



Obituary

Tom Marsden

1923 - 2022

Tom Marsden, of St. Mary's Cathedral Limerick. died peacefully on 15th March 2022 in his 99th year. Tom learnt to ring back in the 1930's with his good friend Cyril Galbraith and continued to ring regularly until about 15 years ago, when aches and injuries prevented him from climbing the tower stairs. But he still took a deep interest in the ringing activities and regularly attended tower outings and social events right up to the start of Covid.

When doing a house-tidy in 2019 Tom found his original IACR membership certificate and other memorabilia which he promptly gave to St. Mary's Cathedral tower archives. The membership certificate is pictured below – you will note that it is dated 17th March 1938; and is signed by Robert Murphy and Gabriel Lindoff as well as Cyril Galbraith.

Tom was one of the ringers that instigated and championed Method Ringing in Limerick and was a member of the team that rung the 1st peal by an exclusively Cathedral band on the Cathedral bells. (5040 changes of Plain Bob Doubles on 18th March 1956).

At this time he carried out different tower leadership roles including some years as tower captain. But in later years he was very happy to let younger ringers take the leading roles while he took the back seat; but at the same time was happy to give wise council, when consulted.

Because of a parish reorganisation in 1968, Tom's Sunday morning ringing was curtailed but he never missed Monday night practice. He was early adapter of change ringing, and always enjoyed learning new (usually 5- or 6-bell) methods. He, and his wife Joan, were enthusiastic participants on any ringing outing, whether it was a day trip to somewhere local, a weekend "up north" or even week-long adventures in darkest Devon or swampy Scotland.

His final climb to St. Mary's ringing chamber was in 2004, at the age of 80, when he joined in the ringing as part of that years Autumn Ringing Festival, which was hosted in Limerick. He also enjoyed the opportunity that weekend to catch up with some old friends – like Jean Jeffery and Maud Lindsey – as well as meeting some of the younger ringers.

But I will always remember Tom for his Call Changes conducting - he put thought into what he was going to call, and always called the most musical of changes. He invariably included Queens, Tittums and Whittington's somewhere, each time; and if time allowed you could hear Hagdyke and back-rounds too.

KEB.

Weep not that I have gone, rejoice that I have been.



1 Tom Marsden with RR Cherry Cup in 1956



2 Tom Marsden with Jack Sciascia having received Limerick Ringers Long-Service pins, in 2011

