

I am a bell ringer from Sussex (UK) who has Leukaemia (CML), and I am organising an International ringing event on 25th June 2016 to help fund vital research and give other blood cancer sufferers a chance of life. The aim is to raise £100,000 and to add 1,000 potential stem cell donors to the Anthony Nolan and associated registers. I had a stem cell transplant in December 2016 and want to give other people the chance of life through this event. The miracle of having a telephone call in December from the Anthony Nolan Trust, three days after I was told I was terminally ill. I feel so blessed. Although the leukemia has now spread to two tumours I am still hopeful.

Sponsored Bell ringers and walkers will walk and ring along the historic Pilgrims Way from Wye to Canterbury Cathedral, ringing at Wye, Chilham, Chartham, St Dunstan's and St Stephen's. At Canterbury Cathedral a specially composed method Quarter Peal "Strike Back Bob Cinqes" will be rung by me and a team of ringers. As I am only a novice ringer of 18 months, this is a huge challenge for me to learn to ring on 12 bells and reach the high standard of ringing at Canterbury Cathedral.

On the same day, 200 churches and thirty cathedrals across the UK and as far and wide as (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, Hawaii, Canada, Ireland and Barbados) will ring a Quarter Peal/touch in unity of the sponsored walk and awareness campaign of the 137 blood cancers that exist. This is the first time in the history of the church that bell ringers have united together in such a cause.

If it was possible for a band from your Association to ring a Quarter Peal or even a touch on the 25th June or even the Friday 24th or Sunday 26th would be amazing. To have your members ring in unity for this event would be so uplifting.

If you could consider this request and come back to me and also add your intention of your QTR/Touch of the BellBoard Event <http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=4067> so we could include your Association in our publicity, would be fantastic. The website set up for this event is <http://juliedmcdonnell.wix.com/strikeback>

Thank you so much for reading this. I appreciate it's an awful lot to ask but I would be so terribly grateful. The more Guilds or Associations that ring in unity. The more publicity this event will attract and as a consequence, more donors are likely to come forward.

Julie McDonnell