



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

In Touch

February 2005



St Mary's Church, Whaddon
6 bells, weight 14-2-21, cast in 1927 by Gillett & Johnston

The tower of St Mary's has undergone a much needed restoration in the past few years. The money to pay for this work was raised in the incredibly short time of one year, and the Bishop of Buckingham gave thanks for the restoration work at a Service on Saturday 3rd May 2003.

The original chancel and nave were completed early in the 12th century. The nave pillars still remain. One capital decoration shows the curious design of two peacocks quarrelling over a piece of bread. A duplicate of this design has been found in a Church in Normandy—it is possible that the same Norman workman carved them both!

The stone font was carved in the 13th century, but the wooden cover with its beautiful carved dove is from the 20th century.

The Lady Chapel contains two Tudor tombs. One tomb is for a "Serjant-at-law" and his family, while the other is the tomb of a Lord Deputy of Ireland for Queen Elizabeth I who was one of the Commissioners responsible for trying Mary Queen of Scots.

They are particularly proud of their stained glass windows at Whaddon. The well known Victorian artist, Kemp, made the east window. His signature peacock feathers can be seen in the angels' wings. The signed west window is by J. Bell & Son of Bristol. There are fragments of mediaeval stained glass in the east window behind the organ.

Taken from St Mary's website: <http://www.hpit.uk.com/stmarys/>

AGM at Whaddon—5th March

The AGM will be held at Whaddon on Saturday 5th March 2005. The timetable will be as follows:

- 3.30 Ringing
- 4.30 Service
- 5.00 Tea in the Jubilee Hall
- 5.45 Business Meeting & Ringing until 8.30

Names for tea to Derek White: 01908-501987
by **Tuesday 1st March 2005**



Beginners' Striking Competition

This will be held at Emberton on Friday 8th April. Please encourage your beginners to come and join in—this is not a serious competition. We hope it will be fun and give the beginners a chance to ring somewhere other than their home tower. Teams can be made up on the night, so don't worry if you can't bring a whole team. Depending on the number of entries, the rules may be adapted slightly but we will try to keep the teams as even as possible.



"The Rules"

1. For the purposes of this competition, a beginner is defined as a ringer who has never rung in a quarter peal. Any other ringer is an experienced ringer.
2. Each band will consist of six ringers and may have no more than one experienced ringer in the band.
3. The competition will consist of each team ringing rounds for three minutes.
4. Up to two minutes practice per team will be allowed.
5. The start of the test piece will be notified to the judges by ringing two whole pulls on the treble.
6. A judge will be appointed for the competition. The judge's decision is final.

A Special Quarter Peal

Rolleston, Nottinghamshire
Holy Trinity
Sunday 12th December 2004
1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Victoria Stanworth
- 2 Catherine Stanworth
- 3 John Stanworth (C)
- 4 Helen Stanworth
- 5 Richard Stanworth (C)
- 6 David Stanworth

50th Birthday compliment to
Helen Stanworth.
First family quarter.
The band stood in age order,
youngest to oldest.
Jointly conducted.

Guild Open Day and Eight Bell Striking Competition

As mentioned in the last *In Touch*, the North Bucks Branch will be hosting these events on the May Day Bank Holiday, Monday 2nd May 2005.

The two heats of the Striking Competition will be held at Stony Stratford and Newton Longville, with winners from the heats going to Hanslope for the final.

We hope to have over 30 towers open during the Open Day. Two routes are planned, from Shalstone, roughly following the A422 in the north to Olney, and from Tingewick, along the A421 to the south, also ending up at Olney. If you have had a request and have not yet replied, please return the reply slip to the Secretary as soon as possible, as we must finalise the details by the end of February. Do not worry if you cannot provide stewards; there will be travelling stewards on the day to help out.

A year of Bradwell Quarters - 30,000 changes later

Way back in January 2003, at our tower AGM, I suggested that we attempt a lot more quarters in the year ahead. There were a number of good reasons - our learners' good progress meant that practice nights ran out of time to fit everything in, a few of us fancied getting back in touch with a some of our old doubles methods, but mainly because we wanted to make a significant contribution to the target of 100 quarters in the Branch during our Centenary year. We agreed to aim for two per month, but accepted that other commitments might mean that we wouldn't always get a band together.

Initially we had a few backlogs to clear, so our first was a very overdue 21st birthday compliment to Chrissy. She wanted Grandsire without any other methods, which was an unpopular choice as I hate calling Grandsire for too long! Our next was pure St Simon for Jenny - this convinced us that quarters were a great way to make a method "stick" and meant that St Simon was added to our regular practice night menu. After a couple of multi-doubles, we realised that our striking was improving and that we were enjoying getting back into regular attempts - getting four out of four was also great for morale and they didn't seem to take as long either!

