

Reports received in response to the SE Secretary's enquiry ... from Tower Correspondents/Tower Captains/Band members of towers not listed on a Member Representative nomination form for 2025

	something our band is working towards achieving in 2025	update on progress made in 2025 towards achievement	new band aspiration/goal for 2026	a special event/occasion the bells were rung for in 2025 - name of event, what rung, who rang	what support the band members would like the SE District to offer their members in 2026
Badingham St John the Baptist & Dennington St Mary the Virgin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ring regularly for services at both churches. • Better striking and Plain Hunt introduction • Ropesight improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •.Most Sundays and important dates like Harvest Festival • We have been able to ring or at least make a noise! • We have a very appreciative vicar which is nice • Slow progress with Plain Hunt but rounds and call changes are definitely better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make advances on our Plain Hunt and start some Plain Bob methods, whilst we keep refining the basics • We need to stretch our younger ringers so they don't get bored - visit other towers, possibly • Keep a log book so we know what we have rung for 	Dennington bells were rung [rounds and call changes] to commemorate VE day on 8th May 2025 by Anne Smith, David Mann, Kate Harris, Adrian Neill, Jason Harris, Matt Lunn Badingham bells were rung for an Ascension service on May 29th 2025 by Anne Smith, David Mann, Patrick Reade, Adrian Neill, Jason Harris, Kate Harris	Guest ringers to further our learning or a combined practice with another tower. Our band does not have enough experienced members to support method ringing with just one learner included.
Clopton St Mary the Virgin	Further progress with hunting, and change ringing, calling changes and Ringing Master duties	Ringing at Clopton continues to be well supported by the local band and regulars from other towers			
Copdock St Peter					
Cretingham St Peter	A lot of new younger people have moved into the village since "Covid" and it would be good to get some of them involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep thinking about a recruitment drive but only managed to suggest people come to see what happens at a Boosters session via the village WhatsApp. Zero interest. • There is always great support from surrounding towers if they are not already committed to their own service ringing, for which we are very grateful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not given up on the idea of attracting new interest • Conversations with Rev Gary Best of the Mid Loes Benefice [Monewden, Earl Soham, Cretingham all with bells to be rung] taps into his interest and enthusiasm • Plus conversations with bellsashen Teaching Hub who are enthusiastic to provide Intensive Bell Handling teaching support 	Sunday, 13 July 2025 5040 Surprise Minor (7m) (1) London (2) Westminster (3) Bourne (4) Beverley (5) Ipswich (6) Cambridge (7) Norwich 1 Jed Flatters 2 Michael J Cowling 3 Thomas G Scase 4 P Mark Ogden 5 Richard T L Rapior 6 Alan P Mayle © Rung to celebrate the Golden Wedding anniversary of Alister and Wendy Gourlay with the renewal of their wedding vows earlier today Also renewing their wedding vows at this service were: Michael and Pamela Pinner (63yrs), Robert and Diana Mayhew (58yrs), Brian and Kathleen Martin (55yrs), Peter and Liz Bridle (51yrs), David and Lesley Grier (43yrs) and Mark and Brigit Richardson (1yr).	

