

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020**

AGENDA

1. Attendance Book
2. Requests for urgent items of Any Other Business
3. Minutes of the General Committee meeting of 23 November 2019

INFORMATION AND REPORTS (circulated in advance where appropriate)

4. Matters arising
 - a. Public Relations
5. Correspondence
6. Reports from and election of sub-committees
 - a. Education
 - b. Towers and Belfries
 - c. Finance and General Purposes
7. Reports from
 - a. Peal Secretary
 - b. Safeguarding Officer
 - c. Librarian
 - d. Webmaster
 - e. Server Manager
 - f. Report Editor
8. Diary of Events
9. Posts specified in Rule 9(c) & (f) (iii): Notification of officers not willing to stand for re-election

FINANCIAL MATTERS

10. Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019
11. Management of the Restoration Fund and Accounts ending 31 December 2019
12. Donations to the Bell Fund, the Ringing World, and ART.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

13. Any other business, as agreed at the start
14. Concluding vote of thanks

Item 3

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

MINUTES OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at The Ark, Sonning 23rd November 2019

Subject to confirmation at the next General Committee meeting

The meeting was attended by 43 Committee members.

1. Apologies for absence: The attendance book was circulated. 23 apologies for absence were received.

2. Any other items of business: A report on the visit by the Bishop of Kimberley was added.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting: These were approved on a proposal from Robert Newton which was seconded by Keith Vernon.

4. Matters arising:

a. The Future of the General Committee: Katie Lane spoke of the need for modernisation and for consideration of the time, tools and resources available. We can also look to the recent restructuring of the Central Council. We should consider co-opting people short term when specific skills are needed. The PR role remains difficult to fill and is too big a job for one person. It is worth looking at pulling together a team to raise our profile both to members and the wider community. Later there will be a think tank session to consider this, entitled "How could a Public Relations Group be developed and what would it do?" followed by feedback.

5. Correspondence:

a. Ken Darvill had received information from Loughborough Bell Foundry regarding their fundraising campaign. There are leaflets available for more information.

b. Colin Newman sent notification that the Training Meeting will be in March, not February as previously advertised. This will be for all Branch Ringing Masters and Training Officers.

c. Heather Browning sent a reminder that the items for the Guild report will need to be ready in January.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees

a. Finance and General Purposes: there were no comments on this.

b. Education: Robert Newton said there was a correction – Colin Newman should be listed as the report author. The courses have all run well this year, but there is now some work to

do to identify what training is most needed. The Michaelmas course had 14 applications but only 1 for conducting. This year there were two groups. The training meeting next March will be an opportunity to identify what the needs are. Keith Vernon reminded people to forward names of suitable helpers for any of the courses.

c. Towers and Belfries: Tony Crabtree reported that there are several courses planned, with some targeted in the east and north east of the Guild where a shortage was identified. This year courses were full, and work is being done to encourage local courses.

7. Central Council Representatives Report: This was circulated in advance. There were no comments.

8. Diary of Events: Ken Darvill said the AGM in May was combining with the 8 bell competition in Blewbury and there would be an opportunity to view the new stained glass window. There is also the sponsored quarter peal week in February in aid of the Bell Fund. There is an award for the branch that raises the most money per member.

9. Guild Budget: Stuart Gibson reported that the slightly higher expenditure this year was due to the Youth Competition in Liverpool. This year is expected to be similar with the event being held in York. Tim Pett asked if the £1,000 to the Restoration fund would now be £2,000 to the Bell fund. Stuart Gibson said yes. The budget was accepted. Proposed by Stuart Gibson and seconded by Alan Marchbank.

10. Subscriptions for 2020: Stuart Gibson proposed that they remain the same for Resident members and Non Resident members. Seconded by Ken Davenport and agreed.

11. Peal Fees: Stuart Gibson proposed no change to peal fees. This was seconded by Ken Davenport and agreed.

12. Management of Restoration Fund: Stuart Gibson thanked all branches who have supported this. In response to a question from Ken Davenport, Stuart reported that there are no standing orders.

