

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS



Newsletter
April 2026

Guild Officers 2025-26

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Newsletter News

As previously reported, I shall not be standing for re-election at the Guild AGM. It has been an honour to be involved in the newsletter for around 13 years but we are moving away from the area. The Guild is therefore on the hunt for a new Newsletter Editor. If you have half-decent Word skills and enjoy creating good-looking documents, this is the job for you! Contact me at newsletter@pdg.org.uk. The next newsletter is due to be published for the Summer Festival on September 12th.

As always, many thanks to all our local correspondents for compiling pieces for publication, despite the reluctance of some towers to reveal their ringing activities.

If you'd like to share copies of the Newsletter with any non-ringing members, direct them to the relevant part of the Guild website (pdg.org.uk/latest-news/newsletters) or download a copy and email it to them. A hard copy can be delivered in person (or posted), on request to me or the Secretary. If you want any additional copies for members in your branch, please let me know, so that I can ensure enough copies are printed.

Please send any comments, complaints or contributions for future editions to newsletter@pdg.org.uk. All copy for the September edition, for distribution at the Guild Summer Festival, must arrive by **Sunday 24th August** latest. Thank you.

Jonathan Stuart

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President's Piece

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed our Easter eggs and the start of British Summer Time, looking forward to better weather and holidays.

It was good to visit Branch AGMs in January, hearing what you have all been up to. But, at the risk of sounding repetitive, there is still something YOU can do for your Guild.

In addition to the Guild Officers who had said previously that they would not be standing for re-election at the AGM in June, we were advised at the recent GMC in March that our Master and Training Officer would also not be standing again in June.

All of these Officers will be greatly missed, Now we need members to seriously consider standing for all the vacant or soon-to-be-vacant posts, or maybe nominating someone else for a post, so that the Guild can continue to support ringing across the Diocese in the year to come.

If you are thinking about standing, please talk to the current or immediate past post-holder about what the role includes, or contact any of the Executive. Please feel free to contact me to discuss it anytime.

You can find the current Role Descriptions on the Guild website against each post on the "Officers" page, but these can be varied.

Those standing down are:

- Master (Executive post)
- Secretary (Executive post)
- Recruitment & Training Officer
- Newsletter Editor

Posts currently vacant:

- Public Relations Officer
- Youth Officer

The Guild can only run as it currently does through the voluntary support of a great many Members – please give it some thought.

And finally....

Congratulations to the Daventry Young Ringers who represented the Guild at the Midlands Young Ringers Striking Competition held on Saturday 21st March at Steeple Aston in Oxfordshire. Against strong competition they came 6th. I hope you all had a grand day out!

Alistair



Treasurer's Tally

Calling the membership to arms to help fund raising at no additional cost to yourselves. Read on ...

Following the decision to transfer £10k of General Funds into the Bell Fund in the 2025 accounts year, the Guild Bell Fund has free funds of around £46,000 at the end of 2025. Having run for so long with closer to £100k in the Fund, it would be great to bolster it.

Affiliation Fees from parishes – We have discovered more about the Diocesan distribution of the Affiliation Letter:

- The mailing is sent via the Peterborough Diocesan News. This may not reach all the relevant persons that we have relied upon to encourage the payment of an Affiliation Fee to the Bell Fund.
- In this year's circulation, the full text of the letter is NOT included in the PDN and instead there is a brief note followed by a link to click for the letter. This will not always be clicked by the recipients, which explains all the claims that the letter has not been received.
- We do not have the address database to mail out directly from the Guild, and the cost would be significant, outweighing the current income – so not an especially good idea.

I have generated the 2026 Affiliation request letter and circulated it to all Branch Chairmen, together with data showing which parishes in their branch have benefited from funds in the past. The GMC agreed with me that the Branch Committees will have a better idea as to which parishes may be willing to pay an Affiliation Fee, so I leave it to their best efforts to try to increase this annual income. In 2020 we received more than £4,300 and in 2025 only received £980.

If any member thinks they can help with their own parish(es), I will forward a copy of the letter to them on receipt of an email to treasurer@pdg.org.uk. I will also ask the webmaster if he can include it on the website.

Fundraising Activity -The Guild will reintroduce its fund-raising actions and I would ask members for any ideas to raise funds for the Bell Fund. Please let me know of any suggestions.

1. **Easyfundraising**

During this year we have signed up five new members to our group, all raising donations for the Bell Fund at no cost to themselves. If all 970 members were signed up at the same rate the initial three members have achieved, we could be raising £97,000 **each and every year**.

Easyfundraising is an organisation that generates donations for charities through commission on internet shopping. This can be for a mix of charities, so please include our charity, number 258271.

If you sign up and raise £5 then we can get a bonus of £5 so even if all members sign up we could raise £10,000!!! The address to use for signing up to get the bonus is https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=304755&invite=8wshv0&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral. Please confirm to me if that link has worked, as I see a different view of it as the sponsor!!

2. **Gift aid Scheme**

Gift Aid is a government scheme that refunds income tax on charitable donations, including subscriptions and donations. It currently adds 25% to eligible Guild income. However, members must fill in a declaration form, and not all have done so.

I am forwarding a listing of the Gift Aid members to Branches. Any new applicants can retrospectively claim for four years. Gift Aid application forms can be obtained from your Branch Treasurer and the annual membership update forms include a sign-up form.

3. **Excess Branch Bank Balances**

Thank you to the three branches that have forwarded one-off transfers of their surplus funds to the Bell Fund. The Charity Commission gives our charity tax-exempt status on our income, as long as we are using our membership fees to meet our objectives and are not building bank balances.

4. **Give as you Earn Scheme**

An even better scheme than Gift Aid, for higher rate tax-payers, is the **Give as You Earn (GAYE) scheme**. You sacrifice an element of your salary, diverted to a payment account which can ONLY be spent on donations to registered charities. In effect, you can donate £100 by sacrificing only £40. In my company, we sacrifice from £20 to £700 per month for employees who are then able to contribute large amounts to charity. If this seems relevant to your situation, feel free to contact me.

If anyone has any ideas over and above those mentioned above, please follow up on them. If you need any help from me just shout.

Chris FitzGerald, Treasurer

M: 07761 180369, E: treasurer@pdg.org.uk

Master's Travels N°3

Master's travels continued at the same pace as we left it in 2025. We were invited into a quarter peal at St Mary's on the 4th January, of Century Little Bob Triples. A great start to the ringing year. A new method for us and good to ring with members of the Peterborough branch.

The first 10 bell practice of the year saw 22 people at Rothwell, including visitors from the Bedfordshire association. Swindon was the special method and we also rang rounds and call changes, plain hunt 9, Cambridge Surprise Royal, Grandsire and Stedman Caters.

