

Biographical Record

Frank Eric HAYNES (1906-1991)

Represented the St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham from 1950 to 1966,
Honorary Member from 1967 to 1973 and attended 20 meetings

Frank was born at Trumpington, Cambridgeshire on 26th June 1906. He learned to ring at Trumpington in 1923/4, being taught by Kitty Willers. Subsequently he was attached to Great St. Mary's, Cambridge from 1926-1929; St. Martin's Birmingham from 1929-1964 and several Cambridge towers from 1964 onwards.

Frank attended the village school in Trumpington and from there he won a scholarship to the Perse School – a huge achievement for someone from a small village school in those days. In 1926 he went up to St. Catherine's College in Cambridge, where he stayed until 1929 reading Classics. While he was there he was Secretary and then, in 1928, Master of the Cambridge University Guild. He rang several peals for the Guild including some on handbells. He enjoyed sport and played tennis, Rugby and cricket. He rowed and was cox for the college rowing team.

After leaving Cambridge he obtained a teaching post at Holly Lodge School in Smethwick, teaching classics. While there he played Rugby for Birmingham City Rugby Union Club. He was a keen Aston Villa fan and enjoyed watching their games of football. He took pupils on skiing trips to Switzerland and was in charge of the cricket team. He joined the band at St. Martin's in Birmingham where Stedman Cinques was the staple method at that time and Frank rang 30 peals of it before he rang one of Cambridge Surprise Maximus. He liked ringing Stedman Cinques on handbells and in 1933 he rang a peal of Stedman Cinques on each 'pair' of bells. He took part in the first ever peals of Lincolnshire and Prittlewell Surprise Maximus on tower bells. He became the main conductor of the St. Martin's band, taking over from Albert Walker.

Later he moved back to the Cambridge area and taught at Sawston Village College. He supported the ringing at Great St. Mary's, Great St. Andrew's (where he regularly read the lesson on Sunday evenings) and at Trumpington, where he was on the PCC.

Frank's first peal was 6 Doubles methods and was rung at Trumpington on November 11th 1925. He rang a total of about 800 peals, including just under 200 of Stedman Cinques. His notable ringing achievements include conducting Stedman from Doubles to Cinques and conducting Cambridge from Minor to Maximus. He called a peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's, Birmingham for the Silver Jubilee of King George V on 6 June 1935. He rang two peals at Exeter Cathedral, one for the St. Martin's Guild and one for the Ancient Society of College Youths, of which he became a member in 1935. He also rang a peal at St. Pauls' Cathedral for the ASCY.

Frank was the father of five children: two boys and three girls. Both sons and one daughter became talented ringers.

He featured in The Ringing World series 'Personalities of the Exercise' No. 9 on 3rd March 1961.

Frank died in Cambridge on 12th November 1991 and his funeral and burial took place at Trumpington on November 21st.

His obituary appeared in The Ringing World on January 31st 1992 on pages 119 - 120.

