

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Old North Berks Branch

Bell Ringing Course, Summer 2017

Bells have been rung in this country for hundreds of years. Come to the Taster Sessions to find out how much ringers enjoy it and try it for yourself. We ring bells to celebrate joyful occasions, to mourn the deaths of our loved ones, as well as to call the parishioners to service on Sunday mornings. We go on outings to try out the bells in other towers all over the country.

Why learn to ring?

- A global group of friends
- Lifelong learning experience
- Maintain a traditional skill
- A service to the church
- Team activity
- A great mental workout
- Opportunity to visit amazing places

Aim of the course

We hope that a group of people new to ringing will learn enough about how to control a bell on this course that they will be able to take an active part in ringing with the group of ringers they choose to join.

Taster Sessions:

When	Tower	Dedication	Postcode
Thu 18 May, 7.00 pm	Harwell	St Matthew	OX11 0JG
Wed 24 May 7.30 pm	Cholsey	St Mary	OX10 9PS
Fri 26 May, 8.00 pm	Blewbury	St Michael & All Angels	OX11 9QH

Please attend at least one of the taster sessions to enrol on the course, to meet some of the ringers and to find out more. Course fee: £20 for the complete course. Payment by cash, cheques payable to Old North Berks Branch, or by bank transfer (phone Susan Read for details, 01235 529779). Places on the course are strictly limited.

Teaching sessions, all 7 - 8 pm:

(Provisional List which may be amended)

7-8 pm on	Tower	Dedication	Postcode
Mon 29 May	North Moreton	All Saints	OX11 9AT
Tue 30 May	Brightwell cum Sotwell	St Agatha	OX10 0RU
Fri 2 June	Blewbury	St Michael & All Angels	OX11 9QH
Mon 5 June	Long Wittenham	St Mary the Virgin	OX14 4QJ
Wed 7 June	Cholsey	St Mary	OX10 9PS
Thu 8 June	Harwell	St Matthew	OX11 0EZ
Mon 12 June	Didcot	All Saints	OX11 7EA
Tue 13 June	East Hagbourne	St Andrew	OX11 9ND
Thu 15 June	Wallingford -Cholsey	St Mary	OX10 9PS
Mon 19 June	Chilton	All Saints	OX11 0RZ
Wed 21 Thu 22	Aston Tirrold	St Michael	OX11 9DH
Fri 23 June	Blewbury	St Michael & All Angels	OX11 9QH
Mon 26 June	North Moreton	All Saints	OX11 9AT
Wed 28 June	Cholsey	St Mary	OX10 9PS
Thu 29 June	Harwell	St Matthew	OX11 0EZ
Mon 3 July	Little Wittenham	St Peter	OX14 4RB
Tue 4 July	Brightwell cum Sotwell	St Agatha	OX10 0RU
Thu 6 July	Wallingford -Cholsey	St Mary	OX10 9PS
Fri 7 July	End of course party! North Moreton Village Hall 7.00 – 10 pm		

What's Bell Ringing all about?

Bell ringing is a team activity that stimulates the brain and helps keep you fit ... it also makes a glorious sound! Many consider ringing to be their contribution to church life, others do it for the pure pleasure it brings.

Ringers come from all walks of life and range in age from ten to those in their eighties.

“When I’m ringing I forget all the tensions and frustrations of the day. Even better, you couldn’t wish for a nicer group of friends!”

Change Ringing

The origins of change ringing lie in the sixteenth century when church bells began to be hung with a full wheel. This gave ringers control of their bell, which allowed sets of bells (rings) to be rung in a continuously changing pattern.

Music is created by moving bells up and down the ringing order to a defined sequence of changes known as a method. Learning a few simple methods allows ringers to join in with other bands in towers around the world.

“One of the delights of change ringing is the endless opportunity to learn new things.”

Could I become a ringer?

Ringing is well within the capabilities of most people. The initial teaching takes several weeks, after which a learner can begin to ring with the rest of the band. Most ringers practice once or twice a week and ring before or after church on Sunday.

“Being able to count is all the maths needed and you can become a very good ringer knowing nothing about music.”

After the course

It usually takes some weeks/months before one can ring a bell safely alone, so meetings will continue at times to be agreed with the group who attend the course.

For more information, please view a five minute film:

<http://www.bellringing.org/youngpeople/>

Contact:

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<http://onb.odg.org.uk/live/index.html>

