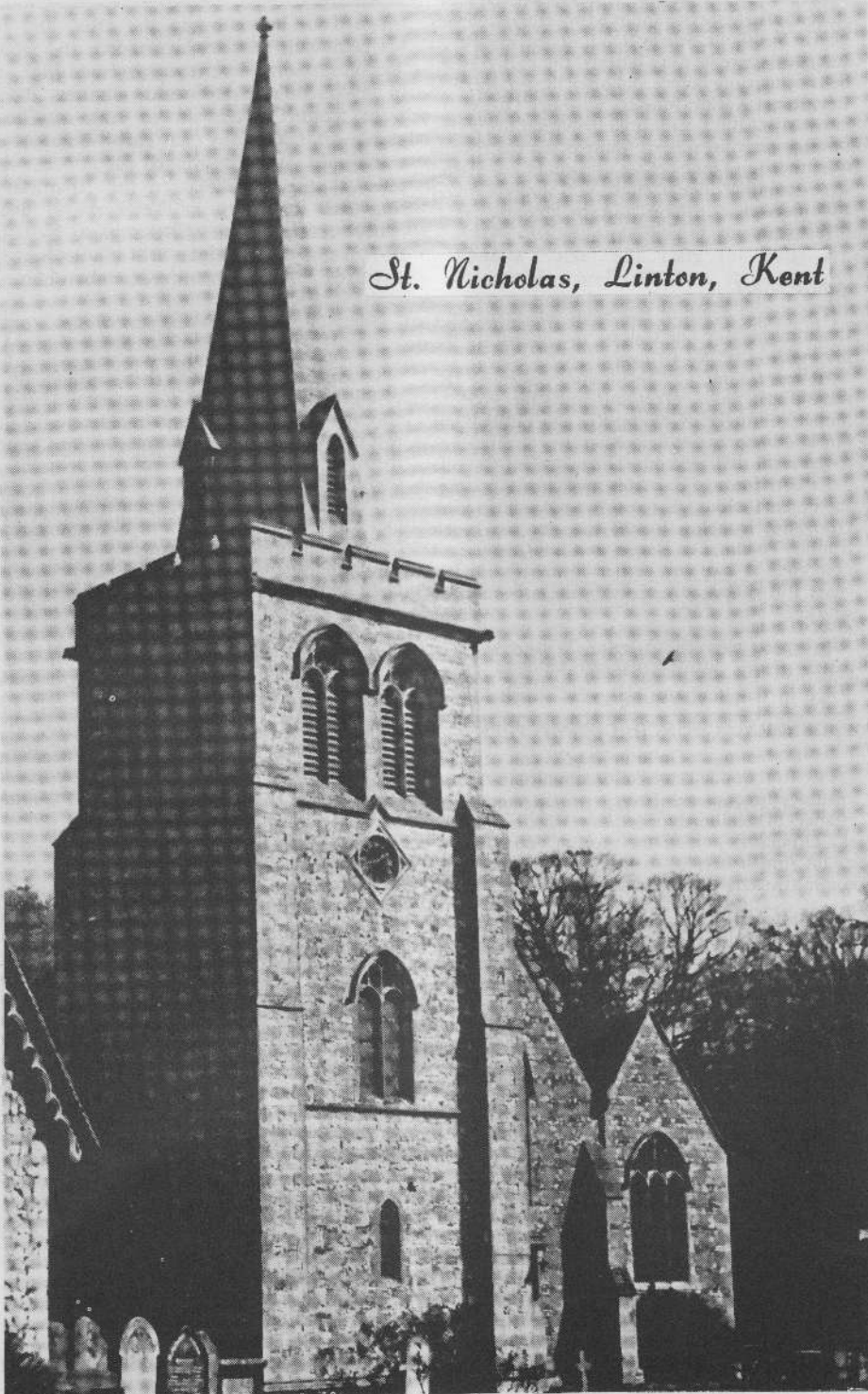


# THE RINGING WORLD

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OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
THE CENTRAL COUNCIL  
OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

*St. Nicholas, Linton, Kent*



**THE VILLAGE** of Linton straddles the A229 Maidstone to Hastings road about three miles south of Maidstone. The Church of St. Nicholas stands in a corner of Linton Park, former home of the Lords Cornwallis. It is surrounded by trees, the most prominent of which are two immense yews, which spread their branches over the graveyard.

Although the Domesday Book bears no reference to a church at Linton in Norman times, there is some indication of Norman stonework in the chancel wall. There is also a record of the complete restoration of a church during the reign of Edward I.

The present church is built of ragstone—the quarry being only one mile away. It was restored and added to in 1860 through the generosity of Ladies Louisa and Elizabeth Cornwallis. Before this the church consisted of a chancel and nave with a south aisle and a crude, plain tower. With restoration, a new tower was built, a north aisle added and both chancel and nave were lengthened.

