

# Biographical Record

## PETER EDGAR BAKER

Representative of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association 1951 - 1953

Attended 1 meeting

Peter Edgar Baker was born on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1925 in the Willesden area and he learned to ring in 1939 at Kingsbury in London, being taught by Mr. Folly, the tower captain.

The family moved to Bishops Cleeve in December 1940 as a result of their house having its roof blown off due to a bomb raid. By then, all church bells were silenced due to the war. Peter started ringing again in 1945 and joined the band at Bishops Cleeve. In order to develop his ringing skills he became a frequent visitor to St. Mary's, Cheltenham, but continued to ring at Bishops Cleeve for Sunday services. When he arrived in Bishops Cleeve there were six bells and Peter was one of the people who worked hard to augment the bells to eight; this happened in 1951 when the octave was completed by the addition of two new trebles. Peter rang at Bishops Cleeve for over 60 years and was Tower captain 1982-2004.

He joined the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers in 1946 and rang his first peal, Grandsire Doubles, at Bishops Cleeve on January 24<sup>th</sup> 1947. He rang 98 peals in total.

Peter was the Secretary of the Cheltenham branch of the Gloucester and Bristol DA 1950-1954 and was a Management Committee Representative 1969-1977. In 2001 he was accorded the highest award of the Gloucester and Bristol DA when he was made an Honorary Life Member.

In 1947 Peter joined the Ancient Society of College Youths and rang four of his total of just over 50 peals for the Ancient Society. He was very proud when a band of College Youths rang a peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Mary's, Cheltenham on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007 to celebrate his 50 years' membership of the Society.

Peter was a strong churchman, preferring the quiet 1662 service to the more modern services.

He was employed in Bishop's Cleeve by Smiths Industries where he worked in the CH4 model shop as a skilled indentured toolmaker.

He died in Tewkesbury Hospital on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011 his funeral being held at Bishops Cleeve on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Obituary in The Ringing World on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011 pages 808 and 810.*

