



Annual Report of The Troyte Ringing Centre

(Registered Charity No. 1179374)



All Saints, Huntsham (Photo: Les Boyce)

2025

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TROYTE RINGING CENTRE

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st December 2025

CHARITY DETAILS

CHARITY NAME	The Troyte Ringing Centre (often known as the “TRC”) was set up in 2004.
CHARITY REG'D NUMBER	The Centre was granted charity status by the Charity Commission in July 2018. Its Registered Charity Number is 1179374.
CONTACT ADDRESS	Five Oaks, Bampton, TIVERTON, Devon, EX16 9LE.

CHARITY TRUSTEES	Name	Office Held
	Christopher Bolt	
	Leslie Boyce	Chairman
	Michael Hatchett	Treasurer
	Jennifer Jones	Secretary
	Sheila Scofield	
	Michael Ward	

ADVISORS	Donald Carter	Principal Conductor
	John Martin, Michael Spencer, Fergus Stracey & David Hird	Conductors
	Jack Ward	Accounts Manager
	Simon Bartlett	Examiner of Accounts
	Ken Smith	Webmaster

WEBSITE	http://www.troyteringingcentre.org.uk/index.htm
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The Troyte Ringing Centre is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and its governing document is the TRC Constitution adopted on 27th July 2018. The members of the TRC are for the time being its trustees. Additional trustees or trustees to fill vacant posts are appointed by the remaining trustees with due regard to the knowledge, skills and experience of the candidates. In particular, appointees must demonstrate their competence in ringing full circle tower bells and in the training and development of appropriate ringing skills.

Management

The TRC operates primarily from St Michael and All Angels Church, Bampton and from All Saints Church, Huntsham in Devon. The Centre has management agreements with the Parochial Church Councils of both churches which provide for access, maintenance arrangements and the respective responsibilities of the TRC and the PCCs. The trustees and other voluntary helpers appointed by the trustees are responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the Centre. All the trustees and helpers work for the Centre on a voluntary basis without remuneration other than the reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

The Centre has developed a range of management policies covering issues such as health and safety, safeguarding, COVID-security and investment.

Links to other bodies

In addition to the agreements in place with the respective PCCs of Bampton and Huntsham, the Centre cultivates links with the North East Branch of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers and is designated an ART Teaching Hub by the Association of Ringing Teachers. The TRC also has a close relationship with Bampton Church of England Primary School and has run an after-school bellringing club for its pupils.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The TRC sets out its objective in its Constitution, namely:

For the public benefit, to recruit and train bell ringers, using individual and group-based programmes of continuing education and development, in Mid Devon, West Somerset and surrounding areas for the purpose of advancing the art of bell ringing on bells hung in towers for full circle ringing which are audible to the general public.

Note: *This object requires the TRC to operate within three principal fields of activity:*

- with the general public for the purpose of increasing public knowledge and understanding of tower bell ringing,*
- within groups of practising bell ringers for the purpose of developing group ringing performances*
- and with individual bell ringers to enable them to integrate more effectively into existing groups of ringers.*

In attempting to meet this objective the TRC carries out a range of activities, primarily:

- 1) Developing competence in the full circle ringing of tower bells through training, mentoring, focused practices and recorded performances for those living principally, but not exclusively, within the local authority areas of Mid Devon and the western part of Somerset.
- (2) Providing suitably competent bands of ringers to meet the reasonable bellringing needs and interests of the communities of Bampton and Huntsham and those living within the wider geographical areas of interest to the Centre.
- (3) Providing appropriate recruitment information and events for those living principally within the geographical areas of interest to the Centre.
- (4) Using any surplus income not used for meeting objectives 1,2 or 3 for the long-term maintenance and enhancement of the equipment used by the Centre which is owned by others and to support local communities.

