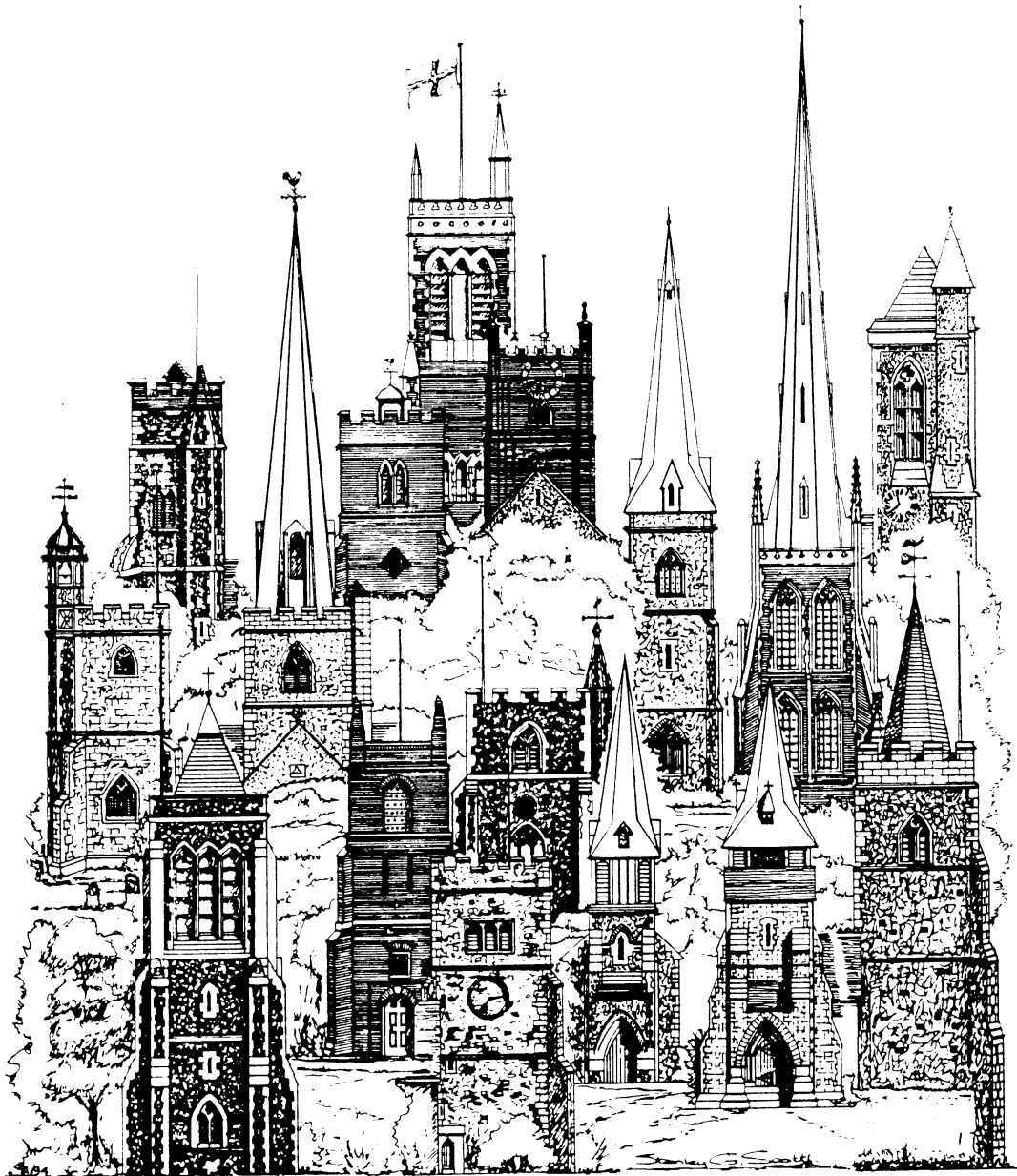


Sonning Deanery Branch

NEWSLETTER
February 2007



Oxford Diocesan Guild
of Church Bell Ringers

Ringling Masters Report 2006/2007

This year we have rung for several major occasions including Remembrance Sunday, Christmas and some towers 'rang in' the new year. April saw the Queens 80th birthday for which several towers rang quarter peals and almost all towers managed to raise a band. 13 quarter peals were rung by 10 towers for Quarter Peal Week in November

A number of our members went to Oxford for the 125 anniversary Festival of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Despite the long queues for each tower (especially the Cathedral), most people seemed to enjoy the day.

