

News from the Belfry November 2015

If you are a regular reader of the News from the Belfry you will know that over the last couple of years several quarter peals and one peal have been rung at St. Peter's. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers definition of a peal is "the gold standard change ringing performance during which the bells are rung continuously in over 5000 different sequences, without visual aids, and typically taking 3 hours". It should be noted that with seven bells the number of different changes is factorial 7 or $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 \times 7 = 5040$. With 6 bells, factorial 6 is 720 changes. How can a peal be rung on 6 bells? I am familiar with two options, firstly to ring several different methods or secondly the same method several times each called differently. A quarter peal is typically 1260 changes. At St. Peter's it typically takes us 40 minutes to ring a quarter peal and the most recent peal took 2 hours 37 minutes. Peals and quarter peals are rung to celebrate or commemorate special occasions and also because they represent a challenge to the ringers. The decision to ring a peal or quarter peal is determined by the expertise of the ringers available to ring.

The September edition of the Parish Magazine featured Frank Delderfield and his recent award of the British Empire Medal. Frank is a member of the Great Totham band of bell ringers and we would all like to congratulate Frank on his recent award. Frank joined fellow ringers Ann and Janice together with three ringers from Inworth to ring a quarter peal on Sunday 6th September to celebrate his award and investiture on the 4th September 2015.

If you are interested in learning to ring the bells at St. Peter's please contact our Tower Captain Janice Spalding on 01621 892197, come along to our Friday practice at 19.45 hrs or visit <http://greattothambellringers.org.uk>.

Andrew Hood