



# Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

**SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023 at 3.00pm approx. following ODBF AGM (2.45pm)  
The Village Hall, North Moreton, OX11 9AS**

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Requests for urgent items of Any Other Business
3. Minutes of the General Committee meeting of 26 November 2022.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS (circulated in advance where appropriate)

4. Matters arising
5. Correspondence
6. Reports from and election of sub-committees
  - a. Education (Learning & Development Workgroup)
  - b. Towers and Belfries
  - c. Finance and General Purposes
7. Reports from
  - a. Peal Secretary
  - b. Safeguarding Officer
  - c. Librarian
  - d. Website Manager
  - e. Server Manager
  - f. Report Editor
8. Diary of Events
  - a. Ring for a King
  - b. 15-year plan
  - c. Guild Festival
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 2022
11. Donations to the Bell Fund, the Ringing World, and ART.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDING ITEMS

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

## MINUTES OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at St. Andrew's Church, Church Walk, Shrivenham, Swindon SN6 8AQ on Saturday 26 November 2022 at 2:00pm following the 10-bell striking competition (results 1.45pm).

Attended by 29 Committee members (apologies and attendees recorded in the ODG Attendance Book).

The meeting was chaired by Catherine Lane, Master, who welcomed members to the meeting and told them that the meeting would be recorded.

A microphone and 'Hearing Loop' capability were in operation to aid hearing the meeting.

### 1. Apologies

25 apologies for absence were received. A list of members attending will be recorded.

### 2. Any other urgent items of business

Robert Newton requested that the matter of Raising, and Lowering was discussed.

### 3. Minutes of the General Committee meeting on 12 March 2022

The minutes were agreed on a proposal of Ken Davenport, seconded by Amy Herlihy.

### 4. Matters arising

ODG Case for Change – Update on consultation returns

The Master reported that a questionnaire with case for change paper was sent to a broad range of ringers in the branches. These ringers represented the following: secretaries, branch chairs, new recruits, long serving members, trustees, past masters, IT/Web specialists, members with no branch or Guild responsibilities, education committee members, towers, and belfry members, CCCBR reps, Guild stewards, & members with close connections to the clergy.

There were 10 returns which on analysis provided the following 4 topics for development. These 4 topics identify **Why?** And **How?** Actions.

We will work on these 4 topics:

- I. Communications
- II. Volunteers
- III. Membership matters which include information about current members, maximising recruitment and developing the potential of every ringer
- IV. Building the dialogue and relationship between the Diocese, Church community and ringers (this topic not identified in the returns, but we felt was part of our remit – the church owns the bells)

It is apparent that for most of our ringers, their desire is to ring and enjoy themselves and not be involved in central administration. The Master completely understood this.

Therefore, looking forward we will do 2 things:

- Concentrate on maximising ringing and enjoyment
- Minimise administration

The Master has spoken with John Harrison who has extensive experience of the above matters and the way to bring through appropriate change. His advice was that *'it would take time and cannot be rushed'*.

It is probable in the following months another progress document will be sent out for your response.

The meeting was asked for comment. There was none.

The Master asked if the meeting agreed to continue the ODG changes consultation as set out above.

The General Committee agreed that we proceed as above.

## **5. Correspondence**

Although the agenda said there was no correspondence - The Master has received an email from Barry W M Cowper who has served the ODG with distinction for many years, recently as a guild trustee. He has resigned with immediate effect. We will be looking for a new ODG Trustee.

## **6. Reports of and elections to subcommittees**

### **a) Education (Learning and Development Workgroup)**

We are still without a chairman for this subcommittee. We welcome anyone who would like to join this subcommittee. Contact the Hon Sec or Master if you are interested in taking on this role.

Robert Newton reported that there was a new course next year which will be added to the Diary of Events. It is a Training event to be held at Kidlington on the first Saturday of February 2023 (Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February).

