

Greetings, Directors, and Ringers!

When we gathered earlier this year, who knew that our bells would be silent for the months to follow. It has been a different year, indeed. I am thankful to see hope on the horizon! I am delighted that Lutheridge chooses to plan toward that hope...so that, hopefully, we will gather again in 2021 to ring and make music together.

Knowing that handbell choirs have not been ringing nor rehearsing regularly, a different approach was taken toward the repertoire for each track this year:

**Intermediate:** Julie and I wanted good, solid pieces that (we hope) you will enjoy learning and ringing. We also tried our best to limit the number of shared bells among commonly used assignments. These pieces offer lots of opportunities to work on a variety of techniques as well.

**Advanced:** Kevin and I looked at this list differently than past advanced tracks. Emphasizing the limited rehearsal/preparation time ahead of our event, we selected pieces that appear on paper to be 'easier.' As a Director, I can attest that many times the level given to a piece does not tell the whole story for that piece. While there are L2 pieces on this list, we can do so much more with them as advanced ringers! Kevin has plans to really work on and bring out the opportunity for musicality in these pieces. (Yep, I used the 'm' word on the repertoire list!)

Be prepared for the same wonderful time working with the clinicians, ringing our bells, and having fellowship within our choirs. Be prepared for some changes that C19 may require:

- Adjusted schedule
- Different approach to classes offered
- Limited mingling/interaction between choirs

One last significant change in 2021 is that Jeffers Handbell Supply will NOT be with us. Jeffers has suspended its traveling stores until at least the summer. They have expressed their disappointment in not joining us in 2021 and look forward to when they can return to full operations again.

Thank you for registering for these handbell weekends and expressing your hope that we will indeed be able to gather in the winter of 2021! I look forward to seeing all of you and making beautiful music together once again!

Stay well and stay safe,

*Alice Meyers*

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