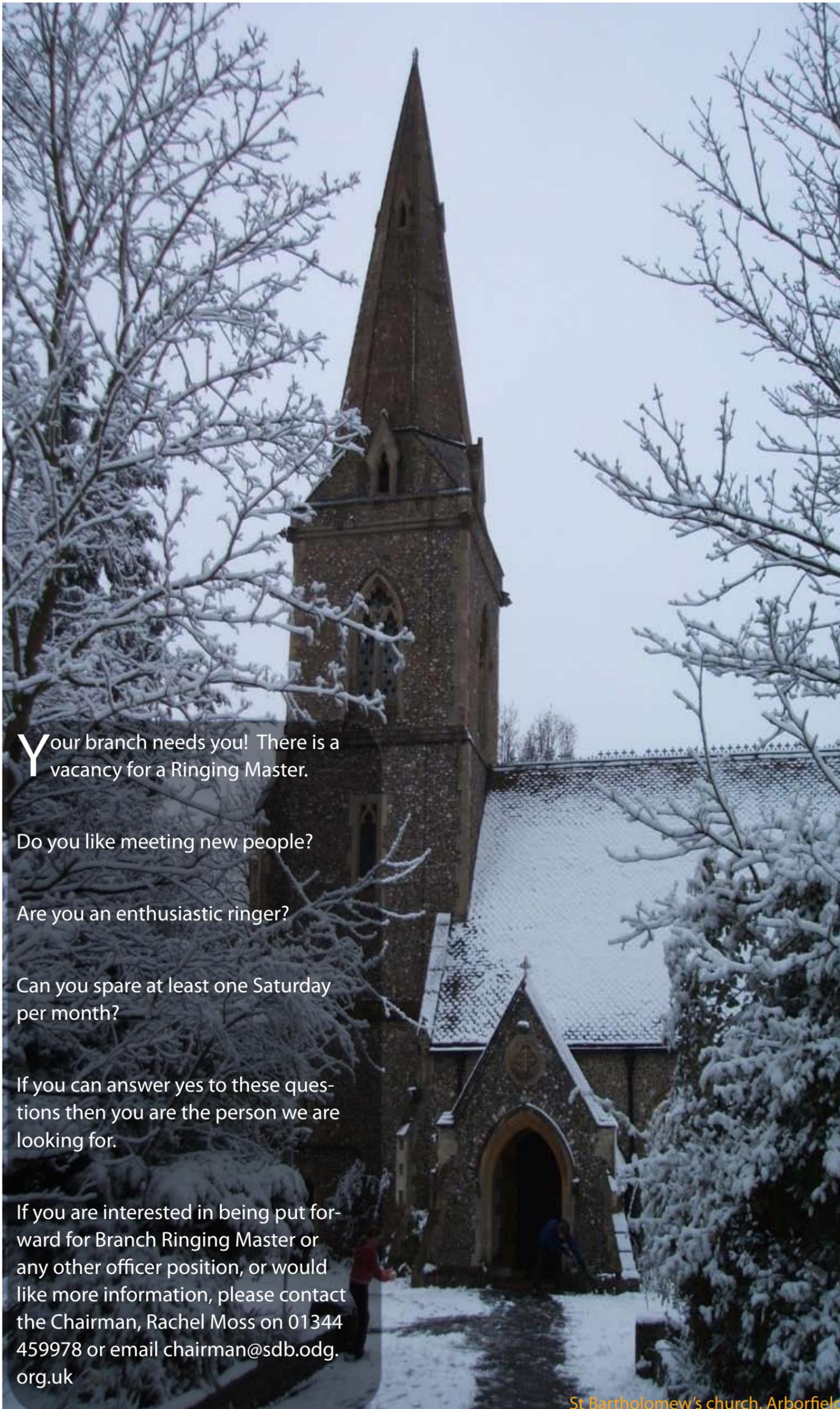


Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter

January 2009, Winter Issue



Your branch needs you! There is a vacancy for a Ringing Master.

Do you like meeting new people?

Are you an enthusiastic ringer?

Can you spare at least one Saturday per month?