### **b) Towers and Belfries**

Tony Crabtree reported that the unprecedented hot weather had affected belfries requiring careful checks to be performed. It had taken several email prompts to get towers to investigate this issue and the GC were advised that not all towers had planned for checks. This was a potentially scary/risky situation as wheels, bolts stays, etc. were in a dangerous state.

The General Committee's attention was drawn to the several courses running in 2023.

### **c) Finance and General Purposes**

Catherine Lane advised that she had new information on the status of the Membership Mojo IT system (software to manage simple club membership [www.membermojo.co.uk](http://www.membermojo.co.uk)). A pilot has been running in Sonning Deanery to try out the potential use of this IT tool by ODG. The IT system works at the Sonning Deanery level of email interaction but may regrettably not be suitable for use throughout the Guild. The

alternative IT tool 'Love Admin' had already been dismissed as not fulfilling ODG needs. We are therefore moving slowly forward with finding a robust cost-effective solution. Stuart Gibson will be exploring further software solutions.

Karen Pile advised that a small task force within the F&GP committee has been set up to establish short, medium and long term solutions for the IT, email and membership matters as these are an integrated set of matters that no one piece of software can address. Updates on the task force progress will be provided and new requirements - addressed via the Master for approval in the first instance.

## **7. Central Council Representatives Report**

The report was noted. Lucy Hopkins Till had nothing further to add.

Tim Pett endorsed the report's content although he had not contributed to its writing.

Tim had no further additions or amendments to make.

## **8 Diary of Events**

The Master highlighted to GC members that the 2023 Festival was progressing. Towers had been booked. The outstanding item was the venue for lunch. Managing costs made this difficult. Stuart Gibson is in communication with Christ Church about the use of the Master's garden. Another option is for us all to bring a picnic lunch to eat on Christ Church Meadow.

The AGM is scheduled for the Witney and Woodstock Branch. As the AGM date coincides with Witney fair the AGM will be held at Broadwell. The AGM will be held in conjunction with the 8-bell striking competition. Broadwell is a new tower (just over a year old). It had been an unringable tower for 100 years. Within walking distance to the church is an old barn and old farmhouse. It is a beautiful rustic setting which should be enjoyable. We are looking into holding the AGM in the barn.

There are 2 new dates:

Saturday 4th February is a Tower Leaders Training event at Kidlington.

Saturday 30th September is the Michaelmas course.

The Diary of Events will be updated.

The Website Manager's daughter is unwell so there may be a delay before the Diary of Events and other papers will be published on the ODG website.

## **Financial Matters**

Stuart Gibson (Guild Treasurer) was available at the end of a phone to take any questions – there were none.

Alan Marchbank advised that the financial report showed that North Bucks had not paid their subscriptions. This has been resolved and payment made. The report therefore shows the situation before payment resolution. There was a delay due to difficulties in identifying where to send the subscriptions.

The Master noted that ODG have several key vacancies. One is that Assistant Treasurer which caused the issue above.

## **9 Subscriptions for 2023**

It was recommended that the subscriptions stay as now.  
This was proposed by June Wells and Seconded by Colin Lee.  
All in favour – no abstentions

## **10 Resident Ringing Members & Associate Members**

It was recommended that the subscriptions stay as now. The figures remain (£8.00, split £5.00/£3.00 Guild/Branch)  
This was proposed by Rob Needham and Seconded by Robert Newton  
All in favour – no abstentions

## **11 Non-Resident Ringing Members**

It was recommended that the subscriptions stay as now. £8.00  
This was proposed by Robert Newton and Seconded by Alan Marchbank.  
All in favour – no abstentions

## **12 Peal fees for 2023**

It was recommended that the charges remain as now. 50p per rope and 50p per participant on handbells.  
This was proposed by Alan Marchbank. Seconded by Tim Pett.  
All in favour – no abstentions

The Master advised that the Treasurer thought it likely that all fees could go up after next year subject to fund requirements for agreed circumstances.

## **13 Guild Budget**

The budget will be discussed and put forward for approval at a future meeting.