The next couple really showed what getting "into the swing" of quarters could do to help our confidence. We went for a date touch of 2004 Bob Minor which was scored at the first attempt. Our next quarter should have been mixed doubles, but after a false start, I thought "what the heck" and went for pure Stedman - I'd only called it once before (20 years ago) and that had benefited from months of practising! When this came round nicely we knew that we were getting somewhere.

Our next few attempts brought me my second holiday from conducting and got Dave & Dean through their first quarters. We also boosted the number of doubles methods up as far as seven. Dean's quarter was for Dick & Rosemary's Ruby Wedding - Dick is a former ringer at Bradwell, so this was a very special attempt. Dave trebled to our multi-doubles rung on Centenary Day - we had now scored nine out of nine.

The next few months gave Chrissy a harder time in getting six of us together regularly, as holidays and a feeling of quarter peal overdosing set in. For one attempt, we invited friends from neighbouring towers to join in and Jill successfully called a Ladies Quarter of five doubles - her most as conductor. I had wondered about calling a peal for my 50th birthday, especially when I realised that my current total stood at 49, but decided to take it easy instead. This meant that Jean

got to score her first quarter covering to Bob Doubles. This also meant that all three of our learners had rung a quarter and were now disqualified from defending their trophy as winners of the Beginners Striking Contest.

After a daft September Sunday afternoon of quarters with Barry at some of our local five bell challenges, what could be more logical than dashing back to Bradwell to break our local record with eleven doubles? Follow that with another date touch for those who missed out on the previous one, and we had crept up to 17 and still no losses! As part of Barry's plan for World Domination (or was it just to call a quarter in every Branch tower for Centenary year?), we went for London, but were unsuccessful - quite a shock!

The autumn and Christmas period was another loss of momentum, compounded by Jill injuring her arm at Steeple Aston and being out of quarters ever since. Barry came back and scored his quarter - this time with Alex Marchbank ringing her first. For our Christmas Special, we really had to go for St Nicholas didn't we? To finish our twelve months from AGM to AGM, I decided to go for something even sillier - a 720 of Bob Minor followed by Bob Doubles to take it up to the 1260 changes. Calling doubles from the covering bell is fun for a few minutes on a practice night, but becomes a very weird pressure with long periods of not being part of the method.

So there we are - 22 quarters scored and only the one loss, so much more than we had dared to dream of a year earlier. We plan to cut back during 2005, with a bit more variety of conductors (I called 17 out of my 19), as it was a great success and benefited so many of the band. Our striking and stamina has improved, plus we have a variety of extra doubles methods to call upon at practice nights. Minor has reappeared on our regular schedule too.

Looking back over the year, four first quarter peelers makes the effort very rewarding, whilst the rest of the band totted up around 50 various "firsts" or "mosts" during the year. I suppose that after all of her organising efforts, we shouldn't begrudge Chrissy the top score of 21 quarters in the tower! When you then add in a similar number that she rang elsewhere last year, she must be close to Barry's 2004 score - the main difference being that only one of them had a lifetime total of less than 10 before the year started!

Chrissy has now taken over as Captain, so Ian gets the pressure of thinking up new ideas for the quarters in 2005 and juggling the weeks where no one can come against the times that everyone wants to be involved. Although most were rung by full Bradwell members, we must also thank our outside help - Simon Head (6), Andy King (2), Tine Marchbank (2), Christina Tribble (2) and six others who rang in one each.

David Joyce

SHENLEY QUARTER

In the last issue this Quarter was published without the name of the treble ringer—thanks go to Bob Winstanley for setting the record straight. Here's a correct version:

St Mary, Shenley
Monday 25th October 2004
127 Ipswich Surprise Minor
1 Bill Stungo
2 Bob Winstanley
3 Terry Page
4 B Douglas Hird
5 Simon Head
6 Barry Eglesfield (C)
For the Centenary of the Oxford
Diocesan Guild

CUMBERLANDS' PEAL AT NEWPORT!

*SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell
Saturday 6th November 2004
5056 Ashted S Major (3h7m)
Composed by Ian R Fielding
1 Lee Pinnington
2 Shirley E McGill
3 Simon J Davies
4 Benjamin D Constant
5 Russell A Brown
6 Ian K Bushell
7 Richard M Hobbs (C)
8 Ian G Campbell*

Barry had heard a rumour that The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths had got Newport for a peal but, as I hadn't heard anything it just sounded like gossip. The tower secretary put a note on the wedding list that a visiting band was coming on the 6th just after we would be ringing for a wedding but no-one thought any more about it. The PCC has imposed a "no peals" rule, as it doesn't want to have to deal with complaints from nearby residents, and the Rector generally makes sure that this is adhered to. On this occasion, the Rector's reply got lost in translation and the band turned up. Now this offered something of an opportunity to find out what would actually happen.



We are getting some help from around the Branch and usually can ring six. It would be nice to increase this to eight on a regular basis.

We ring between 10.15 and 10.55 am, and all visitors will be most welcome.

We are also running a short practice on a Tuesday evening between 6.30 and 7.30 pm. We have been able to ring Bristol Major (or at least attempt to). Again all visitors welcome.

Alan Marchbank

There was only one complaint (although we don't know who that was from, and it was more a question about when the bells were going to stop) which wasn't too bad considering we didn't have the opportunity to inform anyone first. On the plus side a lapsed ringer listened throughout and afterwards thanked the bank for some of the best ringing he had heard on the bells. He also expressed an interest in coming back to ringing if we thought it would help to get the bells rung like that more often. Another 'local' in The Canon pub commented that we had had a lot of weddings.

So now we have a better idea of the level of stress the bells cause to local residents, a reminder of how good the bells sound when rung well and the possibility of a lapsed ringer coming back. Now the job is to fix up some "experimental" sound control, communicate with the local residents and change the PCC's policy on peals.

Doug Hind

The Ringing Master's Ramblings

Guild Ten Bell Striking Competition

The Competition was held at Appleton on Saturday 27th November. The test piece was 287 changes of *Grandsire Caters*. The previous Sunday evening we had met at Kempston to practice the touch and this had gone quite well.

The draw had been held in advance which meant that we all knew when we would be ringing. North Bucks were drawn to go first (as we were in 2003) and all members of the band arrived in good time. The bells at Appleton are tricky to ring well and the touch also had a tricky section in the middle course when the ninth was in the hunt. This middle course was to cause problems for all the bands.

We struggled to agree on the speed to ring and there were one or two half-trips but these were well disguised, as the judges didn't refer to any mistakes. We knew we hadn't rung as well as we had during our practice the previous week. We would have to wait and see where the judges placed us.

Whites had kindly made the Balscote ring at their works available during the morning, so a number of the band had a go on these tricky little bells. The experience with the Lichfield ring at our Centenary certainly helped!

Then it was back to the Church for the results:

1st Reading	69%
2nd East Berks & South Bucks	66%
3rd Vale of White Horse	59%
4th Old North Berks	52%
5th North Bucks	50%

So back home and try again next year. My thanks to the band, who were Alan Marchbank, Catherine Stanworth, Michael Tinsley, Barry Eglesfield (Conductor), David Joyce, Christine Cable, Roy Keeves, John Stanworth, Peter Tribble, and Richard Stanworth.



Christmas Special

Only a small group came to Cosgrove for the December practice, so only St Nicholas was rung of the special methods. As an alternative activity, we attempted some tune ringing on tower bells! This calls for good bell control as single blows are required at times. We successfully rang 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' - much to the amusement of the Chairman who was taking a short 'break' outside.

Eight-Bell Striking Competition

The method this year will be Single Oxford Bob Triples. You will be able to get some practice at Newton Longville as this is the special method. As the Competition is at 'home' this year, there should be no problem getting a band together - book the date now.

Pearlys

St Faith, Newton Longville
Friday 31st December 2004
5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major (2 hours 53 mins)

- 1 B Douglas Hird
- 2 Edith M Robinson
- 3 Janet C Garnet
- 4 Ruth Stokes
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 Philip D Bailey
- 7 Christopher C Stokes
- 8 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

25th on the bells

1st Surprise Major—3, 1st Yorkshire as Conductor
For the Centenary of the founding of the North Bucks
Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and in memory
of those killed by the earthquake and subsequent
tsunami waves in southern Asia.

