



# OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (see below).
5. Matters Arising.
6. Correspondence.
7. 2018 Accounts (see separate document)
  - a) General Fund.
  - b) Restoration Fund.
8. Merger of the Restoration and Bell Funds  
The Trustees of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Restoration Fund (ODGRF), registered charity number 284053, recommend the charity merges with the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (ODBF), registered charity number 268390. The winding up of the ODGRF and the transfer of its assets constitute a merger of the ODBF and the ODGRF (see below).
9. Report of the General Committee (see below).
10. Report of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (see below).
11. Donations
  - a) Bell Fund, Restoration Fund, and Ringing World
  - b) Association of Ringing Teachers
12. Election of Officers. (Existing holders shown in brackets).
  - a) Master (Catherine Lane)
  - b) Deputy Master (Tony Crabtree)
  - c) Honorary General Secretary (Ken Darvill)
  - d) Honorary General Treasurer (Stuart Gibson)
  - e) Assistant Treasurer (Susan Read)
  - f) Guild Stewards (Tony Crabtree, Jenny Page, Colin Lee, Patricia Newton, Ruth Groves)
  - g) Honorary Librarian (Doug Beaumont)
  - h) Report Editor (Heather Browning)
  - i) Peal Secretary (Ken Davenport)
  - j) Newsletter Editor (Rob Needham)
  - k) Public Relations Officer (Vacant)
  - l) Membership Secretary (John Payne)
  - m) Safeguarding Officer (June Wells)
  - n) Website Manager (Tim Hayward)
  - o) Minutes Secretary (Joyce Vernon)
  - p) General Committee Members (Wenda Fowles, Mike Hopkins Till, Ken Wakefield, Bobbie May, Angela Darvill)
  - q) Server Manager (Richard Stanworth)
  - r) Assistant Server Manager (Colin Newman)
  - s) Independent Assessor (Mrs A. Mignanelli)
13. Distinguished Membership Awards.
14. Ratification of Non-resident Ringing Members (see below).
15. Presentation of striking competition certificates.
16. Any Other Business (as agreed at the beginning of the meeting).

## ITEM 4 - MINUTES OF LAST AGM

Minutes of meeting of OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Annual General Meeting held at Bodicote Village Hall, Oxfordshire

On Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>. 2018

(Subject to ratification at the next AGM)

The meeting was attended by 80 members and there were 34 apologies for absence.

The Master Hilarie Rogers opened the meeting at 5.40pm with a prayer.

1. Obituaries.

The meeting stood and remained standing in silence for:- Sue Thomas - Sonning, Dave Creasy - Binfield, David Fawcett - Binfield, Betty Hawtin - Chipping Norton, Victor Merry - Charlbury, John Pearce - Appleton, James P. Blond - Blewbury, Helen Walker - Didcot, Robin Green - Banbury, Mary Richardson – Cheddington & Stoke Mandeville, David Argue - Monks Risborough, Howard Oglesby – formerly Hitcham, Ron Foster - formerly Amersham, Mary Lees - Chalfont St Giles, John Hollis - Marlow, Janet Harman - Turville, John Keates - Haddenham, Janet Boyd-Livingston - Aldermaston, Michael Bland - Shiplake, David Bowyer - Shiplake, John Harris - Launton.

2. Apologies for Absence.

These were recorded in the Attendance Book

3. Requests to take items of Any Other Business.

The following topics for discussion were requested from the floor: Ringing Day, Rules concerning AGM, GDPR.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting May 20<sup>th</sup> 2017

Two spelling mistakes were corrected. The acceptance of the corrected minutes was proposed by Ken Davenport, seconded by Mike Hopkins Till and carried nem con.

5. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

6. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

7. 2017 Accounts.

These accounts are published in the Guild Annual Report.

