

Annual General Meeting

Ipswich

2nd September 2023



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH

BELL RINGERS



History & Archive Workgroup

Chris Ridley
Workgroup Lead



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Update May – August 2023

- Update on Annual Report
- WG membership
- New Ringing History website
- Move of Library to Loughborough



Plans

- Information on Ringing History website
- Peal Board database
- Biographies
- Ringing Prints catalogue
- Bell recordings and verbal histories



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Public Relations Workgroup

Vicki Chapman
Workgroup Lead



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Update May – August 2023



We were deeply touched by your most kind and thoughtful message following our Coronation. We are enormously grateful to everyone who took part in the celebrations, and particularly appreciate that you so generously took the time to write to us on this very special occasion.

Charles R *Canth R*

Coming Soon!



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Plans

- Generic presentation update
- PR Matters 2.0
- Bell Festival in USA
- Bell Sunday - 12th May 2024





Stewardship & Management Workgroup

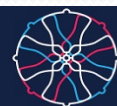
Alison Hodge
Workgroup Lead



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Update May – August 2023

- Further additions to the trilogy of online documents
- No Westley Award in 2023
- Meeting with Church Buildings Council and English Heritage
- Stand at National 12-bell competition



Plans

- Church changes - the consequences for bells
- Review of Westley Award for belfry maintenance
- Preparation of training packs for local use
- Attend Diocesan Bells Advisers Conference
- Archiving of old documents
- Respond to enquiries
- WG membership succession





Technical & Taxonomy Workgroup

Tina Stoecklin
Workgroup Lead



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Update May – August 2023

- Draft runbook for digital assets
- Improvements to membership information on cccbr website
- Investigate online-to-print options for publications
- Market scan of association websites



Plans

- Transfer CCCBR website to new server
- Recruit and onboard project teams for Ringing2030 digital objectives:
 - Association website solution
 - Support young ringers web hub project
- Initial population of runbook
- Continue Method Extension Review





Volunteering & Leadership Workgroup

Paul Wotton
Workgroup Lead



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Update May – August 2023

- Ringing Survey split into two parts: General and Tower Captains.
- Pilot surveys planned for August 23. Hopefully we will have some results to report today!
- Maintaining momentum on:
 - Educational Posters
 - Promoting Decent Striking
 - CC Sponsored Courses including proposed SW Course
 - Leadership course development



Plans

- Conduct and analyse Ringing Survey
- Develop & Pilot Leadership Course
- Form SW Course Management Team
- Work with ART and others on developing training material, including guidance on striking.
- Focus on retention and returning ringers





Young Ringers – Universities and Colleges Workgroup

Ian Roulstone
Workgroup Lead



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Update May – August 2023

- Create a “hub” – a central repository for U&C ringing societies
- Website – content created and owned by U&C ringers; IT supported by CCCBR
- Resources to support the running of a U&C society (note success of ART M1 courses)
- Links to the YCRA, ART, Schools and Youth WG, RWNYS, and others
- One-stop-shop, showcasing U&C activities



Plans

- U&C WG to focus on supporting the hub
- Goal: website live by summer holidays 2024
- Looking for volunteers to join U&C WG, with a view to setting up the inaugural team to run the hub
- Thanks to Tristan Lockheart, Matt Jerome, and Colin Newman