## **14 Any Other Business**

### **Raising and Lowering**

Robert Newton spoke to the need to improve raising and lowering standards. Many towers do not ring up and down. It's a skill we often neglect. It requires more attention.

Robert proposed that he would donate a trophy for a dedicated ringing up and down yearly competition. The competition could be combined with a striking competition.

There are greater capabilities in other areas because of the addition of raising and lowering as part of striking competition marking. Ringing up and down was therefore an important part of the performance. Tony Crabtree advised that the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers (includes Oxfordshire) have marking for ringing up and ringing down in their competitions. St Andrew's Church Shrivenham had won this trophy on many occasions.

The Master & Tony Crabtree (Deputy Master) were in favour of the proposal and putting on ringing up and down courses.

Thanks were extended to Robert for championing this matter and the donation of a special trophy for ringing up and ringing down.

Tony Crabtree advised that there will be a raising and lowering course in Vale of White Horse early in the New Year to which all are welcome.

### **Guild Report**

The Master reminded GC members that the Guild Report would be in preparation by Heather Browning shortly. The form will be issued shortly. The Master requested the secretaries check the membership, practice nights, long service certificates (e.g., are there members that are due certificates?) plus all the small details are cross checked. We wish to make amends for all those due long service awards.

Doug Hird raised that there are errors in the OGD map. Doug Hird can do the amends. The Deputy Master will be in touch as he has an interactive map. It was noted that fixing the map would be a huge step forward.

### **Use of Microphones & Loop**

Sue Davenport thanked those that had arranged for the loop and microphone to be in place.

### **Odd Bob magazines**

Rob Needham reminded the meeting to pick up their branches bundle of Odd Bob magazines.

## **15 Concluding Thanks**

The Master thanked Vale of the White Horse for hosting the meeting. Especial thanks were extended for the excellent ringing lunch, coffees, teas, and IT capabilities (screen projection from tower, loop and microphone). Thanks, were also extended to those making a longer journey to the edge of the guild's geographic area. The meeting closed at 2:41 pm.

## **Reports:**

### **6a Education (Learning and Development Workgroup)**

#### **Learning & Development Workgroup Report to General Committee March 2023**

A Zoom meeting, hosted by Jonathan Cresshull, was held in January with an attendance of nine. Reports were received regarding the Steeple Aston Course and the Grandsire Caters Course at Shrevenham. There were sufficient students for just three groups at Steeple Aston, covering plain hunt, Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles. Feedback was positive and Vicky Clifton's evening meal was, as ever, a wonderful end to the day. In a new venture, good use was made of the hall with a rope management course during the afternoon. The Grandsire Caters Course benefited six students, three of whom rang in a quarter peal.

Arrangements for the Tower Leaders' Workshop (4th February), Radley Course (15th April), Michaelmas Course (30th September), Steeple Aston Course (28th October) and 10-bell courses (including Grandsire Caters at Shrivenham – 4th November) were discussed.

Lindsay Powell had received 30 requests for application forms and was anticipating five groups of students on 15th April: three of Doubles and one each of Minor and Triples. The day will start and finish at Radley this year. Robert Newton will again run the Michaelmas Course but new organiser(s) will be needed for Steeple Aston.

Patricia Newton reported that sales from the Bookstall are again healthy following the pandemic. The remaining sets of eBells have been placed at the disposal of the ODG Young Ringers squad. Following the 'Lockdown' version, the Young Ringers' Award, which would normally be held every two years, is currently being revised.

The pilot workshop for tower leaders, chaired by Patricia Newton, was held at Kidlington with 28 attendees. Each branch was invited to send one established and two 'novice' leaders so that there would be a blend of experience and support. A full day included consideration of qualities, roles and responsibilities, and presentations about Safeguarding, the Towers and Belfries sub-committee, courses and other support available from the Learning & Development Workgroup, ART courses, and On-line resources. The main feature of the afternoon was a practical session in the tower, demonstrating a range of ideas to develop the abilities of individuals and bands. Feedback was most positive, and thanks go to the Kidlington band for their support and delicious refreshments throughout the day.