As Master I attended two branch AGMs this year. The Kettering branch held its AGM at Corby on the recently rehung 6 which are a pleasure to ring. The Peterborough branch AGM was held at Fotheringhay. After a lovely service in the very cold church, a short meeting took place in the village hall, followed by a splendid tea.

Having moved to the Rutland branch at the end of 2025, it's been a great pleasure to ring at some new towers and talk to branch members at their practices. It was a real honour to be asked to call Sam Ryder's first quarter peal at Great Casterton in February.

The 8 bell practice at Weedon Bec in the Daventry branch in March attracted 24 members including new faces from the Culworth branch. As a new venture this was wonderful to see. There was something for everyone from rounds and call changes to surprise major. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event.

Jim Bence



Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Great Casterton, Rutland

St Peter and St Paul

Thursday, 12 February 2026 in 43m (5-1-18 in Ab)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Sam Ryder
- 2 Lois Webb
- 3 Ann Archer
- 4 Charlotte Peacock
- 5 Jim Bence (C)
- 6 Sarah Bence

First 1/4 peal 1

New Logo, New Clothes

With the arrival of a new Guild logo, which was reported on in the last newsletter, we have extended the range of clothing. It now features both a fleece bodywarmer and a padded one, both of which are eminently suitable for ringing. All items now have the new logo embroidered on them and can have a tower, branch or benefice name embroidered underneath.



For full details please contact Cathy Dixon 100_club@pdg.org.uk to get the up-to-date brochure. A summary of the items available is as follows:

T shirt	£11.00
Unisex polo shirt	£15.50
Ladies polo shirt	£15.50
Long-sleeved polo shirt	£21.00
Sweatshirt	£23.50
Hoodie	£24.00
Zippered Hoodie	£26.00
Fleece	£27.50
Sweat-cardigan	£20.00
Fleece bodywarmer	£22.00
Padded bodywarmer	£30.50

Young Ringers' Outing to Midlands Competition

The day started at 11:20, leaving Daventry to make the 55 minute drive up to Steeple Aston, where the order of the guilds is decided. My group was picked to go 6th out of 7 groups.

There were no other towers open yet, so we spent the next two hours enjoying the sun and playing in the park next to the village hall. Eventually our slot came up, at 2:40, and we climbed up the tower of St Peter & St Paul, where we performed



our practice, and then the test piece. After that, there was an hour of enjoying the sun more, while the judges decided everyone's scores.

At 16:15, all groups then went to sit down in the village hall, to receive the results and the food afterwards. My group, unfortunately, got 6th place, which isn't the best, but it just means we will practice even more for the upcoming National competition. After the results, a dinner consisting of jacket potatoes, chili con carne, vegan chili con carne, or baked beans, with garlic bread and cheese, was served, and everyone enjoyed their share of the food. After that, we all concluded the day and made the 50 minute trip back home

Kaiden McCreath

Guild Annual Quiz Sheet

Whilst the Guild does not always have a Quiz Night, there has been a paper quiz sheet for decades. These are sold at a very modest price of £1 and all the profits go to the Bell Fund, thus raising hundreds of pounds each year.

Simon and I took over from Derek Jones as compilers of these quizzes in 2021, and changed the format slightly from having just one theme to five/six different rounds.

Trying to set a quiz that is do-able and interesting but sufficiently challenging is tricky, especially as most people have easy access to the internet to look things up. We try to have a mixture of styles of questions as well as subject matter to appeal to a wide audience, but hopefully many people are willing to part with £1 in a good cause anyway.

Each year the quiz is made available at the Summer Festival and onwards. Each Branch has usually at least one individual selling copies, but also some are sold across the country to friends and family. The deadline was extended to the end of February so that copies could be sold at Branch AGMs to anyone who had missed out earlier.

There are three cash prizes of £25, £10 and £5 given to the highest scores from those who submit their completed sheets to us. If there is a tie, we get an independent random draw done. In the last five years we have written cheques to ten different winners. The winners and the expected answers are published in March on the Guild website.

This year 21 people submitted their completed sheets, out of the hundreds of sheets that were sold. Thanks to everyone who supported this fundraising activity.

There were three entrants who scored full marks, so we had an independent draw to select who got which prize, but they are all to be congratulated - Andrew Ashenhurst, Liz Reading and Jean Baker.

The next quiz will be available for distribution at the Summer Festival in September. Look out for it and enjoy the challenge. If you haven't bought a quiz sheet in the past,

please do consider doing so this year, and if you have a burning desire to set one yourself, let us know!

Cathy Dixon 100_club@pdg.org.uk

Greetham, St Mary Restoration Project

For several years prior to 2022, the bells of St Mary the Virgin were not rung regularly. This changed in 2023 when we recruited a new team of bell ringers. After a few practices the inevitable happened, a broken stay or two! Whilst replacing the stay, the poor state of the bells, alongside rusting and corrosion of the bell frame, were noted. Urgent action was needed to repair, restore and ultimately make them safe. Three bell-hanging firms all confirmed our worst fears, the lot needed to come out!



Corroded Steel Frame

Fundraising commenced with a village ceilidh in January 2024. At this point the target of £50k seemed a long way off. Most of 2024 was spent applying for grants, organising and hosting events and general fundraising. We reached our base target to refurbish the bells and replace the steel frame within 10 months. At the December carol service the bells rang out for the last time. The ropes and stays were subsequently removed, and the bell hangers arrived on 13th January 2025. The bells were on view in the church prior to being transported to Loughborough for a spruce up. More than one hundred people visited the church to see the bells before they left, and a similar number came to see them after restoration. A new bespoke steel bell frame was manufactured, and some of the original cast iron parts were reused.

No project is without its glitches. On foundry testing, the treble bell was found to be flat, the only solution being to retune the set. This bell was added in 1949 to the 1923 peal of five. Woodworm and rot were found in both the clock chamber and belfry floors - these are in the process of being replaced. Luckily we raised sufficient for a contingency fund for the unexpected!

Installation of the new bell frame and rehanging the bells took eight weeks. It was important to keep everyone up-to-date and engaged. We regularly publicised progress on the village Facebook page. Many messages of encouragement were received, showing a sense of anticipation to hear the bells ring once more. We were given airtime on Rutland Radio and a piece was published in the Rutland and Stamford Mercury.

The bells were finally ready to ring for our village celebration on the 12th September, during which we welcomed them back and heard them ring in their retuned glory. On

the 14th September the church was full for the rededication service, led by the Bishop of Peterborough.

The bell ringers have now returned to practise on Fridays and ring for Sunday services. We held a recruitment drive for new bell ringers and hope to increase our band.

