

Hello Witney and Woodstock officials, Tower Captains and Tower Correspondents.

My name is Robert Walton and after Saturday's AGM I would very much like to introduce myself as your New Chairman for the Witney and Woodstock Branch of the "Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers".

I ring regularly at St Mary's Church North Leigh, and I am what you may call, a learner improver, as I recognise that I have still a lot to learn. However, I'm being taught well by Alison Merryweather-Clarke, my Tower Captain. I also practice at other towers when time permits and I am thankful for their patience.

At the Witney and Woodstock AGM many things were discussed and the minutes will be distributed as soon as they have been completed. This brings me on to the subject of Branch officials. At present we have a team of excellent officials. However, at the AGM we were unable to fill one important role, that being the Branch Secretary, and until that role can be filled, I will be acting as Branch Secretary. I am sure there is someone out there wanting to help and take on this role, but until that time, I will be sharing out the tasks with the co-operation of the Branch Officials, so please bear with us and I apologise in advance if we appear not to be "as on the Ball" as one would like. If anyone has the desire to join our team and become Branch Secretary, then please let me know.

As you may know, the vacancy for Branch Secretary is a result of Michael Probert stepping down after three years of serving the Branch. I'm sure like myself, you would all like to thank him for the excellent service and time he has given to the branch, and wish him well on his various Tower tours around the country, that he is undertaking.

Finally, I am looking forward to working with you all, and hope that I can represent the branch as successfully as my predecessor, Neil Ephgrave.

Yours Faithfully

Robert Walton