



# Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund

**3.00pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**Great Brickhill Parish Hall, Great Brickhill, Milton Keynes, MK17**  
**9BA**

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
  2. Minutes of the last Meeting
  3. Matters Arising
  4. Report of the Managing Trustees
  5. Accounts
  6. Election of Officers
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- a) Chairman
  - b) Secretary
  - c) Treasurer
  - d) Additional Managing Trustees
  - e) Independent Assessor
7. Any Other Business

# OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND

Minutes of the

## OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**All Saints, North Moreton**

- 1. Apologies for absence** had been received from Managing Trustee Brian Gatward in addition to the apologies recorded for the ODG Spring General Committee Meeting held immediately after the Bell Fund AGM.

Alan Marchbank welcomed the members and Introduced the Bell Fund Trustees who were present:

Chair - Alan Marchbank, Treasurer – Stuart Gibson, Secretary – Catherine Lane.

Managing Trustees: Jon Chamberlain, Graham Clifton, Ken Davenport.

The Bell Fund is a Registered Charity No. 268390

- 2. Minutes of the last AGM** had been circulated and accepted.

Proposed: Graham Clifton Seconded: Mike Hopkins -Till

### **3. Matters Arising**

Amazon Smile has ceased to operate, and no further income will be forthcoming.

- 4. Annual Report** – the Annual Report had been circulated and published.

There was a query regarding the grant to Sandhurst which was confirmed as £140.

The annual report was proposed as an accurate record and accepted.

Proposed: Robert Newton Seconded: Richard Stanworth

- 5. Accounts** – the accounts had been circulated, published, and audited.

Stuart Gibson briefly summarised the full details which also appear in the he ODG Annual Report for 2023 including:

Significant donations from the EBSB Branch and from a Legacy.

It was noted that the Diocesan Financial Advisor has retired and has not been replaced by the Diocese. The Treasurer has written to the retired advisor to seek advice;

There are two restricted funds – Longworth and Witney.

The accounts were proposed and accepted.

Proposed: Stuart Gibson Seconded: Jon Chamberlain

- 6. Election of Officers** – all officers were available to stand.

Chair: Alan Marchbank

Proposed: Richard Stanworth Seconded: Patricia Newton

The remaining Trustees were elected en bloc.

Proposed: Mike Hopkins-Till Seconded: Jenny Page

Independent examiner: Alison Mignanelli

Proposed: Patricia newton Seconded: Graham Clifton

### **7. AOB**

The Trustees have produced a legacy leaflet for circulation. Jon Chamberlain explained that the leaflet does not ask for money now but explains how a bequest may be made to the Bell Fund in a will.

- Richard Stanworth asked for confirmation that the grant policy is reviewed. It was confirmed that the Trustees review the policy annually; projects do not always come to fruition, alternative projects then benefit from the monies released. The ceiling per projects has been raised from £10000 to £15000. The Charity Commission regulations ensure that Trustees allocate available funds efficiently. The Treasurer said that some projects were no longer active and new projects were presented regularly.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN BELL FUND**  
**(Registered Charity No. 268390)**

Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### **Trustees**

In accordance with the Fund's Rules and Constitution, at the Annual General Meeting of the Governors of the fund, held on Saturday 12th March 2023, the following Trustees were elected:

Chairman	Alan Marchbank		
Secretary	Catherine Lane		
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, renewal and augmentation 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, the public benefit from the preservation of a unique tradition and heritage. Local communities will be able to hear the bells ring for Divine Services, 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**

The Trustees met twice during 2023.

New money raised in 2023 amounted to £16,056 (2022; £14,771).

Regular fund raising included £4,690 from Branch donations; £250 from towers; pledge giving £312; donations from PCCs £150; Ringing Day £1,683; St Blaise Society £86. The Guild donated £2,000. Other income was £7,185 and Gift Aid from donations was £440.

The Managing Trustees would like to thank all who have contributed to the continued success of the Fund.

### **Grants**

During the year, new applications were received, and provisional grants were allocated: Little Wittenham £5,000, Watlington £2,000, Twyford £600.

Grants were paid during the year towards eligible works completed at Kirtlington (£ 480); East Garston (£6,400); North Moreton (£3,500); Theale (£675) Padworth (£700) and Mortimer (£700.)

In accordance with the Trustees' Policy, an independent assessment of completion of work is undertaken before a grant is paid. Members of the Towers and Belfries Committee carry out these

inspections 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 at 20% for eligible restoration works and up to 17.5% for augmentation elements. 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 and so may vary from year to year.

### **Investments**

Investment income for the year was £28,753, (2022: £24,968).

Money is invested in a number of different charitable investments including: Church of England Investment Fund; Charifund Income Fund; COIF Fixed Interest Fund; COIF Income Fund; Charinco Income Fund; CBF Global Equity Fund; CBF Property Fund.

The Diocese is not currently able to provide investment advice as the role of Diocesan Financial Advisor is vacant. The Trustees are considering options for when advice is required and has contacted with the Charity Commissioners seeking their guidance.

The market value of the investments on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was £753,719.05  
(2022: £720,243).

Alan Marchbank

Chairman.