Young Ringers – Schools & Youth Workgroup

Colin Newman
Workgroup Lead



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Forward Plan 2023 /24

Presented by Simon Linford
on behalf of the Executive

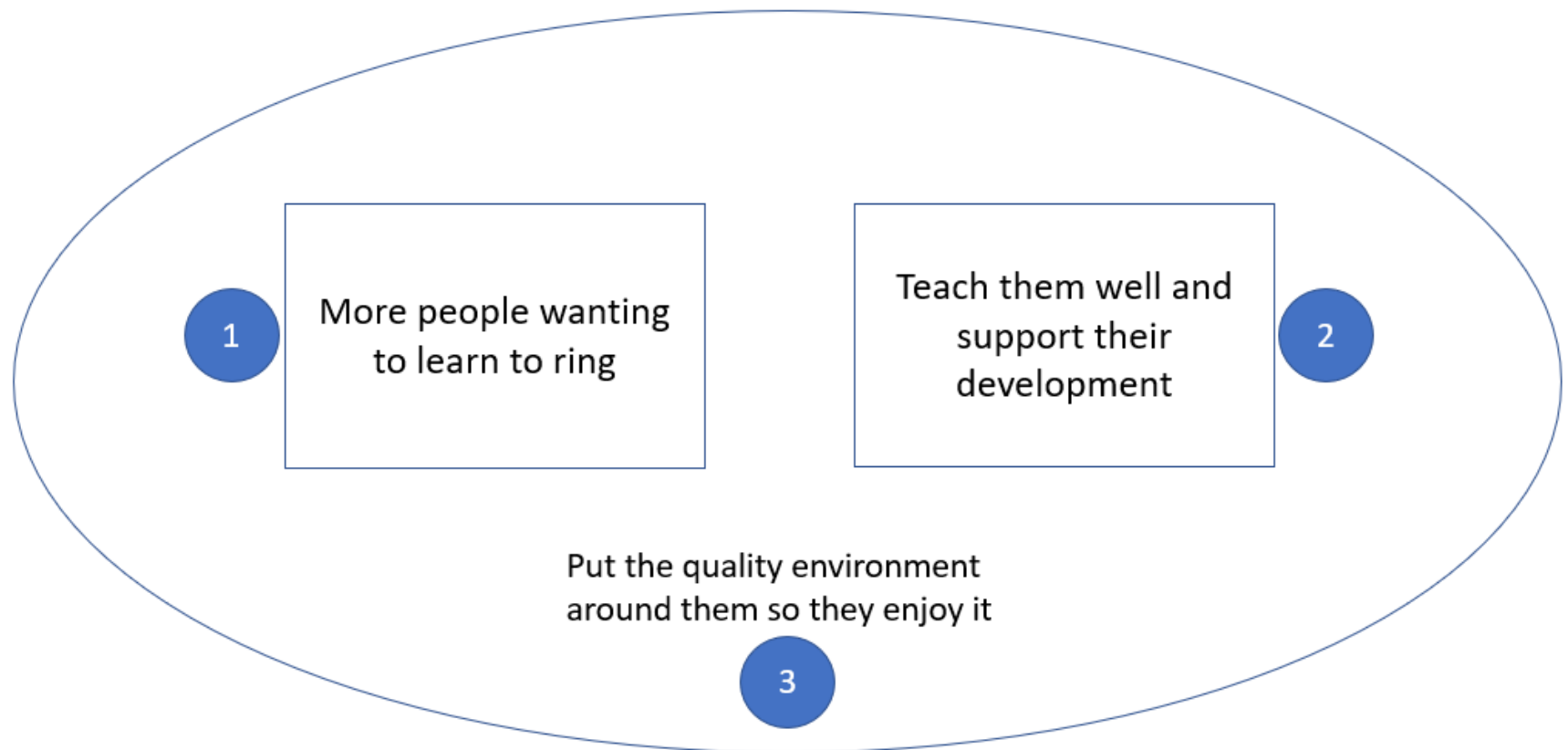


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- Three Pillars strategy to align with Ringing 2030
- Alignment of workgroups to strategy
- Ringing survey
- Business as usual



Three Pillars



Three Pillars

1

Publicity and Marketing: Raise awareness of the art of bellringing and promote it as a social and voluntary activity. Drive new recruits to us with better targeted marketing initiatives.

2

Recruitment and Development: Encourage the development of local and regional structures to recruit potential new ringers and attract lapsed ringers back to ringing, then ensure their expectations are met as they progress.

3

Quality Environment: Teachers, teaching structures, leadership, bell installations, ringing environments, safeguarding, etc. We have to create a quality environment that makes people enjoy ringing and want to stay doing it.



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Pillar 1 Smarter marketing

Bellringing is something that more people want to do

Through raising the awareness of the art of bellringing and promoting it to target audiences we will drive good recruits to us

Good recruits come forward to learn to ring based on a belief that they'll be good at it and enjoy it

Ringling appreciated and understood by more people

More ringers under 40 attracted

More young people learn about ringing

General awareness PR programme

Yellowyoyo branding project

Find budget for PR agency or FTE

Creation of marketing collateral

Targeted marketing campaigns

All societies and towers to adopt it

HLF funding bid

School lesson plans

Mobile belfries into schools

Unified marketing/recruitment website



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Pillar 2 Active recruitment and development

Effective structures in place to signpost potential new ringers and lapsed ringers to local ringing centre contacts