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East Bergholt St Mary the Virgin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting more people ringing no 4 bell • Getting 1 round consistently right Progressing to 2 round when we can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two ringers starting to ring no 4 bell plus one ex-ringer has returned and is ringing 4 • One new ringer who is doing well and interest from two people who may want to start next year • One new ringer dropped out due to health conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More new ringers • We are about to lose 2 experienced ringers leaving a significant gap in experience 	Sunday, 22 June 2025 Rounds 1 Julia Smith 2 Rachel Lewis 2–3 Terry Eagle 3 Martin Digby 4 Alison Ruffell 5 Neil R Culham Rang 500 rounds as part of Tower 500 Tudor Fayre, celebrating 500 years since the start of Building the tower. Thanks to Kate Stannett our official counter. We did two rings of 250 rounds each i.e. each bell tolled 250 times. This took around 8 minutes each time - we tend to only ring for 5-6 minutes due to the weight of the bells and the unique nature of ringing. This was an achievement!	
Falkenham St Ethelbert		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practising St Simons and Plain Bob Minor for the more advanced learners and Bastow minimus/doubles for our least experienced, amongst other things • Our newest learners are just handling on their own and close to passing Level 1 on Learning the Ropes. • I try to include everyone at whichever stage they are at to keep them interested. It has worked so far but really need a couple of experienced ones to act as props and helpers 	Consolidating the methods our mixture of learners/more experienced ringers are learning in 2025, with special attention to striking	Thursday 17th July 1260 Plain Bob Doubles 1 Jacky Savage 2 Janet Looser 3 Lesley Barrell 4 Jill Adam 5 Bob Barrell (C) 6 Angie Collins In memory of Brian Aldous, former tower captain, fellow ringer and friend to us all 1st Quarter (6) 1st as conductor (5) 1st of doubles (1) Rang a QP with 5 members of the Falkenham band	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More training events in 2026 in various subjects like raising and lowering in peal/ bell handling, in our own district as opposed to far-flung ones and during the day, not the evening. • It can be difficult getting people to go along to other practices, which is how they gain experience really.
Felixstowe St John the Baptist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting some more ringers to join our band of 6 (at practices) (+1 on most Sundays) • Getting as many of our ringers as possible to ART level 1 • Having a home-band to ring at least 4 bells on Christmas Day and New Year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had a returning ringer, which brings our numbers up to 7 (+1). • 3 of the team have now gained their ART Level 1 and are working towards level 2. We can get a home band of 4/5 to ring most Sundays, so we might get 5 at Christmas and New Year. • We have been blessed with lots of support from many members of the district, not least from Lesley Barrell, Liz and Podge Christian and Hal Meakin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting our beginners to Level 1 and our Level 1 ringers to Level 2 at least. Ringing good rounds/methods/call changes well, especially on Sundays. Visiting other towers and attending District gatherings. • Ringing in the New Year with at least 6 of our own ringers. 	2nd September 2025 ringers: Keith Rengert, Jill Adam, Mike Meadows, Lesley Barrell, Sue Hart, Jacky Savage, Richard; ringing: rounds, and rounds with call changes. Welcoming the new vicar Revd Helen Rengert to St John the Baptist Church	Members who would like to join our practice nights (Wednesdays 7.30-9pm) to support those still learning to handle and those who are working towards Level 2, would be most welcome, but I need prior notice, please.
Grundisburgh St Mary the Virgin			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to maintain Service ringing at Burgh, Hasketon and Grundisburgh. • At Grundisburgh, we regularly ring Plain Bob on 5 and 6, Grandsire on 5 and 7, Stedman on 5 and 7. Call changes are often rung on 6, 8 and 10, occasionally on 12. 		
Hollesley All Saints					

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Helmingham St Mary					
Ipswich. St Clements		The learners have transferred to Ipswich St Margaret's			
Ipswich St Lawrence			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tower is now fully scaffolded and the stonemasons have started work, likely completion March 26, at present we do not know how much time will be required following that before we can ring. • Hoping to ring by summer 26 		
Ipswich St Nicholas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is nearing completion and we should be able to ring the bells again by December (hence their appearance in the Christmas ringing). • Colin and Katharine will do some maintenance between now and then. 	No further plans until the future of the building is certain.		
Ipswich St Margarets	We regard ourselves as a teaching band but cannot aspire to advanced methods as yet!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are finding great progress with our newer members, all but one are ringing on a Sunday morning • We follow ART teaching methods, some of which we have developed further, as well as some things we have devised ourselves • Ringing ranges from bell handling to Plain Bob / Grandsire doubles and minor, Kent T.B. minor and some other methods such as Erin doubles, Double Oxford minor and even Cambridge or London minor if those supporting us are able to ring such things - the latter two are not often rung! • Practice evenings are usually well supported. We are grateful for support from some Minster ringers and also at least three from another tower • Thankfully we manage to ring [usually] six of our bells for service with continued help from visitors from the Minster across the road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting more ringers, we are finding Sunday mornings a real challenge as we rarely get enough to ring 8 bells • As yet we do not know what next year has instore as the Vicar and PCC are reviewing the frequency and times of service so things may change in that respect. The ringers are included in the discussions concerning possible changes 	A couple of weddings and also funeral ringing this year Call Changes were rung mostly due to the band not ringing methods yet. Better to ring call changes well then to struggle with a method for these occasions	
Ipswich St Matthews	Taking part in the district striking competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Matthews band have progressed well, we entered the district striking competition and came 4th, which was an amazing achievement, especially as we hadn't rang at Easton before. • Our band gets great support from Amanda Richmond and Jonathan Williamson. Their teaching and guidance with both learners and more experienced ringers is invaluable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To do better next year in the striking competition • To start ringing quarter peals with our learners 	This year we sadly said goodbye to Freda Smith, who died at the age of 107. She was very supportive of the band at St Matthews and the oldest member of the guild. Most of the band played a part in ringing at the funeral on Saturday 27th September 2025.	It would be great to see other ringers on a thursday night, especially to help the more experienced ringers to learn new methods.

