

Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting, held in St Bene't's Church, Cambridge, on 27th February 2026

Members Present

President: J A Agg
Master: Amy E L Dunn
Secretary: O M Bennett

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|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Áine Williamson | John Sturdy | Sam Johnson |
| Benjamin Shorter* | Jonathan Nash | Sam Spencer |
| Cameron Pearson | Jonathan Shanklin | Schoen Cho |
| Charlie Betts | Kate Jennings | Stella Johnson |
| Eleanor Marshall | Philip Hensman | |
| Hannah Cargill Thompson | Sam Brown | |

*Elected during the meeting

The President opened the meeting at 21:06

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

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|----------------------|-----------------|
| Catriona Agg | Matthew Collier |
| Chris Winkless-Clark | Melissa Nash |
| Jadd Virji | Sam Canning |

2 Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting 2025

With no corrections, the minutes were proposed as a true and correct copy of the meeting by Sam Spencer, seconded by Amy Dunn, and accepted without opposition.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Election of New Members

The following were proposed for membership by Stella Johnson, seconded by Sam Johnson, and accepted unanimously.

Benjamin Shorter (King's)
Joe Stead (Gonville and Caius)

Susan Evans (Wolfson)

5 Cambridge Towers

St Andrew the Great

The Steeplekeeper was unable to attend the meeting so the prepared report was given by the master. The small crack in the stay of the 7 is continuing to be monitored and an inspection yesterday showed it to be in the same condition. The lock nut on the 3 is holding much firmer than the previous installation. Matthew would like to note that as of last night the bells were still there.

St Bene't's

Sam Johnson reassured to the relief of everyone in the meeting that the bells, and the church in general are still here. Since the last meeting, no new work has been carried out. The light fixture that had come loose was screwed and then glued by the church, ensuring it will not fall out again. In a pre-prepared report read by the Secretary, the Assistant Master noted that practices continue to be well attended with a wide range of ringing and still room for shenanigans like Dixon's.

Great St Mary's

Jonathan Nash gave an update on GSM. The simulator is now completely non-functional. The bells themselves are in good working order thanks to Luke. In the Assistant Master's prepared report, he noted that evensong is poorly attended when it rains. Far be it from him to suggest correlation implies correlation but, it would be nice to see more causation in numbers in order we get better weather.

OLEM

Jonathan Shanklin confirmed that the bells were still there as well. The scaffolding has come off of the church now and the tower is looking in fine condition.

St Clement's

Sam Johnson informed the meeting that the bells are still in the church. They continue to hold regular practices which guild members are welcome to attend. He noted that there is a plain hunt practice tomorrow and it would be good to see many members there. They continue to get through stays and sliders at a fairly high rate, but there are no big maintenance issues to report.

6 Diary Dates

Joint Outing with the OUS (Nottingham), Saturday 28th February 2026 - The joint outing will be held tomorrow. The master explained that that plan is to get the 6:21 train from Cambridge to Nottingham. It looks to be a fun day with lots of trams and bells.

BUSCR outing (Birmingham), Saturday 14th March 2026 - The joint outing with the Birmingham Society is set to take place on the 14th March. Suggested trains and travel arrangements are to be organised closer to the date. The master requested those interested in attending let her know. The president remarked it promises to be a good day out with a rare chance to ring on sixteen.

Annual Dinner (Lucy Cavendish), Saturday 21st March 2026 - The secretary reminded those present that the deadline to sign up is end of day Sunday 1st March. Planning for ringing and other activities are well underway now. The secretary requested that members who have singed up, but not yet paid should endeavor to do so as soon as possible.

Intermediate Practice at St Clement's, Sunday 1st March 2026 - Eleanor Marshall encouraged people to come along to the intermediate practice at St Clement's this weekend, focusing on rounds and call changes.

Boat Race Ringing, Saturday 4th April 2025 - The master told those present that boat race ringing is to take, with more details forthcoming.

7 Any Other Business

The guild wished to congratulate the President on the birth of his son, presenting him with a crochet carrot made by Amy Dunn and Hannah Cargill Thompson. We wish the President and his family all the best.

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at 21:15.

O M Bennett