14. Quorum for AGM (item 13 was moved until the end)

Ken Darvill proposed that at the AGM we should consider a change to the Guild rules on the AGM quorum with either no limit or a lower number. There was discussion on the best way to progress this. If the AGM has other events it can prove very popular, but in some areas parking is an issue. Hosting the 8 bell competition beforehand may help with numbers. Robert Newton proposed a quorum of 25. This was seconded by Hilarie Rogers. A vote was taken and more were against than for it.

15. Any other business agreed at start of meeting: Bishop of Kimberley visit: Lucy Hopkins Till reported that the Bishop is prioritising the restoration of the bells when he returns to Africa. Lucy will keep the Guild informed.

13. Developing a Public Relations Group: The members present met in groups to discuss this for 20 minutes, then reported back to the meeting. Common themes came from all the groups: Raising the Guild profile, work on retention and recruitment, audit of what tools we have available and ensuring the branches know what is available, up to date information on website, better information to new members, involving young people and social media, open towers, local press, using mini rings, and publicising what we are ringing for on special occasions. Katie Lane thanked everyone for their input and said she would collate the thoughts of the groups.

16. Vote of thanks: Katie Lane thanked all of the Sonning ringers for hosting the meeting and the marvellous tea.

Item 6a

Report of Education Sub-Committee

The Education sub-committee has met regularly at Aston Rowant throughout the last period where the standard business of the group has been transacted.

All the regular courses have taken place; Radley, Michaelmas, Steeple Aston and two 10 bell courses with the feedback received suggesting they have been generally successful. The courses have covered the normal range of skills from Plain Hunt Doubles to advanced Major, Grandsire Caters and Cambridge S Royal.

The group continues to work on the future of the Guild Young Ringer's Award Scheme as well as maintaining a focus on youth as a whole. The next meeting of the group to discuss this topic will be held in April where it is hoped we will move to a place of understanding for the next scheme, even if the detail is not finalised by then.

The group has received regular updates from ART, the Guild ringing and training centres as well as reports from the Loddon Hub.

The Guild Youth Team continues to meet monthly in various locations to develop their striking skills in preparation for the 2020 RWNYS at which they need to defend their position as champions

Colin Newman (Chairman)

Item 6b

Report of Towers & Belfries Sub-Committee

The sub-committee met at Radley three times during 2019 in February, August and November with an average attendance of about eight. We presently have twelve members (plus ODG Officers) but would welcome even more; particularly in the East of the Guild. We said goodbye to Mark Walker who served 18 years on the committee including many as Secretary. We were pleased to welcome Steve Vickars, Chris Potter and Mark Curnow. We still need new members in the Bucks / EBSB areas,

who do not necessarily need to be “experienced” in belfry matters but must have a practical outlook, be keen & able to learn and ready to work as part of a team. Please contact Tony Crabtree if you are interested.

The committee has display materials available for use with or without the Guild display boards and a wide variety of belfry artefacts for demonstration purposes. After running two courses in 2018, we ran three in 2019: rope splicing and management at Radley and general tower & belfry courses at Checkendon and Wheatley. These covered safety, rope management, bell maintenance, belfry & tower improvements and major projects. They were all fully subscribed. The committee has three courses in the diary for 2020 and possibly a fourth, given the waiting list for our rope splicing and rope management courses.

Committee members have been active in 2019 with Bell Fund and Restoration Fund grant inspections, TMA (Tower Maintenance Award) inspections, general advice or minor work at the following places: Fernham, Ascott under Wychwood, Longworth, Slapton, Cuddesdon, Broadwell, Dorchester, Hampstead Norreys, Stoke Goldington, Shipton under Wychwood, Marlow, Cheddington, Burghfield, Stratfield Mortimer, Aylesbury Holy Trinity, Hulcott, Soulbury, Stanton St John, Weston on the Green, Eynsham, Thame, Steventon, Warfield, Little Horwood, Witney, Calverton, West Challow, Arborfield, South Leigh, Combe, Aldermaston, Winkfield, Chalfont St Peter, and North Stoke.

