

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS SOUTHERN BRANCH



Dear Southern Branch Members
Very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2025.

Lincoln DGCBR **subs are due** and can either be paid online via Mojo or by cash/cheque (made out to 'Lincoln Diocesan Guild') to the Branch Treasurer at the AGM.

As always the Lincoln Diocesan Guild AGM is at Lincoln on the last Saturday of April (this year 26th April). Please put this date in your diary. This is an opportunity to ring at Lincoln Cathedral, to attend a service in the Cathedral Ringers' Chapel, to attend the AGM and meet up with members from across the Diocese (from Scunthorpe to Long Sutton and from Grimsby to Stamford and everywhere in between) at lunch afterwards. This is a chance to meet members from all six Branches (ie Central, Eastern, Elloe Deaneries, Northern, Southern and West Lindsey Branches) and share ideas and news about ringing and ringers. There is a network of ringers across the Diocese of Lincoln with links in all areas, eg the Northern Branch Secretary – who now rings at Grimsby - learned to ring at All Saints' Stamford and did his early ringing in the 1990s in the Southern Branch! This year is the Southern Branch turn to prepare and serve the lunch – and do the washing-up! This is being coordinated on behalf of the Branch by Shelagh Dunning. **Shelagh will be asking for volunteers to help with this.**

The **Branch AGM is at St Wulfram, Grantham on Saturday 25 January.** This is an opportunity to ring on 12 bells and the ringing master will ensure that suitable opportunities are given to all, irrespective of level of experience. The arrangements are:
Ringing 10am to 12 noon (12 bells)

Service 12 noon

Lunch approx. 12:45. £6. To book lunch please email menu choices and any special dietary requirements by Jan 18 to David Braunton dibraunton2@hotmail.co.uk

1 Beef chilli

2 Chicken

3 Vegetarian option

Meeting approx. 2pm

Followed by further ringing if requested

This information is also on the Branch website <https://ldgcb.org.uk/southern/> Please check this for any updates.

At the AGM the programme of ringing practices will be published and the Branch officers and committee for 2025, as well as any new Guild members, will be elected. It is the

opportunity for all members to have a say in what they want from the Branch and the Guild.

Please consider if you and/or other members may be able to offer their skills to running the Branch. Years of ringing experience are not a pre-requisite for these roles and it would be really helpful to have some new faces on the Branch committee. Please look around the ringers in your tower and make suggestions. We all get a range of opportunities in ringing, including making new friends and developing new skills, and 'putting something back' is a way of showing our appreciation of it. Don't forget it is not just you who is giving your time voluntarily – we all are. The vacancies are:

1. Secretary. Melissa Blanchard kindly agreed to take on the role of secretary at the 2024 AGM (a job she had previously done for several years) for one year when there was a vacancy which could not be filled.
2. Treasurer. Geoff Haynes had to resign from this role during 2024 because of work commitments and Alison Jones has kindly taken it over again in the short term
3. Membership Secretary. Alison Jones has taken on this role

The Southern Branch has been active in supporting the Guild Master's objective of recording first performances in the 125th anniversary year. As of 1st January 2025 there have been 229 Southern Branch firsts recorded. This includes three first quarter peals and one first peal. The first peal is the only one in the Guild so far, but there are two more in the pipeline, one for Eastern Branch and hopefully another in the Southern Branch. **The year for these firsts will be completed on the Guild AGM day: 26th April and so there are still four months to work at this. Now is the time to find new opportunities on practice night and service ringing as well as to organise quarters and peals** – perhaps a first quarter, first in method or first as conductor – for example. **The six Branches in the Guild are all clocking up firsts and the Southern Branch is in the running to lead this but we need to keep up the momentum!** We have a range of experienced ringers in the Branch who are willing to help and advise about this – including six who have rung more than 1,000 peals and two more who are likely to do that in 2025.

Please do give your feedback about the Branch activities (see the Branch website for email contacts) **AND PLEASE COME TO THE BRANCH AGM WITH YOUR IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING RINGING IN THE SOUTHERN BRANCH IN THE FUTURE.**

Very best wishes
Judith

Judith Rogers
Chairman

Southern Branch, Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers