

Change Ringing on Handbells

The small, committed band of handbell change-ringing enthusiasts met on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the year, and subjected itself to the mental and sometimes physical challenges of double handed method ringing. We warmly welcomed Timothy Billings and Catherine Williams to the group during the year, their contributions were much appreciated.

Our ability to ring more complex Treble Dodging Minor methods developed during the year to the extent where courses of Sandal TB., Duke of Norfolk TB, Neasden Delight and Old Oxford Delight were readily rung. Combermere Delight Minor was also within sight. However, building enough experience and method knowledge to ring at performance level proved much harder.

Bellboard shows 49 performances by the Hull Handbells Project, including 41 Quarter peals. Of those, the quarters of Little Bob Royal and Kent Treble Bob Royal stand out. What Bellboard cannot show is the humour, the patience, the struggles and successes, the extra knowledge and skills that are taken into the tower, and the additional benefit of coffee-time discussions on a regular basis.

Much of our learning is captured and published on www.handbellringing.org.uk.

On the wider front, the Stedman Triples project had high hopes which were confounded. We had a couple of meetings in Knaresborough but the travelling could not be sustained and hence the skills improvements became hard to maintain. This has now reverted to an online project.

We were able to work with Elaine Scott and Karen Lane in running a highly successful Yorkshire-wide handbells day at the end of May at Mount Pleasant CofE Junior School.

3 Peals (all Minor) were rung towards the end of the year, Karen Lane, Timothy Billings, Peter Church and Catherine Williams took part. Six methods is our limit so far.

Personal achievements during the year include

- Mark Smith – 1st Quarter in hand.
- Karen Lane – 500th Quarter.
- Jim Startin – 75th Handbell Quarter
- Chris Church – 100th Quarter
- Hull Handbells Project: 400th Quarter
- Peter Church – 450th as Conductor.
- B&D – 600th Doublehanded Quarter

Peter Church

V1.1, 6th January 2026