

# Church News

## News from the Belfry

If you are a regular reader of the News from the Belfry you will know that over the last couple of years several quarter peals and one peal have been rung at St. Peter's. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers' definition of a peal is "the gold standard change ringing performance during which the bells are rung continuously in over 5000 different sequences, without visual aids, and typically taking 3 hours". It should be noted that with seven bells the number of different changes is factorial 7 or  $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 \times 7 = 5040$ . With 6 bells, factorial 6 is 720 changes. How can a peal be rung on 6 bells? I am familiar with two options, firstly to ring several different methods or secondly the same method several times each called differently. A quarter peal is typically 1260 changes. At St. Peter's it typically takes us 40 minutes to ring a quarter peal and the most recent peal took 2 hours 37 minutes. Peals and quarter peals are rung to celebrate or commemorate special occasions and also because they represent a challenge to the ringers. The decision to ring a peal or quarter peal is determined by the expertise of the ringers available.

The September edition of the Parish Magazine featured Frank Delderfield's recent award of the British Empire Medal. Frank is a member of our band of bell ringers and we would all like to congratulate him. Frank joined fellow ringers Ann and Janice, together with three ringers from Inworth, to ring a quarter peal on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September to celebrate his award and investiture on 4<sup>th</sup> September.



If you are interested in learning to ring the bells at St. Peter's please contact Tower Captain Janice Spalding on 01621 892197, come along at 7.45pm to our Friday practice or visit <http://greattothambellringers.org.uk>.

*Andrew Hood*