

St Albans District Newsletter

Volume 27 Issue 3 – October 2022 (2nd Edition)



Bell ringing in memory of
HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II

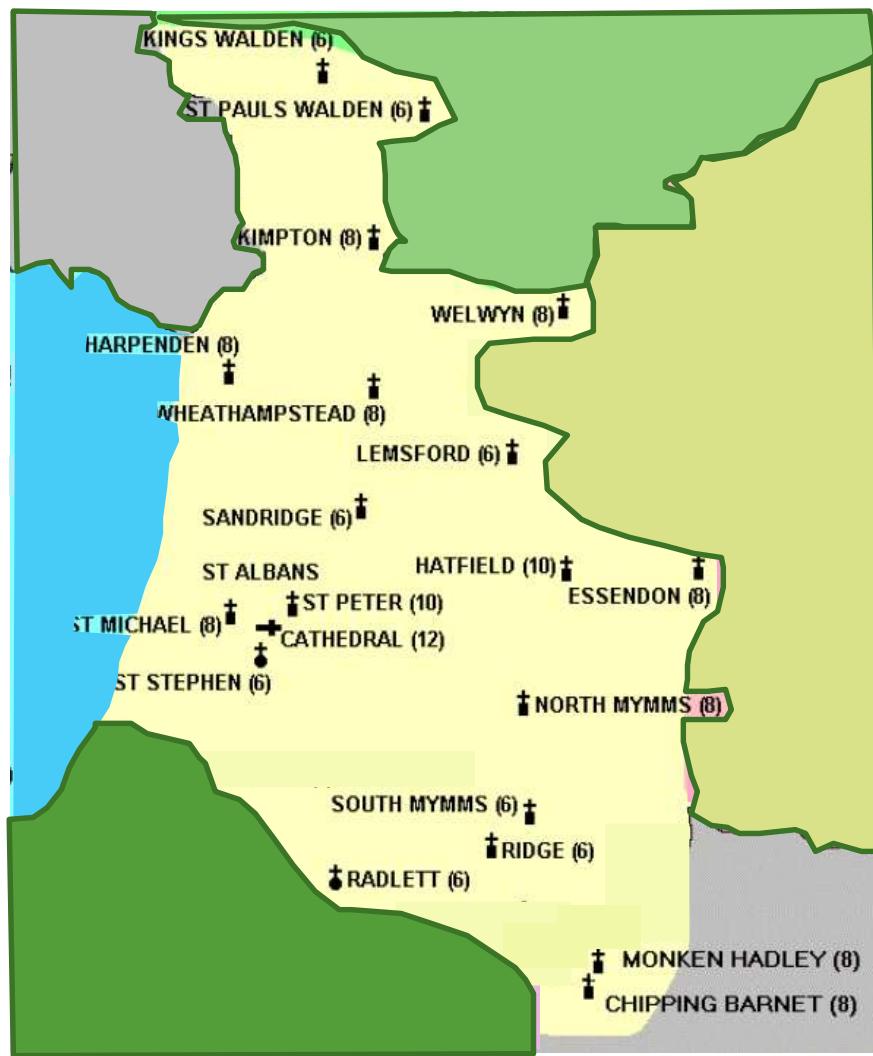


We have 20 towers in our District and nearly all were involved in some way in ringing for HM Queen Elizabeth on one or more days between Thursday 9th September and Monday 19th September.

Bellboard and an excellent email response from the towers shows around 180 different ringers took part.

Quarter Peals were scored at several towers including Barnet, The Abbey, St Peter's, St Michael's, Sandridge and Welwyn.

This 2nd Edition is issued to correct a few minor errors/omissions.



Comments from the Towers (in no particular order):

BARNET:

Friday, 9 September: Rounds and Call Changes by Emily J Crowder, Sugi Thalayasingam, Catie Davies, Howard Davies, Adrian P Sweeting, and David Ely.

Rung in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Sunday 11 Sept: Rounds and Call Changes by Tricia Narracott-Wales, Celia Workman, Catie Davies, Adrian P Sweeting, Nancy L Surman, Howard Davies, David Ely, Martin B Sutcliffe, Susan Davies, Persephone, Edmund and Gary Dawson.

Rung to celebrate the Proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III.

God Save the King!