- a) General Fund. Stuart Gibson thanked Susan Read for the everyday running of this account. The acceptance of these accounts was proposed by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Clare Carpenter, and carried nem con.
- b) Restoration Fund. Stuart Gibson thanked the seven branches that have donated to this fund. The acceptance of these accounts was proposed by Stuart Gibson seconded by Rob Needham, and carried nem con.

8. Report of the General Committee.

The report had been circulated in advance. The Master said that Doug Beaumont would love to hear from anyone willing to help the digitalisation of the Guild Library. Also following discussions within working groups at the March 2018 General Committee meeting, the Finance and General Purposes Subcommittee will consider the functioning of the Guild and come forward with recommendations if thought appropriate.

The acceptance of this report was proposed by Derek Fowles, seconded by Patricia Newton and carried nem con.

9. Report of the ODG Bell Fund.

This report had been circulated. This should be noted by the meeting.

10. Donations.

The General Committee had recommended donations to the Bell Fund of £1000.00 and to the Restoration Fund of £1000.00. The donations to these two funds was proposed by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Graham Clifton, and carried nem con.

Similarly there had been a recommendation of a donation to the Ringing World of £250.00. This was proposed by Alan Marchbank, seconded by Clare Carpenter, and carried nem con.

The General Committee also recommended a donation of £500.00 to the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART). There was much discussion about this. Lesley Belcher spoke on behalf of ART explaining the work of the organisation and the use to which donations were put. ART employs a paid administrator and demand is increasing. It is delivering more courses and has recently been promoting group teaching. It has been encouraging ringing centres including two in our diocese. In response to concerns from Graham Clifton about the high level of reserves shown in the ART accounts, Lesley explained that they needed these to operate as a charity.

The proposal to make the donation to ART was proposed by Susan Read, seconded by Sue Portsmouth, and carried by a majority vote of 24 to 19.

11. Election of Officers.

The Master Hilarie Rogers said that she would like to stand down.

She took the chair for the elections.

MASTER Catherine Lane proposed by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Alan Marchbank

DEPUTY MASTER

Tony Crabtree proposed by Lindsey Powell, seconded by Bobbie May.

HON. GENERAL SECRETARY

Ken Darvill proposed by Clare Carpenter, seconded by Susan Read.

HON. GENERAL TREASURER

Stuart Gibson proposed by Alan Griffin, seconded by Robert Newton.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Susan Read proposed by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Tim Pett

GUILD STEWARDS

Tony Crabtree

Jenny Page

Colin Lee

Patricia Newton

Ruth Groves

proposed en bloc by Clare Carpenter, seconded by Mike Hopkins Till

HONORARY LIBRARIAN

Doug Beaumont

proposed by Ken Davenport, seconded by Alan Marchbank.

REPORT EDITOR

Heather Browning

proposed by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Keith Vernon.

PEAL SECRETARY

Ken Davenport proposed by Robert Newton, seconded by Alan Marchbank.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Rob Needham proposed by Sue Davenport, seconded by Susan Read.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

This post remains vacant

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

John Payne proposed by Derek Fowles, seconded by Eunice Wark.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

June Wells proposed by Jenny Page, seconded by Patricia Newton

WEBSITE MANAGER

Tim Hayward proposed by Alan Marchbank, seconded by Stuart Gibson

MINUTES SECRETARY

Joyce Vernon proposed by Clare Carpenter, seconded by Ken Davenport

SERVER MANAGER

Richard Stanworth

proposed by Ken Darvill, seconded by Susan Read.

ASSISTANT SERVER MANAGER

Colin Newman proposed by Ken Darvill, seconded by Stuart Gibson.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Wenda Fowles

Mike Hopkins Till

Ken Wakefield

proposed en bloc by Stuart Gibson, seconded by Derek Fowles

Bobbie May proposed by Jenny Page, seconded by John Harrison

Angela Darvill proposed by Patricia Newton, seconded by Alan Marchbank.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mrs. A. Mignanelli

proposed by Alan Marchbank, seconded by Graham Clifton.