Around 20 ringers from all over the Sonning Deanery came on the branch outing to Surrey in February. We rang at 6 towers and enjoyed a pub lunch. Many thanks to Rachel Moss for organising such a great day! Hopefully this will become an annual event.

Four teams entered the 6 bell striking competition in April with Sonning winning the trophy. Woking All Saints won the 8 bell competition with a very impressive course of Yorkshire S. Major.

Branch practices have been variable this year. We have rung a wide variety of methods at most practices. The least popular practices were those held after striking comps, so perhaps this needs to be taken in to consideration next year. The most popular were those with other events especially the practice at Arborfield where we enjoyed a picnic and a game of giant Jenga. The branch day time practices at Wokingham all saints continue to be successful, we generally ring Stedman, Single Oxford Bob Minor and something unusual which makes for an interesting and challenging practice.

76 quarter peals have been run this year with 3 firsts, 23 first in method and 7 other landmarks reached. 4 peals were rung including Lincolnshire S. Major. to celebrate the wedding of Judith Burbidge and Jonathan Bowler at Easthampstead.

I know of new recruits at Arborfield, Binfield, Easthampstead, White Waltham and Wokingham All Saints - there may be more! Binfield have 6 new starters following a successful recruitment campaign and perhaps we can all learn from them. Despite these recruits many towers are struggling to keep going. Hurst have given up regular practices and are attempting 1 quarter peal each month. We need to consider how to recruit and retain ringers, and how to develop sound ringing in all our towers if bell ringing is to survive in the Sonning deanery.

Louise Marshall

Twyford – The future of Ringing

As many of you will know, after 34 years of running the ringing at Twyford, I am retiring and moving away from the area next year and to this end will be ending my role as Tower Captain at the end of March. Whilst the Twyford ringers are taking over some of the jobs I have done, none feel they are sufficiently competent to take over the role of Tower Captain.

We (the ringers and I) are concerned that without leadership, ringing at Twyford will stop and without occasional maintenance (they are on plain bearings) the bells will become unringable.

We are not trying to poach someone from another tower, but if there is anyone who is interested in taking over the reins at Twyford please contact me.

Currently Twyford practices on 1st & 3rd Fridays and rings on the 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings from 10:00-10:30, however this is only historical and you do not need to be constrained by this.

Michael Dane
Email: belltwy@aol.com or telephone 0118 934 5809.

Stan Scott

Stan has been admitted to hospital after a check up revealed he had previously suffered a heart attack. He is currently awaiting a bypass operation. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

As others see us

‘Oh would some power the giftie gie us, to see ourselves as others see us’. When Robert Burns wrote these famous lines in his poem to a louse, I am sure he was not thinking about bellringers. A web search on the quotation, shows many religious and philosophical articles about the value of being able to see ourselves in a detached way. Obviously there is merit in seeing ourselves from the outside.

My reason for quoting it here is a remark at November’s daytime practice, when we were discussing Branch training courses. “Maybe people don’t know what they would get out of a course called ‘See yourself handling on video’”.

So here is an explanation of that one, and also some of the others that you might not be quite sure about. I assume that ones like *Elementary bob calling* or *Raising and lowering in peal* are self explanatory.

See yourself ringing on video – While ringing, it is virtually impossible to observe yourself. Your eyes are in the wrong place, and anyway, your mind is concentrating on what you are doing. The video camera lets you focus on your ringing, and then afterwards view yourself from different angles, to see what your hands, arms, rope, etc were really doing. And you can always replay it if you didn’t quite see the first time. If you have perfect handling, and can control the most difficult bell or rope with ease, then all you are likely to get from the experience is a sense of novelty and satisfaction, but if you are a real ringer, even a good one, you would almost certainly learn something of interest. The course is mainly aimed at ringers who already know that some bells (or even all bells) give them a problem, but they don’t know why. Even if someone has told them ‘what they are doing wrong’ they either don’t know why, or how to do anything about it. In such case. being able to see what really happens, and to discuss it with someone experienced, can be very helpful. Once you understand what is happening, then it is much easier to do something about it.

