

(Suggested email subject line: **PRESS RELEASE: Unique tribute to 1st World War bellringer**)

PRESS RELEASE

Local bellringers offer a unique tribute to one of their own who died in the 1st World War.

The bells at St Peter's church are to be rung 'half muffled' for half an hour on Wednesday 20th September for bellringer Freddie Smith who died 100 years ago. Corporal Smith, left behind the life he knew in Longparish to fight in the 1st World War, and gave his life for his country while still only 19 years of age. His story recently came to light and the local bellringers have arranged this tribute to 'one of their own' on the 100th anniversary of his death.

Local Tower captain Steven Bolt comments: "We saw a reference to Freddie in some old bellringing records, and found his name on the war memorial. A little more research filled in his story, and we think our ringing will be a fitting tribute".

'Half muffled' ringing involves tying a piece of leather to one side of each metal clapper. This will result in each clear crisp note being softly echoed in turn, a sound usually only heard on remembrance Sunday. All are encouraged to come along and listen at 6pm, and pay their respects. A wreath will be laid on the war memorial at the end of the ringing, and a few prayers will be said by the vicar, the Revd Jim Head. Glasses can then be raised in the Rose and Crown.

St Peter's 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 Steven Bolt on 01234 56789. Alternatively, those wishing to find out more about the art of bellringing can visit the Discover Bell Ringing website (bellringing.org). All ringers lost in the world wars are recorded in the Central Council Rolls of Honour (ccbr.org.uk/rolls/).

[ENDS]

For further information

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URL