Besides doing TMA and grant inspections, we are happy to come and give general advice too. If you want a visit, you have only to ask the Secretary or Chairman who can then find the nearest member. We agreed to circulate Branch Secretaries with a notice to towers reminding them advice and inspections are free. A flurry of responses was received. Members also considered updates to the committee’s technical papers. These papers and more can be downloaded from the Guild website.

The Tower Maintenance Award (TMA) scheme continues and towers are encouraged to join in. A reminder via Branch Secretaries produced a flurry of enquiries. There are 23 “current” awards and a further 28 recently “expired”, representing 51 towers or about 19% of the ODG. Inspections are free and there is a lot to be gained from the inspection and the advice you may receive, so please get in touch if you would like a visit and help us work away at that remaining 81%!

Tony Crabtree – (Chairman)

Item 6c

Report of Finance & General Purposes Sub-Committee

No report received as at 17th February.

Item 7a

Peal Secretary's Report 2019

A total of 271 peals was rung for the Guild in 2019 (18 more than in 2018): 124 on handbells and 147 on tower bells. This again puts the Guild second in terms of the highest ranking Guild/Association for the total number of peals rung during the year. The Guild maintained its leading position with the highest number of handbell peals rung. 6 members rang their first peal, 2 members their first in hand and 2 members conducted their first peal. Congratulations to them and to Tim Pett on ringing his 4000th peal and to Robert Newton who has rung 3,000 peals split 1,500 in tower and 1,500 in hand. A summary of the leading peal ringers and their personal achievements can be seen below.

The leading tower was Hughenden with 15 peals, and the leading handbell venue was Tilehurst, 15 Lytham End with 37 peals.

In 2019 footnotes recorded the following notable events:

Church:

The Ordination of Tracey Jones as Deacon & becoming Curate at Hughenden.

The 150th anniversary of the dedication of the church at Freeland.

The Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, Easter and Remembrance Day.

1st on the bells since augmentation and restoration at Calverton, Great Brickhill and Turville.

National:

For May Day.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the 1st manned mission to land on the moon.

Personal:

The birth of Alexander George Alan Firman. The birthday of Mrs Evelyn Phillips (101), Beryl Roach (98), David Cornwall (80), Catherine M A Lane (70), Janet E Menhinick (70), Melanie McGregor (60), Susan H Rhodes (60), Hamish O'Mahony (21), Bill Butler, Theo Cross, Valerie Groves, Kate Menhinick, Christopher D O'Mahony, Pat Moore, Beryl R Norris, E John Wells. The christening of Sophie & Jonathan Roberts. The wedding of Isobel Edwards & Michael McManus, Charlie Croft & Caro Le Moullec and the wedding anniversary of Revd Jenny & the Revd Hugh Ellis (40), Tim & Jill Pett (50) and Beryl & Ieuan Roach (70)

Ringings:

500th in the house Maidenhead, 7 Laburnham Road

The Guild remembered a number of ringers, relatives and friends who passed away during the year or in recent years: Brian John Edwards, PC Andrew Harper, John W Hatton, Susan Marshall, Brian Morris, Rosemary Rolls, Chris Rowson, Stan Scott, Maureen Sherwood, Gerald Richard Stratton, Ivor Trueman, David Tuckey, Edward R Venn, Arthur J White, David Willis

LEADING PEAL RINGERS (50 OR MORE PEALS)

NAME	TOWER		HAND		ALL	
	Rung	Cond	Rung	Cond	Rung	Cond
Bernard F L Groves	26	0	37	19	63	19
Timothy G Pett	64	22	5	0	69	22
Robert H Newton	15	3	43	10	58	13

Patricia M Newton	12	1	40	0	52	1
June D Wells	35	0	57	1	92	1
E John Wells	35	0	58	12	93	13
Graham A C John	23	3	56	31	79	34

TOWERBELL TOWERS

Tower	No of Peals
Hughenden	15
Oxford St Thomas	11
Thatcham	11
East Ilsley	9
High Wycombe	5
Stoke Poges	5
2 towers each with	4
6 towers each with	3
10 towers each with	2
45 towers each with	1
Total number of different towers	68

