



# Magazine of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Diamond Jubilee issue

Summer 2012

Aw|a'haul



A Jubilee Beacon atop St Mary's, Stoke by Nayland. See back page.

## Inside this issue

Editorial.....	2	Half Term Ringing .....	10
From the Chairman .....	3	Training: Jed Flatters Explains..	11
North West Jubilee Ringing .....	4	ITTS Training, the first course...	12
Jubilation in the South West.....	6	The Olympic Torch.....	14
News from the North East .....	8	The NE rings Five Rings Triples	15
South East Jubilee Ringing .....	9	St Mary's Stoke by Nayland .....	16

---

## From the Editorial Team

We are delighted with the response from the districts to our request for details of special Diamond Jubilee ringing. We have everything here: peals, quarter peals, ringing for street parties and other local celebrations – and belly dancing in front of the mini ring!

We apologise to those contributors of other material whose stories don't appear this time; rest assured: the next issue will see your articles in print.

We also include articles about the first stage in Suffolk of the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme, subject of this year's AGM fringe meeting. And we cover special ringing to mark the passing through Suffolk of the Olympic Torch relay. This is another example of how bell ringing is increasingly being seen as a part of celebrating events of national importance.

You know that we always make a plea for photographs to accompany your articles. We in the team are indulging ourselves in this issue: on one page or another we have all managed to find a place in a picture.

Copy for the next issue by the middle of October please, by the usual channels.

Alan, Richard and Sue



The Suffolk band for the National Youth Contest, and opposite :  
Moysie ringing Cambridge Minor in hand with Philip and Jennie Earis

---

## From the Chairman



I'm writing this having just got back from the Ringing World National Youth Contest in Birmingham, and a jolly good day out it was too. Fifteen teams from across the country competed for the Whitechapel Trophy. Twelve teams rang call changes and just three rang a method, and one of those three was the team representing the Suffolk Guild – what an achievement! OK, they came (narrowly) third out of the three, but at least we beat the Norwich Association at something (they didn't enter)! So a huge well done to Colin and George Salter, Clare and Simon Veal, Craig Gradidge, Alex Rolph, Philip Moyse and especially Alex Tatlow (conductor) on

producing a performance to be proud of.

Apart from the competition ringing our band managed a bit of tower grabbing including the 12 at St Philip's Cathedral and the 16 at St Martin's in the Bullring, as well as the opportunity to ring handbells with world class ringers Philip Earis and Tom Hinks. Fantastic experience!

We are fortunate to have such talent in our Guild, but we must not be complacent and need to ensure that there is a constant stream of youngsters to take the place of e.g. Messrs Gradidge, Moyse and Tatlow who will be too old for next year's contest.

One of the things I like about ringing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the almost complete absence of age discrimination. Ringers are judged not on their years but on their ability on the end of a rope. 18 year olds and 80 year olds can ring as equal members of a band. The lack of experience of youth is usually compensated for by enthusiasm and an ability to learn quickly. The blend of young and old can make a great team, and I'm just pleased to have been chauffeur for some of the third best young method-ringing team in the world!

Philip



## Jubilee Ringing in the North West District

The bells of the North West District added their voices to the jubilee celebrations over several days of local events, special services and peals and quarters dedicated to the Queen.

On Sunday 3 June there was a special service at St Petronella's Church, Whepstead, combining with the Baptist Chapel and Brockley Parish Church. The service marked the Jubilee with readings from previous Queen's speeches and some of Her Majesty's favourite hymns. The 5 bells were rung, for an hour for the service, by members of the local band and several visitors. The Eye band also rang for a Jubilee songs of praise, and the Thornham band rang plain hunt and Grandsire at Thornham Magna at midday on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> for half an hour whilst the villagers were having their Sunday afternoon Royal Picnic in the village hall close by.

Euston's bells were rung prior to their Jubilee party on 4 June, and at St Martin's, Exning, rounds and called changes were rung to announce the opening of the village celebration picnic.

At St Mary's, Newmarket, rounds and called changes were rung to coincide with the start of the thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Marion Turner, Mark Palmer, Simon Redgrave, Terrie Jaggard, Alex Jaggard, Jack Robinson (12), Adam Redgrave (13) and Peter Barron (13) rang for 50 minutes at Mildenhall on that day. Six of these ringers have only been ringing for 18 months. Also on 5<sup>th</sup> June the local Bardwell band, again most of whom have only been ringing for at most 2 years, entertained the village, to all-round appreciation. A quarter peal and a peal were rung at Bardwell on 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May respectively.

Guild Peal week coincided with the jubilee, and a peal was rung at Buxhall on 3<sup>rd</sup> June; Richard Brewster's first since 1991. At the Norman Tower, changes of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus were rung on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. A peal of plain bob triples was rung at Gislingham on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, a first for Alan Stanley and first inside for Kay Lucas; David Salter has now called peals from 500 different Suffolk Bells.

Other ringers celebrated the holiday by going out ringing to sound local bells and ring quarter peals for the jubilee. You can read about the Bacton Benefice Bicycle Jubilee Jaunt opposite. Quarter peals were rung at Stowmarket, Old Newton and



The Gislingham peal band L to R Alan Stanley (1), Leslie Steed (3), David Steed (8), Richard Munnings (4), David Salter (c) (7), Kay Lucas (5), George Salter (6) and Katherine Salter (2).

---

## Jubilee Ringing in the North West cont.

Great Finborough on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, with a first inside for Colin Salter, and another was rung at Bacton on 4<sup>th</sup> June. At Palgrave on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Kay and Peter Lucas, Maureen Slinger, John Goodwin, Hugh Bunbury, Alan Stanley, Alan Tann and Harry Holmes (aged 10) rang a quarter peal of 1320 Devon call changes in 50 minutes, Harry's first quarter.

Details of quarters and peals are on campanophile, and there are also pictures of some of the bands on Facebook!

Abby Antrobus, NW District Secretary.

---

## A Jubilee Jaunt

On Saturday 2 June, ringers in the Bacton Benefice held a Jubilee Jaunt, visiting all the churches in the benefice with ringable bells. About 20 people took part with some doing the 20 mile trip on bikes. Starting at Wickham Skeith, we moved on to Cotton (where, because of the exposed ringing position, we were thankful for the dry weather). After lunch in the newly restored church – thanks to Mervyn Walker and Liz Varley for additional refreshment - we moved on to Wyverstone where ringing on the 3 was a new experience for several of us. (As it was for people in Wyverstone, as we had a last minute request on the following Monday to ring for their celebration tea in the afternoon; a request we were able to satisfy.) Ringing at Bacton was enlivened by an ultimately successful attempt to encourage a trapped swift to fly out of the church. At our last port of call – Old Newton – we were grateful to be provided tea and cake courtesy of Val Godden and Angela Packer. An enjoyable and memorable day! Pete Davidson



At Wickham Skeith before setting out.

## Jubilation in the South West

A great deal of ringing was done in our district to mark the occasion of HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The front cover of the magazine shows the beacon lit on top of the tower of St Mary's, Stoke by Nayland as part of the celebrations held in the village. The bells were, of course, rung for this event and again on the Monday morning to open the village fête. Beacons and bells also featured at Bildeston and Haverhill.

There were several quarter peals rung on and around the Jubilee bank holiday weekend. The Hadleigh ringers were delighted to ring a quarter of Plain Bob Doubles, the first by an all Hadleigh band for many years. They are now just looking for an excuse to do it all again! Quarter peals of Plain Bob Minor were rung at Hintlesham and Polstead (a first in this method for David England) and of Plain Bob Major at Bures and Kersey. Long Melford attempted a quarter of Plain Bob doubles with 3 bells covering. They were unsuccessful but had a joyous ring to mark the Jubilee. In the picture below the ringers are seen beneath a peal board giving details of a peal rung in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.



Long Melford ringers, back row L to R: Linda Goodban, Jill Feldt, David Walters, Louise Ward. Front row: Sandra Lant, Robert Lant, Lewis Woolnough, Theresa Mumford.

