Handbell Ringers Report 2022/2023.

St Leonard’s Church, Clent.

Our small group was formed from members of the tower bell ringers towards the end of 2022. We had an exploratory look at the hand bells that we have in our possession together with some music, notably Christmas Carols. With the help of two ringers from Hagley we practised and decided to play a carol for the service at St Leonards. We were nervous but our efforts were well received and we felt encouraged to proceed further with our playing.

Some of the group attended a day course near Hereford. Most illuminating and beneficial.

By now we were approaching Easter and Reverend Kim asked if we could play a tune for the Easter service, of course the answer was “yes” and we selected Tallis’s Canon. A lovely piece of music and Harry played it later in the service, a lovely touch we thought.

Our next work was for the Coronation of King Charles 111 and we played the Skye Boat Song. Our repertoire is growing!

We then had a break whilst we thought about what we could play for the Harvest Festival. We selected English Country Garden. Christmas 2023 saw us playing Silent Night for the Northern Branch Carol Service held at St Leonards as well as for the Church Service. We were asked to play at St Mark’s, Fairfield. Our first tour date! These last dates brought us to the end of the year, with one or two changes in the personnel which gives us hope for 2024, particularly since we have our first date for the Church Social in February!

It has been mentioned that we should get a tour bus!!

Martin Whittaker, Tower Captain, St Leonard’s. Clent.