12. Distinguished Membership Awards.

Robert Newton proposed that Joyce Vernon from Reading Branch be elected to Distinguished Membership. He outlined the many ways that she had supported local towers, the Reading Branch and Guild ringing courses ever since the Easthampstead courses. More recently she had also been Guild Minutes Secretary. This was seconded by Ken Davenport and carried. A certificate was presented to her.

13. Young Ringers' Award Scheme

Robert Newton spoke and said there had been 4 submissions of a very high standard. 6 applications had been sent out but 2 had not been returned due to pressure of work from GCSEs.

Robert thanked Katharine Firman for her help in assessing the submissions, Hilarie Rogers for producing the certificates, and Jo Druce who has been running the course. He also thanked the mentors for their help and advice, the Tower Captains and last but not least the parents for their support and of course the children that entered.

Silver was awarded to Eden Bramhill who has been very good at getting people to ring.

Silver was awarded to Jack Knowles from Steeple Aston. Jack is a very highly valued member of the band.

Silver was awarded to Misha Medvedev of Bloxham - Misha is very good at ringing with the simulator. He was unable to attend today as he is not well, so his father collected his certificate.

Gold was awarded to Daniel Page of St. Mary's Reading. Daniel started the year ringing Bristol Maximus. He has rung 50+ peals and has made astonishing progress, ringing more in one year than many ringers ring in a lifetime. Daniel was also awarded the Alison Rodrick Trophy.

The meeting applauded loudly the success of these youngsters.

Alan Griffin reported that there had been application problems, the young ringers not having met up and no Guild Officers having visited the towers. Hilarie Rogers promised that it will be better organised in future.

14. Ratification of Non-resident Life Members.

The acceptance of Pip Dillistone, David Bath, Julie Tarling, Cameron Waters, and Matthew E. Rayner was proposed by Ken Davenport, seconded by Stuart Gibson.

15. Presentation of Striking Competition certificates.

8-Bell held at Chieveley 2016

3<sup>rd</sup> High Wycombe; 2<sup>nd</sup> Newbury Branch; 1<sup>st</sup> East Berks & South Bucks Branch.

8-Bell held at Islip 2017

Young ringers had entered a band and all were given a certificate: Anna Sherwood, Sophie Martin, Adam Gibson, Rose Ann Kimber, Ed. Walker, Isaac O'Shea, Josh Ball and one adult Hilarie Rogers.

3<sup>rd</sup> Oxford City; Joint 1<sup>st</sup> St. Mary Reading & High Wycombe.

6-Bell held at North Leigh 2017

Commendations: Wallingford, Shrivenham and Drayton St Leonard.

3<sup>rd</sup> Tilehurst; 2<sup>nd</sup> High Wycombe; 1<sup>st</sup> Thatcham.

10-Bell held at Olney 2017

3<sup>rd</sup> Banbury Branch; 2<sup>nd</sup> East Berks & South Bucks Branch; 1<sup>st</sup> Old North Berks.

8-Bell held at Shrivenham May 7<sup>th</sup>.2018

3<sup>rd</sup> Banbury Branch; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tilehurst; 1<sup>st</sup> Newbury

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

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Stuart Gibson reported there were no further updates. Although it will come into force on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2018, it has still to be fully enacted by Parliament. We also await the final recommendations from the Central Council.

Ringling Day

Bobbie May said that she was very disappointed with recent changes with the Ringling Day and the 8-Bell Competition. She feels that the details of the competition are kept secret from Guild members. This and the fact that the location is now further away from the towers on the Ringling Day means that there is not the opportunity for members to combine attending and listening to the competition with ringling at the towers on the Ringling Day. Hilarie Rogers replied that she was sure that the Officers would bear her comments in mind for future years.

Rules on Guild AGM

Chiltern Branch are hosting the 2019 Guild AGM and Clare Carpenter asked if the rules could be changed so that a lower number were needed for a quorum as there have been so many emails this year to drum up enough attendees. Alan Marchbank responded that 2 years ago when there was not a quorum and another meeting with the required number had to be held, it was then suggested that the number should be reduced. This was however decided against, so the quorum remains at 50.

