

Biographical Record

David SMITH (1897 – 1973)

Represented the Chester Diocesan Guild on the Central Council from 1951 to 1953 and attended 2 meetings

David Smith was born on 5th March 1897 at Heswall cum Oldfield, Cheshire. His father, Thomas, was a stonemason. In 1911, he was living in Thingwall Barnston on the Wirral, still with his family, his mother now being a widow. He was aged 14 and working as a general labourer.

He probably learnt to ring in the mid 1920s, because his first mention in the Chester Diocesan Guild report was in 1927, also the year he rang his first peal, on the Treble to Plain Bob Minor at Davenham on 22nd June. Shortly after the peal (in the 3rd quarter of 1927) he married Mary E Moran in Nantwich.

He rang 91 peals for the Chester DG, and at least 3 others. Mostly he rang plain methods but he rang 7 of Treble Bob (Minor to Royal) and 5 of Surprise (Minor and Major). He conducted only a few of his peals (4 of the 45 rung since 1950). In a few peals he appears as David J Smith, but in most records, and all official records, he just appears as David so he probably didn't have a middle name.

From 1947 to 1953 he held the post of Instructor, one of four in the Northwich Branch of the Chester DG. From 1951 to 1957 he served as Branch Secretary and Treasurer.

He lived at 29 West Avenue, Rudheath, Northwich, a couple of miles from Davenham where he rang from 1927 to 1957, the last year he was mentioned in Chester DG reports for Davenham, and the year in which he rang his last peal, at Davenham in December 1957. He was listed in the Northwich Branch as unattached from 1958 to 1963 and there is no further record of him until his death ten years later. It seems likely that he gave up ringing, possibly because of ill health since his long prior service suggests a high commitment to ringing.

He died in the last quarter of 1973 in the Northwich district.