Opportunities for ringers to learn and develop their ringing skills exist

Anyone wanting to learn finds a teaching hub quickly

Regional hubs have adequate teaching resources

No one meets a barrier to progress

Establish new regional contact hubs structure

Identify existing co-ordinators and link to regional hub contact

Identify gaps and recruit volunteers

Recruit new volunteer coordinators

Recognise ART's Ltr as primary national scheme

Map teaching centres to hubs

Support more teacher training

Summer schools – at least one per region

Two more residential courses

Mentoring scheme

Facilitate YCRA events

University ringing network

Relaunch Cast of 1000

Encourage women in ringing

Unified ringer platform

Need to work with associations on these



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Pillar 3 Quality ringing environments and infrastructure

**Ringing environments are
conducive to attracting and
retaining ringers**

**All ringing infrastructure
supports quality
performance**

**All towers have good
leaders**

**Towers are safe,
welcoming
environments**

**Ringing has a
sound financial
footing**

**Develop
leadership
course**

**Identify and
nurture future
leaders**

**Launch 'Best
Kept Tower'
competition**

**Promote
inclusive
ringing
culture**

**Organise ringing
finance
conference**

**Develop
alternative
financial model
for consultation**

**Pillar 1 actively
supports
diversity**

**Encourage
social aspects
of ringing**

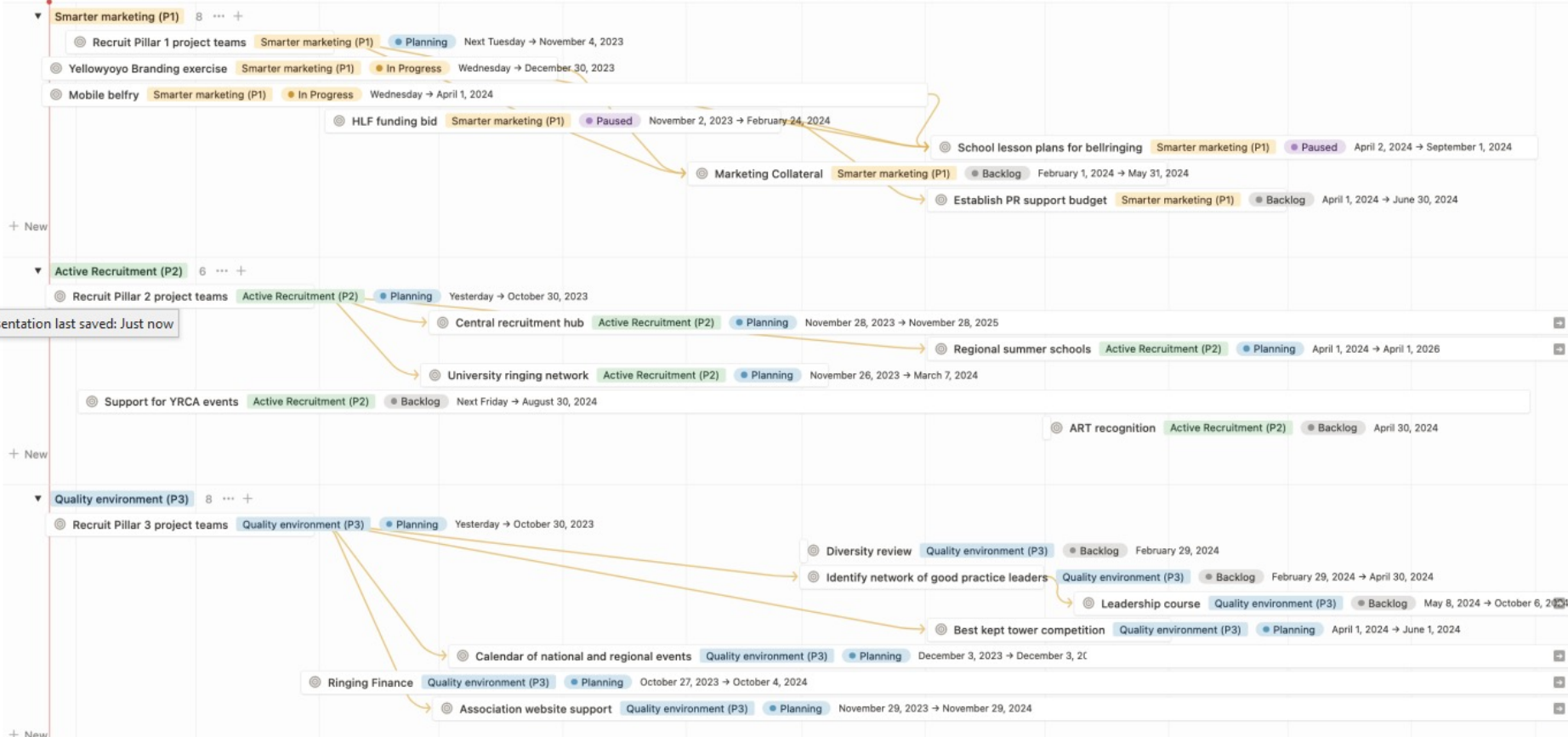
**Central
overhead
provision**



Projects

Owner Tag: Smarter marketing (...) Add filter

>> August 2023 September October November December January February March April May June July All Year < Today >



