

# Minutes of the Guild Week Business Meeting, held in The Church Hall, Bridge Church, Redditch, on 18th August 2025

## Members Present

President: J A Agg

Minute taker: S C Johnson

Sam Spencer  
Kirsten Hawkins  
Lucy Hennessy  
Naomi Laredo  
Christine Hill  
Peter Hill  
Chris Winkless-Clark  
Lena van Dongen  
John Harrison  
Clarke Walters  
Chris Rogers

Thomas Cox  
Catriona Agg  
Richard Smith  
John Sturdy  
Brian Meads  
Melissa Nash  
Toby Clifton  
Rod Lebon  
Karen Lebon  
Ian Vincent  
Nicholas Small

Jonathan Nash  
James Tan  
Graham Darke  
Carys Hayward  
Ellen Hayward  
Marianne Hayward  
Luke Smith  
Karen Hindley  
Richard Underwood  
Nicholas Smith  
Jonathan Shanklin

## 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Greg Chu  
Richard Youdale  
Tom Hooley

John Hutchinson  
Kit Kilgour

## 2 Matters Arising from the Guild Week Business Meeting 2024

There were no matters arising from the 2024 Guild Week Business Meeting minutes.

## 3 Election of New Members

Madhu Davies (Pembroke 2010) is learning to ring at Great Wilbraham and Landbeach. Nicholas Small proposed, while Barbara le Gallez seconded by email. The election was unanimous.

## 4 Current Guild Week

Cars for tomorrow and details of Wednesday's quarter peal will be sent out tonight. There will be a Eucharist tomorrow evening which Marianne will lead. Chris Winkless Clark will send round payment details afterwards, these will be subject to trying to get a discount following the printing mistakes on the t-shirts. The potential extra tower on Wednesday (Yardley) is still to be confirmed, as we are not sure if enough people are interested.

## 5 Future Guild Weeks

John Hutchinson has offered to organise next year's Guild Week in Northallerton. This will take place on the usual dates (the weekend before the bank holiday), these being August 22nd to 26th. There are currently no other offers for future years. Chris Rogers suggested that Guild Week has only been to Lancashire once (1992), so that may be an area which would be worthwhile revisiting. Clarke and Brian have information on a complete list of Guild Weeks. It would be good to make this accessible to others.

## 6 Obituaries

A moment of silence was held to remember several Guild members who have sadly passed in the last year: Peter Perry, Desmond Painter and Delia Heppenstall. It was noted that Delia was one of the first two Associate Members of the Guild.

## 7 Diary Dates

*London Outing Saturday 29th November 2025* Organised by Sam Spencer

*Annual Dinner* This is expected to be at the usual time (Saturday after term finishes - 21st March), Amy will confirm.

## 8 Any Other Business

Richard Smith provided an update on Central Council proposals: At last year's Central Council meeting, a motion passed to increase affiliation fees from 20p per member to 40p per member from 2025, as did a further proposal to increase them to £1 per member from 2026. We declare we have around 200 members.

Guild Accounts show relatively small profit due to lack of annual membership fee. After two rounds of consultation with university societies, it has been suggested that the Central Council introduce a third class of societies. Current categories are Regular and Small (approx. <50 members). The suggestion is for a new class of societies which don't have an annual membership fee, for whom affiliation fees would stay around 20p per member. We would lose one representative (currently we have two: Dave Richards and Richard Smith). We don't need to make a decision now, it is suggested that we wait to hear more information before deciding. This will likely mean waiting until the AGM to discuss the matter further. Jonathan Shanklin suggested raising the suggestion of free membership for university societies. Richard

Smith would be happy to propose this, but thinks it unlikely to pass. John Harrison agreed he thought it unlikely to pass. It was clarified that the number of declared members is the approximate number of members who participate in e.g. the Guild Dinner, Guild Week, peals, outings, etc. Richard Smith will keep us updated. Richard Youdale raised that in four years time, the society will be 150 years old,

and asked at what stage do we need to start thinking about this. Activities to mark this should include, among others, peals, a dinner, and writing an extension to Guild history. For the Guild centenary we had a dinner at Trinity, and were sung to by the Cambridge University Guild of Strange Singers. Clare

College is celebrating its 700 year anniversary next year. Richard Smith is considering organising a peal, but maybe other performances as well if there are members who don't want to ring a peal. With no

further business, the meeting was closed.

This minutes were reformatted 2026 by Oliver Bennett