
A VERY MUCH ALIVE RINGER!

On the wall of St Martin's ringing chamber hangs a rather special peal board. It commemorates a peal rung at St Martin's Church 80 years ago for the 50th anniversary of the first full peal ever rung in the City of Salisbury on September 3rd 1887. However, this historic peal was almost cancelled due to illness.

The peal was saved by a young ringer who was cycling through Salisbury on his way home to Sunbury-on-Thames from a holiday on the south coast. He visited St. Martin's and he was asked by the desperate band to take the vacant rope - rather like Lord Peter Wimsey at Fenchurch St. Paul in the

'Nine Tailors'. Dennis Brock, then 19, continued his journey after a 'very good peal!' The war soon silenced church bells throughout the country, but when he returned from his War Service Dennis continued to ring at Sunbury.

Dennis is now 99 but he is still the active captain of the bells at St. Mary's Church in Sunbury. On his 90th birthday a peal was rung at St. Mary's by ringers whom he had trained - one of whom rings in Salisbury. It was this ringer who spotted Dennis' name on the Peal Board.

in a recent letter from Dennis he recalled the historic peal at St. Martin's in which he was so pleased to have taken part. He now looks

forward to the peal at St.
Mary's, Sunbury-on-
Thames for his 100th
birthday next year.

