



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

*Saturday 21st May 2023 in The Molyneaux Barn,
adjacent to St Peter & St Paul's Church,
Broadwell, Oxfordshire, GL7 3QS*

AGENDA AND PAPERS

1. Obituaries.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Request to take items of Any Other Business.
4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 21st May 2022 Goring-on-Thames (see below).
5. Matters Arising.
6. Correspondence.
7. 2022 Accounts (see separate document)
8. Report of the General Committee (see below).
9. Report of the Safeguarding Officer
10. Donations
 - a) Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund
 - b) The Ringing World
 - c) Association of Ringing Teachers
11. Election of Officers. (Existing holders shown in brackets- * if not wanting re-election).
 - a) Master (Catherine Lane)
 - b) Deputy Master (Tony Crabtree*)
 - c) Honorary General Secretary (Karen Pile)
 - d) Honorary General Treasurer (Stuart Gibson)
 - e) Assistant Treasurer (Vacant)
 - f) Honorary Librarian (Doug Beaumont)
 - g) Report Editor (Heather Browning)
 - h) Peal Secretary (Ken Davenport)
 - i) Newsletter Editor (Rob Needham)
 - j) Public Relations Officer (currently left vacant)
 - k) Membership Secretary (John Payne)
 - l) Safeguarding Officer (June Wells)
 - m) Website Manager (Andrew Goldthorpe)
 - o) Server Manager (Richard Stanworth)
 - p) Guild Stewards (5) (Tony Crabtree, Ruth Groves, Colin Lee, Patricia Newton) 1 vacancy*
 - q) Elected General Committee Members (6) (Mike Hopkins Till, Jenny Page)
 - r) Independent Assessor (Alison Mignanelli)
 - s) Trustee (For Election*)
12. Distinguished Membership Awards.
13. Ratification of Non-resident Ringing Members.
14. Presentation of striking competition certificates.
15. Any Other Business (as agreed at the beginning of the meeting).

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held in

Canterbury Room, Goring-on-Thames

Saturday, 21st May 2022 at 4:15pm

The meeting was chaired by Catherine Lane, the Guild Master.

The meeting was attended by 64 Guild members.

The Master opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Obituaries: There was a minute's silence at the start of the meeting in remembrance of Guild members who had died since the last AGM: Jean Datson (Spelsbury), Eric Ball (Middleton Stoney), John Hadfield (Bicester), Daphne Hutson (Winkfield and Warfield), Peter Legge (Dorney), Gilbert Runnicles (Fulmer), Eileen Stevenson (Slough), Lionel A (Tony) Timms (formerly High Wycombe), Stan Barlow (Beaconsfield), Reg Allum (Beenham), Janet Easterling (East Garston), William Butler (Thatcham), Fred Simmons (Compton), Anne Thomson (Drayton St Leonard), Helen Diserens (Wallingford and St Mary's & Saint Lawrence, Reading), Keith Vernon (St Giles, Reading), Ian Judd (Streatley), Pam Williams-Jones (St Mary's & Saint Lawrence, Reading), Martyn Jordan (St Mary's & Saint Lawrence, Reading), Roy Thorpe (Brightwell), Anne Samuel (Stewkley), Carl Oberman (Uffington), Sue Burchell (Banbury), Kevin McNiff (Cropredy), Doug Woodward (Tadmarton), Diana Reeves (Mollington), Arthur Moss (Wokingham, All Saints), Mary Spence (Wokingham, All Saints), Tony Picking (Fulbrook).

2. Apologies for Absence – 61 were received.

3. Any Other Business – The Master advised that she would be giving further information about possible Guild reorganisation.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 15th May 2021

Their adoption was proposed by Ken Darvill, seconded by Graham Clifton and was carried.

5. Matters arising

None.

6. Correspondence

None.

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7. Accounts

The accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. They have been audited. Stuart Gibson thanked Susan Read for her sterling work as Deputy Treasurer.

He proposed the adoption of the accounts, seconded by Robert Newton and this was carried.

