

Sonning Deanery Branch Newsletter



September 2019, Autumn Issue

Chairman's welcome



In my spring message I encouraged us all to think about the quality of our performance – our striking – and some ways that we could improve it. Since ringing is a team effort the result depends on how well each individual performs, controlling the bell and helping to develop a shared rhythm. We teach bell control skills, which are easier to focus on, but we tend to neglect rhythm skills, which are more difficult to teach. If the rhythm provided by other ringers is not very rhythmic then it's hard to know what is due to that and what is due to you.

When I started ringing the only hope was to ring with a band of very good ringers – a luxury that most of us don't have. But we now have simulators, so you can ring with perfect 'ringers' and get detailed feedback on how well you did and where to improve. (For more information see: <http://jaharrison.me.uk/Ringing/Simulators/>). Over the years we've run many Branch sessions to give this opportunity to members whose tower has no simulators.

We've run these periodically like our other courses by finding a date/time when students and tutors can get together (typically four and two in this case). But that's very infrequent. The ideal is more often, and several peo-

ple have asked for repeat sessions.

As an experiment I intend to offer more frequent, smaller, 'first come first served' sessions. I will choose times, notify them via the mailing list and accept the first two responses. If there are no responses it won't happen.

Would you like to improve your ringing by practising with a simulator? Look out for emails with details.

If all towers had simulators you could get far more practice than we can provide at Branch level, and even those who can't find time for extra sessions would benefit because the more members of a band develop a reliable rhythm the better everyone's ringing experience becomes. Have you ever asked why your tower doesn't have what is now a well developed, readily available teaching tool?

(.....continued overleaf)

Calendar

Saturday 19th October

Hurst (8)
10.30am—12 noon Branch Practice

Saturday 21st December

Twyford (8)
4.30pm—6pm Branch Practice with
mince pies

Surprise Major practices (Wednesday
8pm—9.30pm) at Wokingham All Saints
on 9th Oct, 13th Nov & 11th Dec
(provisionally).

Saturday 16th November

Easthampstead
Business Meeting (tea at 4.30pm,
followed by the meeting at 5pm)

Monthly Tuesday afternoon practices (2
-3.30pm at Binfield) on 1st October, 5th
November, 3rd December
(provisionally).

Young Ringers Practice (2nd Sunday of
the month, 2.30—4pm) 13th Oct
(Wokingham AS), 10th Nov (Waltham St
Lawrence) and 8th Dec (White Waltham),
(provisionally).

Cost need not be a barrier, and both the Guild and the Branch offer grants to help. A basic system using one bell can be had for tens of pounds, and even a system to allow several ringers to practice independently on any of the bells would cost far less than any other aspect of a bell installation

Lack of knowhow may put people off, but within the Branch we have plenty of knowledge and advice to help if needed. Installation entails some practical work, but needs little more than DIY skills, and there are books and websites about the use of simulators.

Would your tower like to explore having a simulator in your tower? Contact me to find out more.

As well as simulators there are many other things that can make training and practice easier or more effective, all of which could potentially benefit from support grants. There is information on Guild grants at: <http://odg.org.uk/main/education/pdf/EdGrants.pdf>. Branch grants are similar in principle but could cover any investment to enhance ringing, for example sound control to remove constraints on teaching and practice time. There is information on some training aids at: <http://odg.org.uk/main/education/TrainingAids.php>.

Could a grant help your tower to make a useful investment in ringing? Contact me or any officer to discuss what might be possible.

John Harrison, Chairman

Branch Social Events

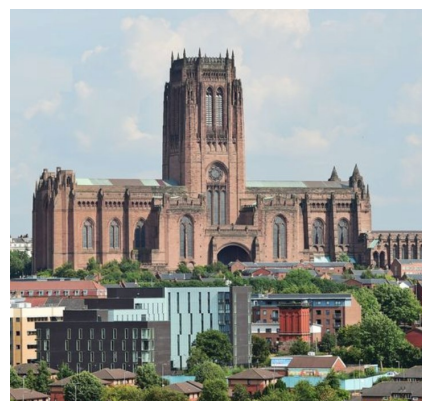
Would you like to go to them? Would it be fun to do something together as well as ringing? Should 'someone' organise 'something'? Would **you** be willing to do so?

Please let your officers know your thoughts or email us with your ideas...

