

# Membership numbers survey 2015

Given the reduction of members from 170 in 2014 to 159 in 2015 (a 6.5% reduction) I agreed to find out more so we can understand what is behind the change.

The real reduction is less than those figures imply because the 2014 figures included 4 people were no longer resident and two who were listed twice (under different towers). Thus the real reduction was from 164 to 159 (a 3% reduction).

The net loss of 5 ringers resulted from a loss of 23 and a gain of 18.

Reasons for 23 losses were: 8 moved away, 1 at college, 3 health, 1 death, 5 other, 5 unspecified.

Reasons for the 18 gains were: 3 moved in, 1 lapsed ringer, 14 other (assumed recruits)

Of the 14 recruits: 3 had a family or neighbour connection, 2 were recruited from youth group, 2 from parish magazine article, 7 unspecified.

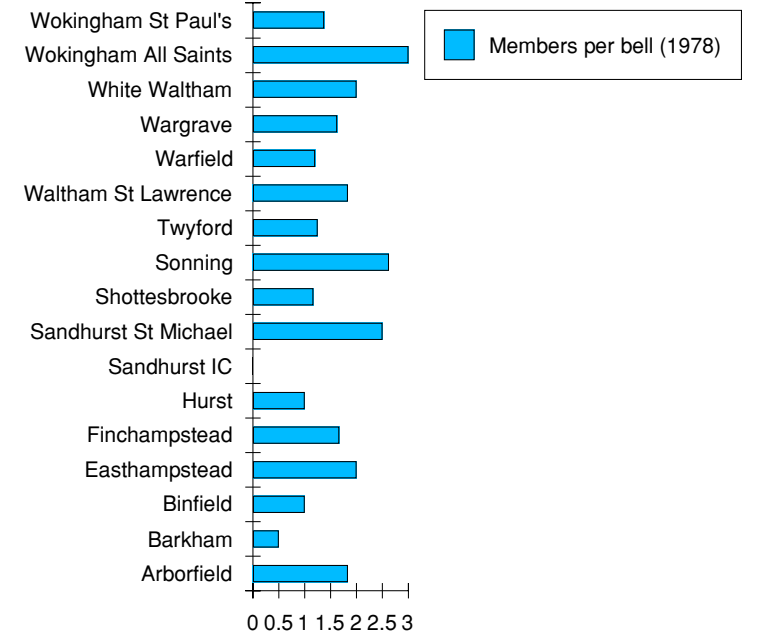
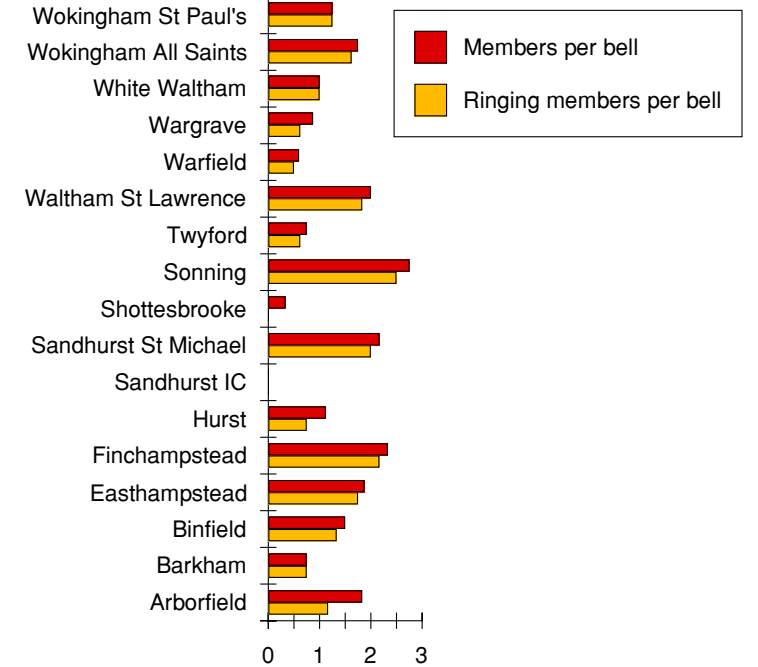
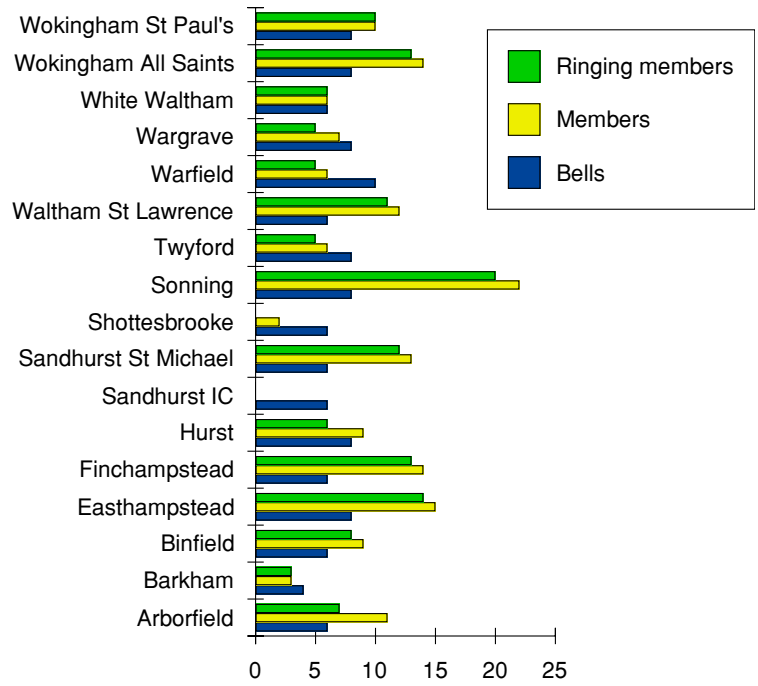
The picture is further complicated by the fact the some ringers who pay a subscription never or hardly ever ring for various reasons. The dividing line is obviously not clear cut, and I didn't get consistent answers on this, but I suspect the figure is between 10% & 15%, making our effective membership of no more than 138 rather than around the 159 on the books.

There are 118 bells in Branch towers, so the number of members represents 1.3 ringers per bell (or 1.2 excluding those who rarely ring) compared with the generally accepted yardstick of at least 2 ringers per bell for a healthy band.

The picture varies significantly between towers, as shown in the top two graphs on the right. The figure for 'Ringing members' excludes those who are reported as either never ringing or only ring very infrequently.

For comparison, the bottom figure on the right shows the members per bell for Branch towers in 1978<sup>1</sup>, when there were also five unattached members.

John Harrison (Chairman)



<sup>1</sup> White Waltham transferred to Sonning Deanery in 1985 but has been included in the graph for completeness.  
Sonning Deanery Branch