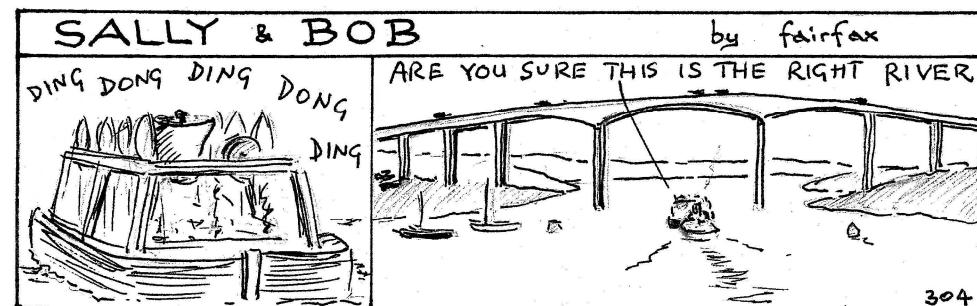
## Jubilation in the South West cont.

Lavenham held a Jubilee woodland walk starting at the church. The bells were rung there to start the walk as well as for the special Jubilee service. Bells were rung at Preston St Mary on the occasion of the unveiling of a new village sign and a tree planting ceremony, all to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee.

Boxford bells were rung to open the village fête. Ringing for special services and village celebrations took place at Nayland, Stratford St Mary, Higham and Stoke by Clare. At Great Thurlow the ringers were delighted to be invited to drinks and eats by Suffolk guild patron George Vestey. Stradishall and Cowlinge ringers rang at both churches on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, even though there wasn't a service in either church. They were determined to mark the occasion. At Clare the bells were rung before the Diamond Celebration in the church, which included features about national and local events of the last 60 years.

Monks Eleigh ringers, pictured, left to right rang after the Jubilee service on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Charlie Brown, Mandy Coll, Sally Long, Barbara Sims, Nick Moore, Peter Day.

In Sudbury, the bells of all three churches were rung. Unfortunately the peal attempt at All Saints was unsuccessful, but the local congregation was pleased that the bells were rung to mark the special occasion. It was also good to hear the bells of St Peter's ringing out over the marketplace and St Gregory's at the other side of the town.



## The North East District rings for the Jubilee

Five peals were rung in the district on or soon after the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend. Some of these were milestone peals for some of the participants. For instance, the peal of Bristol Surprise rung at Halesworth was Brian Whiting's 750<sup>th</sup> peal. A peal of Plain Bob Minor rung for Sweffling's "Diamond Decades" flower festival was Ian T Wright's first and Jason Busby's 25<sup>th</sup>. At Blythburgh 7 methods of minor were rung, the most methods for conductor Philip Moyse. At Southwold a peal of Plain Bob triples was rung on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, starting at 9 am and forming the start of a series of activities in the town to celebrate the Jubilee. A peal of two methods of Surprise Minor was rung at Wissett.

There were some noteworthy "firsts" in the three quarter peals rung in the district to celebrate the Jubilee. At Reydon the quarter of Plain Bob Doubles was Ambrin Williams' first. Linda Ashford rang her first quarter inside on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Rumburgh, the two methods being Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire, while at Chediston Alex Rolph rang his first quarter of Grandsire. Sadly, a broken rope at Peasenhall meant a lost quarter, but the bells sounded out in honour of the Queen's Jubilee.

Special Jubilee ringing was also done at Worlingham and Fressingfield.

All in all the District did Her Majesty proud!

## News from the North East

The family of Harold Rogers, late of Isleworth, London, chose to bury him in the lovely churchyard at Chediston, close to where his life began on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1916; but they could not have known what a fine, dry, warm, sunny day it would be.

Some of us remember him as a Captain in the army in the Second World War (R.E.M.E.). Met him every year at Debenham for the Suffolk Guild's veterans' day. Rang with him on his visits to Suffolk to visit relatives. Looked for his name in the peal reports in the Ringing World every week almost until the end: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012. So we had to go, with many others, to fill the church for his funeral.

A service with well known hymns, sung to well-remembered tunes, well chosen readings by his family, was concluded with a faultless touch of Grandsire Triples rung on a superb set of handbells. Magic! A quarter peal of doubles on tower bells rung by a N.E. band and of minor by visitors after the service, made a perfect "goodbye" to a well known Suffolk ringer.  
Don Price

### New Ropes?

The Suffolk Guild has purchased a quantity of excellent 10mm pre-stretched terylene rope which is for sale at £1.60 per mtr. Contact Winston Girling: [winston.girling@btinternet.com](mailto:winston.girling@btinternet.com) or tel 01449 674425.

