

Joining instructions for the ODG AGM and timetable for the 16 May 2026

Timetable for the day

8 bell striking competition taking place in Bletchley 9.30 to 12.30 (approximate timings)

Towers open for ringing in the morning

10:00 - 10:45	Swanbourne
10:30 - 11:15	Little Horwood
11:00 - 11:45	Mursley
11:30 - 12:15	Drayton Parslow
12.30 – 13.30	Great Brickhill

Parking in Great Brickhill

Various parking is available near the Church, in the Church car park and just past the Church car park there is an unmade road between the Churchyard and Bletchley Park where you can park

Meeting details

13.30	Striking Competition results announced in Great Brickhill Community Centre, Rotten Row, Great Brickhill, MK17 9BA, Milton Keynes
14.00	Guild Bell Fund AGM – venue Great Brickhill Community Centre, Rotten Row, Great Brickhill, MK17 9BA, Milton Keynes
14.30	Guild AGM – venue Great Brickhill Community Centre, Rotten Row, Great Brickhill, MK17 9BA, Milton Keynes
16.00	Tea, served in the Community Centre – names for tea to master@odg.org.uk
17.00	Evensong service in St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickwell MK17 9BE – short walking distance from the meeting venue

Meeting apologies to secretary@odg.org.uk

Names for tea to master@odg.org.uk



Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Annual General Meeting 14.30 Saturday 16th May 2026

Great Brickhill, information on location see joining instructions

Supporting papers on the Website odg.org.uk

Agenda

- 1 Obituaries
- 2 Apologies for absence, to be sent to secretary@odg.org.uk
- 3 Minutes of the 2025 AGM held at St Lawrence, Warborough on 17 May 2025
- 4 Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda
- 5 2025 accounts
- 6 Report of the General committee
- 7 Report from the Safeguarding officer
- 8 Donations:
 - a) Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund
 - b) The Ringing World
 - c) Association of Ringing Teachers
- 9 Vote on guild rule change
- 10 Election of officers
- 12 Election of Vice Presidents
- 14 Ratification of non-resident ringing members
- 15 Striking competition results for 2025
- 16 AOB, to be received by the secretary prior to the start of the meeting



MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Saturday 17th May 2025 St Lawrence, Warborough OX10 7DR

The meeting was chaired by Guild Master Catherine Lane. It started at 14:25.

The meeting was attended by 69 Guild members. (Several members who signed the Attendance book left after the results of the 8 Bell competition so are not recorded as AGM attendees).

The Master welcomed all members to the AGM. She observed with pleasure that 'she had stopped counting attendees' as there were more than 50 members present (exceeding the AGM quorate number). The AGM was to be conducted efficiently but noting that it was a meeting for all members to fully participate.

1. Obituaries

The Master read the names of ODG members who had passed since the last AGM.

David Stone (Bodicote), David Vere (Banbury), Jean Davis (Banbury), Ros Luxley (Stewkley), Elizabeth Sorrell (Wendover), John Beacham (Chipping Norton), John Leach (Burford), Bruce Lousley (Hampstead Norreys), Peter Corderoy (Blewbury), Kate Crennell (Chilton), Ron Burgess (Kidlington), Patrick Hobson (St Giles Oxford), Bernard Masterman (St Giles Oxford), Roy Grant (Cowley), Douglas Wilks (North Hinksey), Margaret Weller (Cowley), Anthony Hughes (Marston), Peter Lloyd (Marston), Julian Elkington (Henley), Cyril Crouch (Shiplake), James Milford (St Giles in Reading), David Goodwin (Arborfield), Paul Fox (Easthampstead), Clive Bosley (South Oxon Branch), Robin Dyke (South Oxon Branch), Deidre Mann (South Oxon Branch), Eleanor Banks (Uffington), Bill Mitchell (Uffington), Ernest Canning (Yarnton), David Smith (South Leigh), Louise Brown (Church Hanborough).