Robert Newton (Secretary)

## **6b Towers and Belfries**

### **ODG TOWERS & BELFRIES COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO GENERAL COMMITTEE MARCH 2023**

Most of the committee's work goes on between meetings with inspections, advice and courses. Members also meet three times a year; lastly in January 2023. We are mixing in-person meetings with Zoom. Meeting by Zoom saves fuel and travelling time but the meetings lack the interactions and benefits derived from meeting face-to-face, particularly with a practical subject like belfry work.

The most important topic last year after "return to ringing" lock-down recovery was the extreme hot, dry weather period. This led to almost unprecedented levels of problems in belfries. Those with wooden frames or headstocks found them getting loose; making the bells go badly, besides causing damage. Even towers with iron frames found wooden wheels coming loose or even becoming detached. We ran a campaign to alert churches and we think a lot of potentially serious problems were averted or at least mitigated. Please don't relax now. Make sure you still inspect regularly!!

Another topic to come to the fore, is sound management; internal and external. This may be after stressing its importance during courses. We visited towers where the sound inside the tower or outside is too loud or too soft (yes, all combinations!) and suggested how these may be improved.

After losing courses to lock-down and a tentative return in October 2021 we ran several in quick succession and are settling into a new pattern. We recently ran a practical course at East Hendred. This was definitely a spanners, oil can and boiler suit session! We ran a belfry course at Ambrosden in October and then a Rope Course in Steeple Aston Hall while it was vacant during the Steeple

Aston ringing course. That was a success and will be repeated in 2023. We have just run a February Rope Maintenance and Splicing Course at Radley. This included mending, maintenance and preventive maintenance; also minor improvements to either reduce rope wear or improve the ringing experience. We make use of belfry artefacts at “ground level” for ease of teaching besides having sessions in the belfry. During 2022 we taught 60-70 students!

We are at Speen on 29th April 2023 for a Belfry Course. Email [tbsecretary@odg.org.uk](mailto:tbsecretary@odg.org.uk) or [tbchair@odg.org.uk](mailto:tbchair@odg.org.uk) if you would be interested in hosting a course later in the year.

The T&B page of the ODG website Towers and Belfries - Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers ([odg.org.uk](http://odg.org.uk)) continues to expand with useful material. You will find contact details and the services offered by our members. If you can't find what you are looking for, please ask [tbchair@odg.org.uk](mailto:tbchair@odg.org.uk)

We have 13 members which may sound a lot, but with three counties and 450+ towers on the patch we are spread quite thinly! You don't have to be experienced but you do need to be interested in learning and gaining from the expertise of the other members. The Tower Maintenance Award (TMA) is still active. Please see the separate report. Towers are encouraged to ask for an inspection.

In the last year, Committee members have been active, with TMA, Bell-Fund grant inspections and general advice at the following places: Little Rollright, Ellesborough, Iver, Langford, Stoke Poges, Farnham Royal, Woodeaton, Aston Clinton, Clanfield, Fulmer, L Basildon, Ruscombe, Windsor, Ufton Nervet, Halton, Sandhurst, Kirtlington, Chastleton, L Compton, Chalfont St Peter, E&W Hendred, Wargrave, Wokingham All Ss, G Haseley, Stoke Lyne, Wheatley, Sparsholt, St Aldate, Whitchurch, Kencot, Theale, L Milton, Finchampstead, Shabbington, Marlow, Lathbury, Bledlow, Slapton, Padworth, Stratfield Mortimer, Letcombe Regis, Ivinghoe, Piddington, W Woodhay, Broadwell, Hughenden, Clifton Rennes, Lavendon, Goring on Thames, Streatley, Sonning, Leckhampstead, G Milton, Woodstock and Bladon: well over 10% of ODG's towers!

Tony Crabtree – Chairman – Towers & Belfries Committee.

## **6c Finance & General Purposes Committee**

The Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee has met once since the November 2022 General Committee meeting, in January via Zoom.