More North East news on page 15

## The South East District marks the Queen's Jubilee

The ringers of the district celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in a variety of different ways.

A peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus was rung at St Mary le Tower, Ipswich. This was David Potts' first peal of maximus as conductor.

A quarter peal of Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles was rung at Rushmere on the bank holiday Monday and a quarter of Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung at Ufford on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

The ringers of the benefice comprising Campsea Ashe, Hacheston, Marlesford and Parham celebrated the Jubilee by ringing at all four churches for services on the Sunday, then on the Tuesday bank holiday they met first at Campsea Ashe to ring a quarter peal of Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles. They then went on to ring at the other three churches in turn, finishing with celebratory refreshments in the ringing chamber at Parham, a fitting end to what had been a very enjoyable afternoon.

At Sproughton the bells were rung at the same time as the street party held in the village, while at Woodbridge the 8 bells were rung on the afternoon of the Tuesday bank holiday. At Otley the bells were rung for half an hour on the Monday to mark the start of the village celebrations at the playing field.

One of the Hollesley ringers, Jenny Lloyd, also performs with a group of belly dancers. The picture below, taken at Bruisyard Jubilee Fête, shows Framlingham tower captain Don Robinson in front of the mini ring and surrounded by the ladies of his harem.



The Framlingham ringers rang between 11am and 12 noon on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. A short church service began on Market Hill at noon, followed by live music and various activities. Tea was served in a marquee beautifully decked out in red, white and blue. Flags and bunting made the town look very jolly and everyone enjoyed the celebrations.

---

## Half Term Ringing

Twelve young ringers from all four districts got together one day in half term to practise at several towers around Bury. After meeting and a grab at Horringer, half the group went on to Pakenham where they practised plain hunting. The rest stayed on at Horringer to work on call changes and handling. It was so rewarding to see such rapid improvements in both handling and confidence during this session. We all met up at Pakenham to share a picnic lunch (the highlight of which had to be Michelle's amazing cupcakes). After further ringing at Pakenham, the whole group got together at Rougham, where the picture was taken. Thanks are due to the many helpers and mentors on the day, and of course a huge well done to the young ringers themselves, every one of whom did brilliantly.

Ruth Suggett



Young ringers L to R back row: Ambrin (Reydon), Matthew (Worlingham), Colin (Ipswich), Jack (Mildenhall), George (Ipswich), Adam (Mildenhall). Front row L to R: Hannah (Worlingham), Nicole (Halesworth), Arran (Cowlinge), Matthew (Cowlinge), Christopher (Bardwell), Lewis (Reydon).

## What is ITTS to me? - Jed Flatters explains

Firstly ITTS stands for Integrated Teacher Training Scheme, which is a bit of a mouthful, but for the first time ever in bell ringing we have a scheme designed to give trainers the benefit of new ideas learnt from various sports and activities. The focus is to develop muscle memory so that learners are conditioned to carry out the right action when being taught to ring.

To me as the Guild Master it offers us the chance to get a new generation of people trained as teachers with an organised back up or mentoring system to ensure that the simple exercises are used. This should help us to maintain an approach which ensures that all learners undergo the same training regime and are not subject to an often haphazard entry to ringing with no structure to it.

For years I have seen people who handle bells poorly trying to teach and the end result is usually another ringer with poor or dangerous handling which puts them at a massive disadvantage when they are introduced first to call changes and then to simple methods.

We all know that the learner drop out rate is high for many reasons. The worst case scenario is to spend weeks or months getting a recruit up to a level where they can join in with a regular



practice and then Sunday service ringing, for them to stagnate and not advance due to being incapable of adjusting their ringing to adapt for the need to ring over or under other bells. After a while they become disenchanted and decide ringing is not for them and so move on. Result: weeks of training time wasted.

With luck and dedication ITTS should put an end to this and as the scheme grows more ringers from different towers in our guild can come forward to gain from its structured approach.



