

Biographical Record

WILFRID WILLIAMS (1905 – 1986)

Represented the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association on the Central Council from 1948 - 1951 and the Ancient Society of College Youths from 1957 - 1975 and attended 21 meetings.

He was born in Brecon on August 21st 1905.

He was taught to ring in 1919 at Llanelli, and subsequently attached to Bedwellty, Crawley, St. Peter, Brighton, London and Cheltenham.

He rang his first peal, Grandsire Doubles, at Llangattock Vibon Avel on December 10th 1922.

On November 8th 1941 he took part in a peal of Holts Original on handbells – silent and non-conducted.

He rang his 1000th peal on August 5th 1972 at Birmingham Cathedral, where he also rang his 1000th tower bell peal on March 1st 1973.

He rang Exeter Cathedral tenor to peals of Stedman Cinques and Cambridge Surprise Maximus with J.S. Mason strapping. He rang his 70th different tenor to a twelve bell peal at Bolton on 28th February 1976.

He was the first person to call peals of Spliced Surprise Major and London Surprise Major from every bell. He was the first person to conduct a peal of Surprise in every county in England and Wales. For several years he organised peal tours.

He conducted the first peal of Surprise Major on tower bells on the American continent at Calgary on June 12th 1973. He rang in the first peal of Spliced Surprise rung outside the British Isles in Vancouver on June 16th 1973.

He rang 1186 peals in total and conducted 527 of these. Twenty-seven of the peals were in hand, of which he called 5. He also rang in several silent and non-conducted peals.

He was elected Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths in November 1958.

He was an engineer by profession, starting work above ground at a coal mine. He worked in the aircraft industry during the war and later worked for the Ministry of Works.

He died on 23 June 1986 and was cremated at Lambeth Crematorium, London.

His peal record: 'The Ringing World' 198 7 pages 333-334