News from the Loddon Hub

Four young ringers, Holley (Waltham St Lawrence), Matthew and Joe, (Twyford) and Imogen (Wargrave) took part in the Ringing World National Youth Contest at Liverpool, ringing with the Bucks & Berks young ringers. A number of their practices were at Wargrave, getting used to bigger bells, and Tabitha (Wargrave) joined them for these. They had a wonderful day out, including Holley and Matthew both having a turn at strapping the Liverpool Cathedral tenor! (photo opposite)

The hub was well represented at the six bell striking competition, with Twyford 2nd, Wargrave 3rd, Sonning 4th and the young ringers 5th; working together has really helped each band to develop and raise the standard of their ringing.



Matthew and Holley have both attended an ART Module 1 course and Holley is now teaching a new learner at Twyford. Joe and Imogen have both recently passed their Level 3 on the learning the ropes scheme, Tabitha (Wargrave) her level 1 and Holley her Level 5. While completing his Private Pilots Licence at White Waltham, Alex Nicolai returned to ringing at Wargrave and rapidly attained Level 1 and 2. Alex is now studying for his commercial and ATPL and will be spending time away in Bournemouth and the U.S.

Two new young ringers, Tiggy and Helen, have rung for Sunday service at Twyford. The new Hurst band are progressing well with latest recruit Louise ringing rounds, others covering and plain hunting, and recently treble bob was tried on practice night. At Sonning, Karen and Ellie are starting to get to grips with plain hunt and Katie and Katherine with Plain Bob.

After months of focussing on her studies, and deservedly gaining 4 A* at A level, Kitty (Wargrave) has progressed to ringing surprise major and Stedman triples, and is looking forward to ringing on her college bells at Christ Church Oxford. Waltham St Lawrence's Martha is to be congratulated on ringing her first Quarter of surprise minor inside and is making excellent progress with Kent Major and Stedman Triples.

Our next workshop will be ringing up and down at St Georges Memorial Church in Ypres where Dave and Vinni (Wargrave) will be joined by Sue, Ken and Peter from St Pauls with team Ieper on their delightful little eight.

Our regular quarter peal attempts/ workshops are giving opportunity for extended practices, with a particular focus on the young ringers in the school holidays.

Vinni Sullivan, Wargrave

6 Bell Striking competition at White Waltham - 27 April

This year's competition was kindly judged by Martin Turner & Janet Menhinick and a really good number of teams took part. A good tea laid on in the church added to the convivial and friendly atmosphere. The judges commented on the nice bells – easy to hear inside and outside – and that with most teams there was a tendency for the Tenor to be a bit slow. The judges did not award faults for each team, so just placed them in order.



1. Wokingham All Saints

Rang: Grandsire Doubles

Good speed, tenor set a good beat. Some leading uneven. One bad patch that took some time to recover.



2. Twyford

Rang: Call Changes

Very good tenor. Nice ringing all the way through, but a panic near the end got quite a few faults.



3. Wargrave

Rang: Call Changes

Good rounds at the end, a lot of them which was nice. Some excellent patches but the bad patches took several changes to recover.



4. Sonning

Rang: Call Changes

Occasional trips but the ringing improved.



5. Roped in Young Ringers

Rang: Call Changes

Very good tenor. Slow handstrokes caused the bells to pile up. Generally good, especially the Queens.



6. Young Ringers (south)

Rang: Call Changes

Tenor tended to be late. Some leading upset rhythm. Good rounds at the end.



7. Arborfield

Rang: Plain Bob Doubles

Tenor set a good beat. Well done for starting again after firing out—it was much better.

Quarter Peals— Wokingham

All Saints, Wokingham

Sunday, 14 April 2019
1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Barbara E Wells
- 2 Jane A Mellor
- 3 Christopher P Cole
- 4 Tom Blomley
- 5 Steven J Field
- 6 Stephen R Smith
- 7 Stephen C Wells (C)
- 8 Jon P Tutcher

Rung for Evensong on Palm Sunday

All Saints, Wokingham

Sunday, 28 April 2019
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Katie Armitage
- 2 Jane A Mellor
- 3 Stephen C Bates
- 4 Nigel A L Mellor
- 5 John A Harrison (C)
- 6 Kristin L Fitch

For evening service. 2nd quarter peal to pass her Learning The Ropes level 3 - 1

All Saints, Wokingham

Sunday, 12 May 2019
1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Stephen C Bates
- 2 Mary Spence
- 3 Kristin L Fitch
- 4 Jon P Tutcher
- 5 Tom Blomley
- 6 Steven J Field
- 7 John A Harrison (C)

Rung for evening service. Compliment to Philippa Harlow's new baby.

