# <u>Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers</u> Central Branch Newsletter No 91 Nov 2015

## Central Branch ringing meeting Aug 8th at



Eagle & Swinderby



A dozen ringers eventually met at Swinderby but there was some confusion about the time of the

meeting. The Guild website had 17-00 to 18-00 but the Branch Newsletter had it down as 6 to 7. Perhaps the Newsletter is on GMT whilst the website is on BST?

The usual suspects were rung, Plain Bob, St Simon, St Martin and Grandsire. And Reverse Canterbury. Reverse Canterbury used to be called Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob Doubles but had its name changed by deed poll when ringers found it somewhat lacking in Pleasure.

Erin was called for but needed a few starts to get going. Then we rang Swinderby Bob. Swinderby Bob, like all plain Doubles methods, is just 40 changes long but has an unusual blue line which seems to be a lot longer and caused a bit of head scratching. We rang two courses, presumably to prove the first one wasn't a fluke.

Everyone knows, of course, that the second bell is lighter than the treble and the fourth is heavier than the tenor. The third, however, is by an unknown founder who has only one other bell accredited to him. This bell has been at Swinderby for about 600 years and its note has been heard by some 30 generations.

Onto the pleasant six bells at Eagle. They are a well matched ring by three different founders, Warners, Taylors and the ubiquitous Daniel Hedderly, who cast about a hundred Lincolnshire bells.

A splendid selection of tea, coffee and cakes were provided by Margaret and Derek Phillips. Thank you for the tea!

A few more ringers joined us here and the bells were rung to Plain Bob, Oxford Bob, and Cambridge, Norwich and London Surprise. We also rang a course of Kent Treble Bob, which was afterwards described as 'as much fun as my last operation' and 'I'd sooner spend another three days in Boston Pilgrim than ring that again'. Colin Ward

## Proposed Ringing Meetings for 2015/2016

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> Carol Service Lincoln St Giles

Ringing 2.30pm Service 3.00 pm

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> AGM Sleaford

Ringing 3.00pm Service 4.30

Tea and Meeting 5.00pm

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> Martin 2.30 - 4.00pm Mar 12<sup>th</sup> Leadenham 2.30 - 4.00pm

Carol Service at Lincoln St Giles December 12th Mick Stracey is in need of readers for the Carol Service. If you would like to help please talk with Mick or email him -- lincoln.stgiles@cb.ldgcb.org.uk

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For Sale

Christmas Cards and Calendars

Christmas Cards are £2.00 per pack of 5

Calendars are £5.00 each.

To order please contact Chris Jackson.

## Washingborough 8 Bell Practices 10.30-12.00

28th Nov, (tba) Dec, 23rd Jan 2016, 27th Feb, (tba) Mar, 23rd April Open to all who would like to practice 8 bell ringing in a relaxed environment. Plain hunt and upwards.

All of these are subject to change. Check nearer the time.

#### Congratulations to:

- Claire Howard for her first quarter of Grandsire Triples, Single Oxford Bob Minor and Plain Bob Major.
- --- Jean Kay for her first quarter of Cambridge Surprise Minor
- --- Greg Harrison for his first quarter of Ipswich Surprise Minor and for his first quarter of triples as Conductor
- --- Charlotte Beaver for her first guarter of Treble Bob
- --- Michael Lawton for his first quarter of Cambridge Surprise Royal
- --- Ed White for his first quarter on ten bells and Grandsire Caters
- --- Keith Gladman for his first quarter of Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major.
- --- Phil Hill for his first quarter on 8 bells
- --- Nick Millward for his first quarter on 8 bells

#### News from the Guild

Guild 6 bell striking competition: Congratulations to St Botolph's Lincoln for winning the Cup. Cathedral team were runner's up.

Guild 8 bell striking competition: Central Branch team were runner's up. Southern Branch won the H Law James Shield.

Congratulations to all the ringers - this shows what wealth of talent there is in the Central Branch!

#### Welcome

**A different sort of welcome** for Rev Agyenim-Boateng to St Giles Methodist Church, on St Giles Day.

St Giles Lincoln 1st Sept 480 Plain Bob Minor

- Claire Howard
- 2. Gill Gladman
- 3. Dot Mason
- 4. Betty Stracey

- 5. Keith Gladman
- 6. Michael Stracey (C)
- 7. Phil Mason

Rev Agyenim-Boateng appreciated the welcome from the bells being rung, coming out especially to listen to them!