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Ipswich Minster [St Mary le Tower]	Advancing beyond Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Maximus.	Now regularly ringing Lincolnshire S Maximus to a good standard.	TBC	Saturday, 25 January 2025 5060 Grandsire Cinques Arranged by C F Chapman 1 James A Smith 2 Vicki L Chapman 3 Katharine J Salter 4 Nigel F C Gale 5 Brian G Meads 6 David I Stanford 7 Andrew R C Kelso 8 Nigel J Newton 9 Ian J Culham 10 Hal J Meakin 11 Colin F Chapman (C) 12 Ivan D Culham Rung to celebrate the Re-designation and Making of the Minster Church of Ipswich, St Mary le Tower by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich on Sunday 19th January 2025. First on 12: 12.	
Offton St Mary			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good attendance for service ringing and practice nights. • Continuing the quest for good striking. 		
Orford St Bartholomew					
Otley St Mary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still being here! • It would be good to give people the opportunity to ring a quarter in the method they are learning [but not all would want to] 			Thursday, 8 May 2025 General Ringing Rounds, call changes and 120 Plain Bob Doubles Carol E Brown Colin G Spreadbury (C) Matthew J Newson Rosemary Spreadbury Tig Sweet (C) Tony M Russell Virginia Philo Rung for the 80th anniversary of VE Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing help with inspection and maintenance of the bells. • A variety of ringing opportunities for a range of abilities within the District [both general and targeted, as at present].
Rushmere St Andrew	Supporting learners in their progress to learning from basic handling through to (and beyond) first methods.	Learners from other towers come along to our practices and have seriously consolidated bell control and handling. Several have progressed well with learning plain hunt methods (Plain Bob doubles + minor and Grandsire)	Progress through to having a regular band capable of comfortably ringing more challenging methods and principles such as Stedman and treble bob/surprise e.g. Kent, Cambridge.	Quarters for the VE and VJ day anniversary celebrations and Suffolk day in June. Also local celebrations and SE District QP day. Paul Sharples, Jo Sharples, Colin Salter, Liz McLeod, Mary Whittell, Lorna Penaluna, Elaine Townsend, Mary P Odam, Amanda Richmond, Stephen J Christian, Elizabeth J Christian, Peter Mayer	

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Sproughton All Saints	We've been trying to ring, what we at Sproughton call, Oxford 'Triples'. That is 3 Oxfords (Single O, double O & O Treble Bob minor) spliced together	Various members of the band have learnt & practiced these 3 Oxfords (Single O, double O & O Treble Bob) for plain courses of each becoming more confident at remembering the place bell starts	To tackle London Surprise and to attempt the first quarter of PBD for one of our leaners	Friday, 15 August 2025 General Ringing Plain Bob Minor & Grandsire Doubles Ralph N Earey Tessa R Earey Philip H Jones Sandy E Jones Simon F Curl David N Lugg Ringing to mark VJ80	