**Bell Ringers Report to 2024 APCM**

There are still the faithful few, finding it very difficult to encourage anybody to join us. Having said that there are a couple that have showed interest, but I have yet to arrange a session that will suit Andrew from Danehill who will be teaching them. He has had a busy time with engagements of his own.

There may be some interest from some mums and children from the school. Revd Julie sent me an email saying they had shown interest after hearing us ring before and after a service the school had put together in celebration of vision and arts on Friday 9th April.

The year started with great excitement as the Coronation date was set for 6th May 2023. We had a full band and enjoyed being involved with celebrations, finishing in time to enjoy the ceremony of Prince Charles being crowned King Charles III.

We had one wedding and several visitors to the tower during the year. Practice nights are sometimes a bit of a struggle to get enough of u s to ring. But Andrew is very supportive and mostly manages to come over.

Our handbells are in need of a good overhaul. They are well over 70 years old and were given by Mr Mann with a cabinet to house them when he died. As far as I know they have never had any renovation since. We are awaiting an estimate from the restoration company in Bromley. As there is quite a lot of work to do we are expecting a major expense. We feel it is the right decision to get them back into peak condition for us and future generations.

For the D Day Landing celebrations on Thursday 6th May the bells will be rung before and after the lighting of the beacon.

We are in the belfry most Thursdays 8 to 9pm. If anybody is interested in learning to ring you are always welcome.

Daphne Booker

Captain

07485 099890