Quarters

All Saints, Leighton Buzzard
Sunday 7th November 2004
1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal

- 1 Ruth Stokes
- 2 Richard W Yates
- 3 David Phillipson
- 4 Jonathan Pawley
- 5 Fred Ellis
- 6 Phil Dunn
- 7 Nigel Williams
- 8 Chris Stokes
- 9 Ed Houghton
- 10 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Rung for the Branch Centenary and a birthday
compliment to the Conductor, 21 + a few

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 7th November 2004
1260 Mixed Doubles

- 1 Dean Meakins
- 2 Jennifer Brookman
- 3 Brian Newman
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 David Joyce (C)

St Laurence, Weston Underwood
Friday 12th November 2004
1260 Double Oxford Minor (43 mins)

- 1 Roy Keeves
- 2 David Jones
- 3 Tony Gray
- 4 Ian Thompson
- 5 Richard Haseldine (C)
- 6 Jonathan Griggs

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild, and a 90th birthday
compliment to Emily Keeves (mother of Roy Keeves)

St Edward the Confessor, Shalstone
Saturday 13th November 2004
1260 Stedman Doubles

- 1 Catherine Stanworth
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 Michael Tinsley
- 4 B Douglas Hird
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

1st of Stedman—1

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Mary Magdalene, Tingewick
Saturday 13th November 2004
1260 Doubles (600 Stedman, 660 Grandsire)

- 1 Catherine Stanworth
- 2 B Douglas Hird
- 3 Alan J Marchbank
- 4 Michael Tinsley
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell
Sunday 14th November 2004
1260 Grandsire Triples (53 mins)

- 1 Barry R Eglesfield
- 2 P David Taylor
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Rachel Stacy
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 Michael Tinsley
- 7 B Douglas Hird (C)
- 8 Scott Ayers

Rung half muffled for Remembrance Sunday, and for
the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

More Quarters

SS Peter & Paul, Newport Pagnell

Wednesday 17th November 2004

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Edie Robinson
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 Bob Winstanley
- 4 Peter Tribble
- 5 Simon Head
- 6 B Douglas Hird
- 7 Chris Stokes
- 8 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

Assumption of the BVM, Leckhampstead

Saturday 20th November 2004

1260 Doubles (Stedman, Plain Bob & Grandsire)

- 1 Charles Knight
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 John Stanworth
- 4 Simon Head
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

Assumption of the BVM, Lillingstone Lovell

Saturday 20th November 2004

1260 Doubles (Stedman, Grandsire & Plain Bob)

- 1 Alan J Marchbank
- 2 Charles Knight
- 3 Simon Head
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

All Saints, Calverton

Friday 26th November 2004

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Steve Theobald
- 2 Edie Robinson
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Christina Tribble
- 5 Michael Tinsley
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beachampton
Saturday 27th November 2004

1260 Stedman Doubles

- 1 Catherine Stanworth
- 2 Michael Tinsley
- 3 John Stanworth
- 4 Alan Marchbank
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Mary, Thornborough

Saturday 27th November 2004

1260 Doubles (Grandsire, Stedman & Plain Bob)

- 1 Catherine Stanworth
- 2 Alan J Marchbank
- 3 John Stanworth
- 4 Michael Tinsley
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

All Saints, Emberton

Sunday 28th November 2004

1272 London Surprise Minor

- 1 David Joyce
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 Peter Tribble
- 4 Alan J Marchbank
- 5 B Douglas Hird
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Rung to wish Sheila Watts a speedy recovery from her
spell in hospital, and for the Centenary of the North
Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Laurence, Weston Underwood

Friday 3rd December 2004

1272 Wells Surprise Minor

- 1 Ruth Stokes
- 2 Peter Tribble
- 3 Christina Tribble
- 4 Alan J Marchbank
- 5 Chris Stokes
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

1st in method—2 & 3

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Peter, Stoke Goldington

Friday 3rd December 2004

1260 Doubles (Stedman, Grandsire & Plain Bob)

- 1 Roy Keeves
- 2 David Jones
- 3 Anthony Gray
- 4 Nicholas Gray
- 5 Jonathan Griggs (C)
- 6 Ian Thompson

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

Even More Quarters

Assumption of the BVM, Woughton on the Green
Monday 6th December 2004

1296 Surprise Minor (720 Norwich, 576 Cambridge)

- 1 Charles Knight
- 2 Peter Tribble
- 3 Terry Page
- 4 Derek Stainsby
- 5 Simon Head
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

SS Peter & Paul, Olney

Wednesday 8th December 2004

1280 London Surprise Major

- 1 Peter Tribble
- 2 Ruth Stokes
- 3 Edie Robinson
- 4 B Douglas Hird
- 5 Chris Stokes
- 6 Fred Ellis
- 7 Ed Houghton
- 8 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

All Saints, Milton Keynes

Thursday 9th December 2004

1296 Surprise Minor (720 London, 576 Cambridge)

- 1 Terry Page
- 2 Christina Tribble
- 3 Derek Stainsby
- 4 Simon Head
- 5 Peter Tribble
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

