

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

The White House
11, Plowden Park
Aston Rowant
Watlington
Oxon OX49 5SX

April 2010

Dear Guild Members,

First of all, thank you very much to all those who helped to mark the centenary of our founding Master's death in February. A good range of touches, quarters and peals was rung. It is my hope that even more of you may be able to help with the next project!

Following my rather tentative letter on this subject last year, you may have seen a short article on the back page of the Ringing World of 12th February encouraging a collective ringing of bells in celebration of our patron saint. Having been in touch with Bishop John about this, I am pleased to report that he is **very supportive** of the idea. One comment he has made suggests that this will portray St George in a much more positive light than the raucous noise of our football supporters in innocent foreign countries!

So, the call is to ring as many of our bells as we can at 6pm on Friday 23rd April, for a minimum of 30 minutes. Please will you help?

It may be that 6pm is not convenient for your band, in which case please do ring at another time that day. In any event, I would be grateful if you could let me know in advance that you intend to ring as I am expecting some contact from the press about this celebration.

How right it is that England's bells should be heard on England's special day.

Let the bells ring out!

Thank you in advance for what I hope will be a fine response.

Yours sincerely,

Robert H Newton

Guild Master 01844 352926 master@odg.org.uk

Ps. We are aware that St George's Day 2011 falls on Holy Saturday, so we may then need a more considered approach. In the meantime, let's make the most of this year!