Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

ODG Executive Leadership Group meeting

11 August 2026, on line via Zoom

Attendees

- Chris Mundy – Master (CM)
- Craig Robertson – Deputy Master (CR)
- Stuart Gibson – Treasurer (SG)
- Heather Browning – Secretary (HB)

Apologies

- Lesley Belcher – Communication Officer (LB)

2026.20 Update on website and email system

CM updated the team on the latest situation regarding the website, it has been moved to the development site and has been cleaned. In the next week Andrew Goldthorpe and LB will get access to the site to start working on updating the website ready for making the site live to all including production of the Guild Calendar. Adverts for the upcoming vacant roles – Peal Secretary & Librarian to be included

Andrew Goldthorpe has requested a 'Deputy Webmaster', CM to approach potential volunteers

Email system – SG reported that there will be a MM meeting in the next couple of weeks to sort out all the ODG group email addresses. HB reported the issue with the CC reps email addresses – group one and individual ones, SG agreed to include this in the remit of the next MM meeting and ensuring that Guild Steward emails are correct. Leadership email inboxes at present hosted by Kirsty to be moved to the ODG server by Richard. Kirsty's hosting platform will be starting to charge for email accounts so we need to move them across ASAP so not to incur a charge. CM to find out when the charging will start so that Richard Stanworth can be given the deadline

Action: LB & SG to continue the work on re-instating the website and updating the membership of the group email addresses

Action: CM to find out details on the charging for hosting of the leadership email inboxes so that Richard Stanworth can be given the deadline for the move to take place

Action: CM to approach volunteers about taking on role of Deputy Webmaster

Action: all team to review YouTube content produced by LB

2026.21 Review of actions from previous meeting (26.5.26) that are not reported elsewhere in the minutes

2026.10.1 CM met with Cathy Hughes D'eath to discuss Guild Steward role, to which she agreed to undertake

2026.10.2 CM approached a volunteer to discuss whether they would consider leading on two projects (i) What should the Guild do for its members (ii) Recruitment - chairing a subcommittee on this subject. They are currently considering the request. CM to follow up

2026.11.1 CM has completed the 15 year plan and it will be uploaded onto the new website

2026.19.6 CM supplied a updated pdf of the 'welcome to new member' letter to SG

2026.19.1 CM sent email to all Guild members introducing himself as the new Master

2026.19.2 CM emailed all General Committee members thanking them for their support for the ODG

2026.19.7 CM and CR discussed the higher number practises

2026.19.8 CR has received the relevant group email addresses to carry out his Deputy Master role

2026.19.9 HB has written up the meetings and circulated to the exec team

2026.19.4 HB arranged the next Exec team meeting for 1.9.26, still to arrange further meetings on a monthly basis

2026.8.1 HB reported that she and LB are sorting out the structure of the Google Docs ready to give the Exec team access

2026.5.1 SG to carry forward the action on obtaining charitable status for the Guild

2026.2.1 SG reported that electronic payment of subs will go live for all membership in January 2027. Hybrid option will be offered.

Action : SG is arranging to meet with branch treasurers in October to discuss and update

2026.22 Meeting plans

Exec Team meetings, next meeting is scheduled for 1st September 26 in Long Crendon. Further meetings on a monthly basis to be organised either online or f-2-f

2026.4.2 CM arranged the first meeting of the Scrutiny meeting online on 2.8.26. The following officers were elected: Chairman - Giles Winter, Deputy Chairman - Jon Boughton, Secretary - Elizabeth Mullett. The first meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and Exec Team to be arranged on same day as 10-Bell striking competition. Elizabeth Mullett to be asked to arrange this meeting on same day in the Oxford area at 3pm

2026.12.1 CM spoke with Katie Lane, she has agreed to lead on the organisation of the CCCBR meeting and Guild Festival (2031). We need to find out from KL as to whether Exec Team or KL to provide the membership of this steering group. Possible location is Reading, using the University for accommodation and meeting rooms. HB to enquiry to availability of suitable facilities at the University

New members welcome event – to be organised in 2027, inviting all new members from 2026 & 2027 – SG has offered use of his garden

Exec Team meeting to discuss events/meetings for Non-Exec officers and Guild Stewards – plan a social event for non execs and a meeting for Guild Stewards.