Monday 19th: Rounds and Call Changes for one hour

David C Ely, Nancy L Surman, Derek Epstein, Catie Davies, Howard Davies, Kate Giddens, Ron Giddens, Fiona Facey and Adrian P Sweeting.

Rung Half Muffled in memoriam HM Queen Elizabeth II prior to her funeral.

ESSENDON:

Colin Rees writes: We rang double muffled which took 45 minutes to make safe except the one on the tenor was mistakenly tied on the hand stroke as opposed to the back! We did the hour mixing periods of rounds, queens, call changes and every available ringer including our learners were given a ring including my daughter, visiting from Australia who had not pulled a rope for 9 years. Considering the muffling, the striking was excellent, and we felt, a fitting tribute to our badly missed late Queen

Ringers: Elaine Savage, Ann Piggott, Vanessa Spragg, Paula Marshall, Lyn Orr, Hilary Scott, Stephen Healing, Emma Rees, Susan Rees, Colin Rees, Cas Blackman.

ST PAUL'S WALDEN:

Tim Liddell writes: We rang at 10am on **Friday 9th** for one hour half muffled and then again at 10am on **Monday 18th** for one hour half muffled.

I rang the tenor 7.30 to 8pm on **Sunday 17th** to mark the minute silence.

We had nine new ringers.



Ringers at St Paul's Walden.

NORTH MYMMS:

Andrew Sherlock writes:

Thursday 8th September 8.30pm to 9pm - tolling a single bell (Adrian Sherlock, Julia Saltmarsh)

Friday 9th September 12 noon to 12.30pm - half muffled - Adrian Sherlock, Julia Saltmarsh, Derek Blumsom, Peter Dalling.

Sunday 11th September 9am to 9.30am - half muffled - Adrian Sherlock, Julia Saltmarsh, Derek Blumsom, Peter Dalling.

The ABBEY, St ALBANS:

Thursday 8th September: One hour of half-muffled ringing including rounds on 10, call changes on 8, and touches of Grandsire Doubles and Stedman Doubles by Janet L Penney, Jennifer V Johnson, Sarah Pritchard, David P Hodgskin, Chloe Amos-Edkins, Callum Just, Nikki Wills, Matthew Hatfield, James W S Crawley, Roderic K Bickerton, Jonathan P Humbert

To mark the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Friday 9th September: Tolling by Jonathan P Humbert:

Jonathan Humbert: "A great honour to ring this bell in honour of our late Queen and for our wonderful City"

Saturday 10th: General Ringing Rounds and call changes including Queens and Kings.

This was followed by more rounds on twelve, Grandsire Caters, and all twelve bells lowered in peal.

Ringers: Stephen W Penney (C), Deirdre R Watson, Brian C Watson, Elaine Peill, Janet L Penney, David P Hodgskin, Ann Evans, Marc A McDonald, Stephen J Crawley, Roderic K Bickerton, Ian K Bushell, Jonathan P Humbert, Chloe Amos-Edkins, Sue Carpenter, Caroline Hawking, Jennifer V Johnson, Nicky Smith and Nikki Wills.

Rung open to mark the Proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III.



The Abbey Ringers

On Monday 19th: General Ringing (half muffled) including Rounds on ten followed by slow tolling on the tenor prior to the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Roderic K Bickerton, James W S Crawley, Matthew Hatfield, Caroline Hawking, David P Hodgskin, Callum Just, Rachel Moll, Janet L Penney, Stephen W Penney and Alan G G Smith

A Quarter peal was also rung at The Abbey on Monday 19th:

1277 Grandsire Caters, Composed by Simon A Bond

David P Hodgskin 1, Alan G G Smith 2, Janet L Penney 3, Ann Evans 4, James W S Crawley 5, Brian C Watson 6, Stephen W Penney (C) 7, Roderic K Bickerton 8, Richard Sales 9, Jonathan P Humbert 10.

Rung half muffled on the occasion of the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

St STEPHEN'S, St ALBANS:

Friday 9th: Rounds and Call Changes for one hour.

