

Email subject line: **Press release: Local bellringers mark historic peal**



NEWS RELEASE

Bedford bellringers mark historic peal with 3 hour performance - 10th June 2015

Local bellringers are attempting to ring a full peal of over 5,000 different ‘changes’, lasting some 3 hours, at their parish church of Holy Trinity in Bedford. On the 10th June 2015, bellringers from the local area will mark the first ever recorded peal, which was rung exactly 300 years ago in Norwich. They will start ringing at 10am and aim to finish just after 1pm. The public are encouraged to listen either outside the church, or while watching a video link in the church itself of the ringers in action.

Tower captain, Nigel Bailiff comments: "We're looking forward to marking the ground breaking peal that was rung 3 centuries ago - as well as the challenge of ringing a full peal, which will take us around 3 hours. When ringing a full peal, like this one, ringers aren't allowed to stop or take a break during the performance. It'll be quite an achievement of mental and physical skills if we are successful. And we'll have to make sure we all visit the loo before we start! Mary Smith will be in the band, hoping to ring her first full peal, joining in with ringers everywhere who are hoping to encourage 300 ringers to ring their first peal this year as part of the 300th anniversary celebrations."

Peal ringing like this is a rather English phenomenon. The first properly documented peal was rung in Norwich exactly 300 years ago, and this year ringers throughout the country and round the world are celebrating by repeating the performance. English change ringing is a skilled business where each ringer swings one rather heavy bell through 360 degrees by means of a rope wrapped round the wheel. The ringers need to co-ordinate their movements to achieve an overall smooth rhythm.

Holy Trinity bellringers practise at the church every Wednesday evening at 7 pm and anyone interested in coming along to see what is going on is always very welcome. For more information contact Nigel Bailiff on 01234 56789. Alternatively, those wishing to find out more about the art of bellringing can visit the Discover Bell Ringing website (bellringing.org).

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For further information

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