BELLRINGING
The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
Registered in England and Wales as a Charity. No 270036

Members Update – April 2026

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- **Young Ringers for Ringing 2030 - Project Update**
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We are delighted to welcome the Central Council's first employees, starting in April:

- **Gemma Groom** as our new Marketing and Admin Officer
- **Josephine Leggett** as our new Youth Development Officer

These two part-time, fixed-term appointments will focus on support for Ringing 2030 projects. Gemma will be focused primarily on projects around Marketing and Recruitment (including a national awareness campaign and the ringing survey), while Josephine will be focussed entirely on youth projects, including the new Youth Development Pathways project. Both appointments will last one calendar year.
Find out more about them:

Gemma Groom



Gemma comes from a family of bellringers and remains an active ringer within her local community. She brings energy, organisation, a genuine commitment to supporting Ringing 2030 initiatives, and the ongoing tradition of bellringing. When not bellringing you will find Gemma, enjoying time with her family and friends, photography, and hiking!

Josephine Leggett

I started ringing at age 14 in Sussex where I grew up. Throughout my school years, I regularly rang with the Sussex young ringers and other youth groups. I was very fortunate to have a group of friends who all went to the same school as me and expended a lot of effort teaching me methods when we should have been doing homework! I have continued my involvement in youth groups through establishing the



YCRA, being master and now central council representative for the UBSCR and having some tangential involvement in the young ringers workgroup.

At University, I studied law and went on to complete a masters in socio-legal studies, with a focus on neurodivergence and culpability. I now work as a teaching assistant in a Special Educational Needs School, which I absolutely love.
Youth ringing has always been a huge passion of mine and I can't wait to take on this role and get stuck in!

Young Ringers for Ringing 2030 - Project Update
Sunday 3rd May at 7.30pm

Leaders needed for the roll out of Schools and Uniformed groups projects and introducing the new Youth Development Officer!

The Young Ringers for Ringing 2030 Workgroup has made great progress with the launch of the revised University Ringing Website UniversityRinging, which is part of the new Young Ringers Hub (YRH). The team are currently working on the finalising the University Ringing content , and getting the Under 18s sub site of the YRH up and running. This will be followed by Resources and Development Pathways sub sites. The development of the websites will continue as resources allow and will benefit from a sprint when the 2026 Honorariums join the team over the summer.

We have also developed a suite of primary school lesson plans and Derbyshire ringers / scouts have developed a badge syllabus blueprint that we can adopt for a wider roll out. In order to move these great initiatives from development to delivery, we need leaders who are passionate about driving forward the Schools and Uniformed Groups initiatives to make these available to young people nationally and internationally.

The Workgroup is currently very much in project mode currently and we will also be looking for a new Workgroup lead to work alongside Andrea Haynes, initially focussing on leading the Business As usual activities of the group, whilst Andrea focusses on getting the projects over the line. Andrea is stepping down as WG lead at the end of the year.

The Workgroup is holding a briefing on Sunday 3rd May at 1930 and will cover the following:

- Brief overview of all projects and progress
- Introducing the new Youth Development Officer
- Leaders needed for Uniformed groups and Schools to roll out and embed the excellent products we are developing.
- New workgroup lead role

Here is the link to register.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tVtjjoPgQDiWqoozh08ikw
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tVtjjoPgQDiWqoozh08ikw>

Once you register, you will be sent a Zoom link.

Summer Honorariums 2026

The CCCBR will be advertising shortly for three Honorarium roles, to support the development of the Young Ringers Hub and university research into tower movement, over the summer break 2026.

There will be two roles that will focus on finalising the University Ringing content and getting the Under 18s and Resources sub sites of the YRH up and running.

They will also work with the Youth Development officer to create a sub site to support the Development Pathways work. This element of the project will be led by the youth Development Officer and is aimed at creating networks that support the development of young ringers by leveraging existing centres of ringing excellence.

A summer internship project based at the University of Birmingham will provide a Civil Engineering student with hands-on experience in structural dynamics, structural health monitoring, and digital modelling of heritage structures. Working under the supervision of Dr Reza Salami, the project will focus on applying contemporary structural engineering science to the conservation of historic church buildings. The aim is simple: to strengthen evidence-based decision-making for churches and cathedrals by better understanding how historic masonry structures actually behave.

Further details, and a call for applications for all three roles, will be issued shortly.

Annual Council Meeting

The 2026 Central Council ACM weekend takes place in Rugby, hosted by the Coventry Guild from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th September 2026 and is open to anyone wishing to attend, not just CCCBR Reps.

The weekend's activities are open to all ringers and the full programme will be published in due course. Keep an eye on the CCCBR website and social media for updates.

The CCCBR ACM will take place at The Benn Hall, Newbold Road, Rugby CV21 2LN, with other events being staged around Rugby.

Friday 4th Sept

General ringing will be available at towers en route to Rugby. Routes will follow the main roads into Rugby.

Evening ringing will be at St Andrew's, Rugby with a social event at Benn Hall.

Saturday 5th Sept

Ringing World AGM.
CCCBR ACM.

Social event at the nearby Arnold House.

Sunday 6th Sept

Service ringing at local churches, including a special bell themed service at Coventry Cathedral.

Opportunities to support locals with ringing workshops in the early afternoon.

Booking for all elements of the weekend will be essential and more details will be published as they are confirmed. The booking and registration process will be accessible nearer the time.