## Integrated Teacher Training Scheme - Course for New Teachers

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June at Bury St Edmunds

Tutor - Graham Nabb of the Association of Ringing Teachers

The Discovery Centre at St Edmundsbury Cathedral was a fitting venue for the first Suffolk Guild ITTS course as it represented the launch of the Recruitment & Training committee's initiative to improve the standards of training across the County. The course was all about making a commitment to address poor handling styles, improve retention (and therefore recruitment) of ringers and go through the whole process to become an accredited teacher. Participants included new teachers and mentors from all four districts of the Suffolk Guild plus some welcome guests from Norwich DA, Winchester & Portsmouth DG and Chester DG.

Tutor Graham Nabb with Guild Ringing Master Jed Flatters.



The day was packed with a good balance of theory and practice which supported the model of good practice we need to use when teaching learners. There was even some theory on how to become a good teacher. We've all heard about or maybe experienced the tutor who thinks that repeating the same instruction again and again will somehow get it to "stick" in the learner's brain. Well, here's a thing: we all learn differently and the clues are there as to whether your learner learns best by watching, listening or doing!

Coming from a practical teaching and training background, I was very pleased to hear that modern teaching/training techniques are finally being applied to the teaching of ringing. Think back if you will to a PE lesson (sorry if that brings back bad memories)

where actions like a tennis serve were broken down into the component parts and then practised over and over again before putting them all together. You probably practised tossing the ball in the air to the correct height for a serve before learning how to make contact with it with your racquet (or not as the case may be!). Well believe it or not, the same methods can be used when teaching learners how to

---

## Integrated Teacher Training (cont.)

handle a bell! “Eating the elephant” is all about breaking the action down into chunks and then learning (eating) them one chunk at a time (whole and part learning).

We’ve all heard the phrase “practice makes perfect” but did you know that you have to repeat an action (or part of an action) 2,000 to 10,000 times before the link is made with the brain and the action is learnt? Incorrect actions need to be unlearnt so it’s important that they are spotted early by an eagle-eyed teacher and then explained to the learner. Graham warned us that the downside of this is that we’d all probably find ourselves watching our fellow ringers (learners and experienced alike) with a more critical eye and may have to bite our tongues occasionally if we spotted poor ringing styles!

There was plenty of room (and bells) in the Norman Tower for everyone to work on their teaching and handling.



There were several “why haven’t I ever thought of that?” moments during the day. Who’d have thought that you could get a learner to practise bell handling in the comfort of their own home (without a mini ring)! All you need to do is provide them with an old bell rope and they

can practise essential skills like pulling the rope vertically, positioning the hands correctly for handstroke and backstroke, the transition from handstroke - backstroke - handstroke and even taking and releasing a coil. In these days of electronic wizardry the learner can even get someone to video them and then show the tutor for them to check that the action they have been practising is correct.

This ITTS training day was only the start of our voyage of discovery. The next step is for all of the new teachers and mentors to complete a multi-choice online quiz and then find a new learner to work with. We’ve already got the next meeting booked so watch this space for news about our efforts to improve the training and retention of ringers in Suffolk!

Rowan Wilson

## A letter to the editor

I wish wholeheartedly to support Jed Flatters' plea made at the Guild AGM to establish an 'official' training programme. For more than forty years I have fought officialdom both to establish businesses and to prevent anything I have been engaged in, across wide fronts, being prevented by the official mind.

The lesson is clear: that the Guild has to put its own house in order or officialdom will. The Guild would only have to have one serious accident for the wolves to descend on the fold seeking to 'prevent' – on their draconian terms. I've been there.

Far better to put one's own house in order oneself from within the Exercise, who know what their exercise truly is about, than to have an outside body which doesn't, dictate its terms which do not recognise that safety is deeply based in personal skill. It's hell I do assure you as their first official understanding is that 'ringing must be dangerous, it's obvious.' Proving it isn't to those who believe it 'must be' is enormously restricting.

Michael Burn

## Ringing for the Olympic Torch

As the Olympic torch relay zigzagged its way across Suffolk, bells were rung on its route. On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, in the morning, the bells at Reydon were rung, then Southwold bells rang for half an hour. Kelsale were next, then, in early afternoon it was Aldeburgh's turn. Here the torch was carried for two legs

of the relay by Amanda Richmond, ringer at St Mary le Tower.