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- Will be looking at aligning Workgroup structure to the pillars
- Lots of recruitment into specific projects
- Ringing survey



The background of the slide is a misty, teal-toned landscape. It features a calm body of water in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding environment. In the middle ground, there are dark, silhouetted mountains and a dense forest of evergreen trees. The background is a soft, hazy blue, suggesting a misty or foggy atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of teal, blue, and green, creating a serene and naturalistic feel.

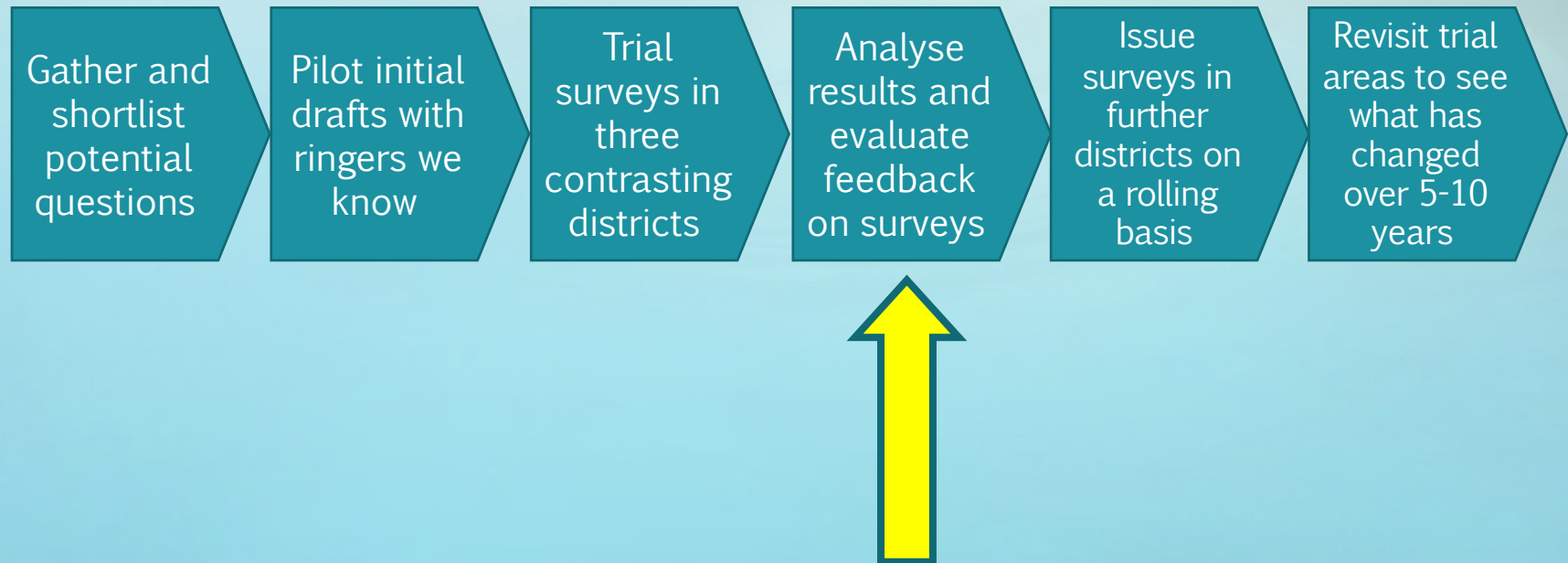
Survey of Ringers & Tower Captains

Trial Initial Results July 2023

Objectives of the survey

- Gather intelligence on the state of ringing to feed back into Central Council strategic planning
- Provide useful information and feedback to Associations
- Give ringers an opportunity to be heard
- Identify medium- and long-term trends through repeated surveys