Dorothea M Mayne, Lucy Pether, Nicholas Groves, Cheryl Groves, Richard Pether, Thomas Groves (C)

Rung fully muffled at noon on the day after the announcement of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Monday 19th: Call changes, Plain Hunt Doubles and Plain Bob Doubles. Ringers: Nicholas Groves, Cheryl Groves, Thomas Groves, Lucy Pether, Richard Pether, Alison Macfarlane, Anne Tinkler, Siân Evans

Rung fully muffled for one hour immediately before the funeral HM Queen Elizabeth II

St PETER'S, St ALBANS:

Friday, 9 September 2022: Tolling. The 8th bell was tolled starting at noon, half muffled, to mark the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by Elaine Peill, Ann Evans and Deborah Butler.

Sunday, 11 September 2022: General Ringing

Rounds and call changes including Queens transferring into Kings on the back 8 bells followed by a touch of Plain Bob Doubles on the front 6 bells. Ringers: Jackie Broadfoot, James McGaughey, Robin Teesdale, Deborah M E Butler, Elaine Peill, Ann Evans, Roderic K Bickerton (C), Richard W Butler (C).

Rung half muffled before a Special Communion Service to Commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II

Monday 19 September: General Ringing: Grandsire Caters, Call Changes, Plain Hunt, Rounds with progressive standing ending with 96 tolls on the tenor bell. Ringers: Ann Evans, Cheryl Groves, Deborah M E Butler, Elaine Peill, Jackie Broadfoot, James McGaughey, Nicholas Groves, Richard W Butler, Richard Sales, Robin Teesdale, Roderic K Bickerton, Rosemary E Sales, Siân Evans, Thomas Groves.

Rung half-muffled before the funeral, and in memory of, HM Queen Elizabeth II

St MICHAEL'S, St ALBANS

Friday 9th September: Alison Evans tolled the 6th bell for one hour.

Saturday, 10th September: General Ringing

Call Changes on 6, 240 Grandsire, 120 each of Stedman and Plan Bob Doubles. Ringers: Alison Evans, Neil Evans, Louisa Haynes, Stephen P Haynes, Hilary Heine, Robert Picton, Liz Sage, Alex Sage.

To mark the Proclamation of Kings Charles III

Two Quarter peals were also rung at St Michael's:

Tuesday 13 September: 1344 Kimmeridge Surprise Major (Arranged by Claire C Nicholson)
Alan M Shepherd 1, Ann Evans 2, Lucas J Williams 3, Julie Grimwade 4, Claire C Nicholson 5 (C),
Andrew M Reeve 6, Richard Sales 7, Matthew R Johnson 8.
Rung half-muffled in thanksgiving for the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Sunday 18th September: 1280 Spliced Surprise Major (3m) Cambridge, Yorkshire, Rutland; 25
com. Claire C Nicholson 1 (C), Euan R M Thomas 2, Liz Middleton 3, John Fisher 4, Brian D
Crawley 5, Lucas J Williams 6, Jennifer V Johnson 7, Bjørn E Bradstock 8.
First of Yorkshire, Rutland and spliced: 6. Rung half muffled.

Monday 19th September: Alison Evans tolled the 6th bell for one hour prior to the funeral.

MONKEN HADLEY

Friday 9 September: Tricia Narracott-Wales writes: We rang for an hour. A combination of tolling the tenor 96 times and solemn rounds on 5. Those who rang were Roxanne Bartly, Ian Callander, Dan Ruge-Cope, Jeremy Platten and Tricia Narracott-Wales.

Monday 19 September: A combination of tolling the tenor bell 96 time and solemn rounds were rang for an hour. Those who took part were, Gary Dawson, Roxanne Bartly, Ian Callander, Dan Ruge-Cope, Celia Workman and Jeremy Platten

WHEATHAMPSTEAD

Friday 9 September: Ben Quinn tolled the tenor, half muffled from 12.00 -12.15. The Rector incorporated a small service involving children from local school.

Sunday 18 September: Ringers: Lisa Wentz, Susan Lestrange, Judith Titmus, Ron Titmus, Ben Quinn, Chris Male, Bob Crocker.

Monday 19 September: Ben Quinn tolled tenor from 10.30 - 10.45 and stopped just before the gun carriage left Westminster Palace for Abbey.