All Saints, Wokingham

Wednesday, 22 May 2019
1280 Cambridge Surprise Major

- 1 W Nigel G Herriott (C)
- 2 Jane A Mellor
- 3 Julie B Goodchild
- 4 Jennifer M Herriott
- 5 Nigel A L Mellor
- 6 Christopher P Cole
- 7 Jonathan P Goodchild
- 8 Jon P Tutcher

Congratulations to Jonathan and Julie on their Silver Wedding Anniversary

All Saints, Wokingham

Sunday, 9 June 2019
1280 Spliced Surprise Major
(Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland)

- 1 W Nigel G Herriott (C)
- 2 Nigel A L Mellor (C)
- 2 Stephen R Smith
- 3 Tom Blomley
- 4 Alan K Barsby
- 5 Steven J Field
- 6 Neil G Curnow
- 7 Jonathan P Goodchild
- 8 John A Harrison

For evening service on Whit Sunday

St Pauls, Wokingham

Sunday, 16 June 2019 1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Alan K Barsby
- 2 Susan E Davenport
- 3 Geoffrey M Harvey
- 4 Derek Palmer
- 5 Christopher P Cole
- 6 Steven J Field
- 7 Kenneth R Davenport (C)
- 8 Peter J Davenport

Rung before her last service here to congratulate Rev. Julie Mintern on her appointment as Vicar of Lambourn Valley Benefice, and also to welcome James William Robert Harlow.

All Saints, Wokingham

23 June 2019
1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Stephen R Smith
- 2 Mary Spence
- 3 Kristin L Fitch
- 4 Jonathan P Goodchild
- 5 Alan K Barsby
- 6 Steven J Field
- 7 John A Harrison (C)
- 8 Stephen C Bates

Rung before evening service as a wedding compliment to Fiona Harrison (former All Saints ringer and daughter of 7) and Mark Seward. 800th quarter and 400th in tower - 7.

All Saints, Wokingham

Wednesday, 10 July 2019
1320 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Benjy L Bass
- 2 Jane A Mellor
- 3 Stephen R Smith
- 4 John A Harrison
- 5 Nigel A L Mellor (C)
- 6 Steven J Field

First quarter peal, just short of 14th birthday - 1

All Saints, Wokingham

Sunday, 14 July 2019
1264 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Stephen C Bates
- 2 Jane A Mellor
- 2 Mary Spence
- 4 Alan K Barsby
- 5 Tom Blomley
- 6 Steven J Field
- 7 Stephen R Smith
- 8 John A Harrison (C)

For evening service

All Saints, Wokingham

Sunday 28 July 2019
1372 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Kristin L Fitch
- 2 Mary Spence
- 3 Steven J Field
- 4 Jane A Mellor (C)
- 5 Nigel A L Mellor
- 6 Alan K Barsby
- 7 Jon P Tutcher
- 8 Stephen C Bates

First as conductor

All Saints, Wokingham

Friday, 30 August 2019
1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Benjy L Bass
- 2 Jane A Mellor
- 3 Stephen R Smith
- 4 Steven J Field
- 5 Nigel A L Mellor (C)
- 6 John A Harrison

First of minor—1, rung to complete level 3 of LTR.

More QPs on the additional sheet!

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Training Officer	Vacant			

Quarter Peals - supplement to the Autumn Newsletter September 2019

St Nicholas, Hurst Friday, 5 April 2019 1296 Plain Bob Major

- 1 David Sullivan
- 2 Pam Elliston
- 3 Freddie Gingell
- 4 Geoffrey M Harvey
- 5 Lavinia Sullivan
- 6 Jacqueline Hazell
- 7 Nigel A L Mellor (C)
- 8 Anthony W Gordon

St Nicholas, Hurst Friday, 3 May 2019 1288 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Jacqueline Hazell
 - 2 Geoffrey M Harvey
 - 3 Joyce Vernon
 - 4 Pam Elliston
 - 5 Anthony W Gordon
 - 6 Lavinia Sullivan
 - 7 David Sullivan (C)
 - 8 Alexander R Nicolai
- A golden wedding compliment to Rob and Pauline Needham of Sonning.
First attempt - 8.

St Marys, Twyford Friday, 31 May 2019 1320 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 David Sullivan
 - 2 Rob Needham
 - 3 Sue Portsmouth
 - 4 Holley F Wakeling
 - 5 Lavinia Sullivan
 - 6 Simon Farrar (C)
- First minor inside - 4. Completes Level 5 of Learning the Ropes.