HANDBELL VENUES

Venue	No of Peals
Tilehurst, 15 Lytham End	37
Maidenhead, 7 Laburnham Road	34
Aston Rowant, The White House	23
Brimpton, Brambles	14
Tilehurst, 3 Cramner Close	7
1 venues each with	3
6 venues each with	1
Total number of different handbell venues	12

FIRST PEAL CONGRATULATIONS

Ben Gladwyn, Melanie McGregor, Jack A Knowles, David G Middleton, Michael A Spracklen, Douglas S Vale

FIRST PEAL AS CONDUCTOR

Adam D Rebick, Thomas R Sherwood

FIRST PEAL IN HAND

Rosanna Cretney, Lindsay Powell, Craig M Robertson

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

E John Wells	800 th handbell peal
Timothy G Pett	4,000 th peal
Robert H Newton	3,000 th peal
E John Wells	1,900 th peal
Richard L Thumwood	1,700 th peal
June D Wells	1,700 th peal
Kenneth R Davenport	1,500 th peal
Robert H Newton	1,500 th handbell peal
E John Wells/June D Wells	1,400 th peal together
Janet E Menhinick	1,100 th peal
Kenneth R Davenport	600 th handbell peal
Jack E Page	500 th tower bell peal
David G Maynard	500 th handbell peal
Stephen A Rossiter	350 th peal
Jack E Page	200 th peal as conductor
Janet E Menhinick	200 th peal for the Guild
Paul J Wells	100 th peal
Colin M Lee	100 th handbell peal
John C Sheppard/E John Wells	100 th peal together
Nicholas J Clarke/Timothy G Pett	100 th peal together
Edward J W Manley/E John Wells	100 th peal together
Jack E Page/E John Wells	100 th peal together
Robert A Partridge/Timothy G Pett	100 th peal together
Janet E John/E John Wells/ June D Wells	100 th peal together
Marcia L Dieppe	75 th handbell peal
Sally A Austin	50 th peal
Peter R Ellis	50 th peal
Thomas R Sherwood	25 th peal

METHODS RUNG FOR THE FIRST TIME

First peal in the method: Fryerning Alliance Major, Maidenhead D Maximus, Maryland S Maximus, Metheringham Fen Surprise Maximus, Nephthys S Maximus, Osiris S Maximus, Paludian Surprise Maximus, Ra Surprise Maximus, Whistler Delight Maximus

ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG IN 2019

() Denotes number rung in the method

TOWER

DOUBLES:	Total: 3
Principles: Stedman	
Other: 7 – 12 methods (2)	
MINOR	Total: 25
Plain: Grandsire, Plain Bob	
Surprise: 7 methods (16)	

Spliced Surprise: 14 – 41 methods (5)
Other: 3 – 7 methods (2)

TRIPLES Total: 4
Principles: Stedman (4)

MAJOR Total: 84
Plain: Double Norwich (5), Plain Bob (3)
Delight: Bovey Tracey Bridge, David's, Keele University, Kingsteignton, Longstanton, Lysander, Rainbow Hill, Winchester
Surprise: Bovey Tracey, Bray (2), Bristol (8), Buntingford, Cambridge (3), Cassiobury (2), Cornwall, Crewkerne, Danesburgh, Dereham, Ealing, Ely, Essex, Frodsham, Higher Walton, Ipswich, Lessness (4), London (2), Omega, Rutland (2), Scargill House, Superlative, Turramurra (3), Ullesthorpe, Venusium, Versailles, Winlaton Mill, Yelling, York, Yorkshire (4), Ytterbium, Zurich
Spliced: 10 - 14 methods (2)
Spliced Surprise: 4 -23 methods (11)
Alliance: Fryerning, Rogmau

CATERS Total: 3
Plain: Grandsire (2)
Principles: Stedman

ROYAL Total: 21
Surprise: Bristol (4), Cambridge (4), Clyde, Henleaze, Jarl, London No 3 (2), Woodspring, Yorkshire (3)
Spliced Surprise: 4 - 10 methods (4)