Public Benefit

The Trustees are mindful of the guidance given by the Charity Commission in respect of demonstrating public benefit arising from the work of the TRC. In carrying out the activities outlined above the following public benefits are derived:

- Towers within the geographical area of interest are supported to provide information, open events and recruitment activities to explain and foster an understanding of tower bell ringing in the general population. Raising awareness of the heritage and history of bells and tower bell ringing from the mid-16th century is a key component of our public information activities.
- Through helping teachers in local towers or by directly providing tuition, the TRC enables new recruits to bellringing to be taught to control bells safely and effectively, thus sustaining ringing activities in towers that might otherwise fall silent and maintaining the centuries old tradition of ringing bells in England.
- Through providing continuing training in bell ringing, less experienced ringers are supported to maintain and develop their ringing and thus to improve their standard of public performance.
- Through offering readily available practice facilities using well-maintained bell installations, sound control systems and silent practice computer-based training, the TRC is further supporting ringers of all levels of ability. It thereby encourages the retention of ringers and supports ringers to achieve higher standards of public performance, while avoiding excessive disturbance to neighbours from long and frequent periods of open ringing.
- Through raising funds through its activities, the TRC supports its host churches to meet running costs, the costs of day-to-day bell maintenance and the investment needs for the longer-term overhaul of the bell installations.
- Bell ringing is an activity open to people of all ages from 8 to 80 and of all backgrounds. It offers good physical exercise and the opportunity for mental stimulation and social interaction.

CENTRE ACTIVITIES IN 2025

Recruitment, Publicity & Fundraising

Recruitment of new ringers has been a concern for several years, as our existing ringers age and suffer greater infirmity. Some progress has been made this year, with five recruits signing up for lessons. Inevitably, some learners find the commitment required to learn to ring too much, but we have retained four of the five in 2025. A volunteer recruitment event run for several Bampton organisations in March produced one recruit. Coffee mornings, teddy bear parachuting and Heritage Open Day events are opportunities to promote bell ringing to the local community, but do not necessarily produce recruits in the short term. We have 10 service ringers and a further 5 who support the weekly practice. A wider pool of ringers is drawn upon to provide bands for weddings and other special ringing and helpers for our training events. We lost one very accomplished young ringer to university in Liverpool in the autumn and one older ringer decided to end their ringing career because of infirmity.

We retain a set of display boards illustrating the history and practice of bells and ringing. These were well used throughout the year for Heritage Open Days in September in Tiverton and Bampton, during fundraising events and for supporting talks. In all, 7 bookings were made during the year.

Coffee mornings were held at Bampton in April and October and a cream tea in the Bampton churchyard in August to raise over £1,600 for the Centre. The August Bank Holiday Monday event parachuting teddy bears from Bampton church tower and a tower open event in September for Heritage Open Days generated good public relations for the TRC. The funds raised by these events, peal fees and other donations allowed the TRC to support the running costs of the two churches and to make provision in the longer term for major work on the bells. Details are given in the financial review below.

Service ringing and requested ringing

In normal circumstances the Centre's band of local ringers performs regularly prior to most Sunday services at Bampton and Huntsham. This is at least four times a month. The TRC band also rings for mid-week church services, weddings and to celebrate anniversaries, other life events and civic occasions when requested. There has been a growing trend for asking for bells to be rung at funerals. The local Facebook pages are used to inform the community of ringing for special occasions such as Holocaust Memorial Day and St George's Day.

Group practices and Training Events

Regular Thursday night practices at Bampton have been held throughout the year. It has been possible to expand the repertoire of methods rung at practices in the last year and attendances regularly exceed 12 ringers. A monthly practice is also held at Huntsham targeted particularly at those who ring for weddings there. It gives those who normally only ring on 6 bells the opportunity to practice their skills while ringing on 8.

The TRC programme of 8 training courses and Extended Practices saw 31 ringers benefit from these events. Demand for help with raising and lowering in peal remains strong and much of the training programme focuses on the needs of less experienced ringers in the earlier stages of their ringing careers.

Our young ringers group now operates entirely with youngsters living in Bampton but attending Tiverton High School. The group uses facilities at St Paul's church in Tiverton immediately after school and the pupils return home to Bampton by bus afterwards.

In the first half of the year we also ran an after-school group for pupils from Bampton Primary School. The primary school group finished in June when its members transferred to secondary school. We were unable to continue running a primary group in the autumn, but those pupils who progressed to Tiverton High School joined the High School group.

Recorded performances – peals and quarter peals

The TRC promotes the value of extended ringing performances as a way of developing the skills of ringers. Ringers throughout the South West are encouraged to participate in weekly peal attempts. A "peal" is a continuous performance of a minimum of 5,000 changes and takes between 2½ - 3 hours to complete. 44 successful peals were recorded in the year.

