

The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

For information on the Guild, see the Guild website: <http://odg.org.uk/>

Publications from the Guild:

Odd Bob – Printed May and November. now available on Guild website under *About the Guild/Publications*

Next Issue May 2026

Latest at [ODD BOB - Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers \(odg.org.uk\)](http://odg.org.uk/)

Annual Report – next issue available March 2026

The papers for the Guild General Committee Meetings can be found on the Guild website under *About the Guild/Publications/General Committee Meetings*

[General Committee Meetings - Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers](http://odg.org.uk/)

Subscriptions 2026 – Same as last year, £10 per ringer.. (£7 to Guild and £3 to Branch). A Branch can also request additional voluntary subs.

MEMBERMOJO Database

[Link to MemberMojo page](#)

MemberMojo went live in 2025. This year, 2026, the Guild are trialling online payment, as well as retaining the option to ‘**Pay with Via Tower / Branch**’. All members are asked to access their accounts, click on **Review** and update any information such as preferred communication, and also **RENEW for the current year ie 2026**. There are instructions on the website how to do that (but they have not been updated for 2026, ie mentioning pay online). Go to **Checkout**. . .

Payment	
Membership renewal: Ringing Member, 2026-01-01 to 2026-12-31	£10.00
Total: £10.00	
Back	Checkout Cancel

Select **Pay with Credit or Debit Card**, in which case your subscription is paid directly to the Guild and your subscription will say 'Completed'

Payment

Pay with credit or debit card

☒ Credit or debit card (processed by Stripe)

Card number: 1234 1234 1234 1234

Expiry date: MM / YY

CVC: CVC

Pay with Card

Pay with via Tower / Branch

☐ Via Tower / Branch

Don't forget to click on the Orange button 'Pay by Card' to complete the payment

OR

Choose **Pay with Via Tower / Branch** in which case **no** money will be taken on the website and subs will be collected in the usual way via your Tower Captain

Membership renewal: Ringing Member, 2026-01-01 to 2026-12-31 £10.00

Edit Remove

Total: £10.00

Payment

Pay with credit or debit card

☐ Credit or debit card (processed by Stripe)

Pay with via Tower / Branch

☒ Via Tower / Branch

Please pay your subscription via your Tower / Branch Treasurer as usual.
Your membership renewal will be 'pending' until the Guild Treasurer receives the payment from your Branch.
Payment instructions will also be sent to you by email.

Pay with Via Tower / Branch

Don't forget to click on the Orange button 'Pay with Via Tower/Branch' to complete the renewal.

As it says, your membership renewal will be 'pending' until the Guild Treasurer receives the payment from the Branch probably in mid March).

Monday 4th May Ringing Day, Bicester

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Training Requirements

- All ringers are required to complete the online Basic Awareness course
- Tower Captains and leaders of Guild youth groups drawn from more than own parish are required to complete both Basic Awareness and Foundation courses online
- Safeguarding Officer, and any others asked to do so by their own Parish should enrol on a face to face Leadership course with the Diocese

Online courses can be found on the Church of England portal:

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Booking for the Leadership is through the Diocesan website:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/>

Proposed changes to Guild management structure

The Guild is considering streamlining the Guild management structure. Currently, this is done by members of the General Committee who are elected Guild Officers, plus the Secretary and Guild Representative of the Branches (about 50 members). The General Committee meets twice a year. The reports and minutes of the meetings can be viewed on the ODG website at:

[General Committee Meetings - Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers \(odg.org.uk\)](https://www.odg.org.uk/General-Committee-Meetings)

Or look under *About the Guild\Publications\General-committee-meetings*

A proposal has been put forward to replace this structure with an Executive Committee consisting of elected Guild Officers who will be responsible for the management and running of the Guild, and setting future strategic direction

The General Committee will cease to exist but there will instead be a Scrutiny Committee consisting of approximately 20 members whose role is to scrutinise the work of the Executive and hold them to account. The membership of the Scrutiny Committee is expected to be: one spokesperson for each branch (15) and Ringing Vice Presidents

It is envisaged there will be in the region of six Scrutiny Committee meetings a year of which one will be a formal meeting in person.

