

Report for Kirk session –Report on Bellringing Activities 2009-2010

Good progress continues at our weekly practices, with more method ringing evident over the course of the year. Some new regular ringers have joined us although we have had a slight drop in numbers overall as others, including Saskia Palmer and David moved on to pastures new, both of whom made a significant contribution to the development of the band. Sunday service ringing continues to be well supported.

We continue to attract a steady number of visitors as well as some interest from the media. In January 09 we were featured in an STV programme about activities to improve fitness, with the enthusiastic presenter having a go at ringing under Mike Clay's supervision (our tower captain). Later in the year a journalist from the Sunday Post and her friend came along, apparently prompted by the friend's interest in knitting patterns which apparently led to a curiosity about methods... The recent article featured a picture of Mike amongst the bells. During the Festival, when practices are cancelled, we took the opportunity to have our first outing to another tower - to Stirling, which was very successful.

For the second year running we had 6 peals and the highest number of quarter peals in Scotland – 17. This included the 50th quarter peal since the bells were restored in November 2006 and many individual achievements. The dedications included St Andrew's Day, 3 births and memorials for Richard Baxter and Lord Davidson. We rang for 6 Weddings, including responding to one very last minute request. Amazingly within a few hours we had a full band.

Visiting bands came from Loughborough, Gloucester, Dublin and Dunblane. The Church was involved in Doors Open Day and once again visits to see the bells, and ringing proved popular. In December we joined worldwide ringers and rang 350 changes for the Copenhagen Climate Summit, drawing attention to the 350ppm UN maximum limit of CO2 acceptable to avoid climate change.

With the Union of St Andrew's and St George's with St George's West, from January 1st 2010 the ringers have a keen interest in the discussions about the principle place of worship and the use of building. In the meantime, practices continue as normal on Mondays from 7.15pm-8.45pm and there is Sunday ringing at 12 after services in the George Street building and visitors interested in observing or finding out more about ringing are always welcome.

So its now reasonable to say that we're moving from being a new band towards an established band!

Sally Evans (Tower Correspondent)