Details of the peals rung at Huntsham in 2025 can be seen on the TRC website:

<https://troyteringingcentre.org.uk/peals/peals2025.htm>

Similarly, the Centre also hosts regular quarter peal attempts by the local ringers and bands from further afield. 15 successful quarter peal performances were recorded at Huntsham, many being rung to develop the skills of the TRC local band. A "quarter peal" is a continuous performance of a minimum of 1,260 changes and takes about 45 minutes to complete.

Governance

The trustees were able to meet face-to-face on five occasions in 2025. The trustees receive regular reports on finance, health and safety, safeguarding and tower maintenance issues. As well as planning and reviewing Centre activities, the group has considered the maintenance needs of both bell installations, reviewed the Centre's insurance cover, reviewed the fees and charges we make for our services, prepared guidance for our ringing leaders on how to organise our practices and produced information sheets for the guidance of visiting ringers.

An annual meeting of the ringers in the local band was held in April and a category of associate membership of the charity is being trialled with a view to developing a package of benefits for associates and making a change to the TRC Constitution to formally recognise them.

We continue to search for new trustees from amongst those with both the relevant bellringing skills and other abilities in managing the organisation.

Facilities Maintenance and Improvement

The main project for 2025 has been the repainting of the bell frame at Bampton. Five volunteers from the ringers' group met weekly from May to November. The process of repainting involved scraping down and sanding the steelwork of the sub-frame and recoating with a red oxide primer, undercoat and two applications of a specialist topcoat. In 2026 the team will resume work, tackling the cast iron 'A' frames.

During the year, the defunct microwave oven at Huntsham was replaced with a second-hand oven sourced through Freecycle. At the request of the churchwarden the unused overhead projector and trolley were removed from the church and have been disposed of. An outstanding piece of work at Huntsham to check and refurbish the roller boxes for the free running of the ropes should be completed in 2026.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Financial Statement for the period 1st January to 31st December 2025 and the Report of the Examiner of Accounts are appended.

Income

Total receipts during 2025 were £8,270 compared with £8,431 for 2024, Peal income was slightly less than it was in 2024 but the income from quarter peals, weddings, funerals and other celebration ringing was slightly increased. Voluntary donations were significantly less in 2025 compared with 2024. In particular Gift Aided Small Donations and personal Gift Aid donations were less and as a consequence the Income Tax recoverable was less during 2025. Fund raising was slightly more successful during 2025 than it was during 2024. We raised £1,633 during 2025 compared with £1,596 during 2024.

Expenditure

Our expenditure on repairs and maintenance was significantly less in 2025, £683 in 2025 compared with £6,323 in 2024. This was because Nicholson Engineering were unable to undertake the work they were contracted to do during 2025. This work is still outstanding in June 2026 and the cost implications of this delay are likely to be significant.

Outturn, Transfers and Funds

We ended 2025 with a surplus in our current account of £7,504 compared with £4,276 at the end of 2024. Our Deposit account contained £3,492 compared with £3,349 at the end of 2024. During 2026 we have transferred a further £3,000 from our current account into our Deposit account. At the end of 2025 our Major Works Funds, invested by each PCC in the Church of England Investment Fund were valued in total at £36,535 compared with £35,948 at the end of 2024.

Finally in summary the total funds available to the Troyte Ringing Centre on 31 December 2025 were £10,995 compared with £7,959 at 31 December 2024.

DECLARATION OF TRUSTEES

This annual report and the accompanying accounts were approved by the Trustees at their meeting held on the 1st July 2026

Signed Leslie Boyce Chairman

Signed Jenny Jones Secretary

Troyte Ringing Centre
Financial Statement for period
1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT		General	Huntsham	Bampton	Training	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
	Note	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Designated £	Designated £	£	£
RECEIPTS							
Use of bells	1		2,583	267		2,850	2,511
Voluntary receipts	2	585	716	1,589	95	2,985	3,420
Fund raising	3		0	1,633		1,633	1,596
Other incoming resources	4	156	0	0	646	802	904
Total receipts		741	3,299	3,490	741	8,270	8,431
PAYMENTS							
Maintenance & Repairs	5			683		683	6,323
Fund raising costs	6			8		8	27
Facilities	7		1,800	2,000		3,800	3,700
Training	8				331	331	270
Other outgoing resources	9	581	12	12		605	643
Total payments		581	1,812	2,703	331	5,426	10,963
Surplus (Deficit)		160	1,487	786	410	2,843	(2,532)
TRANSFERS							
Transfers between funds	10					0	0
Surplus (Deficit) after transfers		160	1,487	786	410	2,843	(2,532)
AVAILABLE FUNDS							
Available funds at start of Financial Year	11	2,986	7	2,642	2,324	7,959	10,427
Available funds at end of Financial Year		3,316	1,392	3,489	2,799	10,995	7,959