We are seeking members for the Public Relations Working Group. Work has commenced on Ring for a King activities, with a view to recruiting and developing ringers for 2030 (Central Council has commissioned work) – (item 8a).

Reports from the Server Manager, Webmaster and Safeguarding Officer were discussed (see reports 7b 7c and 7d for full update). The work of the Learning and Education workgroup was discussed (see report 6a). We noted that much work has been undertaken in the past year.

The diary of events and the clashes with the ART conference and Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC) were reviewed and the 15-year plan could be adjusted to avoid the clashes. In



addition, we noted the potential clash with the Guild festival and City branch meeting hosting, so this will be considered. (item 8b).

Karen Pile – Hon Secretary.

## 7a Peal Secretary

### PEAL SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2022

A total of 151 peals was rung for the Guild in 2022 (68 more than in 2021): 74 on handbells and 77 on tower bells. These increases reflect the removal of restrictions following the coronavirus pandemic although the totals are not as high as before the restrictions. This puts the Guild third in terms of the highest ranking Guild/Association for the total number of peals rung during the year a significant improvement from sevenths place last year. 8 members rang their first peal, 1 member their first in hand and 2 their first as conductor. Congratulations to them and to Tim Pett on ringing his 4000<sup>th</sup> tower bell peal and to John A Harrison, Robert H Newton, Charles M S Botting, Patricia M Newton and Stephen R Smith II on completing 60 years, 60 years, 50 years, 50 years and 45 years respectively of peal ringing. A summary of the leading peal ringers and their personal achievements can be seen below.

There were three towers with 4 peals, and the leading handbell venue was Tilehurst, 15 Lytham End with 25 peals.

In 2022 footnotes recorded the following notable events:

#### Church:

A compliment to the Rev. Dr Jonathan Mobey, Rector of St Matthew's Harwell with All Saints' Chilton for over 10 years. For St. Andrew's Day, All Saints Tide. The 900th anniversary of St Nicholas church, Marston. First peal on the rehung bells Shipton under Wychwood.

#### National:

The Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. In memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The birthday of King Charles III.

#### Personal:

The birthday of Michael Barnes, Alan Barsby, Beryl Norris, June D Wells. The Wedding Anniversary of David and Caroline Middleton (50), Helen McGregor and Peter Bevis (42), and June D Wells and E John Wells (25). Engagement compliment to Hannah Martin and Brett Franks.

#### Ringings:

The 200th anniversary of the first peal of Cambridge Royal, 50th anniversary of the first peal of Bristol Maximus on handbells.

The Guild remembered a number of ringers who passed away during the year or in recent years: of Roger Barnes, Frank Blagrove, Prof. Jackson Bryce, Jim Diserens, Charlotte Everett, Willie Haynes, Ian G Judd, Chris Rowson, Roy Thorpe, Edward (Ted) R Venn, Keith Vernon.

### LEADING PEAL RINGERS (30 OR MORE PEALS)

NAME	TOWER		HAND		ALL	
	Rung	Cond	Rung	Cond	Rung	Cond
Robert H Newton	16	3	40	5	56	8
Patricia M Newton	9	0	39	0	48	0
Timothy G Pett	42	19	5	0	47	19
Jack E Page	15	9	26	17	41	26
Stuart F Gibson	37	16	0	0	37	16

E John Wells	6	0	29	8	35	8
June D Wells	6	0	29	1	35	1
Graham A C John	6	1	25	8	31	9

## TOWERBELL TOWERS

Tower	No of Peals
Goring	4
Longcot	4
Oxford, St. Thomas	4
Chilton	3
Cholsey	3
High Wycombe	3
Milton	3
Peasemore	3
Tulloch (The Last Tower)	3
5 towers each with	2
37 towers each with	1
Total number of different towers	51

## HANDBELL VENUES

Venue	No of Peals
Tilehurst, 15 Lytham End	25
Reading 26 Redlands Avenue	16
Aston Rowant, The White House	19
Finchampstead, 5 Garrett Rd.	4
Wokingham, 10 Andrew Close	4
1 venues each with	2
4 venues each with	1
Total number of different handbell venues	74