Action: HB to contact Elizabeth Mullett to organise meeting for Scrutiny Committee and exec Team to meet

Action: HB to contact University of Reading about facilities required in 2031 for CCCBR

Action: HB to organize Exec Team meeting dates for the next 6 months

Action: HB to arrange specific Exec meeting to discuss non-exec officers and guild stewards meetings

2026.23 Striking Competition and higher practise numbers update

CR updated the meeting on plans and at the moment he is recruiting judges for the 10-Bell striking competition. The two higher number practises are booked for 2026, High Wycombe and Banbury. Banbury require a £50 donation – attendees to be asked to donate, SG said Guild will cover the shortfall.

2026.24 L&D update

CM reported that all training courses for the next year are in place. There is a new course 'Training trainers for foundation level ringers', being held at Loughton, North Bucks on 31 October 2026

2026.25 T&B update

CM reported that a new member had joined the group filling a vacant geographical location. Noted the email that was sent around reminding towers to 'check nuts and bolts' in light of the hot weather. Next meeting 22 October 2026

2026.26 Library

2026.7.1 CM reported on a successful conversation with Cowley Library storage facility. They have indicated they are very happy to take ODG paperwork for storage (minutes, guild paperwork, etc). They will take the paperwork packed into archive storage boxes and will produce an inventory of the archive materials. Doug Beaumont has been in contact with CM & HB indicating that he is about to start the disposal of the Library's Ringing Worlds and Bells News, the first step will be to seek advice from the Central Council Library Stewards to see if they have any thoughts about how to approach the task. CM will contact Doug and confirm to continue with the disposal and also update him on the Cowley Library storage facility offer.

Action: CM to contact Doug Beaumont regarding the offer from Cowley Library storage facility

2026.27 Expenses – mileage claim rate

SG reported on the action that came from the AGM – to review the mileage rate and his recommendation that it should now be 30p a mile which the Exec agreed with. SG to send an email to non-exec officers, Chairman of T&B and L&D, stating this change with effect from 1.10.26

Action: SG to email all guild officers to inform of new mileage rate

2026.28 Attendance at Funerals

CM raised this discussion point, the previous Master attended many funerals of ODG members. The present Master does not have the time, nor felt it was appropriate for him to attend all. It was decided that we should encourage Guild Stewards to attend, unless the deceased is a significant Guild officer.

2026.29 The Guild Banner

The banner was sent to be repaired and a donation of £750 has already been made to cover the work needed. CM followed up on when the repairs would be completed and was informed by the repairer that "phase 1" has been done but they hadn't had a chance to start work on phase 2, but on quick examination they felt that repairs for phase 2 were not required at this stage. CM to ask Katie to collect. SG raised the issue that we had paid the donation up front for repairs that might not be needed, or was this donation for repairs done last year

Action: clarification on the donation paid for the repair of the banner. CM to ask Katie to collect banner

2026.30 Policies review

LB has produced a list of policy statements that she has found other Guilds using. The rest of the exec team to review the list and make suggestions on top 5 polices that ODG should consider having. Exec team to consider the conclusions of the Dorset County Association Governance review to ensure the ODG don't fall into the same traps. Discussion at the next meeting.

Action: exec team to suggest top 5 policies that we should consider for the ODG

2026.31 Youth bands & Youth officer

2026.9.1 CR reported that he has emailed the Youth Officer and is awaiting response before he can start to support him. CM agreed to revisit the Youth Funding Policy Document to remove ambiguity, content to be checked by Exec team, before CM circulates to the leaders of the Youth Teams. CR agreed to attend Bucks & Berks Youth Ringers practises to start to build the relationship between them and the Guild.

