

# Biographical Record

## Very Revd ALFRED GILBERT GODDARD THURLOW (1911 – 1991)

Represented the Norwich Diocesan Association on the Central Council from 1945 - 1963, Life Member from 1963 - 1991 and attended 44 meetings.

He was born on April 6<sup>th</sup> 1911 at Aythorpe Roding, Essex. He learned to ring at Ufford in 1923 and learned change ringing at Dunmow in 1929.

He was subsequently attached to Cambridge in 1929, Oxford in 1933, All Saints, Wokingham in 1934, Norwich in 1939, Great Yarmouth 1955, Norwich 1964, Gloucester in 1973 and Chichester in 1982.

His first peal, Plain Bob Major, was on handbells at Cambridge on January 16<sup>th</sup> 1932. His first tower bell peal, also Plain Bob Major was at Fulbourn on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1932. He rang in the first clerical peal of Grandsire at East Hagbourne on May 15<sup>th</sup> 1935.

He was Honorary Secretary of the Cambridge University Guild in 1930, Master of the Cambridge University Guild in 1931, General Secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association 1941-1955 and President of the Norwich Diocesan Association 1968-1973.

He was the author of 'Church Bells and Ringers of Norwich' in 1948.

He was President of the Central Council 1963-1969 and a member of the following Central Council committees:

Standing 1948-1972

Sunday Service & Education 1958-1963

Broadcasting & Television 1954-1972

Public Relations 1972-1975

Administrative 1972-1978

Fund for Redundant Bells 1979-1991

Redundant Bells 1973-1991

He was ordained at Oxford in 1934 and became a curate at All Saints, Wokingham. In 1939 he became Precentor at Norwich Cathedral and was a minor canon. He was Vicar of Great Yarmouth 1955-1964 and then a canon residentiary of Norwich from 1964 until 1972 when he became Dean of Gloucester. He retired to Chichester in 1981.

During his ministry, he was responsible for restoring the bells of Great Yarmouth and for augmenting what had been a derelict peal of three at St George, Colegate, Norwich into a ringable six. While at Gloucester he masterminded the rehangng and augmentation of the Cathedral bells.

He died on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1991 and his funeral and Requiem Mass were held at Chichester Cathedral on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