Where we are in the project



Survey development team



Tristan
Lockheart



Elva
Ainsworth



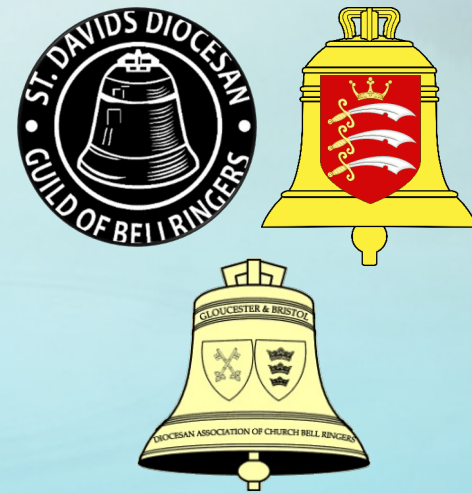
Jason
Carter

With assistance from district officers, local ringers, council workgroups and ART

Who did we survey?

- Gloucester & Bristol (Swindon branch)
- St David's
- Middlesex (N & E District)

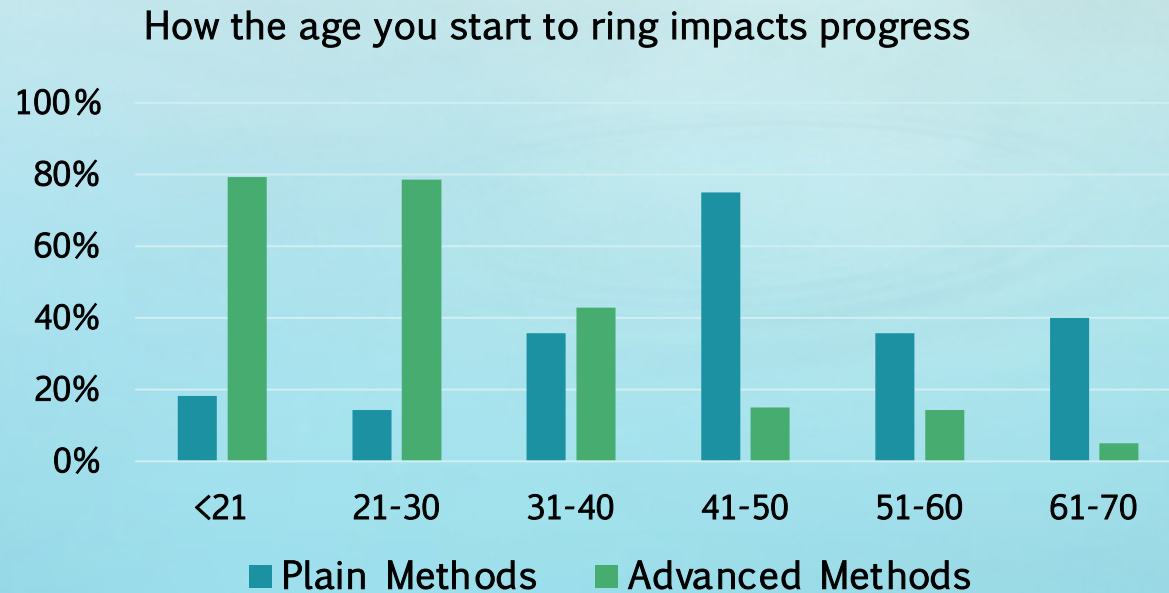
Survey	G&B	StD	Middx	TOTAL
Ringers	82	58	121	261
Tower Captains	19	17	64	100



Result Titbits from ringers (1)

- 54% identify as “female”
- 75% are between 51-80 years old
- 43% learnt under 21 years old
- 95% ring 1-3 times a week
- 73% ring once or twice on Sundays
- 63% ring at towers other than their ‘home tower’
- 80% of those who learnt under 30 ring “Advanced methods”...

How old you are when you start matters...



