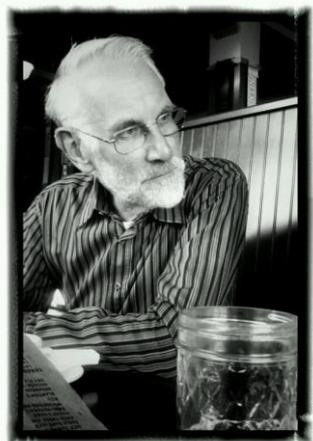


Michael Barritt Rose

4 September 1940 – 11th July 2016



Ever since being tactfully introduced to his future wife of 52 years by tower captain Kitty Willers in the belfry of St Mary and St Michael's Parish Church Trumpington, in the early 1960s, Michael Rose was a keen and committed bell ringer.

While studying medicine at Queen's College in Cambridge, he had first begun to learn to ring at St Bene't's Church. While studying in London he rang at St Stephen's Hampstead and St Anne's Highgate, as well as at Eastry in Kent during University vacations. Despite the rigorous demands of medical training, he progressed quickly and completed his first quarter peal (Stedman) at St Mary-at-Lambeth.

Having returned to Trumpington to marry Hilary in 1964, he continued medical training in St Thomas' Hospital before moving to Canterbury where the couple rang at St Dunstan's. During this time their first son, Richard, was pictured in the local paper pulling a bell rope at Wingham, aged about 12 months! There followed a move to Taunton where their second son Phil was born; when time allowed, Mike rang at St George's Wilton. The next stop was Bath, where the couple rang at the Abbey and at St Mary's Bathwick. On moving to Surrey, the whole family were regular attenders at Christ Church, Ottershaw, with Mike and Hil leading members of the band.

A job in Leeds meant that the Roses now rung the 12 bells of the Parish Church, where both boys were taught to ring by Barry Dove. From there, they took part in several memorable ringing outings around the Yorkshire countryside.

His final move saw Mike head to South Wales in 1977 to establish a new Urology Department in Swansea, a department, which is now thriving and respected nationally. Both he and Hil became leading members of the band at St Paul's Sketty, as well as being seen regularly at practices and meetings throughout the Swansea and Brecon Guild, and beyond. On taking early retirement, he became master of the Guild, arranging some memorable train outings across West Wales which were much enjoyed by all, and ringing many successful quarter peals. He ran the Guild calmly and purposefully, ensuring that all had a chance to develop the skills they needed, and always making sure he had time for those who needed some quiet explanation or reassurance. He helped sustain the ringing of handbells in the area, allowing those (such as indomitable Arthur Hoare) who could no longer make it up the spiral staircase to the belfry to continue to enjoy change ringing. When ill health meant that he himself could no longer make it up those same stairs, he was grateful for the efforts of local ringers who in turn brought handbells round for him to ring.

The esteem in which Mike was held by the ringing world was shown by the large turn out of bell ringers at his packed funeral, and by the fact that another long term leading member of the Guild, Nigel Doyle, took the service.

Bell ringing in Swansea and indeed all of South Wales will be poorer for his passing, and we will all miss him terribly. However his memory and legacy lives on in the ringers he so patiently taught, and in the Guild he did so much to promote.

Richard Rose for Sketty Bell Ringers