

## **St Michael's Parish Church, Lyme Regis Bellringers complete 50 years**

Transcribed from Lyme Regis News, March 7, 1980  
by Felicity Cox, November 2019 (Museum archives)

Lyme Regis has a very fine history of high quality bellringing at the Parish Church and it all dates back to the influence of a former vicar, Canon Carew Cox, who came to the parish from Westmores near Wimborne in 1927.

Now two of the canon's most avid former students, Mr Harry Keeley and Mr Cuthbert Powell, have received certificates commemorating 50 years of continuous membership of the Diocesan Guild of Bellringers.

Towards the end of his period as vicar of Lyme, the Canon became president of the Diocesan Guild. Before that, he was Guild master for many years – a post which, incidentally, is now held by Mr Keeley's son, the Rev Roger Keeley. So right from the start, therefore, both Mr Keeley and Mr Powell received an excellent training. Over the years their knowledge has been passed on to younger members of the bellringing team, enabling the standard to remain high.

Mr Keeley has been a deputy ringing master for 30 years and Mr Powell for 15 years. Mr Powell has also been branch chairman from 1962 to 1970, and vice-chairman for the preceding three years. A third important member of the parish church team is Mr George Morris who is captain of the Lyme bellringers. He is the brother of a man who has an authoritative work on the skill of campanology.

The Lyme team is nine strong at present with six senior members, including Mr Leslie Boyce, Mrs Laura Powell and Mr Bill Marsh. Three girls have also qualified, Sarah and Michaela Emmett and Tammy Hallett. During the summer months visiting bellringers often join the regular team for Sunday services.

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