

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY OF BROMLEY YOUTHS (RINGERS) 2004

David Kingston, the Tower Captain, reported that the standard of ringing continues to improve. We have rung for almost all 10.30 services and nearly always on 8 bells but have seldom rung for an evening service.

Matthew has gone to University, although we still see him fairly often, but Gill Sammons is now ringing well. One recruit is learning but we could do with at least one more. Frank Gates, in his 90th year, continues to ring regularly and without him Tuesday practices would be more difficult and even less frequent. . He works very hard but never complains..

Sunday ringing is mainly call-changes with occasionally change-ringing on five with three covering bells. Lowering in peal continues to improve particularly on six. Raising in peal is more difficult but we persevere - it is a skill that we all need to improve on. There have been few weddings to ring for and we were unable to enter the 2004 call-change competition. So far as other activities are concerned, we held our annual dinner at the Pickhurst on the 6th Feb and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

In the absence of a Steeple Keeper (any offers?) David Kingston has carried out bell maintenance and has checked the ropes regularly. As the bells have been installed for 50 years, an inspection by Whitechapel bellfoundry was requested. This was carried out and a report submitted quoting a total cost of £4,883.30. The Fabric Committee approved having the work carried out early in 2005 after essential work has been completed on the outside of the tower. It was agreed that our bellfund would meet £1,500 of the cost and this has been paid as the major part of the deposit paid now to hold the price of the quote. It was felt that the clapper on the 2nd needed more urgent attention so this was taken to Whitechapel and rebushed as a separate item from the rest of the work. This cost £106.93 and the cost of the rest of the work reduced to £4,703.53. We are hopeful of getting a grant from the KCA bell restoration fund.

Our prime aim is to ring the bells regularly on a Sunday to welcome people to worship and this we continue to do.

Alec Thompson
Secretary