CINQUES Total: 1
Principles: Stedman

CINQUES/MAXIMUS Total: 1
Spliced: 2 methods

MAXIMUS Total: 5
Delight: Southdown
Surprise: Bristol (3), Yorkshire

Towerbell Total: 147

HANDBELL

MINOR Total: 2
Plain: Plain Bob (2)

MAJOR Total: 31
Plain: Double Norwich, Plain Bob, St Clement's
Treble Bob: Kent (7)
Surprise: Bristol (2), Cambridge (2), Jersey, London, Rutland,

Superlative, Tavistock, Turramurra (2), Versailles (2), Yorkshire (5)
Spliced Surprise: 8 methods (3)

ROYAL

Total: 56

Spliced Plain: 8 methods
Treble Bob: Kent (4), 2 methods (2)
Delight: Bishop Stamer, Dewi Sant, Mather
Surprise: Albanian, Anglia (2) Bristol (2), Cambridge (8), Henleaze, Isleworth, Lincolnshire (4), London No 3 (6), Oakham, Swindon (4), Woodspring, XXV, Yorkshire (8)
Spliced Surprise: 3 - 4 methods (6)

MAXIMUS

Total: 35

Treble Bob: Kent (2)
Delight: Maidenhead, Whistler
Surprise: Bristol (7), Dysart, Lincolnshire, Littleport Little, Maryland, Metheringham Fen, Nephthys, Osiris, Paludian, Ra, Yorkshire, Zanussi
Spliced Surprise: 2 – 4 methods (10)
Spliced Treble Dodging: 3 – 4 methods (3)

Handbell Total: 124

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEALS RUNG IN 2019: 271

Ken Davenport – Peal Secretary

Item 7b

Safeguarding Officer's Report

Safeguarding has remained a priority for the Guild during the past year, during which we have continued to promote Diocesan policies, in order to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all ringers, including our most vulnerable.

A further successful C2 training course was held at Radley, during November, which was well attended and received by all, and others have attended similar training sessions held at Church House in Kidlington. Our aim is to have all Tower Captains and trainers educated to this level, in line with Diocesan policy. As church officers all Tower Captains should endeavour to complete this level of training, even if they don't have vulnerable people amongst their ringers.

There are changes afoot within the Diocese for the delivering of training. C2 leadership training is now being delivered in combination with C3. A comprehensive programme is now available on the Diocesan Safeguarding site. Venues are at a mixture of regional and central locations and individuals can book onto these where spaces are available.

June Wells - Safeguarding Officer

Item 7c

Librarian's Report

Books and other material acquired for the library during 2019 are listed below.

There were 15 enquiries and loan requests during the year. This is 15 fewer than last year. The reduction in numbers is mainly due to a drop in the number of enquiries prompted by the centenary of the end of the Great War. Please note that a summary of individual queries is routinely included in the librarian's reports in Odd Bob.

Tidying up of material into boxes and folders was completed during the year. There are now approximately 20 boxes of material that are not catalogued in any way. Some of the items will need to be catalogued individually, others as batches of similar items such as editions of the Irish Bell News. Work on this will be started during the forthcoming year.

The electronic archive now has a list of the documents available. For information the website address is <http://www.archives.odg.org.uk/>. As can be seen, the amount of material there is quite limited, so if anybody would be interested in helping to increase the content by photographing or scanning library items, please let me know.

As always, please feel free to visit the library. Alternatively, I will be happy to look up any information - just get in touch.

Doug Beaumont - Librarian

Books and papers acquired for the Guild Library during 2019

Central Council Friends of the Library. Fortieth Newsletter, 2019. Folded A4 sheets. pp.12

Central Council Essays for the Friends of the Library. No.26: 'An Australian Admirer' by William Willans. 2019. Folded A4 sheets Pp.12

Scott (Rev. John.G.M.) The Bells of Exeter Cathedral. n.p. Updated 2019 by Ian L. C. Campbell. Pp. 21, original paper covers

Charles (Barrie) The Bells and Ringers of Cholsey Church. Published by the author, 2019. Pp.77. Original paper covers.