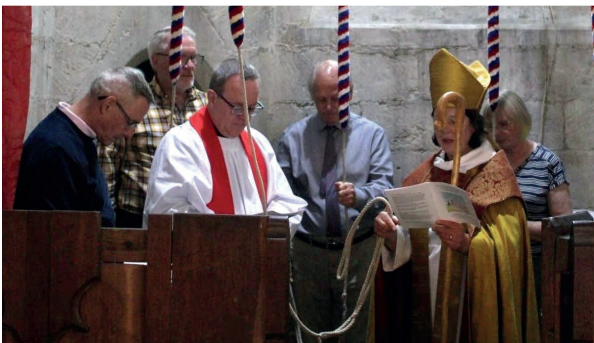
Greetham church bells are also the village's war memorial. The original bells were recast and rehung on a new steel frame in 1923 and dedicated as such. Villagers at the time raised £600 for this work. The significance of the bells as our war memorial was portrayed by one of villagers who wrote and delivered a short account at our village celebration. "The Story of the Bells", emphasised that, although the men who died as a result of war did not hear the bells, we can remember them every time that we do! A very thought-provoking and poignant reminder for everyone.



Bells' Return July 2025

Obtaining the faculty for the project was onerous. Whilst appreciating that boxes must be ticked, the months of waiting for a decision could have derailed the project, especially as some grants are time-limited.

Our thanks and gratitude go to all those who readily donated to the cause, be they individuals or charities. Their generosity enabled us to meet our target so quickly. Grants were received from the Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust, Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, the Benefact Trust, Jack



Bishop Debbie rededicates the bells

Patston Charitable Trust, the War Memorials Trust, the Sharpe Trust, the Helen Jean Cope Charity and Tesco Stronger Starts (Blue Token). We received the most votes in the Oakham store.

Preserving the tradition of bell ringing is important, as is honouring the legacy of those who gave their lives for their country.

John Courtney



2026 will be the 150th birthday of the world-wide Christian charity, Mothers' Union. Started by Mary Sumner in 1876, the Mothers' Union is a Christian charity open to both men and women, who support marriage and Christian family life. They fund projects that meet the needs of local communities, like supplying free holidays to disadvantaged families, giving food bags during school holidays for children who would qualify for free school meals, and supporting the local prisons and chaplaincy teams, as well as many other local projects in the villages and towns across the country, and indeed the world.

I would like to suggest that every church which has an active Mothers' Union branch and also has bells may like to ring a Quarter Peal to celebrate this special year.

Mothers' Union is an international charity with over 4 million members in 84 countries, so it may be that ringing for this special year may be an international event.

In our Diocese of Peterborough, Bishop Debbie was enrolled as a member of Mothers' Union in 2024 and the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers is supportive of the idea.

The teams at the head office of Mothers' Union, at Mary Sumner House, are also in favour of the idea.

I would like to ask through this Guild newsletter whether branches would take up this challenge and ring for 150 years of Mothers' Union in 2026. A Bellboard event has been set up for this ringing throughout 2026.

Special dates to consider would be Saturday 18th July, when each Mothers' Union branch in our diocese is holding or participating in an event to celebrate the birthday of Mothers' Union, or alternatively Sunday 9th August which is known as Mary Sumner day, Mary being the founder of the charity. There will also be a Festival Service at Peterborough Cathedral on the afternoon of 9th August 2026. It would be wonderful if the Cathedral bells could be rung to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this world-wide charity.

If anyone would like more details about the Mothers' Union or Mary Sumner, please do contact me.

*Jean Rose, Diocesan Secretary
Mothers' Union Diocese of Peterborough
Email: jeanrose@btinternet.com*

Obituaries

Janet C Bowers

Sadly, Janet died at home on 3rd March. John Townley taught Janet to ring with quite a large group of Whilton villagers in the mid 1970s. Most of the others moved away from the village but Janet and her husband Ken stayed.

Janet was elected a member of the Guild in 1977 and went on to be Daventry Branch Secretary for 29 years, 1986 – 2014, and had been on the committee for three years before that. Janet last rang at a branch meeting in April 2015 and last attended one in March 2019.

Branch coach outings had been a feature for many years when Janet took over organisation from Iris Webb in 1986. They were always greatly anticipated, especially the mystery outing in 1996. The coach set off from Daventry Council offices to do a complete circuit of Daventry ring road before heading north to Worksop and Southwell Minster. Another in 2012 went south to the Marlborough area.

Janet also served for many years as secretary / treasurer to the Ladies Guild Northampton District from its inception in 1977.

Janet rang her first peal at Whilton on Easter Sunday, 19th April 1981, ringing the 2nd to Plain Bob Minor on the old 6 bells (tenor 9cwt). She also rang many quarter peals, including caters and royal at Daventry and her last was Plain Bob Triples on the eight at Whilton (new in 1994, tenor 13cwt) on 5th December 2010.

Her name is cast on the 1994 tenor bell, together with Harold Haynes, as they were churchwardens, and Canon Jim Richardson was the incumbent.

Ken has had serious health problems for some years and more recently Janet has had spells in hospitals but they had been able to live at home together in recent months.

The funeral is scheduled for Whilton church at 11am on Monday 30 March 2026.

Geoff Pullin



*Janet at Daventry 5 bell
competition 2011*

John Beadman

As Churchwarden of St Peter, Brooke, I would like to recognise the tremendous contribution John made to ringing at Brooke, much of which is recorded in the “Book of Bells” on display in the church.

In 1991, an offer was received from the Beadman family that, if the four existing bells were restored, they would donate a new tenor bell, complete with fixtures and fittings. There followed a massive fund-raising exercise by the village, which exceeded all expectations, allowing the purchase of a new treble bell to create a ring of six. John, alongside Nick Meadwell (then Steward of Rutland branch) and Harold Killingback, “worked, and worked and worked” on preparing the tower.



The Beadman family band at Braunston

The bells were cast by Taylors of Loughborough on the 3rd April 1992 and work began hanging the six bells on the May bank holiday, continuing for several days. Once they were installed, John became Tower Captain, a position he held until he retired from ringing in 2018. During this time, he inspired many people to ring, teaching them in a calm and supportive way.

The inscription on the new tenor bell reads “He who has ears to hear let him hear. A gift from the Beadman Family 1992”.

Ian Bell, Brooke

News from the Branches

Culworth Branch

Central Buckinghamshire Tower Tour

The Branch outing took place on the 3rd Saturday in March, and a minibus full of 14 ringers and some independent travellers, making a total of 24, set off on a beautiful spring morning towards the Chilterns. Armed with a splendid souvenir guide produced by Duncan, we arrived bright and early at the pretty village of Hardwick, four miles north of Aylesbury. Next door to a working, pungent-smelling farm, with blue skies and daffodils nodding in the morning breeze, the 14th Century church has a wonderful ring of 6 bells in G from a ground floor ringing area, behind a contemporary glass wall. We all had a good warm-up ring here, ably led by our Ringing Master, Nick, who kept us in check and well-entertained throughout the day.

