

Having fun with Church Bells, Cubs and Scout Bell Ringing Badges and Bishop Chris at the Royal Cornwall Show.



In a major initiative to involve our 2,200 plus Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts in Cornwall with our rural churches Bishop Chris St Germans (the Right Reverend Christopher Goldsmith) with Annie Holland President of the Truro Guild of Ringers and the St Mabyn Scout leaders launched the new scout 'Bell Ringers' activities badge at the Royal Cornwall Show on Friday 10th June.

The badge is designed with the Cornwall Scout Association and sponsored by the Truro Diocesan Guild of Ringers it is available across Cornwall and can be achieved in any combination of the following four ways

- Hand chimes and hand bells
- Mini Ring
- Dumbbell and computer virtual ringers
- Tower Bells



With the help of bell ringers from Lerryn School, St Neot, St Dominick, St Winnow, St Kew, Bodmin and St Mary Bradoc the first 17 Cubs and Scouts from St Mabyn Scout Group, plus members from Pelynt, and Lostwithiel groups have now qualified for their badges, with others well on their way.

In designing the badge criteria, we have been very conscious of the need for it to be accessible to all Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts in that it needs to be inclusive to those who take it and those who teach on it. We are looking for a 6-week commitment from the members to give them a taster of bell ringing which we hope will lead them into our exercise.

We have provided a badge which can be achieved locally with hand bell and hand chimes or tower bells. Those choosing the mini ring or dumbbell routes currently have to travel to St Mary Bradoc where those facilities and support are always available.

The Cubs and Scouts from St Mabyn Scout Group took this opportunity and travelled right across Cornwall, and their local towers have agreed to take them on to ringing tower bells. They were introduced to call changes on hand chimes, interspersed with tunes such as Hedwig and Star Wars and learned on the mini ring. The older Cubs also learned to ring the full-sized dumbbell with the simulator using either Abel or Beltower virtual ringers projected on a screen, and others learned on tower bells at Bradoc and St Kew. We soon hope to broaden this badge to the Guiding movement.

Developed by St Mabyn Scout Group and the St Mary Bradoc and St Winnow ringers the badge is available for Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts in the movement across Cornwall. Please contact the TDGR Education Officer through their website www.TDGR.org.uk for more details.