

Biographical Record

Revd. ROGER DOUGLAS ST. JOHN SMITH (1912 – 2002)

Represented the Lancashire Association on the Central Council from 1954 - 1962,
the Derby Diocesan Association from 1969 - 1974 and attended 9 meetings

He was born on August 29th 1912 at Ripley in Derbyshire.

He learned to ring in 1928 at Yardley Hastings, Northamptonshire, where he rang his first peal, Grandsire Doubles, on May 16th 1931.

He went to Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he was Master of the Cambridge University Guild 1935-1937.

He studied at Jesus College and at Ripon Hall Theological College in Oxford and in 1938 was elected Master of the Oxford University Society. He was the first man to be President of both the Cambridge University Guild and the Oxford University Society.

He was President of:

The Lancashire Association 1951-1965.

The Guild of Clerical Ringers 1965-1975.

The North Wales Association 1985-1988.

On August 20th 1968 he called a peal of Plain Bob Minor at Great Longstone which consisted of seven different extents, each of which contained 42 singles and no bobs.

He rang in the first peal of London Surprise Major by the Clerical Guild of Ringers at Darley Dale on November 8th 1970.

On January 9th 1971 he rang a peal of Stedman Cinques at Cripplegate, London, in which all the ringers had studied at Selwyn College Cambridge.

On November 20th 1971 at St. Peter, Nottingham he rang in the first peal of Maximus for the Derby Diocesan Association.

He rang 218 tower bell peals, of which he conducted 70, and 17 handbell peals, of which he conducted 5.

He conducted the first peal of each of his three children.

He was particularly interested in Plain Bob and composed peals of P.B. Major and P.B. Royal.

He died on January 29th 2002; his funeral was held at South Darley on February 7th and he was buried in the churchyard at Darley Dale, where he had been Rector for 14 years.