If you can answer yes to these questions then you are the person we are looking for.

If you are interested in being put forward for Branch Ringing Master or any other officer position, or would like more information, please contact the Chairman, Rachel Moss on 01344 459978 or email chairman@sdb.odg.org.uk

Guild Training Meeting

For several years, the Guild Education Committee has held an annual meeting to discuss training with the people responsible for it in the branches. Sonning Deanery normally sent the Training Co-ordinator and the Ringing Master. These were conventional meetings on a weekday evening in Radley. The first part covered what training the branches had been doing, with the ability to discuss any problems and swap ideas and suggestions. The second part started with a presentation topic, and then turned into general discussion. Past topics have included training young people, the Central Council's role in training, and the Framework for training ringers.

We met at 10am on a Saturday morning (2nd February) at Long Crendon. It was cold outside but the church was warm, and we were greeted by coffee and biscuits. We were also greeted by a lunch menu, but more of that later.

We had all been asked to send in a report about training in our branches, but we didn't find them on our seats as a composite report was sent to us afterwards. We had a brief discussion that ranged over topics like what makes a good helper, the importance of encouraging good striking, and how to make the best use of simulators, but it only lasted half an hour. Then we went to the ringing chamber, where we spent the rest of the morning. This proved to be somewhat different from just another ringing practice.

We began by ringing Rounds,

with most of us facing outwards. For some that was a new experience, and it proved both instructive and useful. After a while most people had managed to switch their ears on properly, and settle into reasonable Rounds. There were several touches of Caters, with plenty of experienced people to stand by those with limited experience ringing on ten.

We did some eight bell ringing too, which included our second novel experience. We had been promised that anyone who could ring Kent Minor would be able to ring some Surprise Major. The method that made that possible is called Cunning Little Vixen Surprise Major. (Where do they get these names from?) As promised, it is indeed very easy to ring, and most of the time, you ring Kent Minor. There are just two leads where you go onto the back and do some very long dodges (one lead dodging up and one dodging down). There are two ways to know when you have done enough dodging: either count up to eleven or look to see when the Treble leads.

After some more conventional methods, we tried Kaleidoscope ringing. That too was a novelty for many people, but it proved to be quite fun on ten bells. Kaleidoscope ringing is a way of developing some of the basic skills needed for method ringing that was popularised a few years ago by the publication of a CC booklet on it by Gordon Lucas. Bells work in pairs, but unlike call changes, they change continually (eg dodging, making short places or making long places). What makes it really interesting, especially on ten, is that different pairs can be doing different things at the same time. They can also start and stop at the same time, and might be the opposite way round when they stop from how they began.

The ringing concluded with half a course of Cambridge Royal, and we then proceeded to the other Eight Bells' just down the road. Tables were laid for us, and the food we had ordered earlier arrived almost as soon as we had bought our drinks and sat down. Having a meal together was an excellent way end to what had been a very interesting morning.

John Harrison (Training Co-ordinator)

Michael Dane.

Please note the above article was originally written in 2007 when the newsletters ceased.

Open Tower Morning

On Sunday September 28th Arborfield Tower decided to invite any members of the congregation to have a chime on the bells after the service. Mike Boys did an announcement during the service and around 20 men, women and children came up to have a go. There was a reward once they had made their descent of a piece of homemade flapjack. We found out about a lapsed ringer who attends the church regularly and a family are having a go at learning before going off in the summer to a new Army posting.

Our conclusion was it was a very worthwhile event, and recommend you have a go in your towers as well, not only to get more recruits but to build awareness of the tower band too.

Hillary Pollock

Branch Dinner in November

Hilary Pollock organised another enjoyable Annual Branch Dinner on November 18th. This year 20 of us (other halves included) went along to Don Beni's in Denmark Street for a lively Italian Evening accompanied by a 'funny money quiz'. An informal quiz just to get the conversation going and the winner of a chocolate bell was won by Rob Needham. Look out for another dinner sometime next year.