Our next stop was at Aston Abbotts for another 6 bell tower, with earliest records of a church here from 1291. While a team rang up, Stuart, our driver for the day, took a “coffee and milkshake order” from a nearby dairy farm, which put us in good stead

for some Stedman Doubles, Grandsire and call changes - everyone had had a ring by now and was feeling on good form!

For our next stop, with some amazing views over the Vale of Aylesbury, we backtracked our route to Whitchurch (mentioned in the Domesday Book), to another ground floor ring of 6. The sound of the bells resonated across a quintessentially rural image of central Bucks: a churchyard full of daffodils, bright slants of sunlight splitting through the trees - what could keep the smiles from our faces after a successful morning? Forward then to our lunch stop at the Black Boy Inn at Oving, where we enjoyed scrumptious food, good beer and hearty conversation. Not to be outdone by the fact there are only three bells at Oving church, a band left the pub early to ring up, ready for Stedman Singles. However Chris was to find out that these three bells only had two stays between them!

We could hear our next tower from the Black Boy Inn - North Marston was our next stop. These bells had just been rung for a wedding, so we walked along the church path still covered in confetti, for another 6 bell, ground floor ring. This fine 12th Century church, nestled in this quiet North Bucks village, owes much of its grandeur and prominence to an Augustinian canon at the time, who discovered a holy spring, reputed for its healing properties, transforming North Marston into the third most popular pilgrimage destination in all England. The ringing, after a full belly and relaxing lunch break, didn't quite reflect that grandeur, but was still enjoyable!

Granborough tower is a ring of 5 bells up a short spiral staircase to a ringing balcony which overlooks the inside of the church and the central coke burner, which heats the church. We had comments from the locals that they'd never heard the bells rung like this before ... we took this as a compliment!

Our last stop was at St Laurence Church, Winslow, where we challenged ourselves to a ring of 8 bells, rehung in 2008. We managed a jolly mixture of call changes, plain hunt and bob triples, giving young Conor a chance to drive the 17cwt tenor ... "not doing that again," he exclaims as he stands the bell at the end, like an expert! After a team photograph at the church doorway, we ambled back to the minibus, through the old churchyard, to the musical sound of the bell tower clock, ringing out Old St David at 6pm precisely. Tired but happy, we all got home around 7 o'clock, after an excellent day. Huge thanks to Graham for organising a wonderful day of ringing and lunch... where to next year?!

Branch Correspondent: Jenny Griffiths

Daventry Branch

AGM at Daventry

In the afternoon of 17th January, 29 rang and seven didn't, including Liz Heath and Janice Barker who were hard at work preparing to serve teas in the hall. Revd Dawn led our service and Martin Heath played the organ. During the afternoon, Justine

Larter, a multimedia journalism student at the University of Northampton, filmed video footage for her documentary “Bell Ringing: The Lost Generation”.

The meeting began at 6.25pm with Jane welcoming the Guild Secretary and visitors from Northampton, Towcester and Guilsborough branches. Sue, our secretary, tripped in December and fell onto her wrist, causing a clean break, broke her glasses and got a few other scrapes. The cast was removed in January after she heroically took the AGM minutes on her laptop. Sue was ringing again from mid-February, but it hurt to grip.

The committee report for publication in the Annual Report was approved. Steward Jim Grennan apologised for not being as active as he intended but he aims to visit all towers in 2026. Best of luck Jim! The audited accounts were explained by the treasurer. Later we learned that Lloyds Bank have now decided that each registered charity can only have one account without charges so our branch shelter under the Guild’s charity number is to be withdrawn and we shall be subjected to £51 pa charges plus 50p per cheque. The PDG Treasurer is looking into a strategy for all branches who are affected.

Caitlin Taylor (Daventry) and Daniel Camps (Whilton) were elected and welcomed as new (student) members.

Helen Allton sprinted to take the chair for just long enough for Jane to be re-elected as our branch chair. Jane says she wants to retire in 2027. Other officers were re-elected. Sue Sutherland took on 100 Club Rep from Alison Buck.

Kaiden McCreath volunteered afterwards to assist me by translating my interminable blogs into smarter social-media-friendly, publicly available versions. Justin and Theresa Baker will work with him and others to broaden our outward facing social media into other platforms. Helen reminded us that the PDGCBR Facebook page is already linked with Instagram. The new committee (with new member Caitlin volunteering and cajoling Kaiden and Flynn Spires into joining her, with Jenny Lunn and Theresa Baker) will help drag us gently towards the mid-21st Century.

Helen Allton passed on the message from the Guild Treasurer that the Charity Commission requires registered charities, like our Guild, to spend money and not hoard it. Can we look at spending some of our £2,000 branch surplus to promote ringing effectively?

The Branch programme was agreed, and now shows an extra joint meeting with Towcester Branch and youth events.

Helen Camps had found that organising quarter peals had rather too many variables, so will continue in simplified form by arranging a quarter peal every other month at Whilton on the fourth Thursday and at Weedon on the fourth Friday on the intervening months. Quarters can be on 6 or 8 bells.

The meeting ended at 7.20pm. Evening ringing till nearly 9pm was supported by 16 including a visitor from Bedford.

The branch hosted the Guild Quiz. Anne writes:

“The Guild Quiz was held at Nether Heyford village hall on Saturday 14th February and although a loyal band of local helpers arrived early to help set up, Helen and Richard Allton had everything under control.

The quiz master, Hilary Aslett, was on fine form, guiding us through the evening with firm direction. There were the usual selection of loosely ringing-related team names, and Daventry branch was well represented with members in four of the teams.

Over a fresh chippie supper we had the usual picture round and cryptic quiz, with a good mix of questions that allowed for a measure of collaborative guesswork. Hot drinks were provided and most people also brought their own selection of beverages. Washing up was completed with the usual efficiency by the local volunteers and everything was packed away and restored to order by about 10pm.

It was a very pleasant evening with all teams finding the questions to be interesting and relevant.”

February meeting

With Justin away, Gwynneth deputised as Ringing Master at Braunston, and soon led the bells up. Ringing covered the usual range, with three lots of rounds and call changes for Daniel Camps with his sister Emma ringing backstrokes with aplomb. 23 rang but nobody from Braunston! We were pleased to have a rare appearance from Dominic Sinclair, George Wrycroft and Simon Creasey (“the lost generation”?) here and later at Welton. We retreated into the warmth of the vestry for a good tea supplied by the Braunston band and served by Annette and Ann with a lot of cake!