Election of Vice-President

Patricia Newton took the floor and proposed that Hilarie Rogers should be made a Vice President. Everyone agreed and the feeling of the meeting was shown by the applause that followed.

Hilarie was presented with a bouquet.

Votes of Thanks

Tony Crabtree gave the vote of thanks to those Officers organising this meeting.

To those in the Banbury branch for organising a great day.

To Liz Smith for taking the lovely Songs of Praise, and Christopher Holmes for playing the organ.

Also special thanks go to the tea team for laying on such a superb spread.

The meeting closed at 6.45p.m.

## **ITEM 8 – MERGER OF THE RESTORATION AND BELL FUNDS**

Merging the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (ODBF) and the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Restoration Fund (ODGRF).

### **Merger**

The merger will be implemented by transferring the assets of the ODGRF into the ODBF and the ODGRF being wound up once complete. The ODBF would continue as is with its current charity number.

### **Assets**

The assets of the ODGRF consists of cash only, split between two Funds:

General Fund – money to be used for fulfilling general grant applications.

Longworth Restricted Fund – Money collected specifically for the Longworth Bell Restoration project.

### **Transfer of Assets**

The ODGRF General Fund assets, at the time of the merger, would be placed in the ODBF Grant Fund to continue to support general grant applications. This would also protect any outstanding provisional grant from the ODGRF.

The ODGRF Longworth Restricted Fund would become a Restricted Fund within the ODBF.

### **Objects**

The objects of both charities are pretty much identical (slightly different words) with the exception that the ODGRF supports augmentation work, where is it explicitly excluded by the ODBF. The merged entity would support augmentation work.

The following actions would be required:

i) Change the ODBF rules to remove the word “augmentation” from the exclusions.

ii) Update the objects and submit the revision to the Charities Commission/HMRC

### **Registration of Merger**

A motion needs to be agreed for each fund to allow the trustees to wind up the ODGRF and for the ODBF trustees to accept the assets of the ODGRF. These then can be submitted to the Charities Commission so that the merger can be registered.

### **Donation Policy**

The ODBF is a capital fund and invests all the general donations received. Income from the investments is placed into a grant fund to fulfil any provisional grants made.

The ODGRF places any donations received into a grant fund with any interest received.

Following the merging the ODBF policy would be adopted for all general donations.

### **Grant Applications**

Currently any bell restoration projects under a total cost of £3k is directed at the ODGRF, with projects of greater value directed at the ODBF. Projects containing augmentation work are split between augmentation work and non-augmentation work and directed at the ODGRF and the ODBF respectively.

### **Grant Policies**

The ODBF currently offers a 20% grant to qualifying work and the ODGRF 10%. Following the merger, the ODBF policy would be adopted.

The ODGRF offers different grants percentages for augmentation work according to the number of bells. Following the merger, this would be adopted by the ODBF.

### **Specific Donations**

Where the Guild has been approached to collect donations to specific bell restoration projects, these have been held in separate Restricted Funds within the ODGRF. Gift Aid, where applicable, has been collected and added to fund.

Following the merger, these will be held in the ODBF. Restricted donations would not be invested as per general donations.

### **Bell Fund Rule Changes**

The following rule changes will be proposed, the second of which is just a general tidying up the rules:

Rule 2 (b) (ii):

"Repair maintenance and renewal" shall not include routine servicing of the bells or repairs to the tower but shall include the augmentation of the bells, the removal of bells from one church and their erection in another.

Rule 4 (a)

The Officers of the Fund will consist of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, each of whom shall be a Governor of the fund.

## **Resolutions**

### **Bell Fund**

The members of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (ODBF), in a general meeting, hereby endorse the recommendation of the trustees that the ODBF (registered charity number 268390) should merge with the ODGRF (registered charity number 284053). The winding up of the ODGRF and the transfer of assets constituting a merger of the ODBF and the ODGRF.

