



News from the St. Tudy History Group Research Team

Whilst looking through the History Group website, I re-read Paul Tucker's copy of his talk that he gave us back in October 2017, in which he told us about the history of bells, and in particular of St. Tudy's bells. We have six bells, the latest one being hung in December 1923, so No. 6 Bell is 100 years old this year.

In medieval times, swinging bells were first used as a way of notifying people of fires, storms, wars and other events. The original five bells were hung in 1751. Over the 272 years they have been ringing around St. Tudy, what have they been witness to, not just local, but world events?

Our bells would have rung for numerous wars Great Britain were involved in, the French Revolution in 1789, abolition of the slave trade in 1801, Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, Swing Riots where rural workers protested against mechanisation of agriculture in 1831, Crimean War in 1854, and the death of 10 monarchs, and nine Coronations. The bells also would have rung to celebrate the end of both WW1 and WW2, and many more events including village weddings and funerals.

Recently there have been several occasions where they have played an integral part in commemorations, such as the 100th anniversaries of the deaths of our men who died in WW1, where our Bell-ringers kindly rang muffled bells, thus continuing the tradition of the bells being rung to mark historic village events. There have also been celebrations, like the Queen's Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years of her reign, and sadly her death in September 2022, and then latterly for Charles in May this year when he became our King.

It has occurred to me that the bells were such an integral part of village life in the past, and it has reminded me just how much our bells are still an important part of the fabric of the village in this modern age we live in today. It is surprising that with all our modern technology we have available, something as basic as a bell is still so much a vital part of present day lives.

As you hear them ringing out around the village at Christmas time, take a little moment to remember just how important they still are, and thank them for all their service they have given to St. Tudy over the last 272 years. As the Church are fundraising at present, we hope they are there for the next couple of hundred years or so.

Happy 100th Birthday No. 6 Bell, and thank you to our wonderful Bell-ringers of St. Tudy!

PAM FREE