8. Report of the General Committee circulated prior to the meeting.

The report was noted by a proposal by Patricia Newton, seconded by Angela Darvill and carried.

9. Donations

At the last General Committee meeting there were three recommendations to come forward to this meeting:

- a) To the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund a donation of £2000;
- b) To The Ringing World a donation of £750;
- c) To ART a donation of £750.

Stuart Gibson proposed that these donations be approved. This was seconded by Lionel Smith and carried.

10. Election of Officers.

Office	Nomination	Proposer	Secunder	Result
Master	Catherine Lane	Susan Davenport	Craig Robertson	Elected
Deputy Master	Tony Crabtree	Bobbie May	Colin Lee	Elected
Hon Gen Secretary	Karen Pile	Catherine Lane		Elected
Hon Gen Treasurer	Stuart Gibson	Stephen Rossiter	Tim Pett	Elected
Hon Librarian	Douglas Beaumont	All these proposed en bloc		
Report Editor	Heather Browning			
Newsletter Editor	Rob Needham			
Peal Secretary	Ken Davenport			
PR Officer	Vacant			
Membership Sec	John Payne	John Davidge	Stuart Gibson	All Elected
Safeguarding Officer	June Wells			
Minutes Secretary	Left vacant			
Website manager	Andrew Goldthorpe			
Server manager	Richard Stanworth			

Stewards (5)	Patricia Newton Ruth Groves Tony Crabtree Colin Lee			
Elected General Comm Members (6)	Jenny Page Mike Hopkins Till Others left vacant			
Independent Assessor	Alison Mignanelli			
3rd Trustee	Ken Darvill	Catherine Lane		Elected

There were no nominations for the 5th Steward or for Deputy Treasurer, so the other officers will cover for their roles.

11. Distinguished Membership Awards. The Master, Deputy Master and General Secretary are recommending that the nomination of the award to David Smith of South Leigh be ratified by this meeting. David has played an important part in the Witney and Woodstock Branch for many decades including as Branch Secretary in the 1950s.

12. Ratification of Non-resident Ringing Members. The meeting approved the election of Sue Turner as a Non-resident Member following her election prior to a Guild peal in Scotland during 2021.

13. Presentation of striking competition certificates. The following certificates were presented for the ten-bell striking competition held in November 2021 at Amersham:
1st place: East Berks & South Bucks Branch
2nd place: Reading Branch
3rd place: Newbury Branch.

14. Any Other Business (as agreed at the beginning of the meeting)

Katie Lane spoke about possible reorganisation of the Guild. She said that in recent years this has been discussed, although Covid has slowed this process. At the March General Committee meeting John Harrison had prompted the officers to bring forward proposals shortly. Since then the principal officers have met to talk further. These are the main issues that we consider most important:

The present structure and roles predate the ways in which organisations should work with modern technology. The present structure is clearly of little interest to many existing members. There are concerns about meeting the quorum requirements at AGMs and there are vacancies in our list of officers. A revised meeting structure could make better use of our time and be more productive. Guild functions should be attractive events to encourage

more members to attend. There are increasing difficulties in finding volunteers to take on the roles. The advantages and disadvantages of making the Guild a charity should be discussed.

We propose to finish a strategy paper with the help of some other contributions. A consultation paper will be circulated among a range of members this summer for feedback. Detailed proposals will be prepared for the November General Committee meeting with a view to the first steps being undertaken after the 2023 AGM. This is a tight schedule, but the Master said that she would rather that we went for it even if we subsequently need more time.

Tim Pett raised the issue of the number of members to be consulted during the process. John Harrison thought that before the final proposal went out to all members there should be a process of consultation in various groups to ensure that some aspects were not misunderstood. The CRAG process in the Central Council went through several layers. It is preferable to put the proposals through various collaborating members who will point out its faults before it goes out to all members.

The meeting was shown the mascot of the ODG Young Ringers and the trophy won by them last year. They were wished good luck for this year's contest at Exeter.

The Master closed the meeting.