.php

The 2024 Guild of Clerical Ringers Low Week Tour: 8th to 12th April



The Guild of Clerical Ringers enjoyed a successful week of ringing on its 85th Anniversary Low Week Tour in Mid-Devon. We were joined at various times during the week by ringing friends and overall, we were very pleased with the standard of ringing. We even managed successfully at Thorveton three leads of London Surprise Royal No. 3 before breaking into Little Bob. Less auspicious was the fact that we managed to ring a course of Westminster Surprise Minor at Uplowman, thinking that the second was the treble! The less said probably the better.

Our ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to surprise, and everybody considered they had had plenty of opportunities to try something new. We enjoyed the services of an excellent coach driver from a local coach firm who dropped us at the door of virtually every church (26 in all) where we rang having negotiated first some tricky Devon high-hedged lanes with floods and tractors met all too frequently. While most towers were sixes, we enjoyed a few eights and started the week with the impressive ten at Cullompton. Our accommodation in Bickleigh, near Tiverton, was situated adjacent to the River Exe and provided a delightful setting for the days we were there. Lunchtime pubs provided good beer and food and on most

days we concluded in our final tower of the day with an act of worship. A highlight was ringing on a very rural medieval peal of three bells at Loxbeare (rarely rung) where we were photographed by villagers and provided with welcome refreshment.

One of our more recent members joined us for the first time and has commented: *"The concept of spending a week with circa sixteen serving and retired clergy, plus partners and friends, in a small coach, negotiating the sunken lanes of mid Devon, might normally fill one with a sense of horror and foreboding. Not so when the party comprises the exuberant members of the Clerical Guild of Ringers. An enjoyable time was to be had ringing at twenty-six eclectic towers with rings of ten, eight, six and three. For me personally, the opportunity to gain confidence in ringing on higher numbers of bells and to extend my repertoire of surprise minor methods, with repeated opportunities for practice, made for a very satisfying week. Ringing 60 on 3rds Devon style and ringing the 7cwt 15th century tenor of the rarely rung ring of three at Loxbeare, were additional highlights."*



Dates for the diary – in date order: 2024/2025



Ringling Day - Isle of Purbeck

James Mercer (Swanage) has very kindly offered to arrange a day's ringing for the Guild on the Isle of Purbeck (Dorset) on **Thursday 18th July**. Towers would include provisionally the tens at Kingston and Wareham, the eight at Swanage and two sixes: Worth Matravers and Corfe Castle. A decent pub lunch and plenty of wonderful scenery for non-ringing friends to experience joining us. Travel would be by car and sharing etc. Please let Tim or me know (see end of this newsletter for contact details) by Monday 10th June if you are definite for this excursion.. so arrangements can be made. The ringing would be general for all levels of experience. It would be good to achieve 15 to 20 Guild and members and friends to join the day...at least.

Autumn Guild Tour - Birmingham

Past Guild President Tony Ellis is looking to arrange a Birmingham/West Midlands Autumn Guild Tour from **Monday 30th September to Wednesday Morning 2nd October**. Over the two days Tony is looking to ring in some 12/13 towers (mainly 8s and a few 10s) and on the Tuesday to hire transport to get us around. Accommodation is being considered at a Holiday Inn just off the M5. We do hope that this will attract Guild members living in or near the area – but also for members living further north or east the travel distances are probably on the whole less than getting to the South West.... Again, with members and friends it would be good to attract 15 to 20 or so of us. And as above, the ringing would be general to suit all levels of experience....and the fellowship and all else highly enjoyable, as usual.

Please let Tony know by Monday 1st July if you are definite for this autumn tour – in whole or part:-

The Reverend Canon Anthony (Tony) Ellis

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Low Week Tour 2025

Planning for the 86th Guild of Clerical Ringers Low Week Anniversary Tour is now fast getting underway. Please enter the dates into your 2025 diaries: **Monday 28th April to Friday 2nd May**. The preliminary intention is to ring in towers over the week in the Lichfield, Ashby de la Zouch and Burton On Trent area, ie South Staffordshire and North West Leicestershire. A quarter peal or two apart from general ringing might also be managed. Premier Inn accommodation is being explored and coach travel, as usual, for the Tuesday to Thursday of the week will be arranged. Again, it is hoped that given a relatively central location nationally, this might attract a wider range of members generally from across the UK.

Further details will be published about our annual tour in the autumn – but please note the dates now....and do seriously consider joining the outing in full or for at least a part of the week.

Also..

It also hoped during the year ahead that other regional ringing might be arranged by Guild members, particularly where there is a reasonable concentration of membership – SE, East, SW and Midlands come to mind. Do step forward please if you feel able

to arrange a day's ringing, a quarter peal....or even a full peal. It is quite some while since the Guild managed to ring a full peal with its own members...although we did ring successfully a quarter peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major at Huntsham in Devon (with the support of a few friends) on Monday 8th April last in memory of two of our long serving departed members: the Reverend Ivan Howitt and the Reverend Prebendary Chris Marshall...



A reminder....do not forget Bell Sunday which is almost upon us. The Guild AGM circulation in March reminded about this annual event – but also visit the CCCBR support page for [Bell Sunday](#).

