



# Sonning Deanery Branch



Welcome to the Sonning Deanery Branch, which serves the bellringers of churches in southeast Berkshire (see map). It is one of 15 branches of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers, which is the largest ringing society in the world, with over 2500 members.

**Services for members** – You can benefit from services including:

- Monthly practices at different towers (see below) where you can extend your ringing
- Training courses on a wide range of topics to help you develop your ringing skills
- Individual advice if you need it
- Regular updates of information (by e-mail and website)
- A bookstall, where you can buy popular ringing books
- Outings, with opportunities to ring at several towers outside the Branch
- Striking competitions, judged by how well teams ring
- A quarterly newsletter
- Occasional social events

**Branch practices** are held regularly to help you develop your ringing, especially anything you can't do in your own tower. At these practices you will get to know ringers from other towers.

Weekend practices are on the 3rd Saturday of each month, and most last an hour and a half. The time of day varies, so check the website [odg.org.uk/sdb/diary/](http://odg.org.uk/sdb/diary/) and look out for e-mail reminders too. Some months are special. February is the AGM, which is open to all members, with ringing before the service followed by tea and meeting. In April there is a 6-bell striking competition (which all bands can enter), and in February there is an 8-bell competition joint with Reading Branch. In November there is a meeting for representatives of every tower plus the officers.

Most months the Branch runs a midweek daytime practice – normally on the third Tuesday afternoon – for people who are retired or work flexible hours. There is normally an elementary practice on the first Tuesday evening and a Surprise Major practice on the second Wednesday evening. Invitations are sent to the members e-mail list and the practice confirmed when enough people say they expect to attend. Anyone is welcome to attend these practices, according to their ability. There is also a practice for young ringers – normally on the second Sunday afternoon.

**Training courses** – The Branch arranges courses on various topics<sup>1</sup>. These are normally arranged in response to demand, at times to suit those who want to attend. Full details of all courses, and a form to say which you would like to attend, are on the Branch website at: [odg.org.uk/sdb/training/](http://odg.org.uk/sdb/training/).

**The Branch website** contains up to date information on what is happening in the Branch, along with a lot of other useful information including contacts and links to ringing resources.



The website is at: [odg.org.uk/sdb/](http://odg.org.uk/sdb/) or use the QR code above. It includes a diary at: [odg.org.uk/sdb/diary/](http://odg.org.uk/sdb/diary/) and contact details, location, etc for all towers at: [odg.org.uk/sdb/towers/](http://odg.org.uk/sdb/towers/)

The Branch runs a **member's e-mail list**. Make sure you are on it and you will receive information about what is going on in the Branch, especially any updates or anything new.

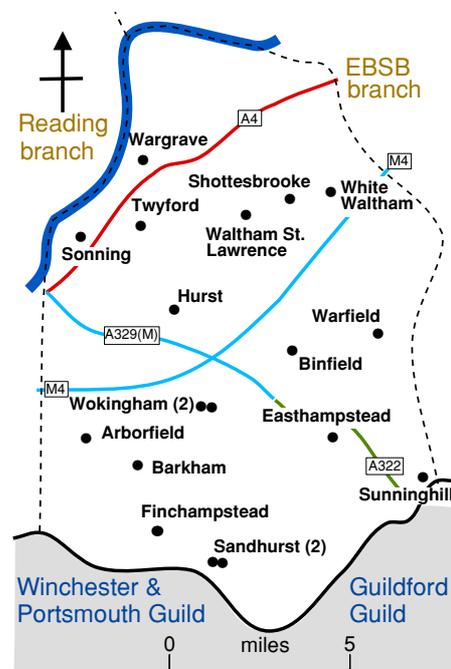
There are separate lists for volunteers who are willing to help out ringing for **weddings**, or to ring in **quarter peals**. If either of these interests you, ask to be added.

## Key contact details:

Secretary – [secretary@sdb.odg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sdb.odg.org.uk)

Ringing Master – [brm@sdb.odg.org.uk](mailto:brm@sdb.odg.org.uk)

For other officers, see [odg.org.uk/sdb/officers/](http://odg.org.uk/sdb/officers/)



Updated March 2020

<sup>1</sup> Courses currently offered are: Elementary bob calling, Conducting, Bell handling, See yourself handling on video, Raising and lowering techniques, Raising and lowering in peal, Leading up and down in peal, Listening skills, Bell maintenance, Rope splicing, Ring with a simulator, How to learn a method, Heavy bell handling, Change ringing on handbells, Teaching bell handling, Listening, Striking practice, and Judging striking