Listening skills – Many ringers find it hard to hear their bell, and use it to help their striking. Being told to ‘listen to it’ doesn’t help, and they might be tempted to give up trying. This course includes practical exercises in listening that anyone can manage. The difficulty is controlled, you are not stressed by having to control a bell at the same time, and you can take your time. In addition, you get feedback on whether you got it right, and you can repeat the exercise if you need to. Given the right conditions, you might find you can hear more than you thought. In any case, it is a very useful first step to listening more effectively while ringing.

Ring with a simulator – This takes you a step beyond the listening course. The simulator rings all bells but yours perfectly, a luxury you don’t often get with real ringers, so you have the ideal environment for ringing rhythmically, hearing your own bell, and using it to control your striking. Because there are no other ropes, you have to rely on rhythm and listening, which are essential skills for good striking. Once you get used to it, you are likely to find you are better than you thought. The ringing is deliberately simple (e.g. Rounds) so you don’t need rope sight to correct method mistakes.

There is a full list of courses on the Branch website at:

John Harrison – Training Co-ordinator
0118 978 5520

TEAM QUIZ NIGHT

**Exercise your general knowledge and help
swell the Sonning Deanery Branch funds**
(Questions are guaranteed to be easier than last time!)

Maximum of 6 people per team

Saturday 24th March 2007 at 7.30pm

St. Paul's Church Hall, Wokingham

Form your team and apply now!

Entry by ticket only; the price of £7 each includes a ploughman's meal

To obtain tickets, send an SAE and a cheque payable to **Sonning Deanery Branch, ODG**
to: R.W.Needham, 15 Bodmin Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks. RG5 3RZ

Quiz organised by the St. Andrew's Sonning bell ringers

Restoration DVD

A DVD is now available covering the restoration of the Tower and bells. The DVD shows the damage immediately following the fire and follows all stages through to the dedication of the new bells. The DVD also contains recordings of the old and new bells. Cost of the DVD is £6.00. If anyone would like a copy please contact Ken Davenport of 0118 9786554. Copies of the DVD will also be available at the Branch AGM.

Quarter Peals

Sonning, St. Andrew

24th September 2006

1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor:

- 1 Andrew Elliston
- 2 Louise Marshall
- 3 Pam Elliston
- 4 Daniel Chafen
- 5 Ken Baker
- 6 Michael Dane (C)

For Evensong.

First in method as Conductor

Sonning, St. Andrew

29th October 2006 Berkshire

1260 Plain Bob Triples:

1. Ken G Baker*
2. Cheryl A Watson
3. Rob Needham
4. Peter Kemm
5. Pam Elliston
6. Julian T Watson
7. Chris J Brown (C)
8. Andrew Elliston

* 300th quarter at St. Andrew's, Sonning

White Waltham, St Mary

Sunday 1 October 2006

1260 Grandsire Doubles:

1. Richard Hazell
2. Lesley Graves
3. Jacqueline Hazell
4. Derek Smith
5. Caroline Andrew (C)
6. Colin Ede

For Harvest Festival

To welcome Charlie Karl Ede, son of the
6.

Wokingham, All Saints

29 October 2006

1260 Plain B Triples:

1. Lucy M Bricheno
2. Mary Spence*
3. Jon P Tutcher
4. Evan Kozakiewicz
5. John A Harrison
6. Andrew L Smith
7. Nigel AL Mellor (C)
8. Stephen R Smith

For evensong during All Saints tide.

* First in method inside

Sonning, St. Andrew

22nd October 2006

1260 Grandsire Doubles:

- 1 Pauline Needham
- 2 Claire Hodnett
- 3 Brian Snell
- 4 Rob Needham
- 5 Michael Dane (C)
- 6 Ken G Baker

Quarter Peal Week

Easthampstead, SS Michael & Mary Magdalene

Saturday, 4 November 2006

1320 Norwich Surprise Minor:

1. Nigel Bearne
2. Margaret Bearne
3. Barbara Wells
4. Judith Bowler
5. Stan Scott
6. Steve Wells (C)

First of Norwich 2

Hurst, St Nicholas

Monday, 6 November 2006

In 45 mins

1264 Plain Bob Major:

1. Brian Snell
2. Pam Elliston
3. Sue Davenport
4. Alison Clayton
5. Andrew Elliston
6. Graham Slade
7. Michael Dane
8. Chris. J. Brown (C)

