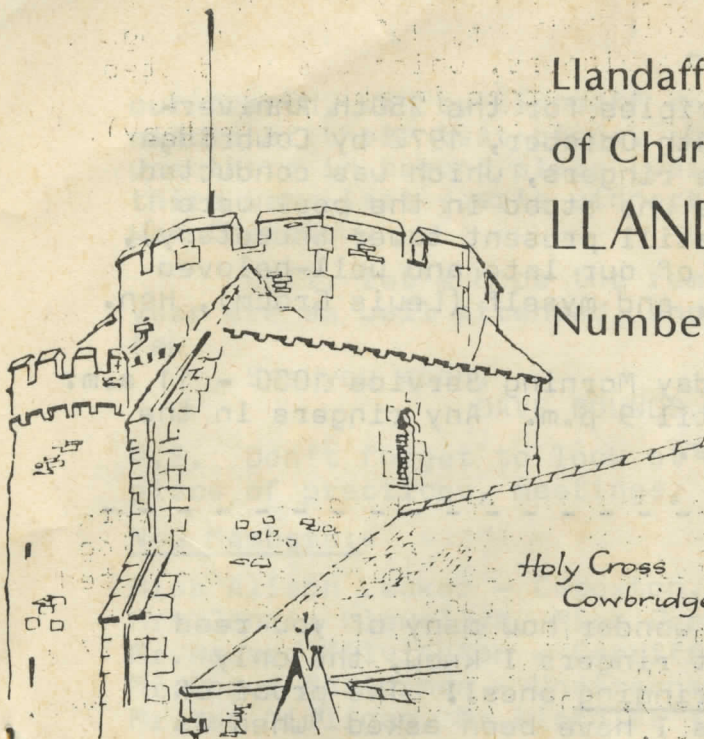


Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association
of Church Bell Ringers

LLANDAFF BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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Holy Cross
Cowbridge

HOLY CROSS, COWBRIDGE.

The first known facts about Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge came to light in and about 1473, when Lady Anne Nevill, Lady of the Manor of all Glamorgan and Consort of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, built part of the Church.

The living of Cowbridge was endowed by Richard III in 1484. The Church, to-day a spacious edifice, is known as the "Cathedral of the Vale of Glamorgan".

It has had a close relationship with the Cowbridge Grammar School since 1608.

The Central tower at some stage was thought to have had a spire, containing four bells, in some state of bad repair, and the timber frames and walls being in some state of decay.

In January 1722, profits accruing from a general toll, rents, weigh houses, town shop, etc., were mortgaged for approximately nine years to pay the sum of around £225 for the casting of new bells (which are to-day's ring of eight). The bells cast by E. and W. Evans of Chepstow 1722, are the only complete octave surviving, by these founders.

Details of Bells:-

Treble	(2'-4")	4 - 3 - 11 in E.
2	(2'-5")	5 - 0 - 15 in D sharp.
3	(2'-7")	5 - 3 - 4 in C sharp.
4	(2'-9")	6 - 2 - 12 in B.
5	(2'-11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ")	7 - 2 - 5 in A.
6	(3'-2")	9 - 0 - 17 in G sharp.
7	(3'-5")	11 - 2 - 10 in F sharp.
Tenor	(3'-10")	15 - 3 - 13 in E.

Considering that the bells were cast in 1722, the first peal was not rung until after the rehanging by Taylors of Loughborough, in a steel frame in 1935, in which J.W. Jones of All Saints, Newport took part. Mr. Seymour Barker also rang one of his four peals outside St. John's, Cardiff. The second peal of Grandsire Triples (Holts Original) was rung on 19th March, 1938. This was conducted by Ernest Stitch, and Robert E. (Ted) Coles rang his first of many peals. In September, 1962 Ted called Grandsire Triples for the first time, and this was to be his last peal at Cowbridge (I had the pleasure of ringing the Tenor on this occasion).

A commemoration peal of Grandsire Triples for the 250th Anniversary of the bells was rung on Saturday, 24th October, 1972 by Cowbridge Grammar School Society, and Sunday Service ringers, which was conducted by Ellis N. Thomas. Sunday Service ringers who stood in the peal were Iolo Davies, D.K. Barrington, A.W. Thomas (still present tower Secretary), Geoff Morgan (Tower Captain, and grandson of our late and well-beloved Tower Captain for 50 years, Harold Blick), and myself (Lewis Groom), Hon. Member, Cowbridge Grammar School Society.

The bells are rung regularly for Sunday Morning Service 1030 - 11 a.m. and practices Tuesday evenings at 7.30 until 9 p.m. Any ringers in the district at these times are always welcome.

FROM THE EDITOR.