

Biographical Record

George Eric OLIVER (1906 – 1976)

Represented the the Hereford Diocesan Guild from 1948 to 1959
and attended six Council meetings

George Eric Oliver was born on 27th April 1906 in Bridgnorth, the sixth child and second son of a tanner's labourer.

He was attached to St. Leonard's, Bridgnorth. He became a member of the Hereford Diocesan Guild in 1932 and remained a member until 1959, when he became a Life Member, in spite of the fact that by then he lived in Lichfield. He rang at least eight peals for the Hereford Diocesan Guild.

In 1930 he became a member of the band at St. Michael's Lichfield and rang his first peal for the Society of Change Ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford on May 30th 1930, when he called a peal of Grandsire Doubles. This was his first peal as conductor.

After the war he was a member of the band at Lichfield Cathedral. After the bells at the Cathedral were recast in 1947, George was asked to run the ringing, which he did until ill health forced him to give up ringing in the late 1950s. He was insistent upon good striking. Among others, he encouraged Peter, Joan and Dennis Beresford in their ringing and all three of them became very good ringers under his tutelage.

George was Ringing Master of the Society of Change Ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford in the year 1951/1952. In 1959 he became an unattached member, his name then disappeared from the annual report in 1961-1962. He rang a total of 196 peals for the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

George was employed as a tanker driver for B.P. Ringing bells, both tower bells and handbells, was the main interest in his life. When he was not working or ringing, he helped out at his brother-in-law's farm.

He died in the third quarter of 1976 in Lichfield.