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		General	Huntsham	Bampton	Training	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
	Note	Designated £	Designated £	Designated £	Designated £	£	£
Monetary assets							
Bank current account		3,316	(354)	1,743	2,799	7,504	4,276
Cash & cheques not paid in		0	0	0	0	0	334
Deposit account		0	1,746	1,746	0	3,492	3,349
		3,316	1,392	3,489	2,799	10,995	7,959
Investments							
Bell Major Works Funds	12		13,619	22,916		36,535	35,948
Investment Pending	13		1,000			1,000	0
Liabilities							
Cheques not presented		0	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Account	14	0	0	0		0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0

Jack P.H. Ward

Jack Ward
Accounts Manager

Mike Hatchett
Treasurer

Approved at Trustees Meeting on

Jenny Jones
Secretary

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT	General	Huntsham	Bampton	Training	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
	Designated £	Designated £	Designated £	Designated £	£	£
1 Use of bells						
Peals		1,540			1,540	1,690
Quarter Peals		263			263	171
Weddings, funerals and celebrations		520	230		750	650
Visiting Ringers			37		37	0
Branch Practices		260			260	0
	0	2,583	267	0	2,850	2,511
2 Voluntary receipts						
Online Giving	17				17	96
Non-Gift Aided Donations		531	309	64	904	964
Gift Aided Donations		185	1,280	31	1,496	1,729
Income tax recovered (Gift Aid Scheme)	568				568	632
	585	716	1,589	95	2,985	3,421
3 Fund raising						
Trading			5		5	0
Events			1,629		1,629	1,596
	0	0	1,633	0	1,633	1,596
4 Other incoming resources						
Bell Club fees & subscriptions				233	233	168
Training fees				360	360	346
Refreshments				24	24	59
Grants					0	0
Transfer from Deposit Account					0	0
Other	156			29	185	332
	156	0	0	646	802	905
5 Maintenance & Repairs						
Maintenance & repairs			683		683	6,323
New equipment					0	0
	0	0	683	0	683	6,323
6 Fund raising costs						
Invoices & reimbursements			8		8	27
Cost of trading					0	0
	0	0	8	0	8	27
7 Facilities						
Use of facilities		800	1,000		1,800	1,700
Major Works Investment Fund		1,000	1,000		2,000	2,000
	0	1,800	2,000	0	3,800	3,700
8 Training						
Training material				65	65	
Reimbursements				126	126	170
Other				140	140	100
	0	0	0	331	331	270
9 Other outgoing resources						
Administration					0	75
Bank Charges	84				84	102
Insurance	347				347	347
Other	150	12	12		174	119
	581	12	12	0	605	643

10 The General Fund is used for payments which are not liabilities falling to one of the other funds (e.g. administration, insurance, bank charges, website costs and governance) and receipts which are not other fund credits (e.g. income from internet purchases) or not attributable to a single fund (e.g. standing orders and donations to the TRC, and Gift Aid).

11 Monetary Assets less Liabilities

12 Investments in the Bell Major Works funds are made by the Huntsham and Bampton PCCs using the annual grant made by the TRC (see Note 7). The funds are controlled by the respective PCCs but can only be used for major work on the bells.

13 Annual grant for Bell Major Works Fund (see Note 7) not yet invested.

14 Money which passes through the TRC's bank account but which is not part of its income or expenditure. e.g. Collections for other charities.



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Troyte Ringing Centre

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1179374

Set out on pages

1 & 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below*~~) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Simon Bartlett

Date:

17/5/2026

Name:

SIMON BARTLETT

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

-

Address:

*12 QUARRYMAN CLOSE
BAMPTON
EX16 9FF*

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

All my queries were answered fully and satisfactorily. I found the accounts very clear and well laid out.
JTB