

# TROYTE RINGING CENTRE

Registered Charity Number 1179374

What we did in 2024 - a review of our activities



**The TRC exists to:**

- **Recruit and train new ringers to handle a bell**
- **Develop the individual skills of ringers through training**
  - **Help bands of ringers to improve their skills**
- **Provide bands to ring for services at Bampton & Huntsham**
  - **To ring for local and national celebrations as requested**
  - **To raise public awareness & knowledge of bells and ringing**
- **To give ringers opportunities to perform extended ringing in peals and quarter peals**

*The next three pages show briefly what we achieved in 2024*

## Recruitment, Publicity & Fundraising

In the spring we restarted our **After-School Bell Club** for high school pupils using the bells at Tiverton St Paul's. The youngsters could already handle a bell and have been developing their ringing skills in weekly sessions where they come straight from school and, after ringing, are seen onto the bus to return to Bampton.



The Bell Club also restarted in February 2024 for four younger pupils from Bampton Primary School. Three of them progressed to the High School group in the autumn and five further primary pupils started learning at Bampton at the same time.

*In December some of our youngsters (left) rang for the High School carol concert at St Paul's.*

In October we held an **Open Tower event** at Bampton when 12 people were taken up the tower to see the church clock and bells. They then joined our ringers for a demonstration of how the bells are rung and an explanation of what ringers do and how they learn to ring. Those that wanted to had a go at ringing a bell with the assistance of an instructor. The event generated good public relations for bellringing in the area.

As an independent charity the TRC must raise funds to support its activities. This year the ever-popular **Teddy Bear Parachuting** event attracted over 50 teddies who were launched from the top of St Michael's tower. Along with two coffee mornings and a summer cream tea event in the churchyard, our fundraising ventures raised over £1,500.

With this and other activities and donations the total income of the Centre in 2024 was £8,232. Money was spent on minor repairs, making donations to both churches and investing in funds to cover the cost of major work to the bells in the future at both churches. The TRC meets the cost of all routine maintenance and repairs to the bells so that the burden of these does not fall on the churches.





## Service ringing and requested ringing

Members of the TRC ring for most Sunday services at Bampton and once a month at Huntsham. In addition, they rang for 12 weddings at the two churches and for other celebrations including Huntsham Court weddings and family occasions. Of special note was the visit of the Toze family from Australia whose relatives had been ringers at Bampton in the 1950s & 60s. We rang a quarter peal to welcome them and had coffee with them afterwards.

## Group practices and Training Events

A weekly practice at Bampton on Thursday nights allows members to maintain and develop their ringing skills. A monthly 8-bell practice is held at Huntsham.

Many of our newer ringers follow the national “Learning the Ropes” (LtR) development scheme and are achieving set targets which are recognised with LtR certificates.

*Here (right) Jonah, a young ringer has just completed his first quarter peal of 45 minutes continuous ringing – a major milestone in the LtR scheme.*



The TRC also offers training events to ringers across a wide area of Devon and Somerset. We ran 7 events, usually for three hours on a Saturday morning, and helped 30 students from towers in the local area improve their skills in basic method ringing.

## Recorded performances – peals and quarter peals



Each week a varying band of ringers meets at Huntsham on a Thursday morning to ring a full peal of 5,000 or more changes lasting about 2¾ hours. 43 such attempts were successful and included a wide variety of methods – some being rung for the first time. 18 quarter peals of 1260 changes were also rung.

*Here the band relax after a peal of 5152 changes of Fulwood Delight Major at Huntsham.*

Extended ringing in quarter peals and peals gives ringers the opportunity to hone their ringing abilities in a way which short touches of a few minutes' duration cannot give.

## **Governance, Facilities Maintenance and Improvement**

The TRC is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission and managed by group of trustees who meet 5 or 6 times a year. Currently, the trustees are Les Boyce (Chairman), Jenny Jones (Secretary), Mike Hatchett (Treasurer), Chris Bolt, Sheila Scofield and Mike Ward. Sheila runs the After-School Bell Club and Mike Ward and Chris are responsible for maintaining the bells and fittings at Bampton and Huntsham. Les organises the group training events.

A regular source of wear-and-tear in belfries is to the bellropes. The cost of a new set of 6 ropes is well over £1,200. In 2024 the TRC purchased a new set for Huntsham and paid a bellhanger to do work on the bell fittings and frame at Bampton. The total cost of the work and new ropes was over £6,300. In 2025 the Centre will undertake a major project to repaint the bellframe at Bampton and pay for the rope pulleys to be overhauled at Huntsham.

## **Interested in Bellringing? Why not join us?**



### **Bellringing is great for:**

- Fitness
- Mental stimulation
- Fellowship in your local tower and worldwide
- Visiting amazing places
- Making a glorious sound
- Fun
- A way to celebrate and commemorate events

## **To find out more about learning to ring:**

Pick up the leaflet “Learn to ring church Bells with the Troyte Ringing Centre” or go to:

<https://troyteringingcentre.org.uk/> .

To find out more about bellringing go to: <https://bellringing.org/> .

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