Central Council Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers to the Rings of Bells of the World, compiled by John Baldwin, Tim Jackson and Ron Johnston. Eleventh edition 2018. Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Pp.xiv+330. Original purple cloth.

Oxford Diocesan Guild Old North Berks Branch. Newsletters, 2019: No.154 June, No.155 Dec.

Oxford Diocesan Guild Sonning Deanery Branch. Newsletters, 2019: Jan., Apr., Sept.

Oxford Diocesan Guild Chipping Norton Branch. Newsletters: 2017: Dec. 2018: monthly Jan.-May, June/July, monthly Aug.-Dec.; 2019: monthly Jan.-July, Sept., Oct., Nov.

Oxford Diocesan Guild Chipping Norton Branch: Autumn meeting minutes, 2 Oct. 2018

Oxford Diocesan Guild Annual Report for 2018

Oxford Diocesan Guild Odd Bob Newsletter 2019: No. 100 May, 101 Nov.

Oxford University Society of Change Ringers Annual Newsletter 2019

The Ringing World for 2018 was bound

Item 7d

Webmaster's Report

Work is still in progress to migrate content from the old site. I'm currently working on the history content, as well as making the Library catalogue suitable for display on portable devices – it is currently available to download or as a list on the library page.

There have been 35 published news articles gratefully received from a very small pool of contributors. Often the first I as Webmaster hear about news and events is through my Tower Correspondent. I'm always happy to post on the website where possible.

Numerous requests for updating of mailing lists have erroneously been sent to me, and these have been forwarded to the server admins when received.

Several members have provided constructive feedback, and this has been welcomed as I look to improve the website to ensure it meets the needs of the users.

Tim Hayward - Webmaster

Item 7e

Server Manager's Report

The server managers continue to deal with changes to email distribution lists and the forwarding addresses for the generic email addresses. These are in response to requests from branch secretaries or the webmaster of a branch where a branch has its own website hosted on the Guild server.

The server currently hosts 27 mailing lists for nine of the branches and six mailing lists at Guild level. The server also has over 340 email forwarders redirecting email for Guild officers, branch officers, and individual towers.

The bringing online of the new Guild website has seen increased activity on the server. No additional branch websites have been set up during the year. The Guild server hosts websites for ten branches, as well as a separate website for the Guild archives and one tower website.

I would like to thank my assistant, Colin Newman, for his help with looking after the server.

We are still suffering with a lack of memory and I am currently looking at a server upgrade this year in order to resolve these issues and benefit from newer hardware virtual server technology.

May I remind you that the server is run for the benefit of the whole Guild so if any branch or tower who is not already doing so, would like to use any of the services mentioned above then please contact either me or Colin. The email address serveradmin@odg.org.uk forwards to both of us

Richard Stanworth - Server Manager

Item 7f

Report Editor's Report will be presented at the meeting.

Item 8

Diary of Events

(Note: As well as ODG events, this document contains dates, *in italics*, from sources including the “Things to ring for...” page on the Central Council website. For the full list, see <http://cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for/>)

2020

Sponsored Quarter Peal Week Saturday 22nd to Saturday 29th February	
Spring General Committee & Bell Fund AGM Saturday 14th March	Tilehurst
Training Meeting Saturday 21st March	
Radley Course Saturday 4th April	Radley
<i>St George's Day</i> <i>Thursday 23rd April</i>	
Ringling Day Friday 8th May	VoWH Branch
<i>VE Day Anniversary</i> <i>Friday 8th May</i>	
AGM and Eight-Bell Striking Competition Saturday 16th May	Blewbury
General Tower & Belfry Course Saturday 6th June	Leckhampstead (Bucks)
General Belfry Course Saturday 19th September	Ivinghoe
Michaelmas Course Saturday 26th September	In east of Diocese
Six-Bell Striking Competition Saturday 3rd October	Great Haseley
Steeple Aston Course Saturday 31st October	Steeple Aston
November General Committee & 10 Bell Contest Saturday 28th November	Oxford City Branch