

Service ringing took place at both Staindrop at 8.45am and Barnard Castle at 9.45am on most Sundays.

Our practices have continued on Friday afternoons and Monday evenings in Barnard Castle, and on Tuesday evenings in Cotherstone. Amanda (Assistant Tower Captain) took the helm on Tuesday 21st April and managed to keep the 9 ringers on their toes! Well done, Amanda!

We have had most of our **Saturday morning practices** in Barnard Castle, thanks to help from Davina when either Caroline or Helen have not been available. Practices alternate on Saturdays between Barney and Staindrop now.

Friday 24th April saw us ringing a quarter peal instead of the practice from 4-5pm as Davina's mum was celebrating her 90th birthday this week.

1260 Plain Bob Doubles in 44 min

1-Amanda Sparrow

2-John Welch

3-Davina Tomlinson

4-Caroline Piercy

5-Helen L Scott (C)

6-Richard Sparrow

Rung on the front 6.

To celebrate the 90th birthday of Mildred Burrell on 21st April (Davina's mum).



On **Sunday 26th April** the Teesdale ringers came out in force to ring at both Staindrop and Barney as the **St. George's Day Teesdale District Scout service** in Staindrop overlapped with Barney. We had 7 ringers in Staindrop (Mark, Ellen, Susanna, Colin, Richard, Amanda, Helen) and 9 ringers in Barney eventually (Caroline, Helen P-M, John, Michael, Simon, Jackie, Melissa, Fiona and Helen later.) Thank you so much to all 15 ringers involved for making this possible.

On **Tuesday 28th April** outsiders may have wondered what we were doing as **Twinkle Twinkle Little Star** could be heard coming from Cotherstone tower! It was executed very well!

Saturday 16th May saw ringers from Hartlepool, Southchurch, Stokesley, Darlington, Cotherstone and Barney meet at the church at 11.30am. 2 non-ringers and 1 dog (Echo) joined us for a ramble along the Tees to Egglestone Abbey where we picnicked in the sun, some more lavishly than others!



On our return to town on the south side of the Tees, we reconvened at the church where refreshments were available (thank you team of local helpers) before ringing took place. A fun day was had by all.

Sunday 17th May (Bell Sunday) is the Sunday closest to St. Dunstan's day (19th May), the patron saint of bell ringers. We had a staggering 10 ringers in the tower and so rang all 8 bells. Ana led a lovely service with references to bells, Annette played bell-related music and the hand bell ringers rang twice, before and during the service. John read his poem about bells for the intercessions and even Sunday School made bells! Thank you to everyone who took part in any way, it was a wonderful day. A record of our ringing activity can be found here:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1972368>

Monday 18th May saw the hand bell ringers holding a **workshop in Montalbo School** with Year 5. The class was divided in half after we demonstrated some change ringing and tune ringing. Caroline and Emma helped the children to walk through plain hunt on 8 using one bell each and numbered carpet tiles. They also had a go at tune ringing. Helen and Fiona did some theory/paper activities, and rang tunes with the little ELC bells. All the children were really engaged and willing to have a go which was wonderful. We hope to take them up the tower soon.

As always thank you so much to everyone for all their hard work and support to keep our bells ringing and promote ringing in the community.

Helen