



## Honorary Life Member Citation

# Don McLean

We wish to put forward Don McLean of St Mark's Dundela, Belfast to be made an Honorary Life Member of the Irish Association of Change Ringers

Don has been a great ambassador for the Association for many years now.

At the age of 10 in 1966 Don became a member of St Nicolas Tower in Carrickfergus. He persuaded three friends to join him and they were fortunate to learn to ring in a Tower where change ringing was the norm and whose senior ringers were keen to pass on their skills. By 1970 Don had been made Tower Ringing Master a post he held until he moved to live in Belfast in 1985 and became a member (and Ringing Master) of Drumbo, and more recently, St Mark's, Dundela, Belfast.



The Association owes a great debt to Don for all the many roles in which he has served over the years in both the Northern District and The Association, often serving more than one term. He has been a Representative on the IACR Executive Council for many years also Association President; Association Ringing Master, Northern District Chairperson, Northern District Vice President; Northern District Ringing Master; and Northern District Assistant Ringing Master

Throughout his membership of the Association Don has been training new ringers, from learning to ring, to ringing methods. A Tower has only to ask for his help and Don will appear on Practice Night. In 2002 he was involved in the acquisition of the new ring of bells in Greyabbey and trained the 'home' team so that they were able to ring their 'own' bells at their Dedication Service.

More recently Don trained in the Art Teaching Method for teaching new ringers and is currently the Art Development Officer for Northern Ireland. He put these skills to good use by co-ordinating the teaching of 17 new ringers (who are all still ringing today), with the help of other Northern District Art Teachers, to enable them to ring for the Dedication of the new ring of bells - known as "The Peace Bells" - in St Mary's, Kilmood on the 9th of November 2018.

Currently Don is training a new group of ringers in St Mark's, Dundela (all making great progress) following a period of silence of their bells and it is hoped that there will be a full band of ringers and all 10 bells will ring out there once again.

Don McLean has a great wealth of knowledge from: running the Association; organising and running Association, District and Tower practices; and conducting Quarter Peals and Peals.

Don McLean Honorary Life Member continued.

Currently he is the Northern District Representative on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. The most recent position which Don has accepted is that of Trustee of the IACR from January 2021 and we wish him well in this role.

We would like you to consider Don McLean for the position of Honorary Life membership of the Irish Association of Change Ringers.

Andrew White - IACR Association General Treasurer - St Marks, Dundela, Belfast

Robert Foulis - Northern District – Chairperson – St Nicholas, Carrickfergus

IACR AGM - May 2022