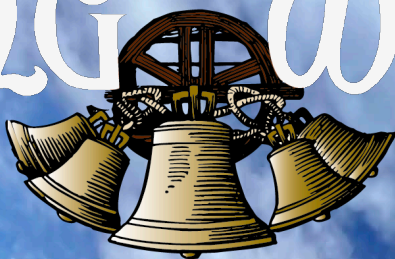


No. 5954, 6 June 2025

THE RINGING WORLD





On the cover

St Matthew's Bell Tower in Québec City was photographed by Washington DC ringer **Alethea Merelos** when the sun finally came out on the recent annual Ringing Weekend.

About the weekend, Alethea says, "This was my first time ringing in Québec City and the local band was so welcoming. I arrived early (on Thursday) and was able to attend the handbell practice with local ringers, making enough people to attempt plain hunt on eight for their first time! On the Friday evening as I was getting ready for bed I was convinced by Myles Louis Dakan and Dan Lynds to attempt a quarter peal

of Plain Bob Minor in hand – which we got at first attempt! The weekend was a blast and I will definitely be back."

The St Matthew's tower contains a 15cwt ring of eight, cast by John Warner & Sons in 1888. They are still on plain bearings in the original timber frame. The local band, under Tower Captain Donna McEwen, rings mostly at the nearby Holy Trinity Cathedral, maintaining a practice night here once a month. The ringer of the fourth bell often assumes an unusual position, with one knee up on a wooden protrusion, built to accommodate headspace in the spiral staircase.

Montréal architect William T Thomas oversaw a series of renovations between 1870 and 1882, transforming a stone chapel that the congregation had outgrown into a larger church. That chapel had replaced the original gravedigger's house in St Matthew's Cemetery, which is believed to contain the oldest gravestone in the province, that of Scottish soldier Alexander Cameron, who died in Lévis in 1759 and was later moved here.

Québec City was an important part of the British Empire in North America, so it's no surprise that the stained-glass windows, pulpit, chancel railing, wrought iron clock in the tower, and other decorative furnishings in the church were all made in England.

Over the following century the Anglican community dwindled, until in 1979 the City of Québec took charge of both St Matthew's Church and graveyard, acquiring the property for a symbolic dollar. The City converted the church



into a public library, taking care to preserve its authenticity and religious character so that visitors today can admire the furnishings, stained-glass windows, and original woodwork. Originally known as *Bibliothèque Saint Jean Baptiste*, reflecting the name of the neighbourhood, the library was renamed in 2017 to honour local author, translator and radio host Claire Martin.

This year's Ringing Weekend attracted 25 visitors to Québec City,

with the majority from Toronto, Boston, New York and Washington – all lengthy car journeys. Some came even further, with one from Seattle and three from England. Everyone enjoyed a warm welcome from the local ringers, and a number of quarter peals were attempted, four of which were scored (printed on p.522) while the remainder were 'good focused practice'. From Friday afternoon to Monday morning, there was plenty of ringing between the two venues, including for a wedding and two services at the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity.

Further reading

Do make sure to read Angela Elliott's excellent article on page 432 (16 May) about how some bells from Québec City were appropriated by the British following the defeat of the French in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759. One of those bells still hangs in the tower of All Hallows Tottenham, in North London (despite Canada's repeated efforts to get it back), and Angela's research debunks spurious historical reports of drunken sailors and junkyards.

Yolande Hasselo's experience at last year's Québec Ringing Weekend, published in RW5909, p.702, is also worth revisiting.

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NOTICES

Death

BAILEY, Derrick P., of Great Cheverell, Wiltshire died on Sunday 18th May at the age of 85. He became a member of Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers in 1953 and Society of Royal Cumberland Youths in 1971. Funeral arrangements will be published once everything has been arranged. Please contact me for further information. Phil Bailey Billythebellringer@yahoo.co.uk 2119

CLIST, Ray A., formerly a ringer at Aldershot, Witheridge, South Molton, Trowbridge, Fordham and most recently Stretham, passed away peacefully on 6th May 2025, aged 95. Funeral on Wednesday 11th June at Huntingdon Crematorium at 12 noon. Afterwards the family warmly invite everyone to the White Swan Conington to celebrate Ray's life. Please contact Brenda (ba.mayle@yahoo.co.uk) if you will be attending. 2120

NEWING, Revd Dr Peter, Services on Monday 9 June: Burial Service at St Michael, Brimpsfield, Glos at 10am. The local band will ring from about 9.15 – visitors are welcome to join. Memorial Service at St Mary the Virgin, Painswick, Glos starting at 12 noon, with open ringing from 11am – all ringers attending the service are invited to visit the tower and ring to celebrate Peter's contribution to the Exercise. The bells will be available for more open ringing immediately after the service. At Peter's request, the bells of both towers will not be muffled. Parking in Painswick is not easy, with limited roadside parking, but there is a free car park just below church. Alternatively, if you are capable of walking up a steep hill, there is the Richmond Village car park at the Painswick Rugby Club, alongside the A46, below the town. 2123

