

# Look To

## MAY 2025



### Dates for your Diary

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Ringing Day – Old North Berks Branch	See poster below
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day	Ring out in celebration – 6.30 pm
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	8 Bell Practice 14.30 – 16.00	Great Milton (8)
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers – AGM	St Laurence Church, Warborough
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Branch Practice 16.00 – 17.30	Aston Rowant (6)
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Rope Splicing and Rope Management Course	Shabbington Church, 9.30 – 3.15. <b>See poster below</b>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Blessing of Watlington Bells	Watlington (8) 11.30 for 12.00

### 100 Club Winners

The April draw took place at the Branch Practice at Watlington. The winners are :

1<sup>st</sup> Prize        No 37   Stephen Hoar, Thame

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize        No 58   Andrew Davis, Chalgrove

### Blessing of Watlington Bells

The Bishop of Dorchester will be coming to bless the newly re-hung Watlington bells on 01 June 2025 and we'd like to extend the invitation to attend to all ringers. The short blessing will take place at 12 noon once the Bishop has been to Swyncombe to bless their new loo! We invite people to arrive from 11:30 and there will be ringing and refreshments afterwards. So we can organise numbers for refreshments please would you let Sacha Mogg ([Sacha.mogg@gmail.com](mailto:Sacha.mogg@gmail.com)) know if you are planning to attend? Hoping to see many of you there.

Chris Bailey

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# **Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers – Annal General Meeting. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 St Laurence Church, Warborough OX10 7DR**

This year's AGM is being hosted by our Branch – please do come along to join in all of the activities. A lot of work has gone into organising the day, and it would be great to see our branch members in attendance. The timetable for the day is as follows:

1100 - 1630	The Central Council Mobile Belfry will be on the village green behind St Laurence Church and will be available to ringers and non-ringers throughout the day.
1100 - 1230	St Leonard, Watlington, OX49 5LX (8) Tenor 20-3-25 Tower open for general ringing
1300 - 1400	St Laurence, Warborough (8) 10-0-14 Tower open for ringing
1245 - 1400	Tea and cake in St Lawrence Hall next to the church.
1400 - 1415	Striking competition results announced in the church
1430	<b>Annual General Meeting ALL MEMBERS WELCOME</b>
1630	Evensong Service in St Laurence Church

Our Branch Team will be ringing in the final of the 8 Bell Striking Competition which will be taking place at Benson during the morning. Good luck and best wishes to our team.

The event will attract members from other branches – but as 50 are needed to make the meeting quorate, we are depending on members from South Oxon to attend – please be there!

And now a plea for cakes – we have a team of people serving tea and cakes in St Laurence Church Hall. Donations of cakes would be greatly appreciated. These will need to be delivered to the Church Hall by 12.15 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> May at the latest. Please could you let Jane Willis know if you can bake a cake for us? It would be helpful to know what type/flavour you will be baking. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Jane's can be contacted at [secretary@southoxon.odg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@southoxon.odg.org.uk)

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# Robert Johnson celebrates

Following a short introduction to bell handling under Sue's guidance in Warborough during his final year at Primary School, Robert had his first lesson in Benson on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014. After leaving school he did a lot of ringing whilst at Nottingham and then York universities. He is currently in Bath doing a PhD as well as ringing in the Abbey and elsewhere in the area.

Robert decided he would like to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first lesson in Benson by conducting a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Major and this took place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April with a band of people he rings with when at home.

## 1280 Plain Bob Major

1. Maureen Bosley
2. Cathy Hughes-D'Aeth
3. Sue Dyke
4. Kay Tuckwell
5. Benji Bateman
6. John Tchighianoff
7. John Hughes-D'Aeth
8. Robert Johnson (C)

To celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first ringing lesson of Robert Johnson in Benson Tower.  
First on eight as conductor 8  
First Quarter of Major 1 and 5

John Tchighianoff

# News from Chalgrove Tower

On a glorious Spring Day Chalgrove & Henley Bell Ringers enjoyed a gentle tour of five towers in the South Oxfordshire Branch. All ground floor to allow easy access and save our knees, twenty-one of us met at Aston Rowant, Here Andrew explained the order of the day - have fun, concentrate on ringing rounds, and make new friends. We said a prayer, mentioning our aim to not break any stays, then began.

Many of the team are novice ringers, this was their first time ringing other bells. With Geoff's guidance for new recruits, everyone encouraging each other and all trying different bells, we rang well struck rounds at each tower.

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Aston Rowant was a bit daunting for some with its long draft, but didn't present any problems. The more experienced ringers managed a couple of courses of PB Minor. Watlington, the recently rehung glorious eight, proved no match for us as both Chalgrove and Henley have heavy bells. Brightwell Baldwin bells are a hidden gem, a good weight, nice to ring and with the bonus of lunch at the Nelson afterwards.

