

St Mary's Lytchett Matravers Ring Through COVID

Ringling at Lytchett Matravers through COVID and **Lockdown** did actually continue though in a different form. Our bells ring out each week on the Live Service on YouTube. We found a reasonable piece of ringing from one of the Quarter Peals we rang earlier in the year which is now played before and after the service. It's lovely to hear Stephen our vicar say to his wife Carrie (online service technician) at the end of the service "Pop on the bells".

When we were allowed back to ring we rang just one bell to keep within the guidelines of the COVID restrictions and our church. Everyone who could ring has had at least one go and were surprised that like riding a bicycle you don't forget. During the first Lockdown we met on Zoom meetings and when we could we met up at the village pub or Upton Country Park.

Online Ringing

I looked at online ringing but struggled to get the interest of the Band mainly through technical problems and an inexperienced band with no one to help if we went wrong. However we did eventually get enough interest and after spending a fair amount of time with individuals specific issues we now have 7 competent online ringers – we started to move on leaps and bounds when Mick Howes (Bridgwater Branch and Non-resident member of East Dorset Branch) was able to join us and put us right when we went wrong and then Alan Bentley and Jane Pridmore also pop in to help. We have recruited a friend of Debbie's who has never rung with us in a tower though has had the old pull during our Open Days and she is now ringing Plain Hunt and will be joining our band when we get back to the tower and also Debbie's sister from North Yorkshire. Several who have never done it before have begun to understand and ring Plain Hunt and even onto Bob doubles.

Still only able to ring one bell we tracked down the Branch handbells and after only a couple of practices we managed to ring some carols and ringing patterns for our Carol Service and Christmas Day.

ART

In January 2020 Viv passed her Level 3 ART and Cathy passed Level 4. Debbie and Cathy have started the 50 Virtual Ringing Things with Debbie achieving her Silver certificate and Cathy her Bronze before the end of the year. Debbie helped Graham Nabb with the 'Things' for the new 50 Group Ringing Things and then later in the year wrote some of the online help. Debbie and Cathy have registered for other online courses - Understanding Call Changes and Minor Stepping Stones. Cathy and Debbie attended one of the ART M2V Ringing Room workshops.

Debbie Phipps (Tower Captain Lytchett Matravers)