EDWARDS, Maurice, died Sunday 18th May. His funeral will be held at Guildford Crematorium on 17th June 2.15pm and afterwards at Puttenham Golf Club. Memorial service at St Laurence Church Northfield 21st July 2pm and afterwards at Pastoral Centre. Names to anthea_bubbles@yahoo.co.uk naming which/both event/s attending please. Family flowers only. 2125

Publications

"CHANGE RINGING", by Wilfrid G Wilson. The Art and Science of Change Ringing on Church and Handbells. Payment with order – £14 (p&p free in UK) from Alison Williams. Tel: 07970 286577. Email: arc102004@hotmail.com.

For Sale

PEAL BOARDS Paint on Wood. Paul@PealBoards.co.uk Samples, Prices and Production Schedule can be seen on-line at PealBoards.co.uk 2115

Meetings on Saturday 21st June 2025

EDWNA There will be a meeting of the East Derbyshire and West Nottinghamshire Association of Church Bellringers on Saturday June 21st. between 19.00 and 20.30 hours at St. Mary's Church in Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Everybody is welcome. 2019

Advertising in The Ringing World: Line adverts (priced per word) and notices start at 20p per word. Death and funeral notices are free of charge (donations welcome). You can upgrade to 'semi display' from £10. Display adverts start at £38 for a ninth page. Options in colour or black and white.

For more details: advertising@ringingworld.co.uk
notices@ringingworld.co.uk
01264 366620

City of London. (S Katharine Cree) 16 May, 1260 Doubles (3m): Edward Gormley 1, Charlotte D J Pacey 2, Elliot J Hughes 3, Colin Friend 4, M Louise Booth (C) 5, Melanie Powell 6. Rung for the MCALDG N&E QP week. **£6**

Bow, London. (S Mary) 17 May, 1344 Cornwall S Major: Kate Giddens 1, David I Bassford 2, Finley M H Kemp 3, Helen Porter 4, Caleb Saunders 5, Simon Kemp 6, Colin Cherrett 7, Stephen Jakeman (C) 8. 1st in m: 3. Rung for N&E District QP Week. **£8**

Hackney, London. 17 May, 1260 Stedman Triples: Kate Giddens 1, Fiona Clode 2, Simon Kemp 3, Martin Clode 4, Ron Giddens 5, Colin Cherrett 6, Stephen Jakeman (C) 7, Brooks Hayes 8. Rung for N&E District QP Week. **£8**

Hackney, E London. 17 May, 1312 Spl S Major (4m): Finley Kemp 1, Simon Kemp 2, Caleb Saunders 3, Helen Porter 4, Guy Wells 5, Joseph Dillon 6, David I Bassford 7, Richard Pullin (C) 8. A Birthday compliment to Dave. Most methods to Spl S Major - 5. **£6**

Hampstead, London. 17 May, 1260 St Simon's Bob Triples: Fiona E Clode 1, Guy Wells 2, Martin D Clode 3, Colin Friend 4, Ron Giddens 5, Joseph Dillon 6, M Louise Booth (C) 7, Harry Baulcombe 8. 1st in m: 5. Rung for the MCALDG N&E QP week. **£8**

Holborn, London. (S Giles in the Fields) 17 May, 1256 Stedman Triples: Lucy Chandhial 1, Lucinda J Woodward (C) 2, David Woodward 3, Adam R Crocker 4, Caleb R D Saunders 5, Guy Wells 6, David I Bassford 7, Scott A Orr 8. Rung as part of the Middlesex N&E District QP Week & marking Dave's Birthday today (length appropriate). **£8**

Islington, London. (S James the Apostle) 17 May, 1260 Plain Doubles (3m): Piers Myers 1, Bogumila Myers 2, Lucy Chandhial (C) 3, Brooks Hayes 4, Nick Cant 5, Elliott Johnson 6. Rung as part of the Middlesex N&E QP Week. 4 - 1st grandsire, first reverse canterbury & first Q of multiple methods. **£6**

St George in the East, London. 17 May, 1260 PB Minor: Piers Myers 1, Janet Betham 2, Ruth Jakeman 3, Brooks M Hayes 4, Karl Erickson 5, Helen Porter (C) 6. 1st minor inside: 4. Marking 10 years to the day since the 5 moved to London.

