



## Obituary

# Bob Cooke

1947 - 2022

It was with great sadness that we heard the news of the death of Bob Cooke on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2022. Bob was a ringer in St Fachtna's Cathedral in Rosscarbery.

Bob was born in Kenya and came to Ireland with his family when he was 12. He went to boarding school in Belfast and later studied Marine Biology at Trinity College, Dublin. There he met his wife Averil, they were married in 1976. He then took a position with the Southern Board of the Irish Fisheries Board and he and Averil moved to Union Hall where he lived until his death.

Once settled into Union Hall Bob's love of the sea and animals came to the forefront. He had a menagerie of animals big and small. Bob's attendance at practice nights was always unpredictable usually due to a crisis with an animal and more often than not 'the deer have escaped' was a common excuse. It wasn't unusual for a baby duckling to come to a practice tucked into a trouser pocket.



Bob was also involved with the Church not only as a Parishioner but as a sidesman, Church warden and Eucharistic Minister.

Rosscarbery bells were re-hung in 2005 and Martin Hough moved to Rosscarbery in the autumn of 2005 to train a new band. Bob was one of the folks who came forward to learn and embraced the ringing tradition in his quiet 'getting on with it' way. Bob had a great sense of humour with a keen appreciation of ridiculousness and an ability to laugh at himself. He was a kind and generous gentleman.

Bob developed a lung illness in 2015. Initially he was able to continue ringing and would hang his oxygen tank on the coat hook behind the bell he was ringing. He had a lung transplant in 2016 which gave him a further 6 years of life, though sadly he was unable to continue ringing.

Bob will be greatly missed in the ringing community of West Cork; his rye smile and infectious good humour will be remembered by us all.

DP