

Chipping Norton Branch

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

www.odg.org.uk



From the Ringing Master

Following a very successful Branch Practice held at Shipton on 27th July I am pleased to announce we have two more dates for your diary.

- On **Tuesday 31st August we will be meeting at Chippy from 7pm - 8.30pm** (please note the early start time). We shall be met at the West door so please do try and come on time.
- On **Friday 24th September we will be meeting at Burford at the usual time of 7.30pm - 9pm**. Once again please do come on time to avoid being locked out after 7.30pm.

Please make a note of both of these dates. **To help plan the practice, and to ensure we have enough ringers to make the evening viable, it would be really helpful if you send an email to brm@chippy.odg.org.uk indicating if you plan to attend.**

At the Shipton-u-Wychwood practice last month we had 9 ringers attend, including ringers from Chippy, Hooky, Charlbury, Chadlington and Shipton. We concentrated on good striking and for some this was the first time they had had a proper ring for 18 months. To round off the evening most of us even managed a drink in the Wychwood afterwards!

Even though many legal restrictions were lifted on Monday 19th July we continue to have a personal responsibility to remain cautious as we move ahead with ringing. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) has been working with the House of Bishops Recovery Team to establish guidance. You can examine this guidance here: <https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Guidance-at-a-glance-2.0-2.pdf>

I suggest we continue to ring with the same conditions we drew up before the Shipton practice, namely:

1. Please do not come ringing if you feel you might be suffering from ANY infection
2. Consider taking a Lateral Flow Test before attending. This is not mandatory but would be helpful.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 14 August 2021, 3.30pm
Tea & Bells Fundraising Event
Shipton under Wychwood

Sunday 15 August 2021; 1.30pm
Wedding Ringing
Shipton under Wychwood

Branch Practices

Tuesday 31 August 2021; 7.00pm
Branch Practice
Chipping Norton



Friday 24th September; 7.30pm
Branch Practice
Burford

From the Ringing Master, *continued*

3. A maximum of 12 ringers in the tower is probably a sensible limit on numbers. If there are more than that interested in ringing on the 27th July then we will have to gather outside the tower and bands can go and ring and then come back outside.
4. We should start off wearing a mask and only remove them if everyone is in agreement.
5. Cleaning/sanitizing should be done before entering the ringing room.
6. We shall ensure good ventilation by keeping windows open.
7. We will keep a register so if anyone does subsequently contract COVID then they should contact the branch secretary who can, in confidence, inform others present.

I recognise that not everyone is yet happy to return to ringing but we have to start somewhere and we will keep the situation under review. This is your branch practice and it is an opportunity to ring with others, especially if your own local tower has not yet restarted ringing.

As many are still finding their way we will focus on building personal confidence and once again get used to ringing on 6/8 bells.

I look forward to seeing some of you at 7pm on the 31 August at Chippy. **Remember to let me know if you plan to attend.**

With best wishes,

David M Salter
Branch Ringing Master

Call for Ringers

With the gradual return to ringing, it is clear that towers across the branch will need support in providing a full band to ring for weddings and other events. The branch officers propose to keep a list of branch members willing to serve on a rota and will be notifying members when individual towers are short of ringers. If you would be able to ring occasionally, please email the branch secretary Jenny Lewis (secretary@chippy.odg.org.uk) or the individual tower captain concerned.

There is an immediate need for ringers in Shipton. Please contact Mike Brooks if you are able to help (shipton@chippy.odg.org.uk)

- **2 ringers for Tea & Bells fundraising on Saturday 14th.** Ringing from 3:30 to 5:00pm with a break of 1/2 hour for free cream tea at 4:00.
- **4 ringers for a wedding on Sunday 15th** (assemble at church at 1:30).

Next Branch Practice: Chipping Norton

Chipping Norton was a wool-trading town in the 15th century and the great 'wool' church of St Mary, built in perpendicular style, testifies to its prosperity.

The church has one of the finest interiors among the great Cotswold churches. The slender supporting pillars and the clerestory windows form an almost continuous band of glass above the nave to give the church a feeling of great height and lightness. The church is also noted for its unusual hexagonal porch with vaulted ceiling.

The well-proportioned tower provides plenty of room to ring the 8 bells. The ringing room is reached by climbing a spiral staircase whose entrance is from inside the tower.

The tower has a ring of 8 bells with a tenor weighing 14-1-4 in F#.

Parking near the church is very limited, but there is usually plenty of parking in Market Street.



ODG EVENTS

Saturday, 02 October 2021
Six-Bell Striking Competition
North Bucks Branch

Saturday, 30 October 2021
Steeple Aston Course
Steeple Aston