

Biographical Record

Patrick Lawrence James MATTHEWS (1952 – 2011)

Represented the Salisbury Diocesan Guild on the Central Council from 1978 to 1987 and attended nine Council meetings.

Patrick Lawrence James Matthews was born in Poole in Dorset on 2nd July 1952.

He had his first ringing lesson from Tony Hiscock on 2nd April 1971 at Canford in Dorset. He became a member of the band at St John the Evangelist Bournemouth in 1973 and rang there for the rest of his life. He was also a member of the band at Sacred Heart Bournemouth from the time of the dedication of the bells in 1983 onwards. He rang at Lytchett Minster as well from 1977-1982 and at Brownsea Island from 1980.

His first peal, Kirkstall Delight Minor, was rung at Loders on 19th April 1974. He rang a total of 34 peals, of which he conducted 7. All his peals were tower bell peals. He preferred ringing quarter peals and rang over 700, conducting many of them.

He served the Salisbury Diocesan Guild in many capacities: he was the Assistant General Secretary from 1978-1987; the Honorary Administrator of the Llewellyn Edwards Bell Repair Fund from 1976-1987; a member of the General Committee from 1974-1997 and the Master of the Guild from 2005 until ill health forced him to stand down in 2009. He was the District Chairman of the Christchurch and Southampton District of the Winchester & Portsmouth Guild from 1992-1995.

Patrick was also a founding member of the Guild of St. Agatha, which was founded on 5th February 1983 at Sacred Heart in Bournemouth. He was Master of that Guild from 1983 – 1986 and the second President of the Guild from 1986 until his death.

Similarly, Patrick held many tower positions: he was treasurer of St John's in Bournemouth from 1976 until his death; vice-captain at St. John's from 1984-2003; tower captain at St. John's from 2003 until his death and tower captain at Sacred Heart Bournemouth 1983 until his death.

He was the leader of initiatives to start ringing again at Lytchett Minster in 1977 and at Brownsea Island in 1980. He was also the leader of the Sacred Heart bells project in 1982-1983. He was the author of 'Bells of Richmond Hill', published for the dedication of the bells of Sacred Heart and the author of the centenary history of St. John's bells in 2006.

He was a solicitor by profession.

He died on March 31st 2011. His funeral was held at Sacred Heart, Bournemouth on Wednesday April 13th.

An obituary appeared in The Ringing World on May 27th 2011 on page 548.