Town bob triples ring in the new

Bellringers at the Town Church have rung out a new method. Back row, left to right, Michael Bubb, Duncan Loweth, David Reeves and John Lhoul. Front, John David, Sue Park, Sue Le Feuvre and Jane Le Conte.

BELLS have rung out from the Town Church with a brand new method named the St Peter Port bob triples.

The ringing was dedicated to the church's two new priests, the Revs Matthew Barrett and Peter Graysmith, the new rector and the new mission priest respectively.

The new method was rung on the eight bells which hang in the tower.

These are the heaviest peal of bells in the Channel Islands, with the tenor weighing just over a ton.

Duncan Loweth, tower captain, said the bellringers had to challenge themselves because of the larger number of bells.

'It would have been easier to have rung a new method on just six bells but as we have eight, we thought we would stretch ourselves and try and achieve it on all eight,' he said.

The band was made up of local ringers from the Town and Vale churches.

'We haven't been able to practise with all of the band together so there were several people who were ringing for the first time on the day,' Mr Loweth said.

'It was a testament to the concentration of the ringers involved that we managed it.'

In order to name a new method, the Central Council of Church Bellringers states a band must ring at least 1,260 changes of the method, which is called a quarter peel and takes around 45 minutes.

The Guernsey band rang 1,344 changes in 57 minutes and Mr Loweth said they did this so they could make the composition a bit easier. 'We've been learning several methods over the past six months and the band are making huge improvements,' he said.

'There is no way we would have been capable of naming the St Peter Port bob triples this time last year. The band as a whole has put in so much effort, I'm very proud of them.'

Alongside ringing for church services, the ringers also perform for weddings, funerals and on special occasions.

They practise on Thursday evenings.

The band is happy to welcome new members with no experience and no church ties are required. To enquire, contact Mr Loweth on townchurchbellringers@gmail.com.

by Stephen King

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