SS Peter & Paul, Buckingham

Friday 10th December 2004

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Ann Fletcher
- 2 Jonathan A Spencer
- 3 Ruth Stokes
- 4 Raymond A Vickers
- 5 Andrew Spencer
- 6 Alan J Marchbank
- 7 Chris Stokes
- 8 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

1st Yorkshire—2

Rung as a 13th birthday compliment to Jonathan
Spencer, and for the Centenary of the North Bucks
Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Lawrence, Bradwell

Sunday 12th December 2004

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 Alex Marchbank
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 Tine Marchbank
- 4 Ian Green
- 5 Michael Tinsley
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

1st Quarter for Treble

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Lawrence, Chicheley

Monday 13th December 2004

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Charles Knight
- 2 Terry Page
- 3 Christina Tribble
- 4 Derek Stainsby
- 5 Peter Tribble
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild. We would like to associate
Simon Head with this quarter as he arranged it but
had to drop out due to illness

St Laud, Sherington

Wednesday 15th December 2004

1260 Doubles (4 extents of Grandsire & Plain Bob,
2½ of Stedman)

- 1 Charles Knight
- 2 Edie Robinson
- 3 Christina Tribble
- 4 Alan J Marchbank
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Stowe

Thursday 16th December 2004

1296 Surprise Minor (720 London 576 Cambridge)

- 1 Ray Vickers
- 2 Simon Head
- 3 Ian Chapple
- 4 Andrew Spencer
- 5 Nigel Williams
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Carol Service, and for the Centenary of the
North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Peter, Stoke Goldington

Sunday 19th December 2004

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Charles Knight
- 2 Ruth Stokes
- 3 David Richards
- 4 Alan J Marchbank
- 5 Chris Stokes
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Carol Service, and for the Centenary of the
North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild

Even More Quarters

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 19th December
1260 St Nicholas Doubles

- 1 Brian Newman
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 Jennifer Brookman
- 4 Ian Green
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 David Green

Holy Trinity, Old Wolverton
Monday 20th December 2004
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Michael Tinsley
- 2 Christina Tribble
- 3 Catherine Stanworth
- 4 Edie Robinson
- 5 Peter Tribble
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

All Saints, Emberton
Tuesday 21st December 2004
1260 Doubles (Stedman, Grandsire & Plain Bob)

- 1 Roy Keeves
- 2 Phil Haslam
- 3 Anthony Gray
- 4 Nicholas Gray
- 5 Jonathan Griggs (C)
- 6 Scott Forrest

1st Quarter—6

St Mary, Banbury
Tuesday 21st December 2004
1259 Grandsire Caters

- 1 Katherine Bulleid
- 2 Barry R Eglesfield
- 3 Richard Yates
- 4 Margaret Bulleid
- 5 Rosie Bulleid
- 6 George E Green
- 7 Chris Bulleid (C)
- 8 Nigel Williams
- 9 Alan J Marchbank
- 10 James Bulleid

To commemorate the 50th birthday of the Conductor,
and for the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

SS Mary & Giles, Stony Stratford
Tuesday 28th December 2004
1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Tine Marchbank
- 2 Jill Eales
- 3 Peter Tribble
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 David Joyce
- 6 Alan J Marchbank
- 7 Chris Stokes
- 8 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Rung as a mark of respect for the Indonesian tragedy,
and for the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Andrew, Great Linford
Wednesday 29th December 2004
1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Christina Tribble
- 2 Peter Tribble
- 3 James Maltby
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 Barry R Eglesfield
- 6 Alan J Marchbank (C)

1st Surprise—3

Rung as a mark of respect for victims of the Indonesian
earthquake, and for the Centenary of the North Bucks
Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Lawrence, Chicheley
Thursday 30th December 2004
1272 Belfast Surprise Minor

- 1 Tine Marchbank
- 2 B Douglas Hird
- 3 Jonathan Pawley
- 4 Michael Tinsley
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

1st in method—3 & 4

For the Centenary of the North Bucks Branch of the
Oxford Diocesan Guild

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 2nd January 2005
1260 Plain Bob Doubles (43 mins)

- 1 Christine Abbott
- 2 Dean Meakins
- 3 Ian Green
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 David Joyce (C)
- 6 Gordon Abbott

1st inside—2

St Lawrence, Bradwell
Sunday 16th January 2005
1260 changes (540 PB Doubles, 720 PB Minor) (43m)