### Obituary Raymond Stallibrass 1924 to 2015

Raymond, who died on Thursday 30 July in Horsham, was born in Lincoln in 1924 and lived on Nettleham Road until he went to work at Church House in London. He learnt to bell ring in his teens and was part of the band at St Giles. He was the last surviving member of the band of ringers who rang the first peal there. Ray was awarded a CBE for his dedication and lifelong work at Church House.

From the Peal Board in St Giles Lincoln Tuesday, February 27th 1940 (3h03) 5040 Grandsire Triples (J J Parker's 12 part)

- 1. Raymond Stallibrass
- 2. Frank Metham
- 3. Sydney A Chambers
- 4. Harold Marcon
- Bernard G Hooseman
- Noel E Chambers
- 7. Jack L Millhouse (C)
- Jack Chambers

First eight bell peal for all except 4 and 7. First peal of Triples as conductor. All the band are local ringers.



Back I-r: Sydney A Chambers (3), Frank Metham (2),

Jack L Millhouse (7), Noel E Chambers (6).

Front: Bernard G Hooseman (5), Raymond Stallibrass (1),

Harold Marcon (4), Jack Chambers (8).

# Central Branch Ringing at Lincoln Cathedral Evensong Aug 9th

In this my first year of campanology (bell ringing) I have had the pleasure of ringing at a few local towers ranging from Heckington to Sleaford. However the highlight of the year for me was the Central Branch day at Lincoln Cathedral. These have to be one of the most beautiful sounding and nicest set of bells I have ever rung. This was the first time I had ever rung at Lincoln Cathedral which brought the challenge of ringing with twelve bells. The day in question was Sunday 9th August and it began with a short wait in the Ringer's Chapel before the examining walk up the 125 steps of the Cathedral's Ringing Chamber (and trust me I counted). Once everyone had arrived at the top, we began with some rounds. I sat out of this for a while and watched. Unfortunately the 8th bell's stay snapped which I have to say was a very scary experience but also quite exciting. After a short pause and what I have come to realise is a ringing tradition, a lot of shouting, the stay was replaced and ringing got underway again.

I later had a go on the sixth bell and it was my first time I had rung the 6th in any tower but it was just as easy as any other bell I have rung before. The rest of the afternoon went smoothly and everyone had a go on the bells.

The surprises were not finished yet however because after we had finished ringing we were allowed to go out on to the balcony which had the most amazing view. It was absolutely astonishing, with maybe the highlight of the day, a fly past by the resident peregrine falcon. The afternoon overall was an amazing experience and one that I would gladly go to again. I would also recommend this to any other ringers who may not have been to the Cathedral. Lincoln Cathedral is a must "go to place" for ringers in The Lincolnshire area.

Marc Millward

The Novice had developed the habit of pushing her hair out of her eyes between backstroke and handstroke. "If you don't leave it alone, I shall cut it off" said the tutor adding "Look what happened to him" pointing to a

bald fellow ringer!

## Roy Froggatt and the Freemen visit Lincoln Cathedral

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August, the Cathedral ringers welcomed Roy Froggatt and the Freemen to their practice. These visitors were not, as you might suppose, a one hit wonder pop group from the 1960s but rather members of the "City of Lincoln Freemen's Gild" who take a keen interest in the history of Lincoln, Roy Froggatt being deputy Master. Unfortunately, not many people are eligible to join the guild as you do need to be a son (or since 1999 a daughter) of a Freeman. We enjoyed explaining to this appreciative group the history of the Cathedral bells, the Company of Ringers and the art of change ringing. They were particularly interested in our Ringers' Jack, a leather beer jug which has a capacity of 22 pints. The jug is inscribed on one side with "1782 City Ringers" and on the other "This Jack was the gift of Alderman Bullen to the Company of Ringers". For many years the Jack was owned by the former landlord of the Black Boy Inn (which has since become The Castle Hill Club), reputedly having being pawned with him when the ringers were unable to pay for their beer. The Jack was begueathed to the Cathedral in the 1950s and is now housed safely in a box in the Ringing Chamber. After the practice, the ringers joined the Freemen over at The Castle Hill Club where a replica of the Jack, commissioned several years ago by Roy Froggatt, is on display. Some Black Sheep Ale was put into the replica Jack and, with Roy's encouragement, ringers and Freemen took turns to drink from it. This is no easy task as you have to tip the jug at a steep angle at which point the liquid comes rushing towards your mouth and threatens to splash over your chin and all down your front. If you do manage to drink any of the ale, you will find that the flavour is not improved by the taste of leather from the Jack. I much prefer my beer to be served in a pint glass! Jeremy Wheeldon