Amanda Richmond shows off the Olympic torch back in the tower

Then on to Felixstowe where a peal of Olympic Surprise Major was rung. Congratulations to conductor Stephen Pettman and the band, ringing this method for the first time.

The torch ended the day in Ipswich, where it was greeted by the bells of both St Mary le Tower and St Lawrence. The ringers then got up early on Friday and were back to ring the torch on its way, starting at 6.40 am. They deserved a good breakfast after that!

After a brief excursion into Essex the torch returned to Suffolk, arriving in Bury St Edmunds to the sound of the bells at the Norman Tower.

---

## From the North East District - Five Rings Triples

It was the 65<sup>th</sup> Aldeburgh Festival this year – and ringing featured. We were approached to ring at Sts Peter & Paul, Aldeburgh on the closing day of the Festival, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June. The Festival organisers requested that we rang “Five Rings Triples” to tie in with the Olympic Torch as it made its way round Britain. We had attempted Five Rings Triples at one of the NE District Surprise Major practices and all concluded that most Surprise Major methods are easier to ring than this innocuous seeming method. So, a compromise was found: we would ring a plain course of the Five Rings and then a quarter peal of something completely different. We stuck with Triples, to maintain the rhythm for the audience (not anticipating more than a couple of passers-by) and chose Single Oxford.

The Guild banners were given a day out at the seaside and proved to be an excellent PR tool, erected at the back of the church while we were ringing. Julie Hughes, optimistically bringing a book to read, was charged with looking after two children and promoting the art of bell-ringing to the hordes that came to listen to our performance. Having realised just how tricky Five Rings Triples was, we had amassed a good band who managed an excellent quarter peal. Just as well really, given that on the call of “stand” we were greeted with rapturous applause from an assembled crowd. It helped that it was pouring with rain outside, but there must have been forty people in the church showing a genuine interest in ringing, including representatives from the Arts Council.

### **Aldeburgh, Suffolk**

Sunday, 24 June 2012 in 42min (11-2-20)

1260 Single Oxford Bob Triples

1 Suzanne Stevens

2 Trevor Hughes

3 Mary Garner

4 Philip Gorrod

5 Philip Moyse

6 Richard Munnings

7 Maggie Ross (C)

8 Jonathan Stevens

This Quarter Peal formed part of the Aldeburgh Festival. The band rang a plain course of Five Rings Triples, as requested by the Festival Organisers, followed by the Quarter Peal.

First QP in method: 3 & 5



## St Mary's, Stoke by Nayland

Even when it doesn't have a lighted beacon on top, the 120 foot high tower of St Mary's is an impressive sight. The church stands on top of a hill and the tower can be seen for miles from any direction. Indeed, John Constable, who painted and sketched the church, wrote that "the tower is its grandest feature, which from its commanding height seems to impress on the surrounding country its own sacred dignity of character."



The tower has four stages and is supported by huge polygonal buttresses. Because it is built of red brick and flint it seems to glow in the evening sunshine.

One enters the church by the handsome two storey porch built in the fourteenth century and therefore older than the rest of the building. This porch contains the chief treasure of the church: a pair of intricately carved doors. The carving is a tree of Jesse, with the Virgin Mary flanked by two angels at the apex.

Once inside the nave the visitor is awed by the sheer size of the building; it is 168 feet long and correspondingly high, remarkable for a church in a small village. The soaring arch dividing the nave from the tower is particularly striking and is known as the Great West Arch.

The font, dating from the fifteenth century stands high, at the top of three steps. It is octagonal, with finely carved panels, showing the emblems of the four evangelists and other figures. Below are shields of the Tendring and Howard families and the badge of King Edward IV.

There are some fine monuments in the church. One of the most interesting is the large early fifteenth century brass depicting Sir William de Tendring in full armour. In the south chapel can be seen a magnificent wall monument to Lady Anne Windsor. She is represented in an alabaster effigy with her children kneeling at her head and feet.

Up in that magnificent tower are the bells, tenor weighing 28 cwt, all rehung in a new steel frame and augmented to eight in 1956. Two of the bells were cast before the reformation. Visitors are welcome to the Friday practice, but it is advisable to phone beforehand, and to be prepared to climb many stairs to the ringing room.

All pictures provided by Simon Ward.



A panel of the font showing an angel with a scroll