

# Worcester Cathedral

Guild of  Bellringers

## PEALS ON THE BELLS

### A Summary

The full details of all peals on the bells can now be found on the Guild website [www.worcesterbells.org.uk/peals-database](http://www.worcesterbells.org.uk/peals-database).

In addition a complete list of peals appears on the Felstead database site at [www.cccbr.org.uk/felstead/tbid.php?tid=5668](http://www.cccbr.org.uk/felstead/tbid.php?tid=5668) and a list since 1985 (with full details from 2005) on the Ringing World site [www.peals.co.uk](http://www.peals.co.uk).

Since the bells were cast in **1928** there have been **159** peals rung on them as at **31 Dec 2015**. They are the fifth heaviest ring of bells in the world, measured by the total weight of 10.5 tons, and the seventh heaviest measured just by tenor weight. They are challenging to ring well because of frame and tower movement though their magnificent sound is usually considered sufficient compensation for the effort involved! Most people finish a peal very tired no matter which bell they've rung. Prior to 1928 the central tower housed a 50-cwt twelve, cast by Taylors in 1869 to Lord Grimthorpe's specification, which were pealed just 6 times in 59 years – five on the back ten and one on the twelve.

#### **THE TWELVE**

**111 peals**

The first peal, of Stedman Cinques, was rung on Boxing Day after the bells were cast and the first Maximus the following year when Bill Pye rang the tenor. Not until 1962 was the tenor 'turned-in' again, its fearsome reputation having been the result of loose headstock bolts.

<b>CINQUES</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>MAXIMUS</b>	<b>51</b>
Stedman	53	Cambridge	33
Grandsire	7	Yorkshire	6
		Bristol	6
		Spliced	3
		Other	3

Peal times have ranged from 3h41m – 4h12m for Cinques and 3h49m – 4h20m for Maximus.

### **THE MINOR TEN**

**24 peals**

This melodic haunting ring, formed by using 2,3,4,5#,6b,7,8,9,0,E with a tenor of 35 cwt, makes Worcester unique. One of the challenges of ringing them is the odd rope circle with 5# falling behind the 8<sup>th</sup> and outside the circle.

All of the peals have been rung half-muffled, for Remembrance, Good Friday and the passing of the Old year, with times ranging 3h18m – 3h45m.

<b>CATERS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>ROYAL</b>	<b>7</b>
Grandsire	12	Cambridge	3
Stedman	5	London	2
		Bristol	1
		Spliced	1

### **THE C# EIGHT**

**10 peals**

This is an unusual and magnificent octave, available at Worcester because of the 9# bell. It has a 35 cwt tenor and consists of 4,5#,6,7,8,9#,0,E. The rope circle is awkward with 5# behind the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9# well out of the circle. They were first pealed in 1961.

<b>TRIPLES</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>6</b>
Stedman	2	Plain Bob	1
Grandsire	2	Cambridge	3
		London	2

**THE MIDDLE EIGHT****8 peals**

This is the 'standard' light octave within many twelve-bell rings - formed by using 2,3,4,5,6b,7,8,9 with a tenor of 20 cwt. First pealed in 1960 they have not been particularly popular, perhaps because they are not a comfortable ring.

<b>TRIPLES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>3</b>
Stedman	1	Cambridge	1
Grandsire	4	Plain Bob	1
		Bristol	1

**THE BACK TEN****5 peals**

These have not been popular for peals as they seem to be much harder to ring well than the complete twelve. The last peal on them was in 1960, and oddly several of the peals have had two men on the tenor.

<b>CATERS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>ROYAL</b>	<b>-</b>
Stedman	1		
Grandsire	4		

**THE BACK EIGHT****1 peal**

Pealed just once, to Stedman Triples, in August 2009.

**THE SIXES****0 peals**

No six-bell peals have been rung at the cathedral - one was organized in 2010 but not started. Such a band would be spoilt for choice with two 'middle' sixes (3-4-5-6-7-8 and 4-5-6b-7-8-9) as well as two 'heavies' (6-7-8-9#-0-E and 7-8-9-0-E-T).

## QUITE INTERESTING

**Quiet Time** – the longest gap between peals was nearly 19 years (1975-94). The shortest (3 days) has occurred a couple of times when there have been peals on Good Friday and Easter Monday, and also in September 2015.

**Loudest Time** – the most peals in a calendar year was 13 in 2015. Other ‘double figure’ years were 2007 (10), 2009 (12) and 2011 (11).

**Clapper trouble** – the 10<sup>th</sup> is the ‘unluckiest’ bell, having had its clapper break in three peal attempts. It has also broken only 300 changes after one during service ringing the next day.