Ewelme scared a few, but everyone had a go surprising themselves at how their fears were unfounded. With Tower Captain Kay joining in, we managed a course of PB Minor. Warborough in the afternoon sun was ideal, the light eight allowing plenty of experience for everyone. Alison's Mum, Jenny, Tower Captain of Cholsey joined us allowing Mother and Daughter to ring together again. With everyone gaining in confidence we finished with some courses of Plain Hunt Triples.

The day was rounded off at St. Mary's Chalgrove with a sumptuous Traditional Afternoon Tea, laid on by Andrew's wife Teresa. We are all looking forward to meeting again later in the year.

Andrew Davis



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OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS  
RINGING DAY – OLD NORTH BERKS BRANCH – MONDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025

09.30	Chilton	All Saints (6) 7-1-14 OX11 0RZ (T R)
09.45	Harwell	St Matthew (8) 16-1-26 OX11 0EZ (T)
10.00	Blewbury	St Michael and All Angels (8) 19-0-13 OX11 9QH (T R)
10.30	East Hagbourne	St Andrew (8) 21½ cwt OX11 9ND (T R)
10.45	Aston Tirrold	St Michael (6) 11-3-23 OX11 9DH
11.00	Cholsey	St Mary (8) 10-1-11 OX10 9PS (T)
11.30	Wallingford	St Mary-le-More (10) 18-3-26 OX10 0EG (T)
11.45	Brightwell	St Agatha (8) 10-2-25 OX10 0RU (T R)
12.00	North Moreton	All Saints (8) 13-0-18 OX11 9AT (T R)
12.30	Little Wittenham	St Peter (5) 5 cwt OX14 4RB
12.45	Long Wittenham	St Mary the Virgin (6) 8-0-21 OX14 4QJ (T R)
13.00	Abingdon	St Nicolas (6) 7-1-18 OX14 3HL (T)
13.15	Abingdon	St Helen (10) 16-0-0 OX14 5EH (T)
13.45	Radley	St James the Great (6) 5-2-27 OX14 2JE (T)
14.00	Sunningwell	St Leonard (6) 8½ cwt OX13 6RD
14.15	Cumnor	St Michael (8) 13-1-4 OX2 9PE (T)
14.30	Appleton	St Lawrence (10) 13-0-10 OX13 5JU (T)
14.45	Appleton	Balscote Ring (12) 1-2-16 Whites of Appleton Workshop OX13 5JJ
15.15	Marcham	All Saints (6) 8-1-4 OX13 6NQ (T R)
15.45	Drayton (TBC)	St Peter (8) 9-1-20 OX14 4JW (T R)
16.00	Sutton Courtenay (TBC)	All Saints (8) 12-0-17 OX14 4AE
16.15	Milton	St Blaise (8) 6-3-26 OX14 4EW (T) Use church carpark on High Street adjacent to Willow Lane
16.30	Steventon	St Michael and All Angels (6) 11-2-7 OX13 6SW (T R)
17.00	West Hanney	St James the Great (6) OX12 0LP (R)
17.15	Sparshalt	Church of the Holy Rood (4) 10½ cwt OX12 9PU
17.30	Childrey	St Mary the Virgin (8) 12-0-4 OX12 9PQ (T)
18.00	Wantage	SS Peter and Paul (8) 21-2-15 OX12 8AQ (T)

All towers open for one hour      T = Toilet      R = Light refreshments available

£2 per tower, or day tickets (£20) at the first three towers on the route.

Please bring cash as there will be limited card facilities available.  
ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

[alan.marchbank@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.marchbank@btinternet.com). 07462 920017

Any changes will be listed on the Guild Website <http://odg.org.uk>  
and at the first 3 towers of the day

*Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers*

# Rope Splicing & Rope Management Course

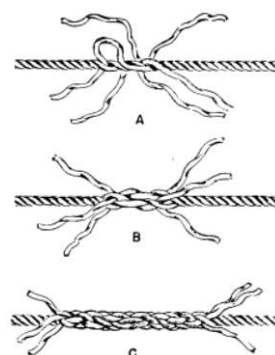
Organised by the ODG Towers & Belfries Committee

**SATURDAY 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025**

**Shabbington Church**

**9.30 am to 3.15 pm**

**Cost £5**



**Replies to**

**Anthony Williamson: [ajw003tan@gmail.com](mailto:ajw003tan@gmail.com)**

**For more details contact:**

**Chairman; Tony Crabtree: [tony.crabtree@talktalk.net](mailto:tony.crabtree@talktalk.net) (01793 784064)**

Tea & coffee available – please bring packed lunch