

# Cheltenham Branch Bell Ringers – September 2015

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## Congratulations...

To St Mark's and Bishop's Cleeve for completing projects begun in 2004 and... sometime around 1460. (Details below...)

## G& B Youth Team

Ian Bucknell and the G&B youth team complete at a high level nationally and enjoy ringing and socializing together at regular events throughout the year. If you know anyone up to 19 who might be interested in ringing, please contact Simon.

## Branch Outing to Churchdown etc

### Saturday 19 September, 2.00pm

Churchdown (6)	2:00 – 3:00pm
Upton St Leonards (8)	3:30 – 4:30pm
Maisemore (6)	5:00 – 5:45pm
Royal Exchange, Hartbury	6:00pm

(Full details below...)

## Mini-Ring Open Day for the Minster

### Saturday 26 September, 9.00am onwards

Liz Coke and Reg Hitchings have organised an adventurous outing with 5 mini-rings and 5 regular towers, in aid of the Minster project. If you would like to come, or if you can simply help by being at one of the venues, please let Liz or Reg know. (Full details below and on separate circulation...)

## Autumn Training Day at Wotton

### Saturday 10 October, 9.00am

Courses ranging from Calling Bob Doubles to Surprise Major. Details on the Association website [www.bellsgandb.co.uk](http://www.bellsgandb.co.uk)

## Surprise Minor Practice at Woolstone

### Saturday 17 October, 10.30am

Aimed at the upper end of 6-bell ringing. (Details to follow.)

## Peal & Quarter Peal Week

### Saturday 17 – Saturday 25 October

Please share the news about what your tower is ringing, and ask if you need help in making up bands. Watch out particularly for opportunities for your beginners / learners.

## Branch AGM at Prestbury

### Saturday 21 November, 3.00pm

It's almost time for Tower Secretaries to start getting reports ready.

## Camera & Display Screen

Should we purchase a camera and flat-screen display for use at open-tower events to let the public see what the bells are doing – particularly for the annual ringing at Colesbourne? The cost looks like about £250, so we'd like to know your views.

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## Contacts and Committee

Website:	<a href="http://www.cheltenhambranch.org.uk">www.cheltenhambranch.org.uk</a>
Facebook:	'Cheltenham Branch Bell Ringers' Group
Anna:	<a href="mailto:ringingmaster-anna@cheltenhambranch.org.uk">ringingmaster-anna@cheltenhambranch.org.uk</a>
Barbara:	<a href="mailto:secretary@cheltenhambranch.org.uk">secretary@cheltenhambranch.org.uk</a>
Colin:	<a href="mailto:chairman@cheltenhambranch.org.uk">chairman@cheltenhambranch.org.uk</a>
John:	<a href="mailto:mcrep@cheltenhambranch.org.uk">mcrep@cheltenhambranch.org.uk</a>
Nigel:	<a href="mailto:treasurer@cheltenhambranch.org.uk">treasurer@cheltenhambranch.org.uk</a>
Simon:	<a href="mailto:ringingmaster-simon@cheltenhambranch.org.uk">ringingmaster-simon@cheltenhambranch.org.uk</a>
Stuart:	<a href="mailto:ringingmaster-stuart@cheltenhambranch.org.uk">ringingmaster-stuart@cheltenhambranch.org.uk</a>

## Men (and Woman) Paint Wall! (St Mark's)

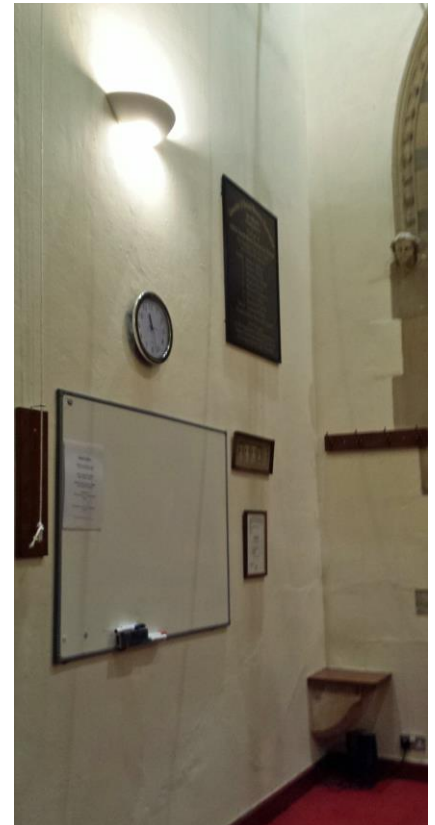
With a lot of effort from Anna Bayley, Simon Ridley and Colin Bookless the churchwarden, the walls at St Mark's are finally painted and the project begun in 2004 is finished. The tatty old walls and dust covered coats are a thing of the past.

Nothing is worse than a tatty ringing room. Even with a good ring of bells, a dirty and unloved room can not only make ringing a grim experience for seasoned ringers but it is hardly likely to make new ringers and visitors want to stay.

If you are wanting to attract new ringers and welcome your visitors, perhaps your ringing room could do with sprucing up? If so, read on....