The church contains many memorials to the Cornwallis family who lived in Linton Park until the 1940's and still have connections with the village. One such memorial is a marble monument found on the north wall, erected in memory of Sir Antony Mayne, Knight and his two wives. It shows three half-length figures, a man and two women wearing ruffs. Above these figures is a smaller one known as The Faithful Gardener, showing the figure of a man holding a spade. The story is that the gardener was so upset by the death of his master that he died immediately after and was included in the monument as a tribute.

Other monuments to the Cornwallis family are to be found in the Cornwallis Chapel in the church. They include a Tudor monument said to have been deliberately damaged by the Roundheads.

The tower where the eight bells are housed is set at the north-west corner of the church. It is in three windows, and gargoyles at each corner. It has large windows at the corners of the embattled parapet and is built of Kentish ragstone with a steeple of stone which is sadly out of character with the tower proper.

The eight bells (tenor 15 cwt.) are inscribed:  
 Treble Alfred Howell, founder Ipswich 1920.  
 2 Alfred Howell, founder Ipswich 1920  
 3 Praise the Lord 1717  
 4 John Waylett made me 1717  
 5 John Rich C.W. 1717  
 6 T Mears of London fecit 1824  
 7 Thos Lester of London made me 1748  
 8 T Lester of London made me  
 Mr. J. Martin and Mr. Alex Urbon  
 Church Wardens 1746

(Continued overleaf)

## Obituary

**WILLIAM (BILL) C. SHUTE**  
November 14th, 1891—June 1st, 1978

Ringers over a very wide area will have learnt with regret of the death on June 1st of the veteran ringer Bill Shute of Ferndown, Dorset, at the age of 86. He learnt to ring at Buckhorn Weston, Dorset in 1908. He served in France in World War I and then worked in Essex for a time and was soon ringing many Minor methods. After losing his first peal attempt (7 Surprise Minor Methods) he rang his first peal in 1925 at his old tower Buckhorn Weston. Being now back in his home area, he made the teaching of new recruits his chief activity and his first peal as conductor was Grandsire Doubles at Zeals, Wiltshire, in 1926. He was one of the earliest members of the North Dorset Branch of the Salisbury DG, taking a leading part in its activities, and when in 1928 it was decided to elect a Branch ringing master he was the obvious choice. He had held this office ever since though in latter years he shared it with other members. He was also a valued member of the Guild Committee for many years and a Guild instructor and not long ago the Guild showed its appreciation of his services by making him a vice-president.

Bill was a bachelor and worked as a gardener. He kept no records but is known to have rung some 300-400 peals ranging from Doubles to Maximus. As for quarter peals they must have been legion and he was never happier than when steering a beginner through a quarter—or even a touch—of the simplest methods. In practices he liked to conduct from the treble, and many were the mistakes he would correct before they had actually been made! He admitted that his own mastery of method-ringing was a gift, but could never understand why some of his pupils found it difficult. It would be interesting to know how many miles he travelled in Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, usually by push-bike or motor-bike, but often on foot, instructing others in the art which he found so completely satisfying.

Many personal reminiscences will be forthcoming about this indefatigable ringing giant, so short in stature. One such story is told of his waking up in a hospital bed having been carried there unconscious after a cycling accident. The nurse said: "You don't know where you are, do you?" To which he replied: "Yes, I've just heard Sherborne Abbey tenor strike the hour." He was always happy in the company of ringers and one of the happiest occasions of his life was the party he gave at Lytchett Matravers to some 130 friends from far and wide to celebrate his 80th birthday.

**ST. NICHOLAS, LINTON, KENT—contd.**

The two treble bells were added in 1920 and a board in the belfry relates:—

"In Thankful Remembrance of Armistice Day Nov. 11 1918. Two Trebles were added to the Peal and dedicated on 3rd April 1920. The bells were cast and erected by Alfred Bowell of Ipswich at the cost of £130, which sum was raised by Mr. Champion of this Parish."

This year it is hoped to concentrate on fund raising to restore and renovate the bells. Events planned include a garden party (at which Mr. W. H. Dobbie's light ring of six will be available to ringers) to be held on July 8th in the garden of the captain of the bellringers, a jumble sale and a visit from "Sound in Brass" handbell ringers in May 1979.

New ropes with purple sallies were purchased in 1977 and in October 1977 a sponsored peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung to celebrate the Jubilee and for the Bell Restoration Fund. This peal is unique inasmuch that it was the first peal by an all-local band.



Photo taken at Bill's 60-years-a-ringer party. (L. to r.): Tom Setter, Bob Wake (deceased).

