

Bell Ringing for Armistice Sunday 2018

For bell ringers, Armistice Sunday is always a special occasion, but this year was especially significant: Armistice Day (11th November) fell on a Sunday and coincided with the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.

Among the 1 million British killed during WWI were 1,400 bell ringers, and earlier this year a campaign was launched to recruit and train the same number. Locally, the following bell ringers were recorded among the fallen: Gunner Mayo Townsend, Towcester; Lance Corporal John Hornsby, Greens Norton; Lance Corporal Charles Falkner, Easton Neston; Private Charles Tyrell, Wicken. Nationally a total of 3,500 people signed up to learn to ring, 1,600 of whom reached the standard necessary to be able to ring on the day. Locally, 10 people started intensive training in August and this culminated in a celebration and presentation of certificates at Greens Norton on 10th November. Remarkably, there has been a 100% success rate with none of the recruits dropping out along the way. This is a tribute to those involved in teaching them and of course the students themselves.

Armistice Sunday was a very busy affair. Half muffled ringing started at Holy Cross church prior to the 10:30 service. The bells were rung simultaneously at all three churches at 12:30 as part of the national Ringing Remembers event. There then followed half muffled ringing prior to the 17:30 service at St Mary's church. Finally, the bells were rung at St Luke's church at 19:00, coinciding with the lighting of beacons nationwide as part of The Battle's Over celebrations.

Those who rang are shown in the pictures below, which include our two Ringing Remembers recruits: Katy Douthwaite and Luisa Barrios.



Holy Cross, Pattishall



St Mary's, Gayton



St Luke's, Cold Higham

With thanks to all who helped to make this happen,

Chris Bulleid