The merger shall be IMPLEMENTED as follows:

- (a) The trustees of the ODGRF having undertaken and been satisfied with the outcome of a due diligence investigation undertaken on the ODBF as the receiving body.
- (b) The ODBF having undertaken a similar due diligence investigation on the ODGRF have not identified any issues of concern.
- (c) The trustees of the ODGRF being satisfied with the terms on which the ODBF have agreed to hold the assets of the ODGRF to be transferred to it and the terms of the policy for use of the funds set out by the ODBF. These are detailed in a separate document.
- (d) The merger shall take effect on 31 December 2019 (or such later date as the ODGRF and the ODBF may decide) ("the merger date").
- (e) The members hereby confirm that the trustees of the ODBF are authorised to receive all assets of the ODGRF into the ODBF on the merger date by way of a grant and accordingly to make arrangements with the ODGRF to take over all activities of the ODGRF from that date.
- (f) For the avoidance of doubt, this resolution authorises the ODBF's trustees to take such steps as they consider necessary to implement the provisions above, without further reference to the members, in particular:
  - (i) to enter into agreements with the ODGRF and/or to execute deeds of transfer, in order to ensure the effective transfer of the assets and activities of the ODGRF to the ODBF;
  - (ii) to enter into any necessary agreements with the ODGRF to cover any transitional arrangements prior to the merger;
- (g) Following the merger, on such later date as the ODBF's trustees shall decide and provided they are satisfied that the ODGRF has no outstanding liabilities, to apply to the Charity Commission to record the merger of the ODGRF into the ODBF on the Register of Charity Mergers and seek its removal from the register of charities.

PROVIDED that this resolution shall not take effect unless a similar resolution has been passed by the trustees of the ODGRF as the donor charity prior to merger date, the agreement of the Charity Commissioners is obtained, the ODBF rules are changed to permit grants from investment income to be made to the augmentation of bells in the Diocese of Oxford.

### **Restoration Fund**

The members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Restoration Fund (ODGRF), in a general meeting, hereby endorse the recommendation of the trustees that the ODGRF (registered charity number 284053) should merge with the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (ODBF) (registered charity number 268390). The winding up of the ODGRF and the transfer of assets constituting a merger of the ODBF and the ODGRF.

The merger shall be IMPLEMENTED as follows:

- (a) The trustees of the ODGRF having undertaken and been satisfied with the outcome of a due diligence investigation undertaken on the ODBF as the receiving body.
- (b) The ODBF having undertaken a similar due diligence investigation on the ODGRF have not identified any issues of concern.
- (c) The trustees of the ODGRF being satisfied with the terms on which the ODBF have agreed to hold the assets of the ODGRF to be transferred to it and the terms of the policy for use of the funds set out by the ODBF. These are detailed in a separate document.
- (d) The merger shall take effect on 31 December 2019 (or such later date as the ODGRF and the ODBF may decide) ("the merger date").
- (e) The members hereby confirm that the trustees of the ODGRF are authorised to transfer all assets of the ODGRF to the ODBF on the merger date by way of a grant and accordingly to make arrangements with the ODBF to take over all activities of the ODGRF from that date.
- (f) For the avoidance of doubt, this resolution authorises the ODGRF's trustees to take such steps as they consider necessary to implement the provisions above, without further reference to the members, in particular:
- (i) to enter into agreements with the ODBF and/or to execute deeds of transfer, in order to ensure the effective transfer of the assets and activities of the ODGRF to the ODBF;
  - (ii) to enter into any necessary agreements with the ODBF to cover any transitional arrangements prior to the merger;
- (g) Following the merger, on such later date as the ODGRF's trustees shall decide and provided they are satisfied that the ODGRF has no outstanding liabilities, to apply to the Charity Commission to record the merger of the ODGRF into the ODBF on the Register of Charity Mergers and seek its removal from the register of charities.