- 1 Dean Meakins
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 Brian Newman
- 4 Jennifer Brookman
- 5 Ian Green
- 6 David Joyce (C)

Quarters Rung in Thanksgiving for the Life of Peter Bruce of High Wycombe

St Mary, Whaddon

Thursday 2nd December 2004

1296 Cambridge Surprise Major

- 1 Peter Tribble
- 2 Phil Dunn
- 3 Greeba Cochrane
- 4 John Stanworth
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Rung as a thanksgiving for the life of Peter
Bruce of High Wycombe who helped to teach
Greeba Cochrane this method

St Michael, Lavendon

Friday 3rd December 2004

1320 London Surprise Minor

- 1 Chris Stokes
- 2 Christine Cable
- 3 Christina Tribble
- 4 Peter Tribble
- 5 Ruth Stokes
- 6 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Rung as a thanksgiving for the life of Peter
Bruce of High Wycombe

St Mary, Bletchley

Sunday 5th December 2004

1280 Cambridge & Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 David M Joyce
- 2 Edith Robinson
- 3 Ruth Stokes
- 4 Christine Cable
- 5 Alan J Marchbank
- 6 B Douglas Hird
- 7 Christopher C Stokes
- 8 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Rung as a thanksgiving for the life of Peter
Bruce who helped the ringers of the 4th to learn
Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Major

All Saints, Leighton Buzzard

Sunday 12th December 2004

1246 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus

- 1 Ruth Stokes
- 2 Jo White
- 3 Roger Powell
- 4 Ed Houghton
- 5 Fred Ellis
- 6 Nigel Williams
- 7 Phil Dunn
- 8 Jonathan Pawley
- 9 Alan Shepherd
- 10 David Phillipson
- 11 Chris Stokes
- 12 Barry R Eglesfield (C)

Rung as a thanksgiving for the life of Peter
Bruce of High Wycombe who was known to
most of this band

Editors' note:



Quarters are published as given to us by email, telephone and in hard copy! No responsibility is taken for errors and omissions!!

However, if anyone wishes to make any alterations, we will gladly publish them in the next issue of *In Touch*.



FACTS & FIGURES.....

Both Richard Stanworth and Doug Hird have produced some figures for the record number of Quarters rung in 2004.

Here are Richard's figures, and Doug's analysis is overleaf.

Quarters Rung:

96—including those outside the Branch, by Branch members.

Leading Tower:

St Lawrence, Bradwell
20 Quarter Peals

At least one Quarter has been rung at each ringable tower of five or more bells.

Doug's Quarter Peal Analysis for 2004

The Full Time Score

There were very few peals rung in North Bucks during 2004 but this was more than compensated for by a total of 107 quarter peals. During the year, quarters were rung at every ringable tower with five or more bells.

A Summary:

	Centenary	Others
Total number of quarters	54	53
Total number of ringers	86	117
Total number of conductors	16	28
Total number of towers	36	25

Top Towers:

Tower	Quarters
Old Bradwell	19
Thornborough	7
Hanslope	5
Chicheley	4
Lillingstone Lovell	4
Maids Moreton	4
Newton Longville	4
Stony Stratford	4

Top Ringers:

Barry Eglesfield	41
Christine Cable	30
Simon Head	26
David Joyce	25
Alan Marchbank	21

Top Conductors:

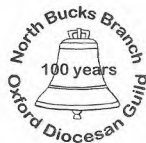
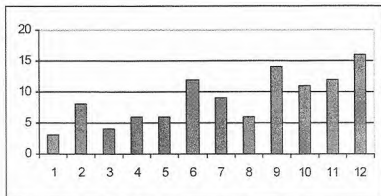
Barry Eglesfield	37
David Joyce	15
Andrew Spencer	7
Jonathan Griggs	4
William Stungo	4

Top Methods included in the Quarters:

Grandsire Doubles	22
Plain Bob Doubles	15
Cambridge Surprise Minor	13
Plain Bob Minor	10
Stedman Doubles	9
London Surprise Minor	7
Yorkshire Surprise Major	5
Plain Bob Major	4

A rush towards the end of the year

The workload of the Centenary celebrations contributed to the slow start, but the usual last minute organisation got us to the target of 100 quarters for the year.



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS NORTH BUCKS BRANCH

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Downs Barn on 4th December 2004

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to Downs Barn for the pre-Christmas meeting. He hoped to keep the meeting short, as a number of members were going on to another function later. He asked that people try to avoid being verbose.