Jane Rands took the opportunity to present Janet Caunt with the certificate marking her 50-year Guild membership. Janet was a Braunston ringer for many years and was Tower Captain when the Guild celebrated its golden jubilee, but now doesn't feel stable enough to ring. Jonathan Cook proposed a vote of thanks which was carried with acclamation.



Janet Caunt studies her 50-year certificate

Seventeen made the short trip to another tower in this three-parish benefice, Welton, where a visitor joined us from Oxfordshire. Seventeen were willing to climb the ladder to ring. I received Justin's baton for this tower and tried hard to avoid the tower's trade-mark rhythm of 123..4....5. Some stately call changes marked success, and some energy-saving Winchendon Place Doubles amongst other methods occupied us until 8pm. We left the bells up ready for Sunday's service ringing. We were interested to see the way the chairs had been positioned so as to restrain sitters-out!

March meeting

On a nice warm and sunny 21st March, the Midlands Young Ringers met in the Oxford Diocese (see p8). Thanks to Olivia Hunt for leading our contingent while the Branch Ringing Master was yet to return from holiday abroad. Our Secretary had also just returned from holiday suffering with a cold. This depleted the numbers ringing at Nether Heyford to 14, including six of the home team and two visitors from Loughborough. Jackie Gibbard observed proceedings. Carole was in charge for a range of methods. Thanks to the Heyford band for organising and supplying a good buffet tea. In the evening, eleven moved on to Bugbrooke, and local Jane Asbury joined us for some steady ringing until we ran out of energy around 7.45pm.



Sit up straight at Welton!



The band for 1st QP for Caitlin (right) and 1st on 10 for Jonathan 3rd from left and Kaiden 2nd from right

Ringling

On New Year's Day, a quarter of Plain Bob Minor was rung at Whilton, conducted by Justin in memory of Chris Camps, Helen's mother-in-law.

Caitlin Taylor rang her first quarter peal at first attempt by ringing the treble to Plain Bob Caters at Daventry, conducted by Jim White during the church's first Snowdrop Trail on 15th February, a rather wet and miserable day. It was also first on ten for Kaiden McCreath and Jonathan Cook. Jonathan has also rung four quarters of minor and doubles at Crick and Guilsborough this year.

Anne Prestwick rang her first quarter peal on 8 at Weedon on 27th February by ringing the 5th to Plain Bob Triples, conducted by Gwynneth.

Badby Bells

The prolonged absence of Badby bells caused the Wednesday practice nights to continue to wander in 2026. Badby's thanks go to Newnham (5 more times) and Staverton (6 more times) for hosting them. The bells eventually returned on 2nd March, and by the end of the week they were all in the tower with most fittings in place. Much of the remaining work was completed by another bellhanger on 11th March. Our first practice was postponed until the following Wednesday, when the job was finished after a long day of final adjustments and flapboard installation, with Andrew Nicholson and Chris Cozens leaving at 8.30pm to travel back to Dorset. The story will follow in the next edition!



Bell 3 with canon-retaining headstock

Geoff Pullin



Minor masonry modifications required to let the tenor pass

Guilsborough Branch

Thanks to Richard Green of East Farndon

The Faxton Benefice Ringers were very sad to receive a message from Richard just after Christmas to say that, sadly, he had decided that he was no longer fit enough to ring our bells and was thus hanging up his rope for good, a very brave decision.

So we asked Revd James Watson for an opportunity to thank Richard (or Dick as most ringers know him) for all that he has done for ringing in this area. Revd. James kindly set aside part of the Morning Service for a presentation followed by a Ringers Hymn “We who ring the bells of churches”.

Richard was taught to ring some 60 years ago, joining the band at East Farndon to ring the bells with Cameron and others, but as a good engineer he has also been helping to maintain the tower, the clock and the bells there ever since.

Not only at East Farndon. Richard came over to Arthingworth with Alan Elliott from Oxendon some 30 years ago to “show Kate (Morse) the ropes” and has supported her and her band ever since. He has also taught many ringers, and regularly supported ringing not only across the wider Faxton Benefice at Arthingworth, Maidwell, Draughton, Great Oxendon, and now Harrington, but also in many towers across the surrounding area including Lubenham and Clipston.

Indeed, when a new band of learner ringers was created in Maidwell in 2015, he (and his faithful shadow Basil!) kindly came along most weeks in an array of different cars to help with their practices, and the band benefitted greatly from his expertise.

They and others from the Faxton Benefice have been delighted to repay his kindness by ringing for services at East Farndon ever since.



His other interests occasionally aligned with ringing – such as the quarter peal at Stoke Lacy Church around 2010, rung by members of the Morgan Owners Club to celebrate the centenary of the Morgan car at the church associated with the Morgan family.

Richard’s contribution to ringing over these many years has been immense. He has helped maintain not only bells and clocks, but traditions, friendships, and standards. He has passed on skills to others who will in turn continue ringing and teaching others long into the future — a legacy that will outlast us all.

So, on behalf of both the Guild and local ringers, Alistair Donaldson presented Richard with an engraved glass tankard. Alistair added: “May it be well used,

frequently filled, and always remind you that, although you may be retiring from regular ringing, you will always remain part of our band.”

Richard – Dick - Thank you.

International Women’s Day at Cold Ashby

A band gathered at Cold Ashby to ring a quarter peal of Mixed Doubles to commemorate International Women’s Day.

The band consisted of Liz Reading (Conductor), Fiona Barclay , Elaine Greatrex and Sarah Johnson (Guilsborough Branch), Helen Camps (Daventry Branch), and Lisa Netherwood, a regular ringer at Crick.



The ringing was much enjoyed by all, and it marked a first quarter peal of Mixed Doubles for both Lisa and Helen. Very well done to everyone involved!

Guilsborough Branch Quarter Peal Day

14 February 2026 – By Anthea Hiams

The Branch’s latest Quarter Peal Day proved to be a very successful event. Six quarter peals were attempted, of which five were successful. One ringer rang their first quarter peal, and five others achieved a first in a new method.

Ruaraidh McDonald Walker (Brixworth) rang his first quarter peal on the tenor, covering to Grandsire Doubles at Brixworth.



Fiona Barclay (Scaldwell) rang Grandsire Doubles for the first time at Cold Ashby.



Elaine Greatrex (Scaldwell) rang St Clement's College Bob Minor for the first time at Guilsborough.

Sarah Johnson (Brixworth) rang Grandsire Triples for the first time at Crick. Afterwards, the band enjoyed a pub lunch at the conveniently located Wheatsheaf, just along from the tower.