Sandhurst, St Michael

Tuesday, 7 November 2006

1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

1. Fiona Sherren
2. Genine Leslie
3. Michael J. Sherren
4. Derek Palmer
5. Janet E. Menhinick (c)
6. Philip Dixon

Finchampstead, St James

Wednesday, 8 November 2006

1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

1. Patricia Amos*
2. Mary Ede
3. Derek J Barrett
4. Pearl Larkins
5. Hugh Dempster (C)
6. Paul Gozzard*

* 1st Qtr

Hurst, St Nicholas

Wednesday, 8 November 2006

In 45 mins

1280 Spliced Surprise Major (6m)

Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Superlative, Pudsey, Rutland :

1. Lucy Bricheno
2. Nigel Mellor
3. Julie Goodchild
4. Jonathan Goodchild*
5. John Harrison
6. Andrew Smith
7. John Tutchter
8. Simon Farrar (C)

* 1st spliced

Twyford, St Mary

Friday 10th October 2006

1296 Little Bob Major:

1. Brian Snell
2. Joyce Vernon
3. Alison Clayton
4. Ken Baker
5. Pam Elliston
6. Andrew Elliston
7. Chris Brown
8. Michael Dane (C)

Sonning, St. Andrew

Sunday 10th October 2006

1296 Little Bob Triples

1. Pam Elliston
2. David Willis
3. Brian Snell
4. Joyce Vernon
5. Michael Dane (C)
6. Peter Kemm
7. Adam Kilgour
8. Keith Vernon

Rung half muffled for Remembrance
Sunday

Quarter Peal Week

Wargrave, St Mary

Sunday 12th October 2006

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

1. Clive Cadman *
2. Lavinia Sullivan
3. Andrew Elliston
4. Roy Russell
5. David Sullivan (C)
6. John Coombes

* First Qtr away from cover

Rung for Remembrance Sunday

Hurst, St Nicholas

Sunday, 12 October 2006

In 49 mins

1264 Plain Bob Major

1. Joshua Slade*
2. Christopher E Slade
3. Pam Elliston
4. Dave Wallis
5. Mike Dane
6. Graham Slade
7. Simon Farrar (C)
8. Chris Brown

* First quarter at first attempt

A birthday compliment to 6 Rung half muffled for Remembrance Sunday

Wokingham, All Saint

Sunday, 12 October 2006

1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Mary Spence
2. Susan E. Davenport
3. Nigel Mellor
4. Steve Smith
5. John Harrison
6. Andy Smith (C)
7. Simon Farrar
8. Jonathan Goodchild

Rung half muffled for Remembrance Sunday

Wokingham, St Paul

Sunday, 12 October 2006

1260 Grandsire Triples

1. Geoffrey Cook
2. Susan E. Davenport
3. Christopher P. Cole
4. Ian Taylor
5. Chris Brown
6. Michael Dane
7. Kenneth R. Davenport (C)
8. Peter Davenport

Rung half muffled for Remembrance Sunday

Shottesbrooke, St John The Baptist

Sunday, 12 November 2006

1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

1. Lesley Graves
2. Roger Martin
3. Jacqueline Hazell
4. Derek Smith
5. Simon Smith (C)
6. Robert Packer

Half Muffled for Remembrance Sunday

Wokingham, 2 Murdoch Road

Sunday, 12 October 2006

In 30 mins

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1-2 Andy Smith
3-4 John Harrison
5-6 Simon Farrar (C)

First in hand as conductor

Quarter Peals

Sandhurst, Immaculate Conception

Sunday, 19 November 2006

1260 Plain Bob Doubles:

1. Mike J. Sherren
2. Genine Leslie
3. Mary Ede
4. Janet E. Menhinick (c)
5. Derek Palmer
6. Graham C. Steele

In memory of Lionel Waite, founder of Sandhurst Donkey Derby

Sonning, St. Andrew

Sunday, 26th November 2006

1288 Little Bob Major:

1. Alison Clayton
2. Brian Snell
3. Rob Needham*
4. Pam Elliston
5. Peter Kemm
6. Andrew Elliston
7. Ken G Baker
8. Michael Dane (C)

Rung to mark the birthday of Keith Vernon

* First quarter in method

Wokingham, All Saint

Sunday, 3 December 2006

1344 Rutland S Major:

1. Julie Goodchild
2. Lucy Bricheno*
3. Richard Woodward
4. Steve Smith
5. Ken Davenport
6. Jon Goodchild*
7. John Harrison
8. Andy Smith (C)**

Rung for Advent Sunday

* First in method

** First in method as conductor

Sandhurst, St Michael

Sunday, 3 December 2006

1260 St Nicholas Place Doubles:

1. Fiona Sherren
2. Genine Leslie
3. Janet E Menhinick (C)
4. Michael J Sherren
5. Derek Palmer
6. Clifford Hales

For Advent Sunday

Sonning, St. Andrew

Thursday, 14th December 2006

1260 Plain Bob Triples:

1. Ken G Baker
2. Rob Needham
3. Alison Clayton
4. Joyce Vernon
5. Pam Elliston
6. Andrew Elliston
7. Michael Dane (C)
8. Keith Vernon

Rung before the Bluecoat School carol service

Wokingham, All Saint

Sunday, 17 December 2006

1260 Grandsire Triples:

1. Mary Spence
2. Barbara Smith
3. Julie Goodchild
4. Steve Smith
5. Andy Smith (C)
6. John Harrison
7. Simon Farrar
8. Evan Kozakiewicz

Rung for evensong

Sandhurst, Immaculate Conception

Sunday, 17 December 2006

1260 St Nicholas Place Doubles:

1. Fiona Sherren
2. Michael J Sherren
3. Simon Paterson
4. Derek Palmer
5. Janet E Menhinick (C)

For Christmas. Rung open.

Quarter Peals

Sonning, St. Andrew

17th December 2006

1288 Grandsire Triples:

Rob Needham

1. Alison Clayton
2. Brian Snell
3. Joyce Vernon
4. Pam Elliston
5. Andrew Elliston
6. Michael Dane (C)
7. Keith Vernon

Rung before the Nine Lessons and Carols service

Sonning, St. Andrew

Sunday, 24th December 2006

1260 Grandsire Triples:

1. Pam Elliston
2. Rob Needham
3. Joyce Vernon
4. Ken G Baker*
5. Andrew Elliston
6. Adam Kilgour
7. Michael Dane (C)
8. Keith Vernon

Rung before the Nativity Service

* 50th quarter peal in 2006

Sonning, St. Andrew

Thursday, 28th December 2006

1260 Triples (Carter's 3-part):

1. Joyce Vernon
2. Pam Elliston
3. Ken G Baker*
4. Rob Needham
5. Andrew Elliston
6. Adam Kilgour
7. Michael Dane (C)
8. Keith Vernon

Rung on the 103rd anniversary of Carter's 12-part peal at this tower

* Circled the tower twice in quarter peals in 2006

Wokingham, All Saint

Sunday, 14 January 2007

1250 Pudsey S Major:

1. Barbara Smith
2. John Harrison*
3. Richard Woodward
4. Stephen Smith
5. Nigel Mellor
6. Ken Davenport
7. Andy Smith (C)
8. Colin Parker

Rung to mark the 10th anniversary of the Rector's arrival in the Parish.

* 500th quarter

Wokingham, All Saint

Sunday, 28 January 2007

1260 Grandsire Triples:

1. Lucy Bricheno
2. Sue Davenport
3. Julie Goodchild
4. Nigel Mellor
5. Andy Smith (C)
6. Graham Slade
7. John Harrison
8. Jon Tutchter

Rung to celebrate the arrival of Joshua Thomas Smith, born 12 hours before this quarter started! First child for Paul and Amy Smith, grandchild for Stephen and Barbara Smith and nephew of the conductor.

Sonning, St. Andrew

Sunday 4th February 2007

1260 Plain Bob Triples:

1. Pauline Needham
2. Pam Elliston
3. Brian Snell
4. Rob Needham
5. Andrew Elliston
6. Michael Dane
7. Peter Kemm (C) *
8. Keith Vernon

* First quarter as conductor



| | | | |
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Forthcoming Events

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday | 17th Mar | Branch Practice | Binfield | 7:30-9:00pm |
| Saturday | 24th Mar | Team Quiz Night | Wokingham, St Paul's Hall | 7:30pm |
| Saturday | 21st Apr | 6 Bell Striking Competition Branch Practice | Finchampstead | 4:00-6:30pm 6:30-8:00pm |