

# Biographical Record

## **Anthony John DAVIDSON (1940 – 2012)**

Represented represented the Truro Diocesan Guild on the Central Council from 1963 to 1974, and attended 11 meetings.

Anthony Davidson was born in Cornwall on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1940, and was educated at Truro Cathedral School. From information supplied, he lived all his life in the same house, Tyneholme, (his parents were married in the North-East), looking after his parents when they became elderly. Anthony never married, and had a brother, Robin.

Anthony Davidson worked throughout his working life for Barclays Bank, and managed to never work outside Cornwall (apart from a short locum spell in Plymouth), retiring in 1990. By 1960, he was an established ringer in Truro, ringing at Truro Cathedral and/or Kenwyn. At the time, change-ringing at Truro was pretty well restricted to Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob, but Anthony was prepared to travel to ring Surprise Major, and by the early 70s he was in the first peal of Yorkshire Royal at Truro Cathedral.

He was General Secretary of the Truro Diocesan Guild from 1965 to 1975, and its Treasurer from 1976 until his death. His stewardship of the Guild's funds has led to the success of the Truro Guild's Bell Restoration Fund in its help to many Cornish towers over the past 35 years.

Anthony rang 577 peals of which he conducted 181. His first seven peals were of Grandsire, starting with Triples, but including Doubles and Caters. He is believed to have rung a peal in all the ringable towers in Cornwall (sharing this achievement with Alan Carveth). He took part in a long length peal, 10752 Plain Bob Major, at St. Dennis on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1972, to mark the Truro Diocesan Guild 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, at that time the longest length rung for the Guild, and by all the ringers. He had already been a member of a previous record length peal for the Guild, of 6240 changes of Mixed Doubles at Lelant on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1969. A peal of Plain Bob Maximus rung at Buckfast Abbey to his own arrangement, remains the only 12-bell peal yet conducted by a ringer born and resident in Cornwall.

The vast majority of his peals were rung for the Truro Diocesan Guild (541) with nine rung for the Guild of Devonshire Ringers and six for the Ancient Society of College Youths to which he was elected in 1961, the remaining 21 peals spread between eleven further guilds.

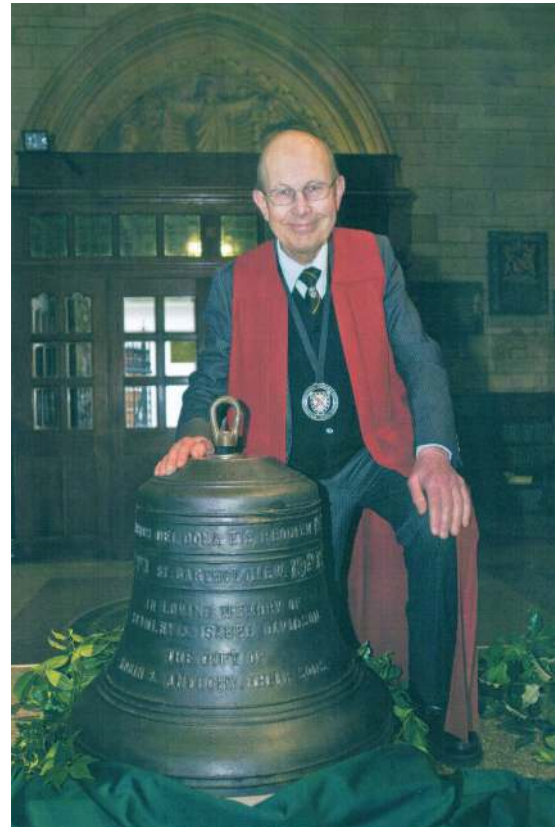
Truro will remember him for his involvement in the augmentation of the bells of Truro Cathedral from 10 to 12, the new treble of which was donated by Anthony and his brother Robin in memory of their parents.

Outside ringing, Anthony was a chorister at Truro Cathedral, having started as a boy chorister. He was also a regular communicant and participant in many other Cathedral activities including being sidesman, churchwarden, PCC treasurer, altar server and administrator.

After his retirement he was a full time volunteer in the Cathedral Office, assisting with various aspects of the Dean and Chapter's financial affairs, as well as being a member of the Cathedral Company of Ringers for over 50 years. In recognition of all his service, he was elected a Lay Canon of the Cathedral. There are never more than twelve Lay Canons at any one time; they sit in stalls named after the twelve apostles and Anthony sat in St. Bartholomew's stall.

He was also active in many other Cornwall and Truro bodies, including Macmillan Nurses, the local National Trust Association, the Truro Diocesan Mothers' Union and The Cornwall Historic Churches Trust.

Anthony died of cancer in a nursing home in Truro on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The funeral was held in an almost full Truro Cathedral on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012.



*A tribute appeared in The Ringing World on 12th October 2012*