The Master read 'Passing Through' by the Venerable Bede. The meeting then stood in remembrance, observing 1 minute's silence.

2. Apologies for Absence – all 30 apologies are noted in the attendance book. 3 apologies were added from the floor – Justine Gibb (Thame), Teresa Carter (Bicester) and Katherine Eyles (Oxford).

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 18th May 2024 in St. Andrew's Hall, Stoke Poges had been circulated. There were 2 amendments.

- Catherine Hughes-D'Aeth was appointed to the General Committee and has subsequently attended all General Committee meetings.
- In section 6 Correspondence – The Touring Tower had been booked by Hurst Show not Hurst School.

The Minutes were amended as above, approved and signed.

Proposer – Stuart Gibson, Seconder – Jan Glen

4. Matters arising – None

5. Correspondence

ODG Master has regular contact with the Diocese Media Advisor – Beka Sharrock, Communications Officer. The AGM are encouraged to listen to the interview with young ringer Theo (Marlow) on Radio Oxford. The link to the interview is on the ODG website home page - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002c2z1>

6. 2024 Accounts & membership matters

The accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. The accounts have been audited.

The Hon Treasurer, Stuart Gibson advised that funds set aside for youth ringing were unused & would be carried forward to this year's budget. Additional funds were needed to repair the Guild banner. This was a skilled, painstaking task of around 3 weeks work.

A question was raised about when members would pay membership subscriptions through Membermojo. Stuart advised that a meeting to test readiness & tasks required so that individual members could pay their annual subscription online would be held on 19th June 2025.

It was noted that in some cases the subscriptions were paid by the PCC. The handling of this requirement and other membership subscription differences would be considered at a Membermojo team meeting to decide if ODG could be ready for online membership payment in January 2025. The payment decision & steps to achieve plan would then be put forward for ratification at the F&GP September meeting.

The 2024 accounts were approved: Proposer: Stuart Gibson, Seconded: Pat Newton

Update on Membermojo implementation and usage by the ODG membership.

The implementation on 1st January 2025 had gone well. Branch officer training, issues/queries & support have been handled by the Membership Secretary, Jenny Bennett and Membermojo project team as appropriate.

Now the ODG Membermojo was fully operational, Stuart Gibson advised that a support & queries help function will be created. Streamlining the ODG mailman email system and other IT improvements are underway.

Thanks were expressed for the dedicated time given by a small team to enable the successful implementation. Many branches were working well with Membermojo and making full use of the communication benefits of the Membermojo email groups.

Reading Branch Secretary, Lindsey Barker raised concerns about resolving outstanding membermojo issues, such as identifying who to contact, for matters of IT/email, membership records difficulties and using the system well.

Action: Outgoing Hon Secretary Karen Pile will hold a meeting with Lindsey to discuss her points & reach appropriate resolution. It is anticipated that this will aid the setting up of the Membermojo support & queries function.

7. Report of the General Committee circulated online prior to the meeting. The Master read out the report to the AGM, as the online report had been published late.

The report was noted, and no comments were raised.

8. Report of the Safeguarding Officer circulated prior to meeting - no comments were raised.

9. Donations

At the last General Committee meeting (Saturday 8th March 2025) the following recommendations were made to come forward to this meeting.

The AGM discussed donations:

- a) To the Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund, a donation of £0.
The reasoning (as previously explained): Alan Marchbank, Chairman of Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund, that a large bequest had been received. The fund did not need additional monies, as the funds available from interest made on the capital were sufficient.
Proposed: Stuart Gibson, Seconded: John Harrison
- b) To The Ringing World a donation of £500.
Proposed: Alison Merryweather Lowe, Seconded: Craig Robertson
- c) To ART a donation of £500.
Proposed: Susan Reed, Seconded: Alison Merryweather Lowe

The donations were approved by the AGM.

