## Opportunities beyond your home tower

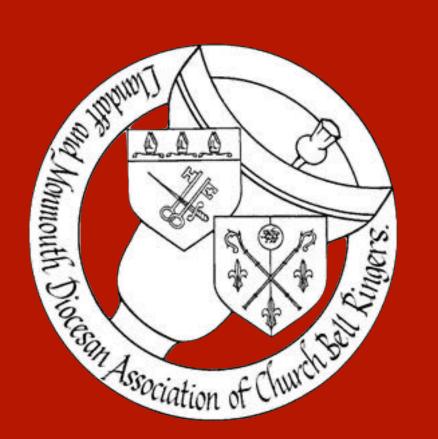
The branches and Association organise practices and opportunities that stretch beyond the ringing available to many of us in our home towers.

Following a survey a few years ago ringers were grouped into zones according to their ringing standard (similar to pistes in skiing): **Green** for those learning up to plain hunt; **Blue** for people able to ring up to touches of doubles (e.g. Grandsire or Plain Bob); **Red** for ringers able to ring Cambridge Surprise Minor upwards and a **Black** zone for those able to ring Surprise Maximus methods competently.

All our branch and Association practices and events map on to this progression:	Bedinners Advanced Experts
Monthly branch practices	4 4 4
Annual branch outings	4 4 4
Visits to another tower's practice night	4 4 4
Specialist training days	4 4
Monthly Association daytime practices	
Monthly branch 8-bell practices	
Monthly Association Surprise Major practices	
Branch and Association and Quarter Peals and Peals	
Monthly Association 12-bell practices	
Regional and National striking competitions	







# Guide to practices to improve your ringing



### I'm a beginner

At the beginning of your ringing journey your focus is all about how to handle a bell, starting to ring in rounds with a band around you, mastering call changes and learning the skill of ringing up and down.

Initially, most of your ringing will be done in your own tower with your ringing teacher, but, as your confidence grows you should speak to your tutor and other ringers about whether it's time to start coming along to branch practices, branch outings and maybe going to another tower's practice night. Ringing on different bells can be challenging and scary at first, but it really helps hone your skills and you'll notice a huge improvement when ringing on more familiar bells in your own tower.

Around
10% of ringers

Come along to branch practices

Join your branch outings

Visit another tower's practice night

# I'm an advanced ringer

Advanced ringing starts with methods like Cambridge Minor inside and you will have made the transition from learning methods by simple method structure (e.g. a circle of work), to learning the blue line and place bell order. By now you could well have some teaching skills and will be both welcome and in demand wherever you decide to ring.

You'll find yourself working harder at practices as you'll be ringing both for yourself and to help others. The Association can support your ringing with its more advanced practices such as the Surprise Major or friendly 12-bell practices. Finally, you'll be involved in specially organised ringing such as quarter peals and even full three hour peals for the really keen.

Around
10% of ringers

Keep supporting branch practices

**Association Surpise Major Practice** 

Association
12-bell practices

Association Quarter
Peals and Peals

Around 75% of ringers

Join your branch's monthly practices

Association wide Daytime practices

Monthly branch 8-bell practices

Specialist training days

### I'm a intermediate

As an intermediate you are likely to be doing most of your ringing at your own practice night and for Sunday service and are probably ringing some methods with your own band.

To stretch your ringing a little and further explore the social side of ringing joining the branch practices is an excellent idea and for those with availability during the working day, a monthly Daytime Practice visits towers all over the Association. For those wanting to experience ringing on more bells, each branch organises a local 8-bell practice.

Your branch also responds to the needs of its ringers and organises training days giving a focus to a specific skill or method.

Around 5% of ringers

Association advanced practices

Regional and national competitions

Association
Quarter Peals
and Peals

# I'm an advanced ringer

If you've got this far, you no longer need anyone guiding you as to what your next step in ringing should be. You've achieved more than most ringers can only dream about. You have probably also shouldered additional responsibilities helping to run your branch or association. Thank you!

However, there is still more that ringing can offer as your input is critical to the success of others at the advanced practices; what is new for others will just be revision for you. There is an enormous sense of fulfilment and satisfaction seeing a milestone achieved by an up and coming ringer. For the most ambitious and brave, you might even consider joining an Association band to compete in one of the regional or national competitions against the best ringers from other areas.

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