Hillary Pollock

60th Anniversary of the Amalgamation of Arborfield and Newland Parishes



From left to right:

Joyce Crockford, Judith Atkinson, John Clark-Maxwell, Helen Averil,
Hilary Pollock, Jean Sabin, Mike Boys

On Saturday May 3rd 2008 a band of ringers rang the Arborfield church bells at mid-day to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the amalgamation of Arborfield and Newland parishes. Celebrations took place in the village throughout the morning including many exhibits from local organisations and the REME Band put on a lively performance in the Legion Grounds.

Roll up, Roll up

At a recent Branch practice, we were struggling with a touch that eventually fell apart. After we had stopped, I said it was a pity because we could probably have used the roll ups to sort ourselves out – we had just passed one, and we were coming up to another. “That’s alright for you, but we don’t ring by roll ups” said one of the band. Since it was obvious that I knew something useful that others didn’t know, I decided to write this article.

That was two years ago, and the article then got shelved until I discovered it, incomplete, this morning. Since this morning, I have been to another Branch practice where almost the same thing had happened. A course of Kent was falling apart, when along came the trusty 165432 roll up. 1654 rang out loud and clear, but it didn’t help the ringers who were doing the falling apart in 5-6, because they were oblivious to the existence of the roll up. Had they recognised it, they would almost certainly have been able to get themselves back onto an even keel and keep going.

So let’s start at the beginning – what is a roll up? *The Tower Handbook* defines it as: ‘A row with most of the bells, (or at least the back bells) in a familiar or musical order’

The commonest roll ups, and the ones that occur most frequently in plain courses of methods, are based on rounds, eg xxxx5678 (where xxxx are the remaining bells in any order). There are several other musical combinations, for example xxxxx468, xxx5768. Roll ups can also occur ‘off the front’, ie 8765xxxx and so on. Plain Bob has roll ups off the back in most leads, and a conspicuous roll up when the tenor makes seconds in the plain course with 18765432. Either side of the roll ups, the bells can sometimes be heard ‘getting near’, though the effect is more marked on higher numbers, and in some methods they seem just seem to pop out.

Now we know what they are, how about ‘ringing by roll-ups’? You can’t ring purely by roll ups, because they only appear periodically, so knowing about roll ups complements other ways to know what to do. It’s a bit like navigating by pubs. People might say that is all they do, but it only works if there are pubs near every junction where you need to turn, so you need other ways to cope with parts of the route where there aren’t any pubs. It’s the same when ringing a method, especially anything more complex than Plain Bob. There are lots of places where you need to ‘turn’, far more places than where there are roll ups, so most of the time you need other ways to know what comes next.

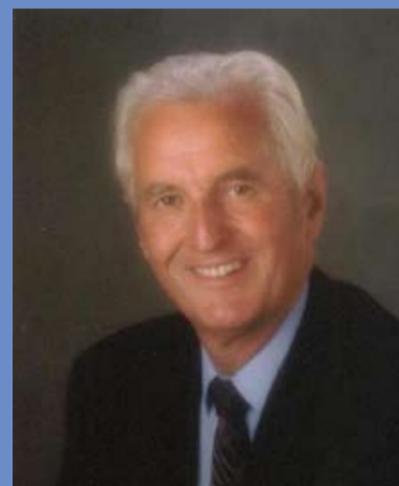
But if you are navigating by some other means and you know which pubs you expect to pass on your route, it can be a real boost to your confidence when you pass them, and it could help you to keep right if you are not quite sure where you are or what to do next. The same is true of roll ups in ringing. If you recognise them when you meet them, and especially if you have an idea where to expect them, then it can be really useful, and it might help you to save a touch.

Have a look at a course of Plain Bob Major (or Minor if you prefer) and see how many simple roll ups you can find, ie runs with three or more bells in ascending or descending sequence. Then try to hear them when you are ringing in the tower, and see if you can learn when to expect them. You won’t spot them all, but once you start to hear some roll ups, you should find you are more aware of them, and start to spot others.

Other things to look out for are things like Queens and Tittums. If you are ringing Doubles on six, they both occur in every 120 (because every row does). Ringing Triples on eight, you could look out for xxxxx468. It is a very musical ending (Soh, Me, Doh, the bottom three notes of a major chord). Any touch of Stedman that ends with a string of bobs will give lots of them just before the end.

There is a fuller description of roll ups in the article I wrote for *The Learning Curve*, (<http://cccbr.org.uk/bibliography/#theLearningCurveVol1>) published in *The Ringing World* in July 2005.

John Harrison



Obituary

Michael John Morley

(Former) Ringer at Waltham St. Lawrence Church

Michael Morley of Ventnor has died aged 74 after a long illness. Michael was born in Surrey in 1933 and on leaving school joined the REME as a regular soldier at the time of National Service. He spent most of his time serving in the Suez, Egypt and reached the rank of Sergeant.

On leaving the Army he went to Ireland to work in the family paper mill. Michael was always proud to be 7th generation of the well known Scottish Horsburgh paper making family.

Michael went on to have a successful career in the paper manufacturing industry spanning 40 years. He travelled extensively around the world working in numerous paper mills including Australia, USA, Canada, Scandinavia, Israel and Zimbabwe. Michael became Managing Director after a long career with Albany International and was based in Slough for several years.

During his working life he successfully obtained a BSc (Hons) and MSc (Hons) in paper technology and achieved several patents in his role as an engineer. Later on in his career he became an independent technical consultant for private companies and the government. Outside of his working life one of his hobbies was church bell ringing where he met his wife Anne. They were married in 1998 and subsequently moved to Ventnor, Isle of Wight. Michael and Anne soon became integrated into island life and joined several groups including Ventnor Cricket Club, REME and Suez Veterans societies, and the Parkinson’s Group.

A funeral service was held at St. Lawrence Church on Thursday 27th November where local hand bell ringers took part and a guard of honour was formed by the Suez and REME veterans.

Michael leaves behind his wife Anne (née Yates), children and grandchildren.

Forthcoming Events

January

17th - Branch Practice, Saturday, 10am, Barkham

February

21st - Sonning Deanery AGM, Ringing 3-4pm, Service 4pm, followed by tea and then AGM at 5.15pm, Ringing 7-9pm. (Further information will be sent out to all towers)

28th - Branch Outing, Saturday – Winchester Area

March

14th – Sonning Deanery (Easthampstead) hosting ODG Spring Committee Meeting, Saturday

21st - Branch Practice, Saturday – Venue & time tbc

April

18th - Branch 6 Bell Striking Competition – Saturday, Binfield, 5pm followed by Skittles Evening

May

16th - Branch Practice, Saturday – St Paul's Wokingham 10am-12pm

Other Notices

Easthampstead are not currently ringing on Sunday mornings due to works in the church, however practices are happening as normal.

Quarter Peals

2nd December 2008

St. Lawrence, Waltham

1260 Doubles: 600 Reverse Canterbury, 660 Plain Bob

- 1 Tony Evans
- 2 Jacqueline Hazell
- 3 Rob Needham
- 4 Simon Shaw
- 5 David Court (C)
- 6 Derek Titford

Rung to celebrate the life of Michael Morley, a friend and former ringing colleague.

14th December 2008

St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berkshire

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Brian Snell
- 2 Joyce Vernon
- 3 Peter Kemm
- 4 Pam Elliston (C)
- 5 Rob Needham
- 6 Stephen R Smith
- 7 Simon Milford
- 8 Keith Vernon

Rung to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Tony and Joan Moore, in-laws of ringer no. 7

21st December 2008

St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berkshire

1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Vicky Elliston
- 2 Pam Elliston*
- 3 Brian Snell
- 4 Richard Bennett
- 5 Rob Needham
- 6 Chris J Brown
- 7 Robert Partridge (C)
- 8 Andrew Elliston

* 50th quarter peal this year (2008)

24th December 2008

St. Andrew's, Sonning, Berkshire

1260 Plain Bob Minor with cover

- 1 Ken G Baker
- 2 Joyce Vernon
- 3 Rob Needham
- 4 Alan K Barsby
- 5 Pam Elliston (C)
- 6 Andrew Elliston
- 7 Keith Vernon
- 8 Andrew Elliston

Rung before the Nativity service

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