

Biographical Record

Peter John STANIFORTH (1927 - 2012)

Represented the Leicester Diocesan Guild on the Central Council from 1956 to 1980
and attended 19 meetings

Peter John Staniforth was born at Leicester on December 12th 1927. He learned to ring at Anstey in Leicester in 1942, taught by Redvers Elkington. Subsequently he was attached to St. Peter's Carmarthen in South Wales and then Winchester Cathedral while he was at King Alfred's College. After his marriage to Jill Poole in 1951 he rang at Leicester Cathedral.

Peter's first peal was at Anstey on June 24th 1944 when he rang a peal of Stedman Triples. His first peal as conductor was also Stedman Triples.

Peter's ringing achievements were many and varied, as he rang in notable peals both in the tower and on handbells. These included the first peal ever of Bristol Surprise Maximus and also the first peal ever of Metropolis Surprise Maximus, both rung at Leicester Cathedral. He took part in the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus on handbells on September 28th 1947. He conducted peals of Cambridge Surprise in hand from Minor to Maximus in one day on June 21st 1969. Another achievement was a record length peal in hand of 11,111 Stedman Cinques, which he conducted. He also rang and conducted a peal of 10,080 Cambridge Surprise Royal in hand. He rang in the first peal of Grandsire Sextuples in hand. His 1000th peal was Stedman Triples at Anstey on August 28th 1973 and he went on to ring a further 90 peals, his last one being on November 26th 2003.

Peter was President of the Leicester Diocesan Guild from 1958-1961 and before that had been chairman of the Leicester District Committee. While he was on the Central Council, Peter was a member of the Standing Committee from 1960-1972 and a member of the Administrative Committee from 1972-1975. He was one of ten ringers chosen to ring on the occasion of the opening of the new bells at Washington Cathedral in 1964.

Peter was a school master by profession and was headmaster at three different schools in Leicestershire. He was interested in sport: cricket, rugby and soccer. He was also a Freemason and had been the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland. He was a devout churchman.

An article about his first thousand peals appeared in *The Ringing World* on page 947 on November 23rd 1973.

He died on 5th February 2012 and his funeral was held at Leicester Cathedral on February 21st.

Obituaries for him appeared in The Ringing World on March 30th 2012 on pages 313 (front page) to 315 and also page 332.