Two further firsts in method were achieved at Crick: Jonathan Cook (Daventry) and Marie McSeveney, a regular ringer at Crick, both rang Grandsire Doubles for the first time.



A big thank you to everyone who took part and made it such an enjoyable and successful day.

A Family Affair at Crick

The Cort family have a long association with St Margaret's, Crick. Joe Cort began building a remarkable model of the church in 1993, completing it in 2000. Joe sadly passed away recently, and the model has now been gifted to the church. It is a truly wonderful working model, complete with electric lighting and even organ music.



Joe's daughter Julie recently celebrated a significant birthday, and her family arranged a special visit to Crick for her to chime the bells. Nick Hiams organised a splendid occasion, showing Julie the bells in the tower and giving her a lesson on the back bells. A very happy birthday to Julie!

Fiona Barclay

Kettering Branch

AGM 10th January 2026

Our AGM was held at St. John the Baptist, Corby. There was ringing before the service taken by the Rector, Revd Paul Frost. An excellent ringers' tea was put on by the local band from Corby.

The meeting noted several changes to the officers and membership of the Branch Committee, in particular Jonathan Seymour was elected as Branch Secretary, Helen Churchman was elected as an additional Assistant Ringing Master, and Bill Adcock stood down from the Committee after many years' service. The meeting was attended by the Guild President, Alistair Donaldson, and Guild Ringing Master, Jim Bence, who both spoke about their plans for the future and coming year. One item of discussion of particular note was the level of funds held by the Branch. The Committee is committed to making sure that surplus funds are used effectively to support bells and bellringing, rather than being unnecessarily retained.

More ringing followed after the meeting.

Monthly Meeting 16th February 2026

The monthly ringing meeting was held at Orlingbury, St. Mary in the Wellingborough Branch. The meeting was attended by some 18 ringers, including ringers from the Orlingbury tower and Thrapston Branch.

It was a busy meeting, with ringing ranging from rounds and call changes through to Beverley Surprise Minor and Stedman Doubles.

Many commented on the tidy and inviting atmosphere in the ringing chamber at Orlingbury, and it was considered that the Branch should introduce an initiative to recognise high standards across our towers.

Monthly Meeting 14th March 2026

This meeting had been planned to be held at Brampton Ash. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties in the ringing chamber this could not take place and the meeting was quickly reorganised at Great Cransley, St. Andrew.

The Branch Steward kindly made a visit to the Belfry just prior to the meeting to checkout concerns with the frame.

On another glorious sunny Spring afternoon, the meeting was attend by 18 ringers with the bells being kept in action by the Ringing Master and two Assistants. Ringing ranged from rounds and call changes through to Cambridge Surprise and the official 'Method of the Month', Beverley Surprise.

In between ringing there was opportunity to explore this historic church. Although it is one of the more recent additions, of particular interest is the American Memorial Window, reflecting the long association with American forces in the area, depicting

Churchill and Roosevelt at the Atlantic Conference in 1941. This is probably the only piece of church stained glass to show someone holding a cigar.

Refreshments were served towards the end of the meeting and included some very tasty cakes baked by the Branch Chairman, Jane Marsh.

During the meeting I overheard comments about Cransley bells being the nicest 6 in the Branch.

Branch Tower Open Day

It is proposed to hold a Tower Open Day on Saturday 16th May, the 3rd Saturday in the month, the proceeds to be given towards the fund for the re-hanging of the bells at St. Botolph, Stoke Albany. Arrangements are now well underway, and it is hoped to have over 20 towers open on the day.

Peals and Quarter Peals

Rosalind Willatts, a long-time ringer at Wilbarston, All Saints, who worked tirelessly for the community, was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List. A peal was rung at Burton Latimer, St. Mary the Virgin on the 6th January in recognition.

Hannah Conlon, who started ringing as part of the Ring for the King initiative, a member of the newly formed band at Cottingham, St. Mary Magdalene and member of the branch committee, rang her first quarter inside.

A quarter was rung to coincide with the resumption of Evensong services at Corby St. John the Baptist on 1st March. The Band included Cathy Mason, the joint Tower

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire

St Mary the Virgin

Tuesday, 6 January 2026 in 2h 55 (10–0–13 in F)

5152 Opal Surprise Major

Composed by Richard I Allton (No 2845)

- 1 Murray A Coleman
- 2 Robert M Wood
- 3 Simon J Dixon
- 4 James E Benner
- 5 Julie A Tarling
- 6 Robert J Lane
- 7 James M Bence
- 8 Richard I Allton (C)

A compliment to Rosalind Willatts on being awarded a BEM for services to the community in Wilbarston, Northamptonshire, in the New Year's Honours.

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Wilbarston, Northamptonshire

All Saints

Sunday, 1 February 2026 in 44m (7–2–15 in A_b)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Murray Coleman
- 2 Helen Churchman (C)
- 3 Hannah Conlon
- 4 Colin Ashworth
- 5 Jim Bence
- 6 Sarah Bence

Congratulation to local ringer Rosalind Willatts on being awarded the BEM for services to the community.

1st inside - 3

For Candlemass

PDGCBR

Corby, Northamptonshire

St John the Baptist

Sunday, 1 March 2026 in 42m (7–3–19 in B_b)

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Cathy Mason
- 2 Pam Bailey
- 3 Alistair Donaldson (C)
- 4 David Dainty
- 5 Gordon Brown
- 6 Andrew Gunstone

1st quarter for treble for many years. 1st quarter for 5th for 10 years. Rung for evensong at Corby.

Captain, who last rang a Quarter some years ago, and local ringer Gordon Brown, who last rang a Quarter 10 years ago.

Daniel Counsell, one of our young ringers, rang his first quarter inside at Desborough on Mothering Sunday. The band included his mother and grandmother.

David Dainty

**Peterborough Diocesan Guild
Desborough**, Northamptonshire
St Giles

Sunday, 15 March 2026 (9–2–4 in G)

1260 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Daniel Counsell
- 2 Sally Counsell
- 3 Helen Churchman
- 4 Murray Coleman (C)
- 5 Jenny Ball
- 6 Colin Ashworth
- 7 Nicholas Churchman
- 8 Kim Beasley

First of Triples: 1

Rung for Mothering Sunday

Northampton Branch

The New Year for the Northampton Branch started well, with our Branch AGM on Saturday 24th January, which was held at St. Benedict's church, West Hunsbury. Thank you for the use of the church and to Geoff Brown for the use of the bells. Also thank you to Revd Tracy Pegram, the vicar from Wootton church, who took the service. Fifteen ringers from the Northampton Branch and across the Peterborough Guild attended, and several others came to ring the bells. Thank you to Debbie Sampson for running the ringing and for providing a delicious tea. Thanks also to Liz Moore and Bridget Paul for baking some lovely cakes, and to those who helped.