## FIRST PEAL CONGRATULATIONS

Alexander S M Davies, Jonathan J D Gallop, Sara Jones, Sian T Robinson, Cordelia J S Thompson, Steve Vickars, Holley F Wakeling, Daniel J Watson

## FIRST PEAL IN HAND

Alison T Merryweather-Clarke

## FIRST PEAL AS CONDUCTOR

Simon D Smith, Daniel J Watson

## PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Timothy G Pett	4,000 <sup>th</sup> tower bell peal
Beryl R Norris	2,700 <sup>th</sup> peal
June D Wells	1,900 <sup>th</sup> peal
Graham G Firman	1,000 <sup>th</sup> 12-bell peal
John G Pusey	650 <sup>th</sup> peal
Edward J W Manley	500 <sup>th</sup> peal
Jack E Page	500 <sup>th</sup> handbell peal

Stephen A Rossiter	400 <sup>th</sup> peal
Nigel A L Mellor	300 <sup>th</sup> peal
John N Hughes-D'Aeth	300 <sup>th</sup> handbell peal
Julian T Watson	200 <sup>th</sup> peal
E John Wells/ Kenneth R Davenport	300 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Bernard F L Groves/E John Wells	700 <sup>th</sup> peal together
David Hird/Peter J Williamson	200 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Ann Davies/Patricia M Newton	50 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Charles M S Botting /Patricia M Newton	100 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Robert A Partridge/ June D Wells	100 <sup>th</sup> peal together
Alison T Merryweather-Clarke	25 <sup>th</sup> peal
Janet E Menhinick	250 <sup>th</sup> peal for the Guild
Catherine E Hughes-D'Aeth/John N Hughes-D'Aeth	150 <sup>th</sup> peal together

## METHODS RUNG FOR THE FIRST TIME

First peal in the method: Anglia Surprise Maximus (rung in hand)  
5280 Whirlpool Surprise Maximus (rung in hand)

First peal in the method on handbells:  
Walsworth Surprise Royal  
Turramurra Surprise Maximus

## ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG IN 2022

() Denotes number rung in the method

## TOWER

### DOUBLES Total: 2

**Principles:** Stedman  
**Other:** 4 methods

### MINOR Total: 20

**Surprise:** Cambridge (1), 7-15 methods (17)  
**Other:** 2-7 methods (2)

### TRIPLES Total: 7

**Plain:** Plain Bob (2), Grandsire (1)  
**Principles:** Stedman (4)

### TRIPLES/MAJOR Total: 1

**Other:** 5 methods (1)

### MAJOR Total: 42

**Plain:** Plain Bob (3),

**Delight:** Cooktown Orchid

**Surprise:** Bristol (4), Cambridge (2), Cassiobury, Cornwall, Dereham, Deva, Ely, Fifty, Hughenden, Ipswich, Kinver, Kirkby Woodhouse, Lessness (2), Lincoln, Oxfordshire, Pudsey (2), Putney, Rutland (2), Yorkshire (3)

**Spliced Surprise:** 3-23 methods (9)

Spliced Treble Dodging: 4 methods (1)

### ROYAL Total: 3

**Surprise:** Bristol, Cambridge, Littleport Little

### CINQUES Total: 1

**Principles:** Stedman

**MAXIMUS** **Total: 1**  
**Surprise:** Zanussi

**Towerbell** **Total: 77**

## HANDBELL

**MINOR** **Total: 1**  
**Surprise:** 7 methods

**MAJOR** **Total: 37**  
**Plain:** Double Norwich, Spliced 5 methods  
**Treble Bob:** Kent (2)  
**Surprise:** Cambridge (5), Jersey, Lessness (2), Lincolnshire (6),  
Superlative (2), Yorkshire (11)  
**Spliced Surprise:** 2 - 8 methods (6)