**Youngest** – the youngest person to ring a peal at the cathedral is Alistair Smith who was 15y1m, eclipsing the achievement of Laura Davies (16y4m).

**Two-and-a half tons for Half A Ton** – Bernard Taylor (2006), David Jenkins (2008) and Andrew Hartley (2014) all rang the tenor to celebrate entry into their sixth decade.

**1000<sup>th</sup> peals** – this personal landmark has occurred four times at the cathedral – Alan Flood (1994), Swaz Apter (2004), Steve Barton (2005) and 1000<sup>th</sup> as conductor, Bernard Taylor (2006).

**Half centuries** – three people have now completed 50 peals on the bells, a feat unimaginable even twenty years ago – Mark Regan, Bernard Taylor & Jim Clatowrthy (2015).

**Ladies on the box** – only two ladies have rung the tenor – Alison Regan (2006) and Claire Roulstone (2008). The first lady to ring a peal at the cathedral was Amy Thomas in 1946.

**Tired ?** – In 1996 David Pipe ‘turned in’ the tenor the day after doing the same thing at Southwark Cathedral – two 48cwt bells to Maximus in a weekend!

**Tired ?** – In 1998 Andrew Mills rang the tenor ‘behind’, in between ringing two peals elsewhere on the same day, both of which were over 10,000 changes.

**Not so tired** – the tenor has been ‘strapped’ (rung by two people) on 5 occasions – ‘behind’ in 1936, 1937, 1945 and 1953 – and ‘turned in’ in 1963 by Wilf Williams & Bill Theobald.

**Speed** – Over 40% of the 12-bell peals have been completed within an 8-minute spread – 3h47m to 3h55m – which suggests that is the optimum. That is 6m per course of Stedman Cinques and 24m per course of Cambridge Maximus.

**Brothers** – pairs of brothers have appeared together in peals on a number of occasions – Bill & George Pye (1929), Henry & George Fearn (1945), Ron & Jim Diserens (1958), Martin & Michael Fellows (1965), John & Michael Chilcott (1971), John & Ron Diserens (1973), Geoff & Peter Randall (1995), Richard & Michael Clements (2000), Bernard & Malcolm Taylor (2006).

**Fathers & sons** in the same peal – William & Tom Lewis (1930), Geoff & Gerald Hemming (1965), John & Richard Clements (1974), David & Matthew Hilling (1994), John & Michael Clements (1996), Alan & Andy Hartley (1996), Chris & Ian Povey (1999), Michael & Philip Orme (2000), Andrew & Mike Wilby (2006), Russell & Nick Brown (2012), Mark & William Regan (2015).

**Fathers & daughters** in the same peal – John Clements & Liz Orme (1996), Chris Kippin & Eleanor Linford (2009), Michael & Louise Palmer (2009).

**Three generations** – two families have 3 generations who have rung a peal at the cathedral – the HEMMINGES, James (1928), Geoff (1935) and Gerald (1965), and the PIPES, Cecil (1962), Roderick (1966) and David (1994).

**Married couples** – first made an appearance with John & Amy Thomas (1946), followed by Bill & Claudia Critchley (1970), Stuart & Barbara Piper (1994), John & Stef Warboys (1996), Phillip & Liz Orme (1996), Bob & Ruth Smith (1997), James & Jennie Taylor (1998), Mark & Alison Regan (2002), John Loveless & Linda Garton (2002), Martin & Maggie Whiteley (2002), Bob & Pat Newton (2003), Ian & Wendy Campbell (2003), Paul & Ruth Curtis (2004), Phil & Gwen Rogers (2005), John & Ann White (2007), Ian & Claire Roulstone (2009), Andrew & Liz Harvey (2011), Sam & Sian Austin (2012).

**8 x 3 x 8** – Bernard Taylor has rung the same bell (the 8<sup>th</sup>) to peals of Triples on 3 different octaves – the middle eight, the c# eight and the back eight. (The only other bell on which this could be done is the 7<sup>th</sup>)

**Semitone man** – Jim Clatworthy, specialist subject Middle Bells, has rung a semitone bell to a peal more times than anyone (9) but hasn't rung the 9#.

**Local yokels** – the following members of the *current* local band have all rung a peal at the cathedral (date is most recent) – Jim Clatworthy, Ashley Fortey, Saskia Frisby, Alex Hajok, David Jenkins, Mark Regan, William Regan, Alistair Smith, Bernard Taylor (2015), Andrew Hartley (2014), Mark Wilson (2010), John Nicklin (2008), Steve Barton (2007), David Beacham (2000), Chris Phillips (1996), Louise Hamilton-Glover (1994), Jim Wheeler (1974), John Slater (1973).

