

Report by the Tower Captain on ringing in 2011

We held a very successful Dedication Service for the restored and augmented bells. This was attended by Bishop Clive, Bishop of Dunwich, who was both inspiring and entertaining. The church was full to bursting and the evening concluded with refreshments at the Old Rectory.

In the summer we held a Beginners' Course –three sessions spread over the course of a week. The participants, whilst not being absolute beginners, came along to improve their ringing, so it was a worthwhile event.

In September, we were visited by two ladies from Sweden. They had found out about Campsea Ashe and the bells on the internet and wanted to learn to ring. They spent a long weekend here, staying at Tina Morford's, and attended practices at Rushmere and Campsea Ashe. On the Sunday, they rang, with help, for the Parham harvest festival service. They were very pleased with their achievement and thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

In October, we rang our first full peal on the bells. The Methods were Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles. It was approximately two hours and forty minutes of non-stop ringing! It was particularly special to be able to ring this peal with ringers who regularly attend the practices at Campsea Ashe.

We have also been ringing Quarter Peals monthly, usually on the evening of the last Thursday.

From November 2011 through to March 2012 we individually set ourselves challenges to improve our ringing in some way, all in aid of Water Aid, inspired by Tim Holmes. This was a successful venture, as many challenges were accomplished and about £150 was raised for Water Aid. A special Water Aid Service was held in March to conclude the challenge.

In February of this year, we held an Open Tower and about eight people came along to see the bells and try their hand at ringing. The weather was atrocious, so we were pleased with the response.

In March, another Beginners' Course was held. Again, there were no absolute beginners, but an opportunity for learners to improve.

During the year, the Saturday practices have mostly been well attended, but it would be good to have more ringers from the village.

So if you'd like to come and try it out, we're at the church each Saturday from 9-10.30am. You'd be sure of a warm welcome.

Glenys Fear

8th May 2012