The tower captain was standing behind a novice to help ring the method.

Turning to the ringer on the adjacent bell (fearing he might confuse him) she said, "Don't take any notice of me. I'm talking to J\_\_\_\_\_", and received the reply -

"And when have I ever taken any notice of you anyway?"!!

#### Aubourn bells call out!

The little village of Aubourn has two churches, both dedicated to St Peter. The 12<sup>th</sup> century one currently in use is a fragment, just the chancel of the former building.

The Victorian St Peters deteriorated and was partly demolished. Just the chancel, tower and spire remain. In the tower are three bells cast by Mears in 1868, the year the church was built. The tenor weighs a few pounds over eight cwt.

Until recently, the bells had not been rung since 1970 but some work to the wheels carried out by Tom Blyth, Robert Harvey and Chris Woodcock have made them very ringable again. On 13th September, as part of the Heritage Open days, the tower was opened and some two dozen members of the public came up to see the bells and have a pull, including a gentleman from the Bassingham area who learned to ring in Nottinghamshire some years ago and who hopefully will return to ringing.



Colin Ward

I didn't know whether to dodge or not, but the music was right, so I did!

(Editor admits - I have done this quite a few times!)

## Central Branch Outing September 19th

A small, but VERY select group of central branch ringers headed over the river Trent (and the East Coast Mainline) for a lovely afternoon out in the sunshine and a mini tour of three Grade 1 listed Nottinghamshire towers. We started at Caunton (6, 7-3-9)... with a carpet to rival Dunholme and an odd struck treble to match, they were an interesting little six! My treble bob trauma continued (I WILL get the hang of it!) by fluffing the treble to Cambridge and K\*\*t (the method that shall not be named, as Mr Ward was present!) but redeemed myself with a plain course of Stedman..... Onto Norwell (6, 9-2-5), where the bells were lovely, but the blooming great holes in the floor for the (no longer extant) clock weights and the clock mechanism that could brain the unwary were a bit scary (the carpet wasn't too hot here either...). I volunteered for another plain course of "St Edman" and half way through Richard shouts 'single!' cue total panic... think Claire, Think!!.... Cats ears??.... Coat hangers??.... Did I go out slow or quick.... Right – its coat hangers and I went out slow..... PHEW!!! Please can I ring some Grandsire now?! According to the oracle that is Wikipedia, the stained glass at Norwell was done by a chap called Charles Eamer Kemp. A cool name, even if I have no idea about stained glass.... Finally, we arrived in the sunshine at Ossington. Buried deep in the woods (on an former estate) it is a beautiful little church with family tombs and no end of interesting stuff to look at. On this occasion, as I have found before, the organ caused a bit of interest, so I have done some more Wiki research and can tell you that it was built by a chap called Robson (never heard of him!) and it has an 'historic organ certificate' and is grade 1 listed and on the 'National pipe organ register'. So now you know?! The lady that let us in joined in for a few rounds and changes while I took out my phone app and madly tried to learn Oxford TB... well, what do you know? A plain course with no hiccups and another nail in the treble bob coffin! (I may get the idea sometime soon?!)

Thank you to Richard for organising this! CJH

Before ringing began, he asked where his bell started. "You're 4ths place bell, go straight into lead. Happy?" "No. What's happiness got to do with it?"