### LEADING RINGERS

Over 500 people have rung a peal here with the following in the 15+ group –

		1	2	3	4	5 #	5	6	6 b	7	8	9 #	9	0	E	T
Mark Regan	<b>77</b>	13	4	4	2	2	1	1	2	2	9	1	3	7	14	12
Bernard Taylor	<b>57</b>	6	6	2	3	2	5	7	2	4	8	1	6	2	2	1
James Clatworthy	<b>50</b>	1	3	8	4	4	5	9	5	7	4		-	-	-	-
Ashley Fortey	<b>41</b>	1	6	4	2	2	1	1	1	3	4	1	8	4	1	2
Chris Pickford	<b>39</b>	-	-	-	3	-	-	-		1	1	1	7	9	13	4
Nick Brown	<b>27</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	4	5	2
Dan Jones	<b>26</b>	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	7	5	1	4	2	2	1
<i>Alison Regan +</i>	<b>25</b>	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	3	3	2	1
David Jenkins	<b>24</b>	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
Chris Kippin	<b>24</b>	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	-	3	5	2	3

Mike Clements	<b>23</b>	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	1	1
Rick Shallcross	<b>20</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	1	3	7	4
Swaz Apter	<b>20</b>	4	7	3	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gordon Birks	<b>20</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	8	7	2
<i>Alan Flood</i> +	<b>17</b>	2	3	3	2	-	1	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-
David Beacham	<b>16</b>	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	3	4	-	2	1	1	-
Steve Barton	<b>16</b>	-	-	1	2	-	4	3	-	3	1	-	1	-	1	-
Peter Elliott	<b>16</b>	-	1	1	7	-	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Tom Lewis</i> +	<b>15</b>	2	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	1	2

The leading conductors are Mark Regan (22) and Bernard Taylor (19)

### ‘CIRCLING’ THE TOWER

The first person to ring all of the twelve bells to a peal was **Tom Lewis**, in 1974, who took 15 peals to do so. Only 6 of these were 12-bell peals however and he did not ring any of the 3 semitone bells (5#, 6b and 9#) to peals.

The first to complete a peal on all 15 bells was **Bernard Taylor** in 2007 within the space of 19 peals. He was followed by **Mark Regan** in 2008 (28 peals), **Alison Regan** in 2009 (21 peals), **David Jenkins** in 2013 (21 peals), **Ashley Fortey** in 2014 (32 peals), **Mike Clements** in 2015 (22 peals) and **Nick Brown** in 2015 (22 peals).

Only four people have circled the twelve to twelve-bell peals as below. The next closest is David Jenkins who only requires the 11<sup>th</sup> and Nick Brown who needs the 2nd and 3rd -

<b>Twelve</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>T</b>
Mark Regan	<b>46</b>	13	2	4	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	6	11
Bernard Taylor	<b>34</b>	6	3	1	1	5	6	1	3	5	1	1	1
Chris Kippin	<b>18</b>	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	3
Mike Clements	<b>17</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	1	1

The Minor Ten have also now been circled (that is, all ten to Minor Ten peals), by Bernard Taylor, and the following are the leading ringers for such peals –

<b>Minor Ten</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5#</b>	<b>6b</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>E</b>
Mark Regan	<b>21</b>	2	-	-	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	-	6	1	2	7
Bernard Taylor	<b>14</b>	3	1	1	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	2	2	1	1	1
James Clatworthy	<b>14</b>	-	2	-	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	1	1	-	-	-
Ashley Fortey	<b>13</b>	1	1	1	<b>2</b>	-	1	2	5	-	-
Dan Jones	<b>10</b>	-	2	-	-	-	3	1	1	2	1
Chris Pickford	<b>10</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	3

No-one has yet circled either of the octaves (E or C#) to eight bell peals, the latter looking extremely unlikely in the near future. Only the following have rung 4 or more -

<b>C# octave – 10 peals</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>5#</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9#</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>E</b>
Mark Regan	<b>8</b>	1	<b>1</b>	-	-	1	<b>1</b>	3	1
Bernard Taylor	<b>6</b>	1	<b>1</b>	1	1	1	<b>1</b>	-	-
Chris Pickford	<b>6</b>	3	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	1	1
James Clatworthy	<b>5</b>	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-
Ashley Fortey	<b>4</b>	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1

<b>E octave – 8 peals</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6b</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
David Beacham	<b>4</b>	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-