Timing cars with manual advance

The maximum ignition advance on our side valve engines should be 27° BTDC. Most manuals quote this as something like $1^7/_8$ inches on the flywheel but this is really difficult to measure with your head in the footwell and trying to hold a rule horizontal or wrapped around the circumference of the flywheel!

The easier way, is to use the starter teeth as the guide. The gap between each tooth is 4.5° so when the 6th tooth to the left of the TDC mark points vertically upwards you've found the point (no pun intended) you need for the spark to occur David Southcott