10. Election of Officers AGM 2025 (new to post marked *)

Election of ODG Officers	Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers	AGM 2025	Warborough	AGM attendees
		Proposer	Seconder	Elected
Master	Catherine Lane	June Saint	Eunice Wark	Yes
Deputy Master	Chris Mundy	Catherine Lane		Yes
Hon General Secretary	*Heather Browning	Catherine Lane		Yes
Hon General Treasurer	Stuart Gibson	Catherine Lane		Yes
Assistant Treasurer	Katherine Eyles	Stuart Gibson	Robert Newton	Yes
Hon Librarian	Doug Beaumont	Stuart Gibson	Robert Newton	Yes
Report Editor	Heather Browning	Stuart Gibson	Robert Newton	Yes

Odd Bob Editor	*Kathryn Grant	Catherine Lane		Yes
Peal Secretary	Ken Davenport	Catherine Lane		Yes
Communications Officer	*Lesley Belcher	Catherine Lane		Yes
Safeguarding	June Wells	Andy Bennett	Tim Pett	Yes
Website Manager	Andrew Goldthorpe	Andy Bennett	Tim Pett	Yes
Membership Secretary	Jenny Bennett	Andy Bennett	Tim Pett	Yes
Server Manager	Richard Stanworth	Andy Bennett	Tim Pett	Yes
Assistant Server Manager	Les MinchintonSmith	Andy Bennett	Tim Pett	Yes
Guild Stewards	Colin Lee Tony Crabtree Patricia Newton Peter Robson Karen Pile	Susan Read	Richard Stanworth	Yes
Elected General Committee members	Catherine Hughes-D'Aeth Mike Hopkins-Till *Alan Marchbank *Andy Bennett	Stuart Gibson	Craig Robertson	Yes
Independent Auditor	A Mignanelli	Chris Mundy	Colin Lee	Yes
Trustees (a permanent post until stands down)	Graham Clifton Ken Darvill Robert Newton			
Non-resident life members elected during 2024	James MacKenzie Ruth Plumridge William Read David Burbage	Stuart Gibson	Jan Glen	Ratified

The Master thanked those that had stepped forward to take on posts (these are marked with an asterisk * in the table above)

11. Distinguished Membership Awards. None had been submitted.

12. Ratification of Non-resident Ringing Members.

James MacKenzie, Ruth Plumridge, William Read and David Burbage (see inclusion in ODG Annual Report 2024, page 42) were ratified.

13. Restructure of Guild Management Deputy Master, Chris Mundy:

Work is continuing progressing the proposed new management structure of the Guild. The second draft of the amended rules is done and are in the process of being circulated to various members of the General Committee for comment and scrutiny.

Chris emphasised the need for agility in decision making. ODG must adapt effectively to new challenges affecting modern church bellringing to ensure that the Exercise thrives. (for clarity the key elements of the ODG management restructure rationale are reproduced below).

The amended rules consider feedback received at the last General Committee meetings in November 2024 and March 2025. A supporting document has also been produced which is intended to be retained as a record of the intention of how the new management structure is to be operated and this is being circulated for scrutiny along with the amended rules. General Committee members requested that all changes were not rushed. There was a balance to be attained between acting with pace and applying sufficient consideration of the changes.

Except for one other change (proposed AGM quorate change discussed below), the only changes being proposed to the Guild rules at this stage are those amendments needed to allow the new management structure to be implemented and operated. Whilst it can be argued that the rules could do with a complete re-write, this is something for the future (possibly for the new Executive and Governance and Scrutiny Committee, if the changes get adopted).

Cathy Hughes D'Aeth requested that a Youth representative (member under 30 years) is adopted. Chris said this would be considered.

Alan Marchbank requested that a definite timeline is adopted to keep the work on track. This was also proposed by Pat Newton. Initially 1st November 2025 was considered but to ensure that the November General Committee had a proposal to consider Chris agreed that a target date for the 2nd draft would be November 1st, 2025.

Proposed rule change to reduce AGM quorum from 50 to 25

The above change was proposed by Robert Newton and seconded by Ken Darvill. Historic issues when the quorate was not met had presented many difficulties.