Fred Priddle, Sybil Howard, Lionel Pink (deceased), Bert Mitchell; (centre): W. G. (Bill) Shute.

(Photo: Salisbury Times & Journal)

The funeral service followed by cremation was held at St. John's, Surrey Road, Bournemouth, on June 8th where he rang latterly, the half-muffled bells being rung before and after the service. The Rev. Roger Keeley, Master, Salisbury DG, spoke movingly of Bill's selfless contribution to ringing through teaching others. Many of his old friends were there and many other who could not attend were doubtless there in spirit; and surely it would have given pleasure to Bill to know how many said: "He taught me to ring".

M.M.G.

**Appreciation**

The recent death of Bill Shute will come as a shock to the many he trained and helped during his many years as a ringer.

He was a familiar sight in most Salisbury DG towers and was a great influence for good to numerous ringers. Nothing was too difficult for him and in his zeal to help others, no distance was too great. I well remember how he used to cycle from Ferndown to Salisbury to help us "youngsters", and although most times we only rang Grandsire Doubles, it still was not too much trouble. To him, Len Harris, and Bill Cheater, all now gone, I owe my earlier formative ringing years. Bill will be sadly missed by the large number who knew him.

W.T.

In the 1940s Bill used to spend at least some of his holidays with the late Frank Price in Cheltenham, an event much looked

forward to by many in the area, and for his great help to all who needed, and would accept it. Some learnt much from him and in 1945 Bill, Frank and Charles Rouse went from Cheltenham to ring at Gloucester Cathedral by an early bus. Afterwards we walked round the docks and after a pub lunch walked the 10 miles to ring for Evensong at Tewkesbury, eventually returning to Cheltenham by bus. It is some years since Bill Shute was in this area, but many still remember him.

C.R.

I was greatly saddened by the news of the death of Bill Shute. He used to come north every year, staying with a niece at Ryhope (Sunderland). I first met him when he attended a meeting at Chester-le-Street and invited him to ring with us at Consett.

Thereafter, my wife and daughter and I used to look forward to having him with us for Sunday tea before evening service ringing.

I did not know his age, but I do know that Bill and I and Prince Charles shared the same birthday. He was small in stature but big in heart, a true and valued friend who gave inestimable service to ringing.

My wife and daughter share my thoughts in this tribute to his memory.

W.T.

**CENTRAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

At its meeting in Guildford at the end of May, the Central Council elected its committees for the ensuing three years. There were a number of changes in membership, details of which appear in the Official Report of the meeting, but readers might find it helpful to have a list of the new committee chairmen and their addresses.

**Bell Restoration Funds:** Mr. J. S. Barnes, 56 Leamington Ave., Orpington, Kent BR6 9QB.

**Biographies:** Mr. T. J. Lock, 57 Holloways Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts. AL9 7NU.

**Computer Co-ordination:** Mr. J. R. Taylor, 7 Farleigh Road, Backwell, Bristol BS19 3PB.

**Education:** Mr. W. Butler, 7 The Waverleys, Park Lane, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks.

**Library:** Mr. W. T. Cook, 47 Manor Road, Sidecup, Kent DA15 7HU.

**Methods:** Mr. M. C. W. Sherwood, 131 Shawclough Way, Healey Gardens, Rochdale, Lancs.

**Peal Compositions:** Mr. W. E. Critchley, 90 Hardwick Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3AG.

**Peals Analysis:** Mr. F. B. Lufkin, 108 Salisbury Road, Holland-on-Sea, Essex.

**Publications:** Mr. G. R. Drew, "Monsal", Bredon, Tewkesbury, Glos.

**Public Relations:** Mrs. J. S. King, 'The Cedar Tiles', High Beech Lane, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 5BQ.

**Records:** Mr. D. E. Sibson, 24 Poplars Farm Rd., Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northants.

**Redundant Bells:** Mrs. M. J. Wilkinson, Holly House, West Ashling, Chichester, Sussex.

**The Ringing World:** Mr. R. F. B. Speed, 88 High Street, Hillmorton, Rugby, Warwicks.

**Towers & Belfries:** Rev. J. G. M. Scott, Newton St. Cyres Vicarage, Exeter, Devon.

**FROM THE CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY**

**ring'er**, n. 1. Quoit that falls round pin; fox that runs in ring when hunted.  
2. Bell-~; device for ringing bell.  
[RING<sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>, -ER<sup>1</sup>]

*I'm a spliced length of sisal of circular section.*

*I'm a grommet, impaled on a peg or projection.*

*I'm a bushy-tailed beast with a slew in its steering.*

*I'm vermin, inclined to vertiginous veering.*

*Call me fox, lexicographer; call me a splice—*

*But I flatly refuse to be called a DEVICE.*

Peter Devenish