

# *Church News*

## **News from the Belfry November 2014**

Do you remember the television advert for Mars Bars with the monks sedately ringing church bells? After eating a Mars they start bouncing up and down on a bell rope. To see this advert visit youtube and search for "Mars monks advert". The advert raises the question; if you hold the rope of a swinging bell will it lift you off the ground? The answer is 'yes' in certain circumstances.

Before ringing can commence the bells must be in the up position with the opening uppermost. In this position the bells are dangerous in the wrong hands. Therefore the bells at St. Peter's are always rung down after ringing. Having mastered how to ring a bell, one of the next challenges is to ring a bell up and down. However it does not stop there! Next is to ring all the bells up and down together. At St Peter's our ringing up and down technique requires further improvement and consequently on most Sunday mornings the bells are rung down in two sets of three.

On Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> September the South East District Training Day concentrated solely on ringing up and down in peal. The afternoon session was held at St Peter's. Six students had instruction from two tutors. There were also two helpers from Writtle, and Tollesbury and one from Chelmsford together with Janice from Great Totham. This allowed two students, both with a tutor, to ring up and down with four of the helpers ringing the remaining bells. The theory is simple, you ring after the preceding bell. Thus number two follows the treble (bell number one) three the two and so on. I can assure you it is a challenge!

The 1<sup>st</sup> November is the 100 year anniversary of the death of Great Totham ringer Charles Henry Ballard. He was serving on HMS Monmouth when it was sunk, with all hands lost, off the coast of Chile, during the Battle of Coronel. In recognition of this a peal will be attempted by some visiting ringers on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd November.

Are you interested in learning to ring the bells at St. Peter's? Contact our Tower Captain Janice Spalding Tel: 01621 892197. You are also welcome to visit our Friday night practice at 20.00hrs.