Andrew Davis felt that 25 was a very low % of ODG membership. Andy Bennett observed that it required just 5 members from each branch to reach the quorum.

Following discussion the proposal was opposed. The AGM agreed that a quorate of 50 members should remain.

A recap of the reasons for the guild management restructure (reproduced from the November 2024 & March 2025 General Committee minutes).

The papers have been circulated and are available on the Guild website.

Summary of the reasons for the proposed changes to the management structure:

- Hugely changing world and way people spend their time
- Fewer recruits
- Diminishing church congregations
- Redundant churches
- Increasing average age of the ringing population
- Social changes since the pandemic and its challenges and implications
- The CCCBR, other territorials and societies have changed their structure or are in the process of so doing because of the changing world • Ringing 2030 has been started nationally to try and address the recruitment issue **How does this affect the ODG?**
- The Guild activities must be relevant and meaningful to the membership
- The officers need to ensure that the Guild and its objects are set up for the future including 2030 and beyond
- The management of the Guild needs to be agile enough to adapt to the fast- moving future of ringing Chris reported that the proposals he was putting forward are not a solution to the difficulties that lie ahead, it is a start on the journey.

The current structure does not facilitate agile thinking. The leadership and management of the Guild is vested in the General Committee of 55 people who meet twice a year; that is not really feasible to make sure that changes of direction can be relevant and agile.

The officers' roles consist mostly of administrative tasks; the roles are specific but there are few opportunities to work as a group together for strategic planning and innovation. A great deal of time is taken up in administrative tasks involving preparation for meetings and other important business, but these activities do not take the Guild forward and are not relevant to many all members.

A small number of officers have started working together and meeting regularly to consider a structure which makes the future of the Guild a priority. The suggestion is to form an Executive Committee consisting of The Master, Deputy Master, Secretary, Treasurer, PR and Communications officer and the discretion to co-opt up to three advisors. In addition, there would be non-executive officers with specific roles, as is currently in place.

The workgroups and sub-committees that are in place today work well; in the future other workgroups may be formed by the executive, as needed. For instance, it may be that some form of technology or workgroup is formed.

The proposal is that the Executive Committee will have the power to run the Guild. So, there will be a small leadership team – to make it easier to adapt and move forward but with checks and balances.

The Executive Committee will need to report to a Governance and Scrutiny Committee that will hold the Exec to account to make sure that they do not “go rogue” or take the Guild in a direction against the wishes of the members.

The Governance and Scrutiny will be led by a chairperson and consist of 15 Branch spokespersons (i.e. one from each branch) as well as ringing vice presidents.

How will it work?

- It is suggested that the Executive Committee will meet monthly and work together as a team, thinking ahead, planning for the future, reviewing the Commercial in Confidence objects of the Guild, looking at roles, not individuals, and developing a structured plan for the Guild that will benefit the present and future membership. • The Executive will prepare open and transparent

Minutes of their meetings to the Governance Committee and publish them on the website for all members to access. • The Governance and Scrutiny Committee will meet physically at least once a year, more often if necessary, and there will be other virtual meetings and a continuous dialogue between Chairperson and the Master.

- There are some actions to focus time and attention on because they need to be addressed promptly.

14. Presentation of striking competition certificates.

Certificates were presented to the competition teams.

8 bell Competition (May 18th, 2024 – Stoke Poges)

1st EBSB, 2nd Reading, 3rd Newbury

6 Bell Competition (5th October 2024 Shottersbrook)

1st Tilehurst, 2nd High Wycombe, 3rd Hook Norton

Raising and Lowering Competition (5th October 2024 Shottersbrook)

Robert Newton welcomed more entries to this competition.

1st Hook Norton, 2nd Long Crendon, 3rd Binfield

10 bell Competition – (23rd November 2024, St Thomas the Martyr in Central Oxford)

1st Reading, 2nd EBSB, 3rd ONB

15. Any Other Business:

A course for training striking competition judges run by ex CCCBR President, Simon Linford was considered a success. It was recommended that further courses were conducted.

