

GLOUCESTER and BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION
Of CHURCH BELL RINGERS

CHELTENHAM BRANCH

2005 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly welcome to Leckhampton, we thank the Rev. Paul Wilkinson, Stuart and the ringers for the use of the Church and Bells. We must also thank the Rev Wilkinson leading the Service and John Clift for playing the organ.

We must thank Helen, Sue and Max for providing us with an excellent ringers tea, and I am pleased that any surplus funds will be donated to the St. Marks appeal.

We start the meeting on a solemn note by remembering Fred Bloxham, a ringer at Winchcombe, who died in January aged 92.

Congratulations to Sue Millen (formerly Sue Henderson) a ringer at the Parish who married earlier this year and we welcome to our ringing family Roseanna, daughter to Mark and Catherine Davies and Daniel, son to Philip and Emma Abbey.

Starting with some highlights of the year. Firstly Charlton Kings won the Croome Trophy, congratulations to them. Our under 19 team won the Nibley Trophy despite the fact that at one stage we thought that we would not be able to field a team. Many thanks to Janet and to Matthew Greenaway who between them did an excellent job to pull the team together to make this happen. Thanks also to Megan from Cirencester a former Branch Member who joined us for the day. Many congratulations to the team you did a fine job. Our under 19 ringers also ran a quarter peal for the Peal and Quarter Peal Festival including many firsts.

We held an enjoyable small bell-ringing day where we all learned something. Our outing this year was an enjoyable day near Oxford organised by Philip with enough time to properly enjoy lunch. More detailed descriptions of these events are the province of your Ringing Masters.

We have supported the Association by supplying several members to be part of a working party to advise on the future of the Proficiency Certificate, the recommendations of which have been passed on to Steve Coleman. We have provided substantial support for both the spring and the autumn training days. Overall we supplied twenty-one helpers for the Spring Training Day and thirty-one for the Autumn Training Day. For the Advanced Training Day at very short notice Janet was asked to run a Stedman Doubles Course and Philip was asked to run a Cambridge Minor course. Both also supplied helpers for these courses, who were at that time in short supply. John has just relinquished his responsibility for compiling the Annual Report for the Association after six years. Our thanks go to him, both for the report and for his work as our Management Committee Representative.

We have continued to support the St. Marks augmentation. I am told that the Branch has contributed almost £200 to the appeal. This is in addition to your individual donations. We hope to have an event in the programme for next year to continue this support, so watch your Programme Cards and Newsletters. We also hear that Stanton will soon to be re-hung. They have managed this by their own efforts but we will continue to monitor the situation to see what support we might be able to provide in the future.

The G&B will be hosting the Central Council Meeting in 2007 and it will be centred on Cheltenham. Hugh will give us an update on the progress of this and implications for the Branch later.

I am pleased to say that your Branch Officers have worked very hard on your behalf this year. Janet and Philip have both helped ringers to make progress, Janet supporting those less experienced and Philip providing challenges for the more advanced. We will hear more of this in their respective reports. Janice had a hard act to follow, taking over from Jo. I am pleased that the hand-over was almost seamless, and it seems that she has been doing the job for much longer than a year. Our unsung hero is Barbara who as treasurer keeps us within the law and keeps the dreaded Twentymen at bay. Barbara get the Special Chairman's award this year. John has continued to keep us abreast of developments in the Management Committee in addition to his work on the Annual Report and Association website. Philip continues to be our IT guru providing the Committee with good ideas and full IT support.