**CATERS** **Total: 1**  
**Principles:** Stedman

**ROYAL** **Total: 16**  
**Spliced Plain:** 8 – 12 methods (2)  
**Treble Bob:** Kent  
**Surprise:** Cambridge, Lincolnshire (3), Swindon, Walworth, XXV,  
Yorkshire (2)  
**Spliced Surprise:** 3 -4 methods (4)

**CINQUES/MAXIMUS** **Total: 2**  
**Other:** 2 methods (2)

**MAXIMUS** **Total: 17**  
**Surprise:** Anglia, Bristol (3), Cambridge, Embankment, Lincolnshire,  
Newgate, Pudsey, Turramurra, Whirlpool  
**Spliced Surprise:** 3 - 5 methods (6)

**Handbell** **Total: 74**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PEALS RUNG IN 2022: 151**

Ken Davenport - Peal Secretary

## 7b Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding Report – General Committee March 2023

### Safeguarding Questions and Answers

*Do all ringers need to complete the basic awareness training even if there are no vulnerable people in the band?*

'I have confirmed this with the National Safeguarding Team and all ringers are required to complete Basic Awareness. This falls in line with the requirement for anyone who undertakes a role on behalf of the Church, ordained or lay, paid or volunteer, to complete Basic Awareness.'

***Does anyone in the tower need to complete Foundation along with the tower captain?***

'This should then be followed by Foundation if they undertake a role with children or vulnerable adults, for example as a ringing teacher.'

***Who is responsible for enforcing the training requirements?***

'It would be expected that the Tower Captain promotes and implements this requirement, as part of their oversight of the team of ringers. Within a parish setting it would be the PCC and Incumbent who hold responsibility for ensuring that the safeguarding learning and development framework is implemented, and those who fall within the requirements complete the appropriate pathways. However, they rely on the support of leaders to ensure that this is in place and the Parish Safeguarding Officer would also ensure that these requirements are promoted and understood.'

***When should learners complete the training?***

'For any new ringers, Basic Awareness should be completed as part of their Induction process and then for any current ringers this should be completed at their earliest opportunity, and certainly by the end of 2022.'

***What is the minimum age of ringer to complete training?***

'We ask people to complete Basic Awareness in the Diocese from 16, and would recommend if they are completing it at home that they do this at a time when an adult is around that they could speak to or get support from if they needed to.'

***My PSO says that ringers in general don't need to do the training and that this can be decided at Parish level?***

'The Basic Awareness requirement for all Ringers is set as a National Church requirement so we can make sure we clarify this in a future safeguarding communication.'

***From what age should ringers complete the training?***

'The Diocese recommends that all over 16s complete the Basic Awareness training. Minors can be supported by an adult if necessary. This also applies to vulnerable people unless their mental age is below 16.'

***My PSO says that all tower captains must complete leadership training?***

'The information about Tower Captains no longer being required to complete Leadership has been clarified within the safeguarding newsletter and updated on the Diocesan website.'

***I'm an atheist. Is there a secular equivalent that I can complete?***

There is no secular equivalent to the training as it is a C of E requirement for those performing a role within the Church. Questions asking 'How would a Christian react to....?' can be completed as a comparative religion exercise.

## **7c Librarian**

### **Guild Library Report for 2022**

There were 10 enquiries and loan requests during 2022. This is 8 fewer than during 2021. It is worth noting that the continuing project to set up Guild material on the archive website is likely to reduce the number of library enquiries – members will be able to research the information on the archive website for themselves. We cannot know by how much the number of queries will be reduced. However, since many library queries are about information in Guild annual reports, it is likely that a substantial proportion of queries will be answerable on a self-service basis.

The bulk of books and papers acquired for the library during 2022 were from the estates of two Guild members recently deceased – William Butler and Willie Haynes, and also from the book collection of Frank Hopgood, a late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century Reading branch member. These are listed along with other library acquisitions in the Guild annual report. Storage of this material within the library space is still outstanding. The intention is to purchase box files for the purpose.