SANDRIDGE:

Vivian Nutton writes:

Friday 9th September: One hour tolling: Vivian Nutton, Christine Nutton, Callum Hayes

Saturday 10th September: Call Changes and 300 Plain Bob Doubles; Christine Nutton, Treble; Dianne Crowder 2, Callum Hayes 3 Richard Hayes 4; Vivian Nutton 5 (C); Hana Booth Tenor. For the Accession

Sunday 11th September: Before morning service: Call Changes: Trevor Hawkins (Treble); Richard Hayes 2; Frances Leonard 3; Christine Nutton 4; Vivian Nutton 5 (C); Hana Booth Tenor

Sunday 11th September: After morning service: 660 Plain Bob Doubles; Christine Nutton, Treble; Ben Quinn 2; Dianne Crowder 3 Richard Hayes 4; Vivian Nutton 5 (C); Hana Booth Tenor. In memoriam Elizabeth R.

Monday 19th September: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Christine Nutton, Treble; Callum Hayes 2; Judith Titmus 3; Richard Hayes 4: Vivian Nutton(C) 5; Ron Titmus Tenor. Rung before the commemoration service for Queen Elizabeth II

HATFIELD:

Friday 9th September: Rounds and Call Changes including 'Queens' & 'Kings' and Tolling of the 6th bell 96 times.

Mary Goss 1, Dianne Crowder 2, Kath Sayers 3, Rob Goss (C) 4, Michael Oakley 5, Graham Figg 6.

Rung half-muffled in Memory of Queen Elizabeth II

Monday 19th September:

Rounds and Call Changes on The Front Six and Tolling of the 6th.

Ringers: Jonathan Bottoms, Graham Figg, Rob Goss, Mary Goss, Lucy Hornberger, Oscar Hornberger, Toby Hornberger, Virginia Kennard, Sue Skerratt

Rung prior to the State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II



Hatfield Ringers on Friday 9th



The ringers at Hatfield on Monday 19th.

LEMSFORD:

Friday, 9 September

Rounds by Emily Palmer, David George and Oliver S E Titmus
Half muffled rounds in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

Saturday 10 September ,Tolling single bell by Emily K Palmer

Tenor tolling at 11 am on the proclamation of the accession of HM King Charles III.

Sunday, 11 September

Rounds and Call Changes by Emily K Palmer, Fearne Palmer, Blake Palmer, Darcey Palmer and Oliver S E Titmus

Half muffled in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Monday 19 September: Judith E Titmus, Virginia Simpson, Laura J Hill, Robert J Crocker, David George, Ron E Titmus

Rung half muffled on the morning of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

WELWYN:

Friday, 9 September Rounds and call changes

Nigel Ward 1, Stephen Mitchell 2, Les Harland 3, Peter Gill 4, Andrew King 5 (C), Brian Gilbert 6, This performance was rung *In memoriam* — HM Queen Elizabeth II .

Saturday, 10 September: Tolling Brian Gilbert

For the Proclamation of King Charles III .

Sunday, 11 September: Rounds and Call Changes. Brian Gilbert 1, John Williams 2, Stephen Mitchell (C) 3, Les Harland 4, Janet Coates 5.

Sunday, 18 September: Rounds and Call changes for morning service. Ringers: Les Harland Andrew King, Peter Gill, Brian Gilbert, John Williams, Stephen Mitchell (C), Nigel Ward, Janet Coates.

Sunday, 18 September: Rounds and called changes (evening service): Les Harland, Andrew King, Peter Gill, Brian Gilbert, John Williams and Stephen Mitchell (C).

RADLETT

Friday, 9 September Tenor tolled fully-muffled for an hour by Adrian Beardwell and Julian Beardwell

Saturday, 10 September Open ringing including rounds from Queens to Kings

Ringers: Julian Beardwell, Jack, Jeanette Beckley, Louise Bourton, Adrian Beardwell, Julie Lloyd and Father Shaun

Sunday, 11 September Service ringing half-muffled

Monday, 19 September Tenor tolled fully-muffled for an hour by Julian Beardwell and Claire Soffair



RIDGE

Friday, 9 September

Tenor tolled fully-muffled for an hour by Louise Bourton and Julie Lloyd (photo)

Saturday, 10 September

Open ringing including rounds from Queens to Kings

Ringers: Julian Beardwell, Jack*, Anne Pegum, Jeanette Beckley*, Graham Figg, Louise Bourton, Adrian Beardwell, Julie Lloyd and Father Shaun

Ringing the tenor at Ridge

Sunday, 11 September
Service ringing half-muffled

Monday, 19 September
Tenor tolled fully-muffled for an hour by Louise Bourton and Julie Lloyd