## Lincolnshire Day October 1st

18 ringers from the Central and Eastern Branches went out to celebrate Lincolnshire Day. Ten ringers went to Ewerby St Andrews and rang a very good quarter of Grandsire Caters conducted by David Fox. A further six ringers went to Ruskington All Saints, where they rang a good quarter of Cambridge Minor conducted by Michael Stracey. It was then time for lunch. This had been arranged at The Red Lion at Ruskington. Luckily on Thursdays they had "A £5.00 Meal Deal" consisting of roast pork, roast potatoes and vegetables plus a choice of two sweets and coffee to finish. It was very good food. We were now well fed and very reluctant to move after such a good

We were now well fed and very reluctant to move after such a good lunch, but it was time to go. Chris and Richard had to leave for other appointments but we were joined by Les and Greg.

Six of us went to Horbling St Andrew where we rang a nearly perfect quarter peal of Cambridge Minor on a lovely little 10cwt peal. Meanwhile eight ringers went to ring a quarter peal of Cambridge Major at Heckington St Andrew. This being a 19cwt peal of eight, the bells are a bit hard going. Unfortunately the quarter was not to be and after several false starts it was decided to go to the café in the village.

We all met up in Grandma's Kitchen to discuss the day and finished with tea and lots of cakes.

A good day was enjoyed by us all and thank you to the organisers! Dot Mason

## Central Branch Meeting, Caythorpe October 3rd

On a dark evening in October, the Central Branch ringers gathered to ring at Caythorpe. The meeting was well attended, I think there were getting on for 20 ringers, not all there at the same time, some arrived early & left early & others arrived later & stayed till the end. Various towers were represented & a good variety of methods were rung. We rang Plain Bob, Cambridge & Stedman among other things. One ringer, known for her clumsiness knocked the clock down as she hung up her coat, no prizes for guessing who that was! Still no youngsters there. We should be encouraging them to come! I think I might have been the youngest ringer there, and at 42, I'm no spring chicken! Someone rang a course of Stedman Triples for the first time. Another ringer who had left before then was disappointed the next day to learn that we'd rung Stedman after he had gone. We didn't do it intentionally -Hope there's a good turn out for our next meet, the quiz at St Giles. I know it's tempting to stay where it's warm and watch Strictly. Come to the guiz & have a laugh! Sue Waterfall

### It is said that learning never stops.

With bellringing, this is especially true, especially with learning methods. If you want to learn a method, how do you learn?

The answer depends at what stage you are and whether you can control and place the bell where it is wanted.

Once ringing the bell is "automatic" then learning can progress from learning

- the blue line of a method then
- the place starts for each bell
- where the treble is passed
- the work around the course and after bell

All of these are useful, helping the ringer to stay right and to ring more methods. The ringer then becomes sufficiently reliable so that other learners can depend on him/her to be correct.

There are some ringers who know where all the bells are, at some point in the method.

But, so far, like so many others, that is beyond me.

So - at what stage is your ringing? GG

#### From the Editor

Thank you to everyone--

Thank you for the articles, news, funny comments and to those who allow me access to their pictures. Also, thank you to those who send information on quarter peals and contributions. Without all these I would not be able to prepare a Central Branch Newsletter.

Over these last 12 months, the Newsletter has raised money for the Central Branch Belfry Repair Fund from donations from individuals and from the publication of quarter peals. Thank you so much.

Please note the Distribution list for individuals who would like their own Newsletter is being restarted.

A free Newsletter will be given to each ringing tower which has a Guild Member.

## From January 2016,

For £2

Individuals can have their own copy of each of the Newsletters for 2016. If you do not see me on my normal circuit, please give the money in an envelope, with your name and what it is for,

to a person who will pass it to me.

Roll on 2016 and more adventures!

#### **Branch Quarter Peals**

North Scarle 30 July 1280 Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles

- 1. Derek Phillips
- 2. Harold Gibson
- 3. Sandra Underwood
- 4. Soo Pendleton
- 5. Michael Stracey (C)
- 6. Ron Everett

First quarter on the bells. Rung with best wishes from the band to Rev George Goalby on his move to Washingborough.