Richard Stanworth, ODG Server Manager thanked the outgoing Hon General Secretary, Karen Pile for her work for the ODG.

16. Thanks to the South Oxfordshire Branch

Chris Mundy thanked South Oxfordshire Branch, for their organisation and hospitality.

Chris expressed thanks to the Master, Catherine Lane for staying in post for a further year. He commended to the meeting the dedication and time expended on Guild work.

The meeting closed at 15.35 and was followed by Evensong at 16.30.

Additional thanks to those who supported the Touring Tower, including the setting up and taking down, which was made more challenging by the need to manually raise and lower. The tower attracted many visitors from Warborough including the publican, chef and barmaid from the local pub. 2 enquiries for learning to ring were received. In total 47 persons rang on the Touring tower.

Balance Sheet

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

As at 31 December 2025

	Notes	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Current Assets			
Stock of Book Stall		892	862
Debtors and Prepayments	3	88	88
Short Term Deposits	4	7,425	7,104
Bank		9,069	6,376
Total Current Assets		17,474	14,430
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and Accruals	5	933	160
Total Current Liabilities		933	160
Total Net Assets		16,541	14,270
Accumulated Funds			
Unrestricted Funds		14,831	13,456
Restricted Funds	6	1,710	814
Total Accumulated Funds		16,541	14,270

I report on the accounts of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers for the year ended 31 December 2025. I have examined these accounts together with the information supplied to me by the Officers of the guild and certify them to be in accordance therewith.

My examination of the records includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Guild and a comparison and reconciliation of the accounts with these records. In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention, to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alison Mignanelli, Independent Examiner

Stuart Gibson, Treasurer

Income and Expenditure

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
Income			
Subscriptions	7	16,124	17,547
Grants, Donations and Peal Fees	8	1,482	620
Course Fees	9	1,921	1,790
Ringling Events	10	171	-
Young Ringer Activities	11	155	229
Fundraising Income	12	550	495
Interest		429	489
Total Income		20,832	21,170
Expenditure			
Fundraising Costs	12	452	413
Grant Expenditure	13	1,686	2,258
Course Costs	9	1,902	1,637
Ringling Event Costs	10	1,851	20
Young Ringer Costs	11	1,267	1,132
Ringling Initiatives	14	-	75
Insurance	15	5,295	5,177
Ringling Support	16	976	556
IT	16	1,621	797
Ringling Publications	17	2,877	2,204
Administration	18	634	1,239
Total Expenditure		18,561	15,508
Surplus/(Deficit)		2,271	5,662
	Notes	2025	2024
Closing Reserves			
Balance as at 31st December			
Balance as at 1st January		14,270	8,608
Current Year Earnings		2,271	5,662
Total Balance as at 31st December		16,541	14,270

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting

We account on the accruals basis.

2. Fixed Assets

The following items are owned by the Guild but their value is not included in the accounts. They are collectively insured for £9,625. **1.** Master's Badge of Office, **2.** Gavel, **3.** The F E Robinson Rose Bowl, **4.** Set of 17 Handbells, **5.** Set of 13 Handbells, **6.** Guild Banner, **7.** 6, 8 & 10 Bell Competition Cups, **8.** Ten Pairs of eBells, **9.** Model Bell.

3. Debtors and Prepayments	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Accounts Receivable	88	88
Total Debtors and Prepayments	88	88

4. Short Term Deposits	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
CCLA CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	7,425	7,104
Total Short Term Deposits	7,425	7,104

5. Creditors and Accruals	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Accounts Payable	-	(60)
Accruals	(575)	(100)
Subscriptions Received in Advance	(60)	-
Other Creditors	(298)	-
Total Creditors and Accruals	(933)	(160)

6. Restricted Fund - Youth Fund	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Youth Fund (Restricted) OBAL	814	731
Youth Grants and Donations Received	636	183
Youth Grants Paid Out	-	(100)
Total Restricted Fund - Youth Fund	1,450	814

Restricted Fund - Training Fund	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
Training Grants and Donations Received	260	-
Total Restricted Fund - Training Fund	260	-

In 2019 we received two grants from the Bradfield Course for Training and Development of individuals and groups. We received an additional grant in 2025 to supplement this. We are using these grants to assist young ringers.