In Memoriam

The Chairman asked the meeting to remember Richard Stevens, whose memorial service at Bicester had been held since the last meeting. He also asked that Peter Bruce of High Wycombe, and Lucy Shepherd of Dunstable be remembered. A few moments of silence were then observed.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Edie Robinson, Ros Tyrell, Gillian and Charlie Macdonald, Sheila Watts, Sheila Ware, Sheila Blenkhorn, Roy Keeves and Tine Marchbank.

Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Leckhampstead in September had been published in the November edition of *In Touch*. It was agreed by the meeting that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Election of New Members

Nominations had been received proposing two new members:

Josh Brewin (Junior) of Great Linford. Proposed by Alan Marchbank, seconded by Brian Newman.

Robin Starr of Whaddon. Proposed by Hugh Butler, seconded by Derek Stainsby.

They were elected without dissent. The Chairman asked those present to stand and they were welcomed to the Guild and Branch.

Officers Reports

Ringing Master

The Ringing Master reported on the Guild Ten-bell

Striking Competition. The Branch team finished fifth (out of five entries). However, that is ten ahead of the branches that didn't even enter. As we are now the only Branch in the Guild without a ten-bell tower, this is a commendable effort. Thank you to all who gave up their time to take part.

Guild Representative

Brian Newman gave a report on the General Committee meeting held at Kidlington the previous Saturday. The main points were:

Child Protection - The Guild recommends that we follow the Central Council guidelines. These are at odds with the Bishops' recommendations but are more in line with what the government expects. Many PCCs are still dragging their feet and the CRB has not improved its turnaround on processing the forms.

Restoration Fund - £1600 of new money had been received this year. Grants were made to Fulbrook, Shrivenham, and Shiplake.

Subscriptions - After some debate, the recommendation was for no increase in 2005.

Terms of Reference - Those for the sub-committees have now been agreed.

Insurance - There is currently one claim pending for an accident covered by the Guild insurance as it happened whilst ringing or travelling to or from ringing.

Odd Bob - Lorna Smale was complimented on the new look.

Guild Festival - Next year's hosts are organising an under 18 striking competition as part of the Festival.

Towers CD - The Guild has now decided to adopt the CD detailing towers within the Diocese.

David Joyce added that John Lonsborough was helping with the tea after the meeting and wished to be remembered to the Branch.

Treasurer

The Chairman read out the Treasurer's Report.

Centenary Event – The complete account will be presented at the AGM but currently the loss is £98.94. If all the remaining Centenary mugs are sold then the loss will be substantially less. The profit on the mugs so far is £78.38. The collection at the Service was £90 and this was donated towards the cost of the new ringing gallery at Newton Longville.

Main Accounts – The balance at the Building Society is £1038.45.

Subscriptions – Nearly all subscriptions for 2004 are in and the Treasurer will be writing to towers soon after 1st January for the 2005 subs.

Collection for Guild Bell Fund – Many thanks for contributing today. £16.60 has been raised.

Forthcoming Events

An up to date calendar had been circulated to all present. Points arising:

Olney – not available on a Friday. Agreed that we try for Thursday 20th January.

Newton Longville – Special method to be Oxford Bob Triples as it is the method for the Guild Eight-bell Competition.

Shalstone – Special method to be Stedman.

Guild Eight-bell Competition 2nd May – North Bucks are hosts. Towers not all confirmed but plans are for heats at Newton Longville and Stony Stratford, with the final at Hanslope.

Guild Open Day 2nd May - North Bucks are hosts. Nearly all ringable towers will be involved. Assistance will be required with stewarding. Two routes planned – northerly route starting at Shalstone and southerly route starting at Tingewick, with both converging on Olney at the end of the day.

Any Other Business

City Centre Ring

Alan Marchbank summarised the position at present. A note in *In Touch* from David Middleton raised the idea of a ring of 12 bells. Milton Keynes is a city by name, if not by charter, and does not have a major ring of bells. The consensus is that this is a good idea but we have lots of bells and not too many ringers. However, we're only going to do this sort of thing when we can, not when it's ideal to

do because we have lots of ringers. What it needs is a project manager – somebody to start by doing a feasibility study. There may be money, support, land, and opportunity with the council to make sure it happens. It needs somebody with the time and energy to sound all that out. The idea was that we should share these ideas through *In Touch* and discuss it at this meeting to find out the feelings of the Branch. Should we be asking someone like David Middleton to lead this, or is it something, which, for the moment, we should park?