A new branch chairman was voted in, Hilary Aslett, which we were very pleased about, as we been without one over the last year. A vote was taken for Milton Malsor to move from the Northampton Branch into the Towcester Branch, due to the other churches in their benefice being in the Towcester Branch. The vote was carried.

Following the AGM in January, our first branch practice of the new year was held at St. John the Baptist church on the afternoon of Saturday 23rd February. Thirteen ringers from Northampton and other branches attended. Thank you to Walter Thompson for the use of the bells and Hilary Aslett too for providing tea, biscuits and cake. Some of the ringers were able to ring St. Hilary as one of the methods that afternoon.

On the morning of Wednesday 13th March, St. Luke's Duston had a visiting band on an outing from North Bucks to ring, along with others from the Peterborough Guild. It was a lovely morning weather-wise and ringing-wise. Both doors were open, sun shining through the windows. Very nice people, including people who had known Cecil Swan, the former tower caption at Duston, before he passed away. They also remembered Cecil's daughter, Liz Leaman, as a little girl and a few that she still knows, so it was good to catch up and reminisce. They rang rounds, call changes, plain hunt, Grandsire (one of Cecil's favourite methods), St. Clements and Cambridge, among other methods. They were very well organised, with a

trolley/truck of water, kettles, mugs, three big cakes, etc, as some of the churches they visit don't have a kitchen or a toilet, even though Duston does.

Liz Moore, Branch Secretary

Rutland Branch

Ringling Practice - 10th December

We had a fabulous number of ringers attending the 8 bell practice on December 10th. This practice was hosted jointly by Uppingham tower, with regular ringers from Brooke and Braunston. Ringing Master, Ian Bell, and Braunston and Brooke Tower Captain, Richard Beadman, taking the lead.

Several towers and all levels of ability were represented, with the ringing including something for everyone. Some had not rung on 8 bells before, so they started gently with rounds and call changes, progressing to Plain Hunt on 7. Everyone was thrilled with their achievements. The new ringers rang call changes with a supporter standing by. The experienced and competent ringers had their opportunity when Triples methods were rung.

With so many in the tower, 17 in all, we were able to keep the ringing going with little time lost at changeovers.

Regular Branch 8 bell practices, at both Uppingham and Oakham, are planned over the coming year.

John Beadman

John Beadman's funeral was held at Brooke on January 20th (see obituary p13). A quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung before the service. After the service, a quarter peal of Netherseale Surprise Minor was rung at Braunston by members of the Beadman family: Richard, David, Mike, Matthew and Jane Beadman with Tessa Simpson.

Stella Wilkinson

A Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Doubles was rung after the funeral of Stella Wilkinson on 29th January.

Stella had been a lifetime ringer, in Warwick and in Rutland, among many other hobbies. She had many interests, the congregation comprising many from her walking club, friends from her and Peter's days with the caravan club, as well as many ringers from Rutland and Warwickshire.

Sue Webster, Rutland Branch Correspondent.

Thrapston Branch

A very successful AGM at St. James' Thrapston started off our ringing year, but it was tinged with sadness as our beloved friend and colleague Len Hallifax passed away a few days before, and his joviality, wisdom and presence was and is very much missed. Len learnt to ring at St. Peter's Lowick, where he was born and brought up and worked there on the Drayton Estate for many years. He was taught to ring by Frank Crozier, another formidable name from the past. His funeral at St. Peter's was a wonderful celebration of his life with so many past and present ringers there, all of whom were better and richer for knowing Len. More tributes will follow in the coming weeks including peals and quarter peals in Len's memory, but he has left an irreplaceable legacy within the Thrapston Branch.

We have continued to meet regularly for our monthly afternoon practice on the third Thursday of the month; initially at Thrapston but as warmer and brighter weather returns we shall venture out to the more rural towers. Our newest ringers and members are progressing well, and have certainly seemed to have caught the "Ringing Bug". We are always pleased to hear compliments from the local residents and passers-by, such as "It was lovely to hear the bells ringing".

We have also been able to continue to enjoy the social side of bellringing, with bellringing teas and tower outings to look forward too.

We now look forward to 2026 with a very pleasing number of new members elected and more returning ringers joining us.

Alison Byrnes

Towcester Branch

Branch AGM

The Branch AGM was held on January 24th at Potterspury, St Nicholas (6, 13cwt).

Jonathan Stuart (Chairman) and Odette Dawkins (PRO) stepped down from their positions on the Committee. Our thanks go to them for all their work. Nigel Williams was voted into the position of Chairman, Cassia Lorrimore as PR Officer and Bob Lorrimore as a general member.

The AGM was well attended and a variety of methods were rung for all levels.

A delicious tea was provided by Mavis Benson and Claire Yates with donations of food from the local band.

Blisworth Branch Practice

There was a branch practice on February 28th at Blisworth, St John the Baptist (6, 12cwt). This was attended by 29 members who gathered to ring, with Baldrick Little Bob Doubles and Double Oxford Bob Minor selected as methods to concentrate on.

Tea, coffee and cake was provided by the local ringers who enjoyed meeting everyone.

Milton Malsor, Holy Cross

At the General Management Committee of the Guild on the 7th March, the transfer of Holy Cross, Milton Malsor to the Towcester Branch was



Evening practice at Blisworth

ratified. We welcome Holy Cross into the branch and look forward to a practice there in the not-too-distant future. They are part of the Grand Union Benefice along with Blisworth, Grafton Regis, Stoke Bruerne and Alderton, which are all in the Towcester branch, so it made sense for them all to be in the same branch.

A recent inspection by Taylor's noticed an issue with the Hastings stay on the tenor. This has been examined and an initial correction made by Chris Bulleid and Andy Blackwell.

Taylor's report detailed some of the history of the bells. The 5 bells at Holy Cross, Milton Malsor were cast by Bagley in 1686, though they had their canons removed when they were tuned in 1961. They are in a steel frame, with cast iron headstocks, ball bearings and Hastings stays, supplied by Taylor Bell Foundry in 1961.



Holy Cross, Milton Malsor

Branch Evening Practice, Pattishall

The branch had an evening branch practice on Monday 23rd March at Pattishall, Holy Cross (8, 11cwt). This was a change from our normal time of a Saturday morning, but was well attended with 21 ringers.

The evening was run with methods for all. Congratulations to Margaret Shelley, Ian Bush and Peter Banks for ringing on 8 bells and also ringing Plain Hunt on 7 – a first for them all.

The chosen method for the evening, Double Norwich Court Bob Major, was achieved along with Cambridge Major, Stedman Triples, Grandsire Triples and Call Changes.