In 2025 we received two grants from the Oxon Ringing School for Learning and Development purposes. We are using these grants to assist in general training costs.

7. Subscriptions

Subscription Income is the subscriptions received from the branches within the year plus the Non Resident Life Subscriptions (£10 per person). The number of subscriptions received from each branch is as follows:

Branch	2025	2024
Banbury	134	133
Bicester	67	69
Central Bucks	212	215
Chiltern	99	102
Chipping Norton	71	84
East Berks & South Bucks	273	275
Newbury	150	145
North Bucks	181	194
Old North Berks	237	265
Oxford City	152	153
Reading	191	191
Sonning Deanery	147	155
South Oxon	109	115
Vale of the White Horse	84	88
Witney & Woodstock	185	199
Total Members	2,292	2,383
Non-Resident Life Members	8	12
Totals	2,300	2,395

8. Grants, Donations & Peal Fees

	2025	2024
Unrestricted donations and peal fees		
Peal Fees Received	572	437
Donations Received	14	-
Total Unrestricted donations and peal fees	586	437
Youth Fund Grants In (Restricted)	636	183
Training Fund Grants In (Restricted)	260	-
Total Grants, Donations & Peal Fees	1,482	620

Agreed practice is to donate 50% of the Peal Fees received to the Bell Fund.

9. Courses

	2025	2024
Course Income		
Michaelmas Course Income	320	320
Radley Course Income	750	650
Steeple Aston Course Income	851	772
Other Courses / Training Meetings Income	-	48
Total Course Income	1,921	1,790
Course Costs		
Michaelmas Course Costs	300	260
Radley Course Costs	657	529
Steeple Aston Course Costs	915	800
Other Courses / Training Meetings Costs	30	48
Total Course Costs	1,902	1,637
Total Courses	19	153

10. Ringing Events	2025	2024
Ringing Event Income		
Guild Ringing Event Income	171	-
Total Ringing Event Income	171	-
Ringing Event Costs		
Other Guild Ringing Events Costs	680	-
Striking Competitions (Hall Hire, Judges Gifts) Costs	333	20
Repair of Damage (Event Costs)	838	-
Total Ringing Event Costs	1,851	20
Total Ringing Events	(1,680)	(20)
11. Young Ringer Activities	2025	2024
Young Ringers Income		
RWNYC ODG Team Income	63	19
Other Young Ringer Income	92	210
Total Young Ringers Income	155	229
Young Ringers Costs		
RWNYC ODG Team Costs	536	761
RWNYC B&B Team Costs	545	-
Other Young Ringer Costs	186	371
Total Young Ringers Costs	1,267	1,132
Total Young Ringer Activities	(1,112)	(903)
Young Ringer Activities	2025	2024
RWNYC	(1,018)	(742)
Other	(94)	(161)
Total Young Ringer Activities	(1,112)	(903)
12. Fundraising	2025	2024
Bookstall		
Book Stall Sales	528	483
Bookstall Cost of Sales	(452)	(413)
Total Bookstall	76	70
Income from badges, educational leaflets, etc.	22	12
Total Fundraising	98	82
13. Grant Expenditure	2025	2024
Unrestricted Grant Expenditure		
Donation to ODBF from Peal Fees	286	218
Donation to ART Association of Ringing Teachers	500	400
Donation to Ringing World	500	500
Donation to Mobile Belfries Trust	-	1,000
Donation to Youth Restricted Fund	400	-
Donation to L&D	-	40
Total Unrestricted Grant Expenditure	1,686	2,158
Youth Fund Grants Out (Restricted)	-	100
Total Grant Expenditure	1,686	2,258
14. Ringing Initiatives	2025	2024
Ringing Initiative Costs		
Recruitment Initiatives Costs	-	75
Total Ringing Initiative Costs	-	75
Total Ringing Initiatives	-	(75)

