

## Bellringing Report

During 2019 we again managed to ring on most Sunday mornings and alternate Tuesday practices although we struggle occasionally when one or two regular ringers are away.

We welcomed several visiting bands to ring the bells including a band which rang a peal for Alastair in November and 6 quarter peals (lasting around 45 minutes each) were rung during the year including one rung for Remembrance Sunday. Two of our ringers rang in a quarter before the Hertford Choral Society's 80th anniversary celebration concert and the bells were tolled for Notre Dame on the 18<sup>th</sup> April

Sadly, two ringers died during 2019, Basil Jones in May, and our tower captain Alastair Stracey on 20 November. Basil was a very accomplished ringer and although he had to give up ringing some years ago he still joined us regularly on a Tuesday evening in the Salisbury after our practice. Alastair had taken over as tower captain after John Kemp retired and he instituted regular monthly quarter peals and encouraged us to learn new things to ring.

In 2019 Alastair instigated a campaign to raise £25,000 to refurbish the bells at All Saints which are becoming increasingly difficult to ring. A few weeks before his death Alastair was delighted to learn that his application to Hertford Town Council for a grant of £10,000 had been successful, bringing the target within reach. We hope that the refurbished bells of All Saints will be a fitting memorial to Alastair who is very much missed.