PROVIDED that this resolution shall not take effect unless a similar resolution has been passed by the trustees of the ODBF as the receiving charity prior to merger date, the agreement of the Charity Commissioners is obtained, the ODBF rules are changed to permit grants from investment income to be made to the augmentation of bells in the Diocese of Oxford and existing funds that are already promised to specific projects are reserved for those projects.

### **Date of Merger**

The ideal date would be yearend of both the ODBF and the ODGRF, 31<sup>st</sup> December. The first opportunity being the end of 2019.

### **Timetable**

ODG to agree Merger Resolution for the ODGRF – AGM May 2019

ODBF to agree Merger Resolution with the ODGRF – EGM November 2019

ODBF to agree Rule Change to allow support of augmentation work – EGM November 2019

Update objects with Charities Commission – between November and December 2019

Register Merger – December 2019

Complete Merger - December 2019

If the first date is missed, then the aim would be to complete in December 2020 as the next AGM of the ODG would be in May 2020.

### **Notes**

ODGRF General Fund balance is £12,750

ODGRF Longworth Restricted Fund balance is £14,567

The Independent Examiner has been updated on the plans and specifically consulted over the Restricted Fund issue.

Stuart Gibson

26<sup>th</sup> March 2019



## **ITEM 9 – REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE**

### **General Committee Report for Guild AGM May 2019.**

The General Committee met at Newbury in November 2018 and at Kirtlington in March 2019.

Both meetings had been updated by the Master, the Deputy Master, the Secretary and the Treasurer on their discussions about the future of the General Committee. The Guild had many strengths, but it needed to review its structure and improve its decision-making processes. The aim is to restructure the General Committee to form smaller and more effective groups that will be able to progress decisions more quickly. The suggestion is for an Executive Team that would generate ideas to manage and promote the Guild and drive forward developments from Guild members. There will also be a Management Committee of about 30 members which would generally take on the functions of the existing General Committee. We will welcome all members thoughts on these ideas, and all the ideas and thoughts will be brought back to a future meeting. Before implementation there would have to be rule changes.

The website has continued to be a source of irritation. It was decided to scrap the website that had been developed by an exterior developer because it was inadequate and technically it would be difficult to build upon. The Website Manager (Tim Hayward) was asked to build a new website, which has now gone live largely, which should provide a good basis for future communications for the Guild.

The March meeting received and approved the General Fund and Restoration Fund accounts for 2018. It also heard reports from the Peal Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Librarian, Website Manager, Server Manager and Report Editor. As Librarian, Doug Beaumont continues to seek members to help with digitally photographing records.

The March meeting also decided that donations of £1,000 to each of the Restoration Fund and Bell Fund and £200 to The Ringing World should be put to the AGM. The AGM will decide about a donation to the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART).

The work of the subcommittees continues. The Finance and General Purposes Subcommittee (F&GP) discussed support for young ringers and agreed to contribute towards the cost for their courses and towards transport to Liverpool for the National Youth Contest.

The Education Subcommittee continues its work, particularly on organising the regular courses: Radley, Michaelmas, Steeple Aston and the 10-Bell course, and on the Young Ringers' Award scheme.

The Towers and Belfries Subcommittee reported on its activities including inspections for the Tower Maintenance Awards and those connected with grants. The subcommittee is seeking new members to help with this work.

The March meeting of the General Committee was preceded by the AGM of the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund, whose members are the Guild's General Committee. At the Bell Fund AGM there was considerable discussion about merging the Guild Restoration Fund into the Bell Fund, with the consensus being to press ahead with the proposal in future meetings of the Guild and the Bell Fund.

