

Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting, held in St Bene't's Church, Cambridge, on 7th November 2025

Members Present

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

Samuel Brown*	Tom Higton	Samuel Spencer
Samuel Canning	Katherine Jennings	John Sturdy
Schoen Cho*	Stella Johnson	Hannah Cargill Thompson*
Greg Chu	Samuel Johnson	Jadd Virji
Matthew Collier	Jonathan Nash	Joseph Wakeling
August Deeming*	Jonathan Shanklin	Chris Winkless-Clark

*Elected during the Meeting

The President opened the meeting at 21:05

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Catriona Agg	Kirsten Hawkins
Claire Barlow	Thomas Haslam
Toby Clifton	Melissa Nash
Madhu Davies	Josho Sarma

2 Minutes of the Lent 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 Tom Higton and were accepted unopposed

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Election of New Members

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

Sofia Adams-Grion (Pembroke)
Sylvie Ades (Corpus Christi)
Kyle Bird (Wolfson)
Hannah Cargill Thompson (Robinson)
Xinyuan Chen (Murray Edwards)
Tze Yeung Cho (Gonville and Caius)
August Deeming (St Catharine's)

Erin Garland (Downing)
Terry Lam (Corpus Christi)
Jacqueline Miller (Sidney Sussex)
Eleanor Peebles (Wolfