



# St Bartholomew's Church

## Serving Sutton cum Lound and Barnby Moor

# Press Release

The bells of St Bartholomew's Church, Sutton cum Lound will be ringing out to celebrate the announcement that its Bell Tower Captain Mr Bryan Birkett has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year Honours List 2018 for services to Bell ringing and the community of Nottinghamshire.

Bryan Birkett (79 yrs) a well-known ringer in the North Nottinghamshire area has dedicated his life to the ancient art of Campanology at his local church in Sutton cum Lound and across the district. He celebrated 50 years' service in July 2016 as the Tower Captain of St Bartholomew's church.

Bryan who is also a member of the Southwell and Nottingham Guild of Church Bell Ringers will receive his honour from the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire Sir John Peace at a special ceremony in 2018. Bryan will also be attending the Royal Garden party to be held at Buckingham Palace later in the year.

Bryan said "I can't believe it and totally unexpected. It is truly an honour to be acknowledged in this way. Bell ringing is my life and I hope to be ringing for many years yet to come!"

As Tower Captain he has been responsible for the ringing of the church bells at Sutton cum Lound which have played an important part in many weddings, funerals, special occasions and church services as well as being host to visiting ringers.

One of Bryan's proudest achievements has been seeing the 3 bells become 8 over the last 50 years. Bryan himself donated the 2nd bell in memory of his parents Arthur and Mary Birkett and the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild of Church Bell ringers donated the Treble bell.

The bells of Sutton cum Lound are popular among ringers in the area who descend on St Bartholomew's on a Wednesday evening for practice night to ring their musical methods for the village's pleasure. Over the years Bryan has taught many new people to ring to keep the ancient art going.

The bells of St Bartholomew's Church have featured numerous times on the BBC Radio 4 programme 'Bells on Sunday'.

It is for his loyal and dedicated service to bell ringing at his local church and churches across North Nottinghamshire that he receives this very special award.

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**For further information please contact:-**

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