Washingborough 10 Aug 1288 Grandsire Triples

- 1. Gillian Gladman
- 2. Claire J Howard
- 3. Christine H Hasman
- 4. Sandra Underwood
- 5. Christine J Jackson
- 6. Jonathan P Clark
- 7. Chris Turner (C)
- 8. Keith Gladman

First Quarter of Grandsire Triples - 2

Lincoln, St Giles 10 Aug 1260 Minor (2 Methods) 720 Cambridge Surprise and 540 Single Oxford

- 1. Dot Mason
- John Nicholson
- 3. Jeremy Wheeldon
- 4. Phil Mason
- Richard Spencer
- 6. Michael Stracey (C)

On practice night

Washingborough 5 Sept 1260 Grandsire Triples Composed by R William Willans

- 1. Claire J Howard
- 2. Sue Faull
- 3. Susan L Waterfall
- 4. Gillian Gladman
- 5. Jeremy Wheeldon
- 6. Keith Gladman
- 7. Jonathan P Clark (C)
- 8. Phil Hill

First QP of Grandsire Triples - 6 First QP on 8 bells - 8

Sleaford 6 Sept 1250 Cambridge Surprise Major

- 1. Sylvia M Taylor
- 2. Jean Kay
- 3. Helen Brotherton
- 4. Michael Stracey
- 5. Bill Brotherton
- 6. Greg Harrison
- 7. Alan D H Bird (C)
- 8. Phil Mason

First of Cambridge Surprise Major 2.

4 - This bell was Mick's 250th different one in the Central Branch rung to a quarter.
Rung for Evensong

Ingoldmells 7 Sept 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1. Dot Mason
- 2. Bill Brotherton
- 3. Michael Stracey
- 4. Helen Brotherton
- 5. Betty Stracey
- 6. Sylvia M Taylor
- 7. Alan D H Bird
- 8. Phil Mason (C)

**Branch Quarter Peals** Billingborough Addlethorpe 7 Sept 10 Sept 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor 1260 Plain Bob Triples 1. Alan D H Bird (C) 1. Sylvia M Taylor Helen Brotherton 2. John Collett 3. Michael Stracey Kate Morgan 4. Betty Stracey Bill Brotherton 5. Michael Stracey 5. Sylvia M Taylor Phil Mason 6. Alan D H Bird 7. Greg Harrison (C) Eagle 8 Sept 8. Bryan Ward 1296 Norwich Surprise Minor First of Triples as Conductor 7 Composed by Glenn A A Taylor 1. Richard Short Horbling 10 Sept 2. Sylvia Taylor 1274 Cambridge Surprise Minor Jean Kay Composed by Glen A A Taylor 4. Alan Bird 1. Charlotte Beaver Betty Stracey 2. Sylvia M Taylor 6. Michael Stracey (C) 3. Kate Morgan Best wishes to Rev George Goalby and 4. Alan D H Bird his family on their move to 5. Michael Stracey (C) Washingborough. Greg Harrison First of Treble Bob 1 8 Sept Caythorpe 1280 Plain Bob Major Bicker 11 Sept 1. Sylvia M Taylor 1260 Plain Bob Triples Kate Morgan 1. Sylvia M Taylor 3. Dot Mason 2. Jean Kay 4. Jean Kay 3. Helen Brotherton Les Townsend 4. Betty Stracey 6. John Nicholson 5. Michael Stracey 7. Alan D H Bird (C) 6. Graham Colborne 8. Phil Mason 7. Alan D H Bird (C) Spilsby 9 Sept 8. Bill Brotherton 1320 Ipswich Surprise Minor 1. Bryan Ward Swineshead 11 Sept 2. Sylvia M Taylor 1260 Grandsire Triples 3. Helen Brotherton 1. Jean Kay 4. Greg Harrison 2. Helen Brotherton 5. Bill Brotherton 3. Sylvia M Taylor 6. Graham Colbourne (C) 4. John Collett 1st Quarter in the method 4. 5. Michael Stracey

6. Graham Colborne

7. Bill Brotherton (C)

8. Alan D H Bird

The band wish to associate this Quarter

peal with Queen Elizabeth II becoming

the longest reigning British monarch

today. 48th wedding anniversary compliment to Helen and Bill Brotherton.

#### **Branch Quarter Peals**

North Scarle 23 Sept 1272 St Clements Bob Minor

- 1. Sylvia Taylor
- 2. Dot Mason
- 3. Alan Bird
- 4. Phil Mason
- 5. Les Townsend
- 6. Michael Stracey (C)

For the village Macmillan coffee morning.

