

# Biographical Record

## **John Stanley MASON C.B.E. (Stan) (1917 – 2007)**

Represented the Ancient Society of College Youths on the Central Council from 1957 to 1960 and from 1966 to 1975 and attended 10 meetings.

Stan was born on October 25th 1917 in Oldbury, where he learned to ring at Christ Church as a teenager. His first peal, Grandsire Triples, was rung at Oldbury on 16th December 1933. He must have shown great talent and ability as he was invited to ring in the Coronation peal at the Bull Ring in Birmingham on 12th May 1937 when he was not yet 20 years old. Later he went on to ring in the Coronation peal for Queen Elizabeth in 1953, this time at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Other notable towers where he rang peals were Westminster Abbey, Liverpool Cathedral, York Minster, Worcester Cathedral and Exeter Cathedral. He particularly enjoyed ringing peals in 12 bell towers and rang peals in more than 80 of them, many of them being pealed more than once. He rang a total of 447 peals.

He became a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1936. In 1953, the year of the Coronation, he became Junior Steward, the following year he was Senior Steward and then he became Master in 1955 and 1956. He served the Society as Treasurer from 1969-1981 and as a Trustee from 1986-2004. He became a Supernumerary Member of Westminster Abbey Company of Ringers in 1971, a Principal Member in 1986 and an Honorary Member in 2001.

Whilst he was on the Central Council, he served on the Administrative Committee from 1972-1975.

Stan joined the RAF at the outset of the Second World War. This led to a remarkable career, as he rose to the rank of Air Commodore. In 1969 he was awarded a C.B.E. His life in the Air Force entailed much travelling around to different parts of the world, including, when he was a fairly new recruit, going to New Zealand, where he met his future wife, Wyn. Other places he visited while in the RAF included California, Wales and Ireland as well as different places in England. After retirement from the RAF, he worked in an advisory capacity for British Aerospace.

He died on his 90th birthday, October 25th 2007. Prior to his funeral service, his body rested overnight in Westminster Abbey on November 15th. The next day he was cremated at the City of London Crematorium.

*Obituaries for him were in The Ringing World in 2007 on pages 1112, 1220 and 1128.*

