

## The Hull Handbells Project – Promoting Double-Handed Change Ringing throughout East Yorkshire.

The gradual increase in handbell change ringing seemed painfully slow at times during the year but a lot of progress has been made by meeting regularly, and getting the basics right.

**Gwynneth Moffatt, Karen Lane, and Rosina Baxter** all scored their first quarter peal on handbells during the year. **Chris Church** rang in all of the practice sessions and in the quarters with the above and in doing so rang her first quarter since 1985. **Lesley Davies, Pat Donnelly** and **Hilary Barclay** all made much progress during the year and are well on the way to becoming strong handbell ringers.

Sterling support for handbell ringing has been given throughout the year by **Chris Munday, Heather** and **Barry Peachey** and **Chris Church**; their support and enthusiasm has been fundamental to what has been achieved, which includes 6 quarter peals of Major, and 6 quarter peals of minor. This is much the same as Calendar Year 2000, and you need to go back to 1980 for the last significantly better year.

With the help of visiting guru **Simon Humphrey**, we rang a good peal of Plain Bob Major in May, and this was very much enabled by numerous quarter peals and practice sessions during the first part of the year. Congratulations to **Barry Peachey** on scoring an excellent first peal in hand. Unfortunately the summer break, and then many time demands curtailed that progress.

Towards the end of the year we were joined by **Neil Donovan** and **Ronald Barclay**, their energy and enthusiasm was only attenuated by diary pressures and distance until Ron unfortunately broke his left arm.

Numerically we have 14 active handbell ringers, 9 of whom have rung quarter peals, 7 have rung peals, and 4 have conducted peals.

Method ringing during the year included a plethora of plain minor methods, some challenging variations on the standard Treble Bob methods, straightforward ringing of Cambridge and Norwich Surprise Minor, and numerous courses of London Surprise Minor.

Methods beyond Plain Bob started to become a regular feature of the weekly and monthly practice sessions in the latter half of the year. It is a strong indicator of the improved method skills that **Gwynneth Moffatt, Chris Church** and **Karen Lane** are all now ringing Kent TB Minor on a regular basis.

Quarterly regional workshops were held; the last one, in late October, ran for 6 hours excluding the lunch break and for much of the time had parallel sessions to keep the ten ringers occupied.

What have we learned from the Hull Handbells Project? Handbell ringing is mentally hard but very rewarding, and if you wish to progress there is just no substitute for learning the methods thoroughly and then ringing a lot. And get a copy of handbell manager with “Motion Controllers” and Abel (simulator); practise on the simulator maximises the value of ringing on real bells.

Peter Church

Hull, December 2017.