After some discussion, Alan Marchbank summarised the feelings of the meeting in a proposal that he take the following message back to David Middleton: 'The meeting is neither enthusiastic nor unenthusiastic about the idea. It recognises the challenges in even getting to a stage where people can visualise it and get answers to the questions that have been raised at the meeting. Are you prepared to develop this to a feasibility stage so that the details can be put to a meeting? The Branch is not dismissive of it but it recognises that it needs somebody with a passion to do it. At present there isn't anybody here with that passion to make it happen.'

This was seconded by Richard Stanworth and, on a show of hands, was adopted by the meeting.

Ringing Roadshow 2005

David Joyce reminded us that this would be held within our Guild boundary at Newbury in September. A coach outing was suggested to the previous show but this didn't happen. As this is in 'our patch' perhaps we can give it more attention this time. He suggested that we reminded everyone about it at each meeting.

Xmas Special

Richard had blue lines available for the 'instantly forgettable' methods for the next Branch practice.

Thanks

Richard Stanworth proposed a vote of thanks to Downs Barn for hosting the meeting; Peter Ballantyne for taking the service; and to Michael Tinsley for playing the organ. Thanks also to those who had brewed the tea and provided mince pies. The members present showed their appreciation in the usual manner. The Chairman then closed the meeting.



Who's Who 2005

Chairman

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Assistant Ringing Master

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Training Officer

Post currently vacant

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Secretarial Snippets

Grants

Applications for grants for assistance from individuals for training or from towers for work or for the provision of things that keep bells ringing shall be submitted to the Secretary. Details of applications received will be sent out to towers as soon as possible after receipt. All applications received and sent out at least one month before a meeting will be considered at the next general meeting of the Branch.

Training Grants

Grants will be given towards training courses as follows: 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £50. Applications for grants should be made in writing to the Secretary. It would help us if you apply before you attend the course if at all possible.

Videos

We now have three titles available:

Bellhanding—a tutor's companion (produced by the Central Council)

Look to and Learn (produced by the Kent County Association)

Teaching Demonstration (recording of Steve Coleman teaching)

These videos may be borrowed from the Secretary free of charge. However, a deposit of £5 will be required against safe return of the video.

Tower Information

The Secretary sent out a letter to all tower correspondents in December, giving the details that are held about them as tower correspondent, and of the bells and ringing at their tower. They were asked to check these details, amend as necessary and return the letter to her by the end of the year. So far, about half of the letters have been returned. If you have not yet done so, please return the letter, even if everything is correct, so that we know that we have the correct details. It will not cost you anything, as there was a stamped addressed envelope included. We try to maintain accurate information. We can only do this if you help.

Our Grateful Thanks...

..... to all those who contributed towards this issue of *In Touch*.

The deadline for the next *In Touch* is:
Friday 6th May 2005

Sheila Watts & Sheila Ware
Editors

North Bucks Branch—Calendar 2005

FEBRUARY	18	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Oxford Bob Triples	Newton Longville
MARCH	5	3.30	Annual General Meeting	Whaddon
	12		<i>Spring General Committee Meeting</i>	<i>Witney & Woodstock Branch</i>
	18	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Ipswich Surprise Minor	Chicheley
	26		<i>Guild Handbell Day</i>	<i>Reading Branch</i>
APRIL	8	7.30	Beginners Striking Competition	Emberton
	9		<i>Radley Course</i>	<i>Radley</i>
	15	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Hull Surprise Minor	Old Wolverton
MAY	2		<i>Guild Open Day</i> <i>Eight Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>North Bucks Branch</i> <i>Newton Longville</i> <i>Stony Stratford</i> <i>Hanslope</i>
	20	7.30	Branch Practice Special Method: Stedman Doubles	Shalstone
	21		<i>Guild Annual General Meeting</i>	<i>Old North Berks</i>
JUNE	4*	3.30	Quarterly Meeting	Buckingham
	17*	7.30	Branch Six-Bell Striking Competition	Clifton Reynes
JULY	2*	6.00	Inter-Branch Striking Competition	Wicken
	9		<i>Guild Festival</i>	<i>Vale of the White Horse Branch</i>
SEPTEMBER	10		<i>Ringin' Roadshow</i>	<i>Newbury</i>
	23-25		<i>Easthampstead Course</i>	<i>Easthampstead</i>
OCTOBER	1		<i>Guild Six-Bell Striking Competition</i>	<i>Bicester Branch</i>
	29		<i>Steeple Aston Course</i>	<i>Steeple Aston</i>
NOVEMBER	12*	7.30	Joint Practice with Towcester Branch	Wicken

Items marked * were unconfirmed as at 28 January 2005
Events in *italics* are Guild events, etc.