Thanks to Chris Bulleid for running an enjoyable evening, and to all who attended.



Branch practice at Holy Cross, Pattishall

Branch Training

Margaret Bulleid runs a regular Saturday practice at Cold Higham, St Luke (6, 8cwt), providing training and increasing the confidence of our branch members with various bell-handling exercises and methods rung.

The training is now supplemented with simulator practice at Pattishall. Grateful thanks to Alan Faiers for developing, making and installing the simulator at Pattishall. Sensors are installed on all 8 bells, and the system enables up to three ringers to practice simultaneously and independently. First-time users can quickly learn to cover by ear, then move on to learning to ring plain hunt by rhythm and counting places. Anyone can practice methods, ranging from plain bob to Surprise, on 6 bells, 8 bells and beyond. Sessions are often run on Saturdays, 10:00-11:00, with other times available by arrangement.

Cassia Lorrimore

Wellingborough Branch

Since the last newsletter, the Wellingborough Branch has held its AGM at Moulton, an afternoon practice at Wollaston, treble dodge practices at Wilby and Orlingbury and an evening practice at Wellingborough. All well attended and beneficial.

Ladies of the Branch rang a quarter peal to mark International Women's Day which was also Pam's 2000th quarter peal.

Pam Bailey

Ecton

We still manage to ring for most of our two Sunday Holy Communion services each month and our Wednesday practice nights. We have also started to ring on alternate 1st Wednesdays of the month, at either Wilby or Great Doddington. All of this is with the invaluable help of several ringers from nearby towers. We currently have a lady from Ecton who is learning to ring and is doing well.

David Dicks

Irchester

Despite being short of ringers, with help from our Wollaston friends, St Katharine's still manage to ring all 8 bells every two weeks for morning service. We have one new recruit and two novice ringers who are progressing well but, despite advertising locally, we've had no others interested.

After a clapper fell out (what a racket!) we had a belfry inspection and are now awaiting a report. Might be costly!

Marion Whittaker

Rushden

In January, a quarter peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung to celebrate Pam's 70th birthday, by Guild members and ringing friends. The celebrations continued after our AGM which was held at Sarah & Jim's house the same week.

Simon's team won the Guild Quiz which was held at Nether Heyford in February.

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire

St Peter

Sunday, 8 March 2026 in 46m (10–1–4 in G)

1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

- 1 Pam M Bailey
- 2 Jenny A Ball
- 3 Catherine E Hemmington
- 4 Fiona H Lock
- 5 Helen J Manktelow
- 6 Jayne M Horne (C)

Rung by Ladies of the Wellingborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild on International Women's Day.

2000th Quarter Peal - 1

Peterborough Diocesan Guild

Rushden, Northamptonshire

St Mary

Thursday, 22 January 2026 in 46m (18–0–17 in E)

1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- 1 Simon J Dixon (C)
- 2 Pam M Bailey
- 3 Sarah E Hedgcock
- 4 Catherine E Hemmington
- 5 Robert Dennis
- 6 Steven A Millington
- 7 Alistair Donaldson
- 8 Patrick J S Albon

Rung to celebrate Pam Bailey's 70th birthday.

We continue to ring on Friday evenings and Sunday services. We are always grateful for the support of friends and visitors from other towers who come to support us.

Pam Bailey

Wollaston

We did, in fact, ring in the New Year of 2026, and each received a New Year potato from Harry, which now seems to be a tradition for us at Wollaston.

We welcomed our newest learner, Su, as a member of the Guild at the Branch AGM in January. Su is now ringing with us on alternate Sundays, as her schedule allows, and it's great to have a new member of the team.

It has been a quiet start to the year apart from the regular Sunday morning ringing and our weekly practice evening on a Wednesday. We look forward to ringing our bells in celebration on Easter morning, and the following month for Bell Sunday. We will also ring for Wollaston Open Gardens on 5th July.

We practice on Wednesday evening from 7.30pm till 9pm. If anyone would like to come and join us, they would be most welcome. We enjoy fun and fellowship over tea or coffee and cake part way through the practice, which makes it such an enjoyable occasion each week.

Thank you to all those who ring with us and help us to continue learning, especially John and Janet, Harry and Paul. I am most grateful for your help.

Jean Rose

Branch correspondent: Pam Bailey

100 Club

Since the last newsletter was produced, we have done 3 draws:

MONTH	No. of paid-up members	1 st Prize winner	1 st Prize value	2 nd Prize winner	2 nd Prize value	3 rd Prize winner	3 rd Prize value	4 th Prize winner	4 th Prize value
Jan	190	178Pe	£39.90	117Da	£26.60	66No	£19.00	191Pe	£13.30
Feb	195	38We	£40.95	39To	£27.30	202Da	£19.50	195Ru	£13.65
Mar	197	48Gu	£41.37	132Pe	£27.58	90We	£19.70	85Da	£13.79

The draws take place at a gathering of the Guild where possible. Sometimes this is not possible, so, for example, the January draw was done at a Branch AGM – Rutland this year. In February we did the draw at the Guild Quiz Night and in March at the GMC meeting where representatives of every branch were in attendance.

Since my last report, we have had new members sign up, so now have over 200 numbers allocated (although I am often chasing for unpaid subscription fees, so the numbers in the table above do not show this fact). However, there is no limit to the number of subscribers, so we are always looking for new members or for people to take out a second subscription.

So, if you are a member of the Guild and are interested in contributing, or want an additional number for the draws, or know someone else who might be interested, please get in touch.

Cathy Dixon 100_club@pdg.org.uk

GUILD EVENTS 2026

Please watch out for announcements about future Guild Events, broadcast through the usual channels, including the Guild website www.pdg.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/PDGCBBR.

April 11th, 2026

Ringling Up & Down in Peal, venue tbc (10:00) Booking required
Brooke & Braunston (Rutland Branch), Spring Festival (15:00)

May 9th, 2026

Call Changes, venue tbc (10:00) Booking required
10-bell Practice, Peterborough Cathedral (10:30)

June 13th, 2026

Leading Up & Down in Peal, venue tbc (10:00) Booking required
Irchester (Wellingborough Branch) – Service, tea & Guild AGM

July 11th, 2026

Bell Maintenance, venue tbc (10:00) Booking required
8-bell Practice, Welford (10:30)

August 8th, 2026

Ringling Up & Down in Peal, venue tbc (10:00) Booking required

September 12th, 2026

Bell Maintenance, venue tbc (10:00) Booking required
10-bell Practice, Towcester (10:30)
Brackley (Culworth Branch) – Summer Festival

October 10th, 2026

Grandsire Doubles, venue tbc (10:00)

November 14th, 2026

Plain Bob Doubles, venue tbc (10:00) Booking required