Leyton, London. 22 May, 1260 Stedman Doubles: Mary Ruth (Em) Mayo 1, Stephen Jakeman 2, Guy Wells 3, Lucy Chandhial (C) 4, Colin Cherrett 5, Brooks Hayes 6. 1 - first in principle. Rung to remember Debbie Malin & Dorothy Cherrett, mother of the ringer of the five. **£6**

Quebec Ringing Weekend (see cover)

Quebec City, QC. (Cathedral) 24 May, 1260 PB Doubles: Miriam Schurman 1, Daniel Lynds 2, Benjamin Waterhouse 3, Christian J Haller 4, Myles Louis Dakan (C) 5, Kyle A MacKenzie II 6. 1st Q: 1. **£6**

Quebec City, QC. (S Matthew's Bell Tower) 26 May, 1272 Cambridge S Minor: Linda D Rankin 1, Daniel Lynds 2, Elaine M Hansen 3, Tj Marchello 4, Alethea Merelos 5, Myles Louis Dakan (C) 6.

Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. (Bishopthorpe) 23 May, 1260 PB Minor: Alethea Merelos 1-2, Myles Louis Dakan 3-4, Daniel Lynds (C) 5-6. 1st in hand at first attempt: 1-2.

Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. (Bishopthorpe) 25 May, 1280 Rutland S Major: Daniel Lynds 1-2, Cally D Perry 3-4, Elaine M Hansen 5-6, Myles Louis Dakan (C) 7-8. 1st in m: 1-2, 7-8.

Quebec City, QC. (Cathedral) 25 May, General Ringing: Jameson Orvis 1, Danielle Morse 2, Hannah Desrosiers 3, Trisha Shannon 4, Christian J Haller (C) 5, Mario Morel 6. Rung open in celebration of the life of Denise Girard, mother of the tenor, who passed away on 24 April, 2025, at the age of 82.

VE Day 80th Anniversary

The following performances were rung for the 80th anniversary of VE Day, but submitted to BellBoard after our cut-off for the 23rd April special issue.

Newdigate, Surrey. 30 May, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Jo Hunt 1, Sue Dixon 2, Alexander Dixon (C) 3, Lloyd Chapman 4, Ian Macro 5, Stuart Dixon 6. Also for Surrey Association's QP month & the 30th Birthday of 3 on Wednesday. **£6**

Ardington, Oxon. (Holy Trinity) 8 May, 40 PB Minor.

Chigwell Row, Essex. 8 May, General Ringing: FAJ Goodwin (C), Jill Leftwich, Diane Da'Costa. Revd Paula Preston, unable to attend due to clerical duties, wishes to be associated, as do all local ringers who have started to learn the science recently.

Epping Upland, Essex. 8 May, General Ringing: Margaret French (C), Perry French, Susan Bateman.

Fekixkirk (St Felix), N Yorks. 8 May, Rounds and Call Changes: Eric Bowes 1, Bob Hunter 2, Rachel Lamond 3, Colin Mathers 4, Jim Sheldrake 5, Sandra Shoyer (C) 6, Martin Unné 7.

Higham, Kent. (S John Ev) 8 May, General Ringing: Teresa Joblin, Keith Joblin, Kenneth Aldous, Julie Aldous, Philip K Twinberrow, Linda Dray.

Linby, Notts. 8 May, Rounds and Call Changes: Chris Cook, Claire Hardstaff, Brian Hincliffe (C), Ruth Redgate, Helen Whiting (C), Janet Watson, Michelle Jemmett-Allen, Frank Drozda.

Nazeing, Essex. 8 May, General Ringing: Ylva Llewelyn (C), Sally Horsnell, Pauline Squirrell, Lewis Bateman, Connor Harmer, George Mansfield, Margaret French, Daniel Rumelhart, Neil Rumelhart, Marcus Sams. Jim Sams (Tower Captain), Jacky Sams and Brian Starling also wish to be associated.

Loughton Methodist Church, Essex. 8 May, General Ringing: Shirley Utting 1-2, Christine Watson 3-4, Heather Hall 5-6, Jill Angold-Stephens 7-8, Pamela Utting (C) 9-10.

Submit any corrections to performances@ringingworld.co.uk

Ladies Guild Kent outing

On Saturday, 17th May, nine members of the Ladies' Guild SE District enjoyed a spring outing.

Our first visit was to the picturesque church of Ightham (6, 7-0-22), which looked beautiful in the sunshine. In the Church is the very ornate memorial to Dame Dorothy Selby from nearby Ightham Mote, who was instrumental in revealing the Gunpowder Plot. We enjoyed ringing on the pleasant six before having lunch at the local Pub.

Our afternoon tower was Leigh (6, 8-2-0). After the ringing, some of us partook of a delicious afternoon tea, sitting in hot sunshine in the pretty garden of a tea house in nearby Penshurst. This rounded off a happy time together.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 22nd July.

ISABEL PEARCE, Secretary SE District.

