

Church News

News from the Belfry

The following was published on 8th August 1908.

The Great Totham Company (Essex). One often reads in the columns of "The Bell News" of ringers' outings and their doings, but I doubt if ever a happier party set out than the one that visited the church of Great Totham Essex on Sunday July 12th. It was termed the ladies' day and punctually to time, the brake that had been chartered left Chelmsford, and picking up the majority at Great Baddow, we were amongst the sweet voices of the fair sex, the natives of the various villages passed through giving us a hearty cheer. Arriving at Great Totham, seven brave men with their wives and a youngster or two, were met and most kindly welcomed by the Vicar (Rev. H.T.Eyre), Secretary of the Essex Association. As the weather was somewhat treacherous we were ushered into the church, the fair sex looking round, while 720 of Bob Minor was rung. Tea was to have been served on the lawn, but rain was falling, and the vicar suggested the ladies and children should have their tea first, so a 360 of Bob Minor was rung. The ladies having enjoyed a cup of the right sort, the ringers were then piloted to the tea-room and did full justice to the good things provided. The rain having ceased, a stroll round the garden and churchyard was much enjoyed, the crimson ramblers being a perfect picture. Many a country parson might learn something by visiting the church and churchyard of Great Totham. The bells were once more put on the move, and with three of the local ringers standing in, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob was rung for evening service. The vicar shook hands, and wished every one good-bye.

The return journey commenced with the weather clearing. A halt was made at Maldon for the ladies to take a stroll round the promenade and lake. Home was reached about 10pm. All agreeing that it had been one of the best day's outing they had ever had, and which must be put on the ringers' diary annual. One and all wish to thank the Rev. H.T. Eyre for the kind way he received us, his piloting us round the grounds, and for providing tea.

If you are interested in learning to ring the bells at St. Peter's please contact our Tower Captain, Janice Spalding, on 892197, come along to our Friday practice at 19.45 hrs

Or visit <http://greattothambellringers.org.uk>.

Andrew Hood