

MINUTES OF BANBURY BRANCH HALF YEARLY MEETING HELD 18TH OCTOBER 2025 IN ADDERBURY CHURCH STARTING AT 4.30PM

Present: Heather Bletchly, Barry Davis, Brenda Day, Stephen Day, Helen Earl, Catherine Fairbank, Alan Griffin, Rosemary Hemmings, Jack Knowles, Lewis Knowles, Adam Lee, Colin Lee, Zoe Lee, Graham Oliver, Jackie Roberts, Roman Sadowski, Philip Sharman, Alison Tite.

Heather Bletchly, Branch Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. A minutes silence was held for Bob Reeves who had died in August and Michael Haynes who had learned to ring in the branch and had died in October.

1. Apologies: received from Rob Babij and Tracy Stanton of Adderbury, Alison Varney and Andrew Whiffin of Bloxham, Sue McCouaig of Bodicote, Andries Bosland of Cropredy, David Field of Deddington, John Tite of Horley, Graham Clifton, Dorothy Clifton, Janine Coaker and Hamish Winsor of Steeple Aston, Lindsey Smith of Tadmerton, Stephen Skinner of Wardington and Katie Lane Guild Master.

2. Minutes of AGM: These had been circulated beforehand. Agreed as correct; Proposed Alan Griffin and seconded by Brenda Day.

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Matters arising from Tower Reps meeting: 1. Changes to branch bank account; Alison Tite, Treasurer, had circulated an update on the accounts to members. Santander bank is to introduce account charges of £4.99 per month from the beginning of October. This is a course that most banks are now taking. The advantage is that they are now offering a full online service which includes making payments as well as receiving payments. This is only available if the signing rule is changed so that only one authorised signatory is needed to approve financial transactions. This would remove the need for making payments by cheque and having to plan to meet up with one of the other signatories to sign. Only one of the three account signatories (Alison Tite, Graham Clifton, and Barry Davis) would be required to authorise payments at any one time. It was thought that it would be good practice for the signatory making the payment to inform the other two signatories by email. It was agreed that Alison Tite goes ahead with changing the signing rule and making arrangements for online banking. Proposed by Graham Oliver and seconded by Roman Sadowski. 2. Donation by branch to tower hosting branch practice. By the end of this year there will have been 21 practices or events requiring a tower donation. Currently the donation is £20 per practice and this is only just covered by the subscriptions received by members of the branch and income from branch social event. It is felt that all members should contribute to the cost of branch practices through their subscriptions rather than only those who actually go along to the practices. It was decided to lower this to £15 per practice rather than raising subscriptions or reducing the number of practices. To start from 2026. Proposed Roman Sadowski and seconded by Zoe Lee. 3. Peal board for centenary peal rung at Banbury last June. This will cost around £450 It was agreed that the branch would fund this as there is over £2000 in the general fund. Proposed Brenda Day and seconded by Alison Tite. 4. Branch archive. Heather Bletchly and Barry Davis will store the branch archive until it becomes clearer what the Guild are going to do regarding storage of archives. 5. Centenary celebrations - tower band photos. Towers are to be asked by email to submit a photo of their band for the branch archive and website if they are happy to do so. 6. Centenary celebrations – commemorative quarter peal certificates. Alan Griffin will produce the certificates. 7. Centenary celebrations – commemorative tee shirts. Graham Oliver thanked

for arranging these. Details on the website for anyone who wishes to place an order. 8. Centenary celebrations – Ringing World article. Heather Bletchly has written an article and reported that it will be published in the Ringing World before the end of the year. Centenary celebrations – quarter peals. Jack Knowles reported that quarter peals had been rung in just over half the towers of the branch.

5. Branch meetings: Tower Reps to be on 12th February 2026. AGM to be held at Bloxham on 18th April 2026 confirmed by Alan Griffin. An organist will be needed and will be paid for by the branch.

6. Branch practices: Zoe Lee reported that the first Wednesday practices held at Banbury have been going well but the advanced practices have been poorly attended. It was suggested that a list of methods to be attempted at the advanced practices be circulated to members beforehand.

7. Social events: Carol Service, to be at Horley on 6th December. *Quiz and supper to be on 14th March. The preferred venue is at Bodicote as this has proved popular and central to the branch. Heather Bletchly to contact Martin Saunders of Bodicote to see if the Bodicote ringers would host or if they would mind the social committee seeing to the arrangements instead. A volunteer is needed to be quiz master; Alison Tite would do the job if no-one else volunteers. Striking Competition and picnic. Wardington to be asked if it is possible for them to host. Rosemary Hemmings to send them an email. Outing. To be on Saturday 1st August. Suggestions needed for area to go to and volunteer needed to see to arrangements. To discuss at next tower reps meeting.

8. Guild events: Steeple Aston course 25th October. 10-bell striking competition and General Committee meeting 22nd November in the Bicester branch. There will be no branch band entering this year.

9. Election/re-election of members: John Mitchinson of Great Tew was re-elected and Odette Dawkins of Banbury, Angus Christianson, Graeme Christianson, Isaac Christianson, and Kaleb Baker all of Bloxham, Louise Davidson and Rachel Lawmon of Great Tew, Kelvin Johnstone, Jane Millward, and Helen Sayers all of Horley were elected as new members. Proposed by Graham Oliver and seconded by Stephen Day. Rosemary Hemmings to send out to tower correspondents the instructions for new members to register with Membermojo on the Guild website.

10. Presentation of certificates: to members elected at the AGM last April. Heather Bletchly presented Adam Lee of Adderbury with his certificate. The certificates for Sarah Brennan of Adderbury, Julian Masters of Banbury, Karen Colvin and Clive Dunn of Cropredy and Hamish Winsor of Steeple Aston were given to tower members take away and present to them at a later date. Striking Competition winners from competition held last June. Heather Bletchly presented these for call changes section to 3rd young ringers, 2nd Steeple Aston, and 1st Bloxham and for method section to 3rd Cropredy, 2nd Bloxham and 1st Steeple Aston.

11. Any other business: Late notices. Roman Sadowski asked whether late notices for cancelled practices could be put onto the branch website. ART Module 2F. Roman Sadowski said that two Banbury ringers were interested in doing this course which is teaching from rounds to Bob Doubles being held on 22nd November in Abingdon. He wanted to know that if there was any fee to pay for going would the branch cover the cost and if anyone else was interested in going, they could join them. #Heather Bletchly said that according to the Guild 15-year plan the

Branch is due to host the Guild 8-bell striking competition in 2026. Odd Bob news. Rosemary Hemmings asked for any tower news for Odd Bob to be sent to her by the end of next week.

Vote of thanks given to Liz Simpson, vicar of Adderbury and the Adderbury ringers for the use of the church , the bells and tea and cakes.

The meeting close at 5.17pm

*Quiz and supper – Bodicote Church Hall has been booked for 14th March 2026.

#A new 15-year plan issued recently states Banbury will not be hosting a Guild event until 2029.