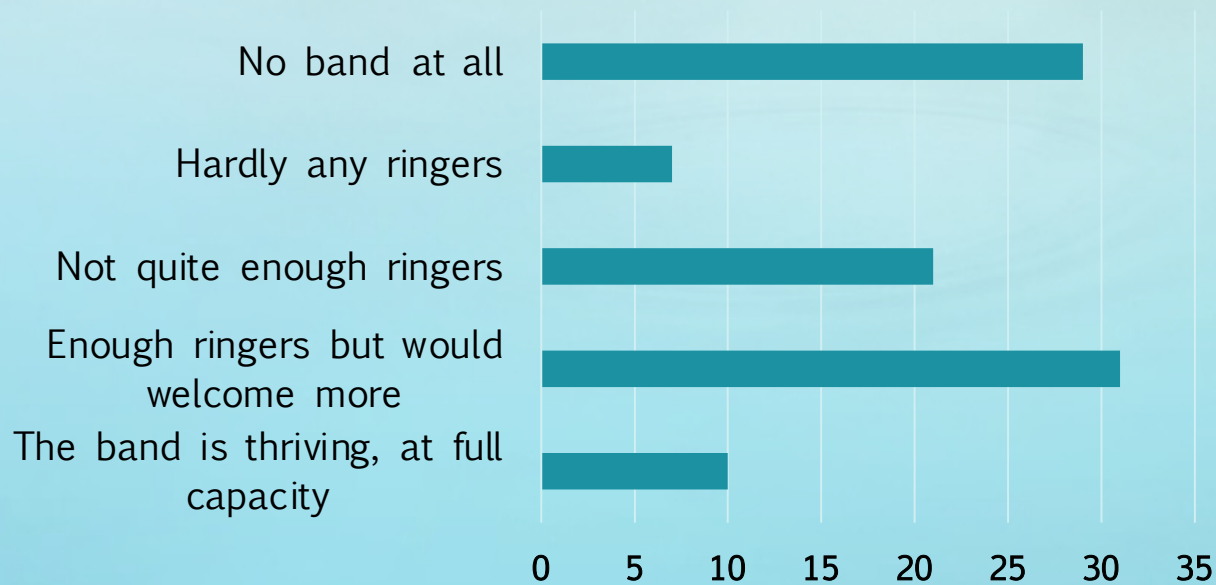
Result Titbits from ringers (2)

- **47%** can ring advanced methods but only **24%** have the opportunity to ring them at least once a month
- All those ringing over 26 peals a year learnt to ring under the age of 21
- The most important aspects of ringing are:
 - Socialising/friendship
 - Being a member of a band
 - Being part of the ringing community
 - Opportunities to learn and develop
- **83%** say they are looking to progress their ringing
- Barriers to learning are not enough time and lack of local opportunities
- Only **53%** have ever used a ringing centre/simulator
- **Average score of 36/100** regarding interest in a direct membership organisation with most interest in:
 - Regular ringing opportunities
 - Training workshops
 - The Ringing World subscription
 - Insurance
- **57%** would promote ringing as an activity to a friend

Result Titbits from Tower Captains (1)

- 90% say they want more ringers
- 29% of towers never practice
- 12% of towers never ring on Sundays mostly due to no band (or structural issues)
- 27% of towers ring advanced methods

What is the state of ringing at your tower (TC)...



Result Titbits from Tower Captains (2)

- **41%** say they never/rarely discuss bells with church leadership
- Support mostly comes from nearby towers and local association though **28%** say they get no support
- **42%** are “not very confident” or have “no confidence at all” about the future of ringing in their tower
- The biggest threats are seen as the shortage of ringers, leaders and learners

Key themes

- **Mutual support** – support existing arrangements and create new ones to fulfil local needs
- **Provide opportunities** – needs are not being met for a great many ringers, and these needs are at many levels
- **Work around time constraints** – think about how you can offer the chance for ringers who can't make traditional practice times to ring and progress
- **Be an active ringer** – it's not just about turning up and ringing – lead, teach, mentor, support, maintain, organise

What's next?

- Analyse results and disseminate to community
- Review the performance of the surveys themselves
- Survey further districts on a rolling basis
- Revisit Middlesex N&E, Swindon, and the St David's guild in 5-10 years' time to identify temporal trends
- Work with district officers in trial areas to see how the data can be used to support local activities
- Feed into development of *Ringling 2030*, branding, and council strategic priorities
- Results will get more accurate as more areas are surveyed!

Business As Usual

- Ringing case studies for CofE safeguarding training
- Insurance scenarios series
- Guidance on churches at risk
- National Call Change Competition



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH

BELL RINGERS

Motion A:

**The Annual Subscription of
each registered Small Society
shall be £10.**



Motion B:

The number of Representative Members to which each Affiliated Society is entitled under Rule 5.4 shall be based on its Society Membership as follows:

- a) Society Membership up to 200 members
= one Representative Member**
- b) Society Membership 201 – 400 members
= two Representative Members**
- c) Society Membership over 400 members
= three Representative Members**



Motion C:

The Council endorses the paper from the Workgroup Leader of the Historical & Archive Workgroup exploring the options for future siting of the Council Library and supports the migration of the Library to the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust on such commercial terms as the Council Trustees may negotiate and agree.