Lincoln Cathedral 27 Sept 1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal

- 1. Sandra Underwood
- 2. Delia Heppenstall
- 3. Sylvia Taylor
- 4. Robin Heppenstall
- 5. Michael Lawton
- 6. David Fox (C)
- 7. Michael Stracey
- 8. Phil Mason
- 9. Jeremy Wheeldon
- 10.Robert Hancock

For Evensong. First Cambridge S Royal 5.

Ruskington 1 Oct 1295 Cambridge Surprise Minor Composed by Donald F Morrison

- 1. Richard Short
- 2. Betty Stracey
- 3. Helen Brotherton
- 4. Bill Brotherton
- 5. Richard Spencer
- 6. Michael Stracey (C)

For Lincolnshire Day

Ewerby 1 Oct

- 1259 Grandsire Caters
- 1. Rose Hancock
- 2. Dot Mason
- 3. Sylvia Taylor
- 4. Ed White
- 5. Chris Jackson
- 6. David Fox (C)
- 7. Alan Bird
- Bob Hancock
- 9. Michael Lawton
- 10.Phil Mason

First on ten bells 4. For Lincolnshire Day.

Horbling 1 Oct 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1. Rose Hancock
- 2. Dot Mason
- 3. Les Townsend
- 4. Richard Spencer
- 5. David Fox
- 6. Bob Hancock (C)

For Lincolnshire Day

Welbourn 2 Oct 1272 Ipswich Surprise Minor

- 1. Christine Jackson
- 2. Alan Bird
- 3. Dot Mason
- 4. Sylvia Taylor
- 5. Michael Stracev (C)
- 6. Phil Mason

For Harvest Festival Service

Hackthorn 2 Oct 1260 Single Oxford Bob Minor

- 1. Susan L Waterfall
- Sandra Underwood
- 3. Claire J Howard
- 4. Christine H Hasman
- 5. Jan Hasman
- 6. Jonathan P Clark (C)

For Lincolnshire Day. Rung in memory of Martin Pearson as this was his favourite method. First in method for 3

#### **Branch Quarter Peals**

Stow 24 Oct Ewerby 2 Nov 1288 Grandsire Triples 1280 Plain Bob Maior 1. Susan L Waterfall Composed by R William Willans 2. Chris Turner 1. Sylvia Taylor 2. Dot Mason 3. Gillian Gladman 3. Betty Stracey Claire J Howard 5. Jeremy Wheeldon 4. Ed White 6. Keith Gladman 5. John Nicholson 7. Colin P Ward (C) 6. Michael Stracey (C) 8. Jonathan P Clark 7. Phil Mason First Major for 4 & 6. 8. Alan Bird For the Service of Induction of Rev Valery Greene to the Ewerby 25 Oct Benefice 1344 Yorkshire Surprise Major 1. Bryan Ward Heckington 8 Nov 2. Dot Mason 1260 Plain Bob Triples 3. Betty Stracey 1. Sylvia M Taylor 4. Michael Stracey 2. Rebbecca M J Carr 5. Alan D H Bird (C) 3. Audrey L J Harrison 6. Sylvia M Taylor 4. Richard Rodgers 7. Ed White 5. Bryan Ward 8. Phil Mason 6. Greg Harrison For Evensong 7. Alan D H Bird (C) 8. Nick Millward First Quarter on 8 - 8 Half muffled for Remembrance

Sunday

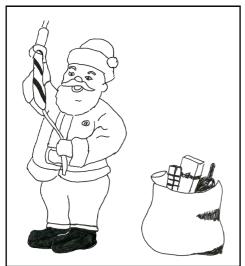
### Tower Search with a Greeting

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DUNHOLME
EAGLE
EWERBY
FULBECK
HACKTHORN
HARMSTON
HECKINGTON
LEADENHAM

MARTIN METHERINGHAM **NETTLEHAM** NOCTON NORTHSCARLE NORTONDISNEY RUSKINGTON SCOTHERN SLEAFORD **STGILES** STMARYLEWIGFORD THORPEONTHEHILL WADDINGTON WASHINGBOROUGH WELTON **WRAGBY** 

## A little bit of fun - Christmas is coming - Spot the Differences There are 8 differences between the 2 pictures - can you find them?





#### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!