These Guild publications were added to the electronic archive during 2022: OddBobs for the years 2015 – 2022 and annual reports for 1905, 1906, 1950–1959, 2020 and 2021. Further annual reports have been photographed and will be added to the electronic archive over the next few weeks. These are: 1964/65, 1966, 1966/67, 1968, 1968/69, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979.

If anybody would like to visit the library, please let me know. Alternatively, I can look up information, and items can be borrowed – just get in touch.

Doug Beaumont – Hon Librarian

## **7d Website Manager**

Maintenance and re-organisation work on the current website at [odg.org.uk](http://odg.org.uk) continues behind the scenes. This consists mainly of collating and recording unposted documentation in preparation for moving it over to the new development server where it can be archived correctly.

Thanks to the Server Manager, Richard Stanworth, we now have a development website which is a clone of the live site. I am working on a more modern and user-friendly look and feel and hope to be able to publish the new version soon.

Andrew Goldthorpe – Website Manager

## **7e Server Manager**

### **Server Manager Report**

The server manager continues 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 Guild now has a web hosting package with Eco Web Hosting, a business with green credentials. They contribute to a carbon-offset planting scheme. As part of this, four trees are planted every month that we pay for the web hosting package. The Guild now has a development domain, [odgdev.org.uk](http://odgdev.org.uk), so that development versions of websites can be kept separate from the live websites. This is available for all webmasters to use if required,

The web hosting package allow an unlimited number of websites to be created, with each website allow up to 100GB of storage as well as up to 100 mailboxes associated with each website(subdomain).

It is planned to migrate all branch websites that are hosted on the current server to Eco Web Hosting. Mailing lists, mailboxes and email forwarding will remain on the current server until such time as a suitable alternative to mailman can be found that will provide mailing lists with equivalent functionality. This may be linked with plans to set up a central membership database which can generate mailing lists

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 me. Please direct any queries to [serveradmin@odg.org.uk](mailto:serveradmin@odg.org.uk).

Richard Stanworth - Server Manager - March 2023

## **7f Report Editor**

## 8 Diary of Events (15 year Plan)

Date	Spring General Committee Mtg 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in March + Bell Fund AGM <i>* change date to avoid ART conference</i>	Bell Fund Ringing Day 1 <sup>st</sup> Bank Holiday in May	AGM & 8 Bell Competition 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May	6 Bell Competition 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday in October	November General Committee Mtg + 10 Bell Competition 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday in November	Guild Festival 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday in July every 5 years <i>*Change date to avoid RWYC</i>
2023	Old North Berks	Chiltern	W & W	Chipping N	Banbury/Bicester note(i)	Oxford City note (ii)
2024	North Bucks	Oxford City	EBSB	Sonning Deanery	Reading	
2025	Newbury	Old North Berks	South Oxon	Oxford City	Bicester	
2026	Chipping N	Bicester	North Bucks	Central Bucks	W & W	
2027	VOWH	South Oxon	Oxford City	Reading	Newbury	
2028	Central Bucks	EBSB	Sonning Deanery	Bicester	North Bucks	Oxford City
2029	South Oxon	W & W	Chipping N	Banbury	Old North Berks	
2030	EBSB	Reading	Newbury	VOWH	Chiltern	
2031	Banbury	North Bucks	Central Bucks	W & W	Chipping N	
2032	Oxford City	Newbury	VOWH	Chiltern	EBSB	
2033	Sonning Deanery	Chipping N	Banbury	Old North Berks	South Oxon	Oxford City
2034	Bicester	Central Bucks	Chiltern	EBSB	Sonning Deanery	
2035	Reading	VOWH	Old North Berks	South Oxon	Oxford City	
2036	W & W	Banbury	Bicester	North Bucks	Central Bucks	
2037	Chiltern	Sonning Deanery	Reading	Newbury	VOWH	

- (i) For the foreseeable future the date of the November General Committee Meeting + the 10 Bell Competition on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in November will coincide with an event in Banbury church so the bells will not be available
- (ii) Oxford City should not be given a major event in the same year as the Guild Festival