So what makes for a better ringing room? From a brief trawl of the facebook ringing sites the following seem to feature as a must have:

- Clean and free from dust
- Not cluttered with old furniture and junk to catch a rope on (and not be the flower arrangers' cupboard or junk store)
- Have clear lines of sight
- Cleanly decorated in light colors and have a good floor covering
- A supply of large boxes (large in area not height), a marlin spike or 'fid', ample hooks for coats and comfy properly designed seats (not wobbly worm-eaten pews saved at the last re-ordering)
- Good lighting which is not at eye level nor creates shadows
- Good ventilation and heat as required
- Storage for the vacuum cleaner, spare ropes and bits and bobs
- Some information about the bells. A bit of local history and information is also popular.



Does your ringing chamber match these ideals? If not and you would like to do something about it, get in touch with one of the branch officers. We are happy to cast an impartial eye over things and perhaps help with (or find someone to help with) the work.

### **Of course, if you plan to decorate there are some rules to follow...**

Most, if not all our churches are old - they usually date from before cavity walls and damp proof courses. This means the stonework is designed to absorb and then 'breathe' moisture. The paints to use allow for this breathing and do not form a sealed surface - meaning that moisture doesn't get trapped in the wall causing the stonework to crumble, and in winter your paint won't start flaking off. So don't just run down to B&Q and get a tin of Dulux!

### **Do the PCC need to know?**

Many of our buildings are listed. This means there is a legal obligation to use correct materials when painting. Failure to do so could land your PCC and church wardens in hot water. Besides, painting or creating a new space may be a good opportunity to foster better relations with your PCC and demonstrate why the work is necessary.

**Your branch is here to help. Do post your ideal ringing room ideas and photos on our Facebook Group, or send them in.**

## Cheltenham Branch Afternoon Ringing Outing

Saturday 19 September

Churchdown (6)	9-2-1	2:00 – 3:00pm	SO882191	GL3 2LG
Upton St Leonards (8)	15-3-10	3:30 – 4:30pm	SO861149	GL4 8AP
Maisemore (6)	10-1-10	5:00 – 5:45pm	SO813216	GL2 8EY

Ringers are asked to donate £1 per tower.

Meal at The Royal Exchange, Hartbury, GL19 3BW (table booked for 6:00pm)

Menu at <http://www.royalexchangehartbury.co.uk/>

Please let Anna know at [ringingmaster-anna@cheltenhambranch.org.uk](mailto:ringingmaster-anna@cheltenhambranch.org.uk) if you are going to come along, and whether or not you would like to join us for the meal.

## Bishop's Cleeve Staircase Restoration

With superb oversight from the Tower Captain this £55,000 project has been completed on time and just about within budget. It's still quite a scary climb of about 23 feet, but at least everything feels firm now! Videos showing the work in progress and interviews with some of the key people are at the links below...

Staircase Restoration Part 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ey-ybzLTU8>

Staircase Restoration Part 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zntnquGP3Ts>

Staircase Restoration Part 3:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRF5VTthyUw>

Staircase Restoration Part 4:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3L8VorjgLCk>

Interviews with key people: <http://play.buto.tv/9S5IV>

The work in progress: <http://play.buto.tv/MvYs3>



Gloucestershire Echo article on 24 August 2015:

<http://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/images/stories/historyandrecords/ancientstaircase/echo24082015.jpg>

Staircase webpage: <http://www.stmichaelsbishopsclleeve.co.uk/our-ancient-staircase.html>

For the full staircase experience, you're very welcome to join the regular practice on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

## Open Towers Day for the Minster Project – Saturday 26 September

Start Time	End Time		Bells	Weight		Grid Ref	Post code	Notes
09.00	09.45	Leonard Stanley 1 Erica Cottages Bath Rd Erica Campanis	8	0.75oz		SO804036	GL10 3LS	Coffee, GF
10.00	11.00	1 Erica Cottages. Erica Magnis	12	2.625oz		SO804036	GL10 3LS	GF
11.15	12.15	Gloucester, 230 Barnwood Rd, The Mythering	10	2.5oz		SO850186	GL2 0RX	GF
12.30	13.15	Cheltenham Warden Hill St Christophers	6	0-2-7	C	SO931204	GL51 3DD	Lunch, T
13.15	14.00	Cheltenham Warden Hill URC 'The Bicycle Ring on Tour'	6	15.75 oz	C	SO932204	GL51 3BZ	Mobile,GF, T
14.00	15.00	Leckhampton, St Peters	8	9-1-14	Ab	SO943194	GL53 0QJ	GF
15.00	16.00	Cheltenham, 25a Alma Rd, The Bicycle Ring	8	1lb 7oz	C	SO928212	GL51 3LU	Afternoon Tea, GF
16.30	17.15	Badgeworth, Holy Trinity	6	13 cwt	F#	SO901192	GL51 4UL	GF
17.30	18.15	Cheltenham St Marks	8	16-1-2	F	SO928219	GL51 7AN	T
18.30	19.30	Cheltenham Minster Church of St Mary	12	22-2-16	D	SO948225	GL50 3JX	

Further details will be circulated.