St Mary, Twyford Thursday, 20 June 2019 1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Sue Davenport
- 2 David Sullivan
- 3 Jacqueline Hazell
- 4 Sue Portsmouth
- 5 Kenneth J Davenport
- 6 Lavinia Sullivan
- 7 Nigel A L Mellor (C)
- 8 Anthony W Gordon

St Nicholas, Hurst Friday, 5 July 2019 1280 Bristol S Major

- 1 Pam Elliston
- 2 Lavinia Sullivan
- 3 Jacqueline Hazell
- 4 Stephen C Wells
- 5 David Sullivan
- 6 Kenneth J Davenport
- 7 Robert A Partridge (C)
- 8 Matthew W Thewsey

Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire Thursday, 11 April 2019 1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Holley F Wakeling
 - 2 Matthew Steele
 - 3 Martha Hazell
 - 4 Jacqueline Hazell
 - 5 Lavinia Sullivan
 - 6 David Sullivan (C)
- First of minor - 1, 2.

Hitcham, Bucks Sunday, 5 May 1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Imogen E Reason
 - 2 Charles M S Botting
 - 3 Euan R M Thomas
 - 4 Peter M Jasper (C)
 - 5 Holley F Wakeling
 - 6 Joseph J Godfrey
- First quarter peal at first attempt 1 and 6.

St Nicholas, Hurst Friday, 7 June 2019 1260 Doubles

60 Stedman, 240 Grandsire, 480 each St Simons and Plain Bob

- 1 Rob Needham
- 2 Pam Elliston
- 3 Lavinia Sullivan
- 4 Anthony W Gordon
- 5 David Sullivan (C)
- 6 Keith Milner

First Quarter in his home tower for ringing remembers recruit Keith.

All Saints, Binfield Friday, 28 June 1260 Doubles

- 1 Jacqueline Hazell
 - 2 Sue Portsmouth
 - 3 Lavinia Sullivan
 - 4 Anthony W Gordon
 - 5 David Sullivan (C)
 - 6 Lesley S Cross
- On the centenary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, which ended the war between Germany and the Allied Powers.
Freddie Gingell

Waltham St Lawrence Friday 12 July 2019 1320 Cambridge S Minor

- 1 Rob Needham
 - 2 Martha Hazell
 - 3 Pam Elliston
 - 4 Jacqueline Hazell
 - 5 Anthony W Gordon
 - 6 David Sullivan (C)
- 1st surprise inside - 2. Welcoming Elizabeth Dorothy Whitelock, granddaughter of 3.
A 160th birthday compliment to Big Ben.
Martha Hazell

St Marys, Twyford Thursday, 25 April 2019 1280 Superlative Surprise Major

- 1 Pam Elliston
 - 2 Jacqueline Hazell
 - 3 Vikki Bulbeck
 - 4 Sue Portsmouth
 - 5 Lavinia Sullivan
 - 6 Robert A Partridge
 - 7 Anthony W Gordon
 - 8 David Sullivan (C)
- First in method - 3.
Thursday, 16 November

St Marys, Twyford Thursday, 16 May 2019 1260 Doubles

120 Reverse Canterbury, (120 each of PBD, St Simon's, St Martin's) x 3, 60 PBD

- 1 Sue Portsmouth
- 2 Joyce Vernon
- 3 Rob Needham
- 4 Jacqueline Hazell
- 5 Steve Wells (C)
- 6 Keith Vernon

Waltham St Lawrence Friday, 14 June 2019 1260 Doubles

60 Stedman, 240 Grandsire, 480 St Simons, 480 Plain Bob.

- 1 Sue Portsmouth
- 2 Jacqueline Hazell
- 3 Lavinia Sullivan
- 4 Rob Needham
- 5 David Sullivan (C)
- 6 Lesley S Cross

St Mary, Wargrave Thursday, 27 June 2019 1288 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Martha Hazell
 - 2 Sue Portsmouth
 - 3 Matthew Steele
 - 4 Jacqueline Hazell
 - 5 Kitty Gingell
 - 6 Anthony W Gordon
 - 7 David Sullivan (C)
 - 8 Lavinia Sullivan
- First on 8 - 3. To celebrate the opening of the Flower Festival, part of the Wargrave Festival.
2 David Sullivan

St Marys, Twyford Thursday, 18 July 2019 1280 Cambridge S Major

- 1 Kitty Gingell
 - 2 Pam Elliston
 - 3 David Sullivan
 - 4 Sue Portsmouth
 - 5 Jacqueline Hazell
 - 6 Lavinia Sullivan
 - 7 Anthony W Gordon
 - 8 Matthew W Thewsey (C)
- First major - 1.