SOUTH MYMMS

Friday, 9 September
Tenor tolled fully-muffled for an hour
by Anne Pegum, Jeanette Beckley*
and Daniel Skerratt

Saturday, 10 September
Open ringing including rounds from
Queens to Kings
Band: Julian Beardwell, Jack*, Anne
Pegum, Jeanette Beckley*, Graham
Figg, Louise Bourton, Adrian
Beardwell, Julie Lloyd and Father
Shaun (photo)

Monday, 19 September
Tenor tolled fully-muffled for an hour
by Anne Pegum, Jeanette Beckley*,
Jack* and Daniel Skerratt



South Mymms Ringers (Sat 10th)

* Learners

HARPENDE

Friday 9th September at 9am. Tenor tolled 96 times by Christine Darby and Charles Pocock

Friday 9th September at 12 noon. Ringing half-muffled in response to the announcement of the death of the Queen on Thursday 8th September:
Ringers: Jackie Agg, Christine Carter, Christine Darby, Jane Fransella, Rachael Herriott, Gillian Lacey, Nicola Long, Di Parrott, Charles Pocock and Liz Pocock.

Sunday 11th September before 9.45am service
bells rung half muffled



Harpden Ringers (9 Sept). (L to R): Nicola Long, Jane Fransella, Gillian Lacey, Christine Darby, Jackie Agg, Christine Carter, Rachael Herriott, Di Parrott

Sunday 11th September at 4pm as part of the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III, begun the day before, ringing open (unmuffled) bells: Christine Carter, Christine Darby, Jane Fransella, Charles Herriott, Nicola Long, Charles Pocock.

Sunday 18th September before 9.45am service. Bells rung half-muffled during period of mourning.

Sunday 18th September before 3pm Civic Service. Bells rung half-muffled

Monday 19th September for the funeral of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Bells rung half muffled 10.20 to 10.55. Tenor tolled half-muffled 10.55 to 11am. Ringers: Jackie Agg, Agneta Burton, Andrew Cripps, Christine Carter, Andrew Darby, Christine Darby, Jane Fransella, John Harper, Charles Herriott, Gillian Lacey and Di Parrott.

Tri-District Ringing Tour/Practice

This is a reminder that the tri-district ringing tour/practice is on **Saturday 8th October**. An exciting day that covers ringing at three towers, in three different districts, and lunch.

Everyone is welcome, from rounds to surprise. the day will run as follows;

- **10:30 - 11:30 - Ringing at Codicote (Northern District)**
- **12:00 -13:30 - Pub Lunch at the Rose and Crown in Welwyn**
- **13:45 - 14:45 - Ringing at Welwyn (St Albans District)**
- **15:00 - 16:00 - Ringing at Tewin (Eastern District)**

You can attend for one tower or the entire day.

If you wish to come for the lunch contact Kevyn Hopkins-Hall (Eastern District Secretary) secretaryeastern.hcacr@gmail.com and please let him know your menu choice by **Wednesday the 5th October**. The menu can be found on the pub web site ([The Rose & Crown](http://theroseandcrownwelwyn.co.uk) (theroseandcrownwelwyn.co.uk)).

Obituary

By John Williams

Mary Gregory (22nd April 1939 – 29th March 2022)

Mary was born and raised in Prestwood, a village in Buckinghamshire in the Chiltern Hills, about two miles west of Great Missenden and six miles north of High Wycombe. She met her future husband David in Oxford in 1959 when she was training as a Child Care Officer and David was reading physics at Brasenose College. One of Mary's friends persuaded her to help with costume preparation for an Oxford University Dramatic Society's performance of "The Birds" by





Aristophanes and David was busy working on the lighting equipment. Within a few weeks they had fallen for each other and decided they wanted to marry. After Mary had qualified as a Child Care Officer in 1962, they married at Holy Trinity Church, Prestwood, Bucks, and settled in Welwyn Garden City where Mary had found a job in the Children's Department. From Welwyn Garden City it was easy for David to commute into London and possible to visit both sets of parents – in Buckinghamshire and Wimbledon. David was working in an engineering role for the BBC.

On arriving in WGC David and Mary immediately became members of St Francis's Church and initially both sang in the choir. Their son, Jonathan, was the first child to be baptised at the 9.15 Family Eucharist in 1964 and their daughter Frances followed in 1967.