15. Insurance	2025	2024
Personal Accident Insurance	3,522	3,514
Group Indemnity Insurance	1,773	1,663
Total Insurance	5,295	5,177
16. Ringing Support and IT	2025	2024
 Ringing Support		
Library Costs	102	116
Central Council Affiliation Fee	874	440
Total Ringing Support	976	556
 IT		
Zoom Webinar Licence	156	156
Website & Publicity	559	120
Server Hosting	373	226
IT Income	(88)	(88)
Xero	146	2
Membership Mojo	475	381
Total IT	1,621	797
Total Ringing Support and IT	2,597	1,353
17. Ringing Publications	2025	2024
Guild Annual Reports	1,565	1,674
Odd Bob	1,312	530
Total Ringing Publications	2,877	2,204
18. Administration	2025	2024
Officers Expenses	358	261
Professional Fees	100	100
Hall Hire	41	227
Other Administration Costs & Printing	135	651
Total Administration	634	1,239

Safeguarding Report to AGM May 2026

Safeguarding requirements in the Church of England have remained relatively stable, despite some of the upheavals reported in the national press. One notable result of this has been an increased attention to safeguarding at parish level in many parishes. Parishes remain in control of the day to day administration and ringers should always follow parish guidance.

The Oxford Diocese continues to maintain a pragmatic approach to Leadership training, only requiring this of key individuals. This is not the case in all Dioceses. The majority of Tower Captains can finish training with the online Foundation module unless asked to do more by their parish. All ringers are still required to do Basic Awareness training, ideally renewed on a 3-yearly basis.

There has been some movement on DBS checking. Most parishes require this of their Tower Captains but some have decided not to ask for renewal if there are no young ringers in the band. This is a correct policy as the DBS checking of those not conducting regulated activity is against the law.

The post of Safeguarding Officer will no longer be one for election at the AGM. In line with National Safeguarding Team recommended policy, the person filling the role will be appointed by the ODG Executive.

June Wells, Safeguarding Officer

Report from the General Committee for the ODG AGM, May 2026

The past 12 months have been a busy year, three officers were elected – Kathryn Grant, Odd Bob Editor; Lesley Belcher, Communications Officer and Heather Browning, General Secretary. Thanks is given to Rob Needham and Karen Price for the sterling work they did in carrying out the Odd Bob Editor and General Secretary roles.

MemberMojo – in January the MM team successfully started testing the subscriptions payment portal and the membership data was exported to provide content for the Annual Report. These data sets varied in accuracy, for some branches there were no mistakes but for others a significant number especially missing names. It is hoped that by January 2027 that the quality of the data will have improved and that the various categories of membership noted in the Annual Report will have been streamlined. In the Autumn, work will be undertaken to look at various aspects of the Annual Report and the content, some minor changes will be needed to ensure the Annual Report is useful document for all members of the Guild.

General Committee meetings – meetings took place in November and March, at which discussions about the proposed new management structure, one of the aims of which is to ensure that the Guild is more agile in its decision making. The final plan is being put to the vote at today's AGM.

In March 2026 there was serious and significant cyber-attack on the Guild IT systems. The result being that the Guild Websites were taken off-line. A cyber security specialist is providing extensive support, in a voluntary capacity. We now have a temporary website being hosted on an external secure server, key Guild officers have been issued with temporary email inboxes hosted on this secure server, however we have no access to our original inboxes. Work is ongoing to identify the way forward considering economically viable options as to where to host and re-instate the Guild IT facilities.

Heather Browning, General Secretary