

# The Carlisle Diocesan Guild

## Bell Ringers' Newsletter

Issue 15

February 2009

If you or your tower have any items of news for the July issue they can be posted or emailed to Anne East, 65 Scotby Road Scotby, Carlisle CA4 8BG aeast65sr@btinternet.com

### Dates

Western Branch AGM  
March 7th 2009, 3pm  
at Whitehaven

Eastern Branch AGM  
March 17th 2009,  
7.30pm at Penrith

Guild AGM  
April 25th 2009  
from 2pm at Penrith  
and 3pm Greystoke

Striking Competition  
June 13th 2009 at  
Wigton

Guild Dinner  
October 10th or 17th  
(to be confirmed)

Guild Training Day  
November 21st 2009  
Whitehaven area

The dates for events later than the AGM will be confirmed then. Look out for notices of events, Guild and Branch meetings and further training opportunities displayed in your tower. They can also be sent to you by email. Please let us have your address if you would like emails and do not currently receive them.

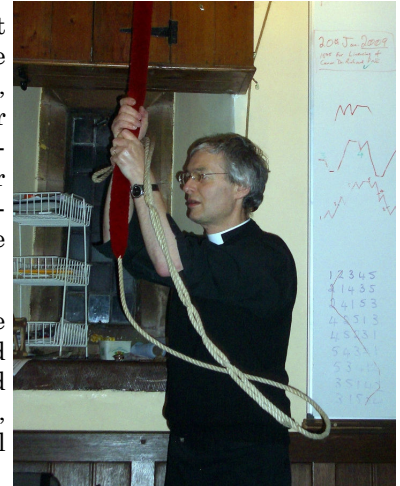
## Archdeacon of West Cumberland

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 the new Archdeacon of West Cumberland was collated to his ministry by the Bishop of Carlisle at St John the Evangelist, Hensingham. The Archdeacon is non other than our own Guild President, Richard Pratt, now the Venerable Dr Richard Pratt. Richard was previously vicar of St Cuthbert's in Carlisle and belonged to the Cathedral band of ringers; he rang there, when time permitted, with much enthusiasm.

Ringers from Hensingham and other towers in the Carlisle Diocese were delighted that Richard joined them to ring before his own service of Collation and that he had asked representatives of the bell ringers, together with other local lay groups, to take a small part in the service.

In his address Richard began by thanking everyone who had come to Hensingham to be with him and for not being at the 'other' inauguration this day (of President Barack Obama taking place at the same time!). He urged us to trust in God and each other, to have hope and to expect great things. We should not let it be said 'Blessed are those who have no expectation for they shall receive nothing.' Encouraged by Richard's enthusiasm perhaps we, as ringers, should expect more from ourselves and each other as we strive to perfect our call to worship.

We wish our President well in his new work and look forward to ringing with him around West Cumbria.



## Ringling Trends Survey

In October 2008 the Guild was approached by the Ringing Trends Committee of the Central Council to ask if we would like to be involved in Phase 2 of the Ringing Trends Survey. Thanks to all the Towers who took part and Anne East and Pat Evans who co-ordinated the exercise.

Having pulled all the results together there are not many surprises; 83% of the ringers are over 40; 6 bands describe themselves as prospering; 9 as steady; 1 as declining and 3 as struggling. Of the 20 Towers with regular bands 15 managed to ring regularly for Sundays and across the Guild somewhere between 113 and 122 ringers turn out for Sunday ringing. The most common thing rung on a Sunday is rounds and call changes, although some bands do manage Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman. 148 ringers turn out for Practice nights and 57 people have been taught to ring in the last 3 years of which 42 are still ringing. If you want to ring surprise methods the best places to go are the Cathedral, Penrith, Arlecdon and Wigton.

On a less serious note, 60 people have ringing relatives, 49 have rung in peals, 95 have rung quarter peals. The vast majority of people travel less than 5 miles to ring but 18 people travel more than 10 miles and interestingly 9 of these ring at Penrith. If anyone would like a copy of the results please get in touch with Sue Smith.

**Annual Report** Please remember to send any officers' reports, tower reports or changes in contact details to Anne East before 10th March.

## 50/50 Draw

There will be a **Big Bumper Draw** for the 50/50 Club Prize winners at the Guild AGM in April. This will cover all three draws for the year from May 2008. Chris was not able to get to the Striking Competition for the draw because of a small matter of her daughter's wedding! The change of date for the Training Day meant she was away on holiday for that one as well.

## Training Day

The Training Day on February 7<sup>th</sup> proved the old maxim that you are never too young or old to ring, as the photograph of Ken Twentyman and Richard Percival shows. They were part of the Plain Hunt and Call Changes group ringing at Egremont. Nick was not the only one to wear a hat in the cold, wintery conditions!

It was a successful day with 42 people taking part in Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Bob, Bob Doubles and Minor and Grandsire. Ringing was sandwiched in between pub lunches and an excellent tea.



The Training Day organisers, Lucy Sutton, Ed Matthews and Sue Smith, are already looking at ways to improve the next Training Day on **November 21st 2009**. One thing which would help would be to have more helpers available so that the learners can have more opportunities to ring so please put the date in your diary.

## Girl Guide Centenary 2010

2010 is the Centenary of the Girl Guides and the Guild has been approached to see if we would be interested in ringing in 2010 as part of the celebrations. Ideally it would be nice if we could teach some of the Girl Guides to ring during 2009 so that they could take part in the centenary ringing. The Guild is currently having discussions with the County Association to see how we can take this forward. Some of the ideas under discussion include having a launch day in Workington and Greystoke to introduce Guiders to ringing, followed by more regular teaching sessions and eventually ringing in local towers.

## Guild AGM

The AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> April will start with ringing at Penrith from 2pm, then a quick dash (within speed limits!) along the A66 to Greystoke for more ringing, the service, the meeting and finally the bring and share tea. Hope to see lots of people there.

## Guild Website

Please check out the website and let Gareth Evans (or Anne East) know if there is any information which is out of date. <http://www.carlisle-dgcb.org.uk>

## Ringling Courses

Several people expressed an interest in attending ringing courses after reading my article last year. Anyone wanting details of the course I have attended (and plan to attend again this summer) should look at:

[www.bradfield-ringing-course.org.uk](http://www.bradfield-ringing-course.org.uk)

The course runs from 20-23 August and both students and helpers will be required.

Wendy Graham