Action: CM to update the Youth Funding policy

Action: CR has agreed to attend Bucks & Berks Youth Ringers practises

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

ACTIONS Completed (since the last meeting)

Number	Action	By whom	Completed
2026.1.1	*to investigate if calendar can be put on the temporary website now.*	LB	completed
2026.4.1	*to chase for names of members of scrutiny committee*	CM	completed
2026.7.1	*to approach Cowley Library storage facility*	CM	completed
2026.10.1	*to approach a possible new steward*	CM	completed
2026.11.1	*to finalise 15 year plan and then get onto website*	CM	completed
2026.12.1	*to approach Katie Lane to ask if she would be willing to take the leads on CCCBR meeting and Guild Festival*	CM	completed

2026.19.1	*to email all members introducing himself as Master and notifying them of the outcome of the voting at the AGM, will check wording with Exec first*	CM	completed
2026.19.2	*to email all outgoing branch reps thanking them for their work involved in attending the ODG meetings, will check wording with Exec first*	CM	completed
2026.19.6	*to send SG a copy of the 'new members' letter*	CM	completed
2026.19.7	*to update CR on higher numbers practises*	CM	completed
2026.19.8	*to send CR the MM group email addresses*	CM	completed
2026.19.9	*to write up minutes of meeting*	HB	completed

ACTIONS from previous meetings to be completed

Number	**Action**	**By whom**	**Completed**
2026.2.1	*to launch the electronic payment of subs for 2027*	SG	ongoing
2026.3.1	*to sort out the content of the annual Report in sufficient time so it can be finalised before Dec 26 ready for the next version*	HB	
2026.4.2	*to arrange the first Scrutiny Committee, either f2f or online. CM to attend the first meeting to clarify exactly what the remit of the committee is*	CM	
2026.5.1	*to start the process of obtaining Charitable status*	SG	Long term
2026.6.1	*Exec to undertake to re-write the rules*	All exec	Long term
2026.8.1	t*o sort out the structure of the document storage on google docs*	HB / LB	ongoing
2026.8.2	*to give all members of the Exec access to google docs once structure is sorted*	LB	ongoing
2026.9.1	*to take on the role as a link to the Youth Officer.*	CR	ongoing
2026.9.2	t*o set up a youth ringers group email address.*	SG	
2026.10.2	*To approach possible person to lead on 'what the guild should do for its members*	CM	ongoing
2026.10.3	*to arrange meeting with Guild Stewards in the Autumn*	CM / HB	ongoing
2026.14.1	*to sort out social media presence*	LB	Long term
2026.15.1	*to continue sorting out the server, website and email system*	CM / SG	ongoing
2026.16.1	*to source recruitment material from CCCBR and other source*	LB	ongoing

2026.16.2	*to approach possible chair for a subcommittee for a review of IT and digital*	CM	
2026.17.1	*to ensure that new procedure for the elections is put in place*	HB	
2026.19.3	*should meet up with the non-exec officers – social event? SG offered his back garden*		Deferred to 2027
2026.19.4	*dates for the Exec meetings to be set*	HB	
2026.19.5	*house style for all ODG documents to be produced – accessible type face and font size, location and size of log – templates to be produced*	HB	

ACTIONS from this meeting

Number	Action	By whom	Completed
2026.20.1	*to continue the work on re-instating the website and updating the membership of the group email addresses*	LB & SG	
2026.20.2	*to find out details on the charging for hosting of the leadership email inboxes so that Richard Stanworth can be given the deadline for the move to take place*	CM	
2026.20.3	*to approach a volunteer about taking on role of Deputy Webmaster*	CM	
2026.20.4	*all team to review YouTube content produced by LB*	All exec	
2026.21.1	*arrange to meet with branch treasurers in October to discuss and update*	SG	
2026.22.1	*to contact Elizabeth Mullett to organise meeting for Scrutiny Committee and exec Team to meet*	HB	
2026.22.2	*to contact University of Reading about facilities required in 2031 for CCCBR*	HB	
2026.22.3	*to organize Exec Team meeting dates for the next 6 months*	HB	
2026.22.4	*to arrange specific Exec meeting to discuss non-exec officers and guild stewards*	HB	
2026.25.1	*to contact Doug Beaumont regarding the offer from Cowley Library storage facility*	CM	
2026.26.1	*to email all guild officers to inform of new mileage rate*	SG	
2026.28.1	*clarification on the donation paid for the repair of the banner. CM to ask Katie to collect banner*	CM	
2026.29.1	*to suggest top 5 policies that we should consider for the ODG*	All exec	
2026.30.1	*to update the Youth Funding policy*	CM	
2026.30.2	*to attend Bucks & Berks Youth Ringers practises*	CR	