## **ITEM 10 – REPORT OF OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND**

**OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND**

**(Registered Charity No. 268390)**

## Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

### Trustees

In accordance with the Fund's Rules and Constitution, at the Annual General Meeting of the Governors of the fund, held on Saturday 10th March 2018, the following Trustees were elected:

Chairman	Alan Marchbank
Secretary	Catherine Lane
Catchmole Cottage 12, High Street Wheatley Oxon OX33 1XX	
Treasurer	Stuart Gibson
Additional Managing Trustees:	Graham Clifton, Brian Gatward, Ken. Davenport, Jon Chamberlain

### Public Benefit

The fund's object of raising and collecting sums of money and to applying the income arising from the investment of such sums in or towards the repair and renewal of church bells in the Diocese of Oxford has been met during the year as detailed in the paragraphs below, and by raising awareness of the Charity within the Churches of the Oxford Diocese.

Across the Diocese of Oxford, the public benefit from the preservation of a unique tradition and heritage. Local communities will be able to hear the bells ring for Divine Service, for weddings and on other occasions, and members of the public are able to participate in an inclusive activity that benefits them both physically and mentally.

### Fund Raising

New money raised in 2018 amounted to £7,898.

Regular fund raising included £3,349.36 from branch donations; £635.00 from towers; donations from PCCs were £165.00 and £1,356.00 was raised by the ringing day. The Quarter Peal Week raised £55.50 and Tax refunded on Gift Aided donations amounted to £421.49. The St Blaise Society generously donated £449.00 and the Guild made a donation of £1000.00.

The Managing Trustees again would like to thank to all those who helped to arrange the Ringing Day which was held in the Chipping Norton Branch; and to all those who have contributed to the continued success of the Fund.

### Grants

During the year, new applications were received and provisional grants were allocated:

Lambourne (£2,800); Sonning (£1,000); Long Wittenham (£5,600); Witney (£710); Little Horwood (£8,900); Calverton (Bucks) (£12,000); Great Tew (£660); Broadwell (£12,000); Hanslope (£13,200); Steventon £2,100; Letcombe Bassett (£2,770).

Grants were paid during the year towards eligible work at:

Sonning; Taynton; Loughton; Cuddesden; Black Bourton and Little Hampden Provisional grant were also made to:

In accordance with the Trustees' continuing policy of requiring an independent assessment of satisfactory completion of the work, before payment of a grant, members of the Towers and Belfries Committee carry out an inspection on the Fund's behalf. The Managing Trustees wish to record their gratitude for this service.

During the year the Managing Trustees maintained the level of provisional grant allocations to 20% of the estimated costs of eligible work. If the final cost is materially different from the indicated cost at the time of application, the grant is reviewed and may be revised. The level of grant allocated depends on the number of applications and the income available for distribution and may vary from year to year.

### Investments

Investment income for the year was £25,169.71 (2017: £23,274.32). This reflects the overall financial situation with continuing low interest rates during the year.

The new money raised has been invested on a regular basis in accordance with advice received from the Diocesan Financial Advisor. Transactions are made on behalf of the Fund by the Diocesan authorities. Money is invested in a number of different charitable investments and these include:

Church of England Investment Fund  
 Charifund Income Fund  
 COIF Fixed Interest  
 COIF Income Fund  
 Charinco Income Fund  
 CBF Global Equity Fund  
 CBF Property Fund

The market value of the investments at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was £705,865.96 (2018: £726,111.89).

Alan Marchbank

## ITEM 14 – RATIFICATION OF NON-RESIDENT RINGING MEMBERS

### Non-resident life members elected during 2018

Subject to ratification at the 2019 AGM

Name	Address	First Peal Rung at:	Peal date
Clive J Stephenson	Hornchurch	Hornchurch	10 March 2018
Alison Williams	Beedon	Long Crendon	04 August 2018
Steve Bowley	Little Comberton	Aylesbury	18 August 2018
Matthew C Webb	Old Woking	Thatcham	23 October 2018
Mariko Whyte	Wareham	Tulloch	29 October 2018
Matthew S Pearson	Camberley	Bucklebury	04 September 2018
R Nicholas Lawrence	Sherborne	Huntsham	04 October 2018
Rev Christopher Renyard	Salisbury	Huntsham	04 October 2018
Mary Gow	London	Clewer	30 November 2018