In 1968 the family moved to New York where David was the Senior Engineer in the BBC office which was in Rockefeller Center in downtown Manhattan. Alistair Cooke recorded his weekly "Letter from America" there.

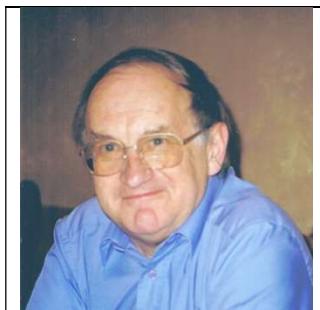
Their period in the USA covered the time of the Apollo Moon Missions, for which they still had some of the press packs. David

organised communications for outside broadcasts for the BBC and was in the press corps at the Kennedy Space Center for various Apollo missions from 8 to 15 including 11 and 13. Before Apollo 13 went wrong there were few press people there at first as it was not "news" any more. David had to find what facilities he could for correspondents in journalists' area, which was noisy. On one occasion Charles Wheeler broadcast live into the BBC radio news kneeling under a table with a wastepaper basket acting as a noise shield for his mike. When Mary and David visited the Kennedy Space Center in 2001 with their grandchildren David took his original Apollo 11 Press badge with him, which provoked a good deal of interest among both staff and other visitors. Returning to WGC and to St Francis Church in 1971, David worked in BBC communications i.e. all its internal networks, not broadcasting, becoming Head of Engineering Communications Development. They bought a lovely house in Guessens Road in 1972.

In 1979 David left the BBC and joined British Aerospace in Stevenage, where he built up a group and expertise on satellite communications, including TV broadcast by satellite in the early days of what eventually became Sky Television. (Rupert Murdoch bought a 65% stake in Satellite Television Ltd in 1983.) 1979 saw the publication of the book "Satellite broadcasting" with David as a joint author. Having become the Director for the Space and Communications subsidiary of British Aerospace, David retired in 1992 when British Aerospace terminated its satellite activities. David and Mary then began a private consultancy under the name of Masmus Ltd., in telecommunications and sound recording and providing the engineering for an independent producer making programmes for Radio 4. There were several series of "Random edition" (presenter Peter Snow) and "Master Musicians", (approximately 80 programmes in all). All the programmes were produced at their home in Guessens Road which was adapted to provide a sound studio (in the sitting room) and a control room in the office. They also made professional music recordings for Guild and ASV labels at several locations, recordings for Toddler Tunes, and transcriptions onto CD for the pianist Philip Fowke and organist Peter Hurford.

After 35 years as members of St. Francis Church, Welwyn Garden City, in 1997 David and Mary began attending St. Mary's in Welwyn. They responded to an entry in a service leaflet seeking bell ringers and started learning to ring in September 1998. Mary was nearly 60 and David was 61. In a short time, they became very enthusiastic and to make up for their late start, they went on all sorts

of courses. They went on the Essex course to learn Bob Doubles; then Bob Minor and Cambridge Minor with Phil Gay at Keele and Stedman Doubles at the Marches Teaching Belfry with John Turney. They also went on annual ringing holidays with John Turney from 2001-2006 and took the Welwyn Band there in 2002. David and Mary also rang regularly at practices at Datchworth, at St. Stephen's, St. Albans (for about 3 years) and at Lemsford.



David Gregory

Mary became Tower Secretary at St Mary's in 2002 and David became Ringing Master in 2003. In 2003 David was successfully operated on for bowel cancer and made a good recovery. He continued ringing until his death in 2009, aged 72. By the time he died he had rung at 220 towers.

After David's death Mary eventually sold her house in WGC and came to live in Welwyn Village centre, a short distance from the St Mary's Church. Mary continued to ring in Welwyn and regularly at Datchworth and Lemsford. She continued to ring at Lemsford until 2017. Eventually she was forced to give up because of back problems and a difficulty with

her left hand grip. Mary was later diagnosed as suffering from the rare degenerative disorder PSP. The Welwyn band rang for her memorial service at St Mary's on 25th April and also tolled the tenor bell. During the service a delightful recording made for Toddler Tunes featuring both Mary and David's voices was played.

At the end of the service the congregation listened to a recording of Nunc Dimittis, sung by the choir of St Francis of Assisi, Welwyn Garden City, with the solo by David Gregory.

Editor: Rob Goss

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