Detailed papers referring to this can be found at

[General Committee Meetings - Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers \(odg.org.uk\)](https://www.odg.org.uk/General-Committee-Meetings)

Detailed papers describing the proposal are under the meeting of November 2024 and also the discussion points in the Minutes for that meeting.

In practical terms for the Branches, the role of Guild Representative would disappear. Each Branch would be asked to provide a spokesperson for the Scrutiny Committee

A copy of the changed Guild Rules can be found within the papers for the November 2025 General Committee meeting.

A vote on these changes will be taken at the AGM on 16th May 2026. If voted in favour, the new rules will be implemented ASAP.

Proposed changes to Striking Competition rules

Recently, the Guild Youth team entered the 6-bell striking competition at Cuddesdon but their makeup did not comply with the current team rules, stated below

Six Bell Competition.

This competition shall be open to one team from each Branch. A Branch wishing to participate must be represented by a Tower Band from within the Branch.

(ie, they were not all part of the same Branch/same Tower, being drawn from all over the Guild), They were allowed to ring, and given a score, but not included in the results. There was much discussion on changing the rules to enable a youth team (up to age 19), drawn from different Branches of the Guild to be allowed to enter as a team in all the striking competitions.

The main argument in favour is that we should be doing all we can to encourage young ringers. However, there were quite a few arguments against!

In addition, it was noted that there are ongoing challenges in securing external judges for striking competitions and suggested permitting internal judges. The committee supported the amendment for using internal judges, subject to certain limitations. The changes re: the Youth Team entry in Striking Competitions and to using internal judges will be added to the Striking Competition Rules if voted in favour at the next Gen Comm meeting in March 2026.

The future of the Guild library

The Guild librarian, Doug Beaumont, has served the Guild for many years and has now informed the Guild that he would like to step down. The Guild is very grateful for his service over the many years. The contents of the library have been housed by Doug Beaumont. The Guild now has the task of finding a new Librarian and also new premises to hold the material, which is substantial. Further information is in the General Committee papers for the November 2025 meeting (papers, Agenda item 6), and also, an email was sent via MemberMojo on 2/2/2026 to all members, explaining the current situation.

Other Business

Peter Robson informed members that a mobile belfry will feature at the Swallowfield Show in late August.

Forthcoming Events 2026

Saturday 14th March 2026 Spring General Committee Meeting Chipping Norton Branch secretary@odg.org.uk

Saturday 21st March Midlands Young Ringers Striking Competition

Saturday 28th March T&B Maintenance Course, Tetsworth ajw003tan@gmail.com

Saturday 11th April Radley Course radleycourse@odg.org.uk
closed for applications 13/2/26

Sunday 26th April Young Ringers' Practice youngringers@odg.org.uk

Monday 4th May Ringing Day, Bicester

Saturday 16th May AGM for every member of the ODG & 8-bell competition
North Bucks Branch secretary@odg.org.uk

Sunday 24th May Young Ringers' Practice youngringers@odg.org.uk

Saturday 20th June T&B Secrets of a Steeple Keeper, Stratfield Mortimer
tbsecretary@odg.org.uk

Sunday 28th June Young Ringers' Practice youngringers@odg.org.uk

Saturday 4th July Ringing World National Youth Competition Nottingham

Saturday 12th September Midlands Young Ringers Autumn
Outing youngringers@odg.org.uk

Saturday 26th September Michaelmas Course edsecretary@odg.org.uk

Sunday 27th September Young Ringers' Practice youngringers@odg.org.uk

Saturday 17th October T&B General Belfry Course venue tbc
tbsecretary@odg.org.uk

Saturday 24th October Steeple Aston Course steepleastoncourse@odg.org.uk

Sunday 25th October Young Ringers' Practice youngringers@odg.org.uk

Sunday 22nd November Young Ringers' Practice youngringers@odg.org.uk

Saturday 5th December Midlands Young Ringers Winter Outing
youngringers@odg.org.uk

Monday 21st December Young Ringers' Christmas
Social youngringers@odg.org.uk