



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

*Sixty years, sixty people,
sixty stories about village life
since 1952.*

2012

A peal of bells for my father

by David J Smith

On the 14th Feb 2012 my father Douglas Smith passed away. Amongst his many achievements was his lifelong passion and dedication to bell ringing at All Saints', Sedgley. He was a campanologist for 66 of his 83 years and the tower captain here at Sedgley for 37 years.

Both my sister Susan and I were taught by Dad how to ring when we were barely tall enough to reach the ropes. During his years Dad has taught many ringers at Sedgley including most of the current band. He ensured that the bells of All Saints' have never remained silent but have consistently rung out to call local people to church and to celebrate special occasions along the way.

So on the 12th May 2012 Susan and I and six other local ringers who had previously rung with Dad, rang the bells of All Saints' to celebrate his life. We successfully rang a peal of 'Plain Bob Major' lasting 2 hours 53 minutes. It was a special occasion for all of us and a fitting way to say: "Thank you Dad for everything." May his legacy be that the bells of All Saints' ring out for evermore.

It was a day that I will always remember and I hope the people of Sedgley enjoyed it as much as we, the ringers did.



Doug Smith (far left), Tower Captain at All Saints', with the bell ringers in 2009.



All Saints' Bell Ringers at Monday night practice in 2009, led by Doug Smith (far right).



The bell gantry at All Saints'.



Doug (centre) with members of the bell ringing team.