Rise, All Saints

Although only of modest height, the dark spire of Rise Church can be seen at a considerable distance over the flat Holderness countryside. The churchyard is well wooded and surrounded by arable farmland, and farmland belonging to the Rise estate. The Bethal family, who own this estate, were responsible for the building of the Church. A plaque in the porch records that the first stone was laid in 1844, and the building was completed in November 1845.

The Church is not large, but more than adequate to service the tiny village of Rise with its population of 108. Inside, the wooden (pointed) roof is attractively painted blue with gold stars. There are no side chapels, simply a nave and chancel.

The Bethel family also paid for the bells which were installed in 1904 - the original three bells having been transferred to Long Riston. The five new bells were cast by Taylors and are:-

Treble 4-0-20 note D

2nd 4-2-17 note C

3rd 5-2-7 note B

4th 6-3-25 note A

Tenor 9-1-1 note G

The small ringing room is reached by a short spiral staircase through a door at the back of the Church, next to the organ; and a wooden staircase leads from the ringing room to the belfry.

Apparently, the bells were only chimed until the forties, however, at a harvest festival, shortly before the second world war, one of the farmers suggested the bells should be rung full circle. Mr. G. Williams, an accomplished ringer from Holy Trinity, Hull, who was present agreed to teach a local band. So it was that Geoff Holmes, Charles Gray-Nicholson, Richard Carlill, Harry Rodmell and others went every Monday evening to Holy Trinity to learn to ring (Seven O'clock bus, two shillings and a penny return fare, and the whole evening cost only three shillings including a fish and chips supper!).

The band got on well enough to start ringing on their own for services at Rise; but being an all learner group it was a struggle.

Other ringers came and went, but the above named remained the reliable core of the band, with Geoff Holmes as tower captain, right through until the eighties. They rang the bells regularly for practices and Sunday services through the fifties and sixties. It was during the seventies, with frequent visits by Judith Haselhurst and Christine de Cordova (nee Molendo), and with Howard Pickering having become a prominent member of the team, that great strides forward in change ringing were made. Numerous doubles methods were learned and spliced, and quarter peals were frequent.

Two peals of 5040 Doubles were rung; one on 21st December 1976 and the other on 7th April 1977, but they did not include any Rise ringers.

Unfortunately, ringing gradually became less frequent as some of the stalwarts left the village, and for the last ten years or so, but for brief periods, there has been no regular ringing. The bells are now only heard for the occasional wedding or when rung by visiting bands.

Shirley Wight