

Biographical Record

Michael Victor POWELL JP (1943 – 2004)

Represented the Hereford Diocesan Guild on the Central Council from 1981 to 1992
and attended 11 meetings

Michael Powell was born on May 24, 1943, the eldest son of Reginald and Evelyn Powell, of Kingstone, Hereford. He learnt to ring at Kingstone and became a member of the Hereford Diocesan Guild in 1958, spending all his life living in and around Hereford.

His first peal was for the Guild on November 8, 1958, when he rang the treble at Ewyas Harold to a peal of Grandsire Doubles. His first as conductor came nearly three years later on May 20, 1961 at the same tower. This peal, which was also of Grandsire Doubles, was his 25th, his father also ringing in the peal. He rang a total of 586 peals for the Hereford Diocesan Guild, ranging from Minimus to Maximus, of which he conducted 52. He also rang nearly 40 peals for other Associations, including the Ancient Society of College Youths.

He served the guild in various district offices and was Guild Master from 1978 to 1979. He represented the Guild on the Central Council from 1981 to 1992 and was Guild Secretary from 1991 to 2000. In view of his long and valued service to the Guild he was elected a Freeman in 1997 and a Vice-President in 2001.

Besides his Sunday service and peal ringing, he was actively engaged in the Hereford Course, acting as a tutor for many years and also as organiser of the towers. He was also responsible for raising thousands of pounds over the years for the Guild Restoration Fund, and through his efforts St Michael's Hospice at Bartestree benefited by several thousand pounds.

He spent the whole of his working career with the Royal Mail at Hereford, starting at 17 as a postman and working his way up to a Delivery Manager from which he retired after 43 years. He was also appointed a Magistrate on the Hereford City Bench

He died on 6th March 2004. In his obituary Norman Mattingley wrote of his thoughtfulness and dedication to others, his own appreciation of his abilities and limitations, and his willingness to give help when required.

Seven peals and twenty-five quarter-peals were rung in his memory



Tributes appeared in The Ringing World in 2004 on pages 264, 639, 645 & 648