Bellringers Report for 2023.

January. The year began with a visit from the Welsh Colleges Society on the seventh for a quarter peal. Then followed a quarterly meeting at St John’s Hagley.

February. Martin, Liz, Dee and Maxine attended a handbell ringing course at Hereford, and from that we have expanded our membership and increased our performances, with ringing at Clent and Fairfield. Maybe a tour bus next year!!

March. Martin, Liz and Liz’s husband Richard entered the annual quiz at Alvechurch. We came last. Also in March was the striking competition at Rowley Regis. It was cold but Paula, Liz and Dee helped to form a band for call changes and came 3rd. Well done!

April. Service ringing and practices. Also the handbell ringers rang Tallis’s Canon for the service. Their first public performance.

May. The tower bells were rung for the Coronation of King Charles 111rd 0n the sixth, and on the seventh the handbell ringers performed their second public performance of the Skye Boat Song during the service. On Monday the eighth some Clent ringers

joined with Hagley ringers to Ring for the King. A series of call changes. All ringers were able to take part, Learners too.

June. The quarterly meeting at Cradley saw Linda enrolled as a member of the W&DCRA. Ringers rang for a wedding on the 24th.

July. Weddings at Clent and Hagley as well as service ringing and practices.

August. Visitors were welcomed from Northfield for 40 minutes of ringing.

September. Service ringing and practices, some shared with Hagley.

October. Service ringing and practices.

November. The bells were rung half muffled for Remembrance. Martin returned to ringing.

December. The Northern Branch Carol Service was held at Clent followed by seasonal refreshments.

I feel I must record my thanks to Members of St Leonard’s and St John’s towers for their support during my enforced absences and recuperation. Thank you, one and all.

The year also saw Martin gain a Module 1 qualification to teach bell ringing and Paula obtained a Level 1 in bell ringing. Level 2 next step! We attended a practice evening at Belbroughton where we were assessed by an independent examiner who was satisfied with our efforts, particularly with Paula’s bell handling. I am looking forward to progressing other ringers along the same route.

Martin Whittaker, Tower Captain.