The Date for Bell Sunday this year is **Sunday 12th May 2024**

Guild Membership and Committee Changes

At the Guild AGM in April, we elected and welcomed seven new members to the Guild...who we hope will be able to join some Guild events as published and arranged:

- The Reverend Vivien Turner – West Sussex
- The Reverend Prebendary Nicky Seabright – Herefordshire
- The Reverend Canon David King – West Sussex
- The Reverend Simon Tibbs – Bedford
- The Reverend Josie Godfrey – Bangor
- The Reverend Rik Peckham – West Somerset
- The Reverend Rachel Johnson – Woking, Surrey

The Guild Committee elected and welcomed at the AGM:

- The Reverend Max Drinkwater as Vice President
- The Reverend James Mercer – as Committee member

The Reverend Russell Chamberlain stepped down from the Guild Committee at the recent AGM after a good number of years' service in several capacities. We thank him greatly for his Guild contribution and service and continue to look forward to ringing with him.

Thank you to those Guild members who continue to contribute to the Ringing World's Thought for the Week. Your contributions are well received. Thank you too to the Reverend Canon Bill Croft for his willingness to manage the rota of contributors thus ensuring we all get our 'Thoughts' to the RW in good time by the date appointed.

The Guild Directory of Membership is currently being updated and it is aimed to circulate it via email updated copy to all members during this month of May. Paper copy to those who have requested it will be posted to them.

If any of you know of Ringing Clergy – who are not currently Guild members, please do approach them and ask if they would like to join the Guild – then inform please the Guild President or Secretary – contact details are at the end of this Newsletter.

The Ringing World editorship tells us that around 700 copies of the Guild/Ringing World publication The Voice of the Church (2023) have been purchased or distributed.

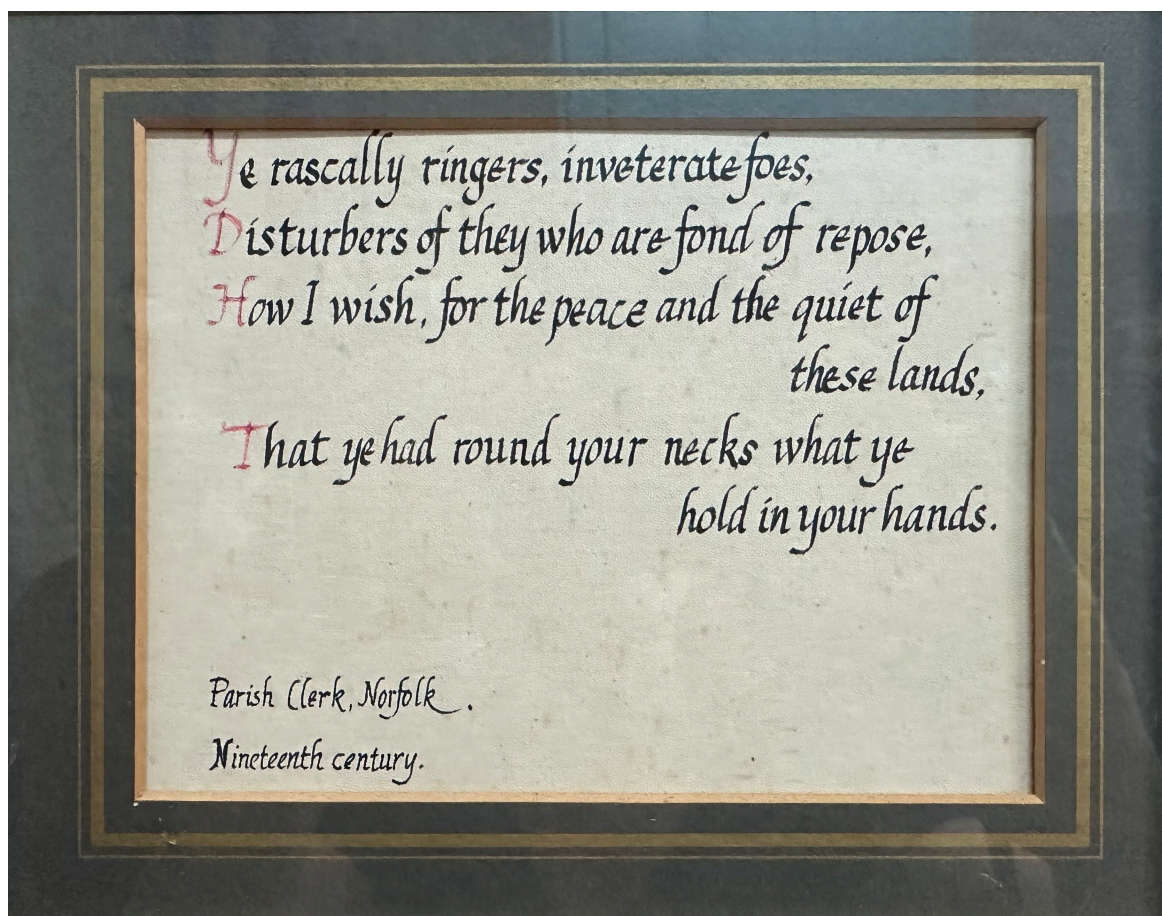
This is encouraging. The initial print run was about 1000 copies. If you have not purchased a copy yet then do please consider doing so – it is good for church leadership and ringing interconnections.

To purchase a copy, click [here](#)

And finally, the Guild's President's Report presented at the April 2024 AGM will be available on the [Guild website](#) during May.

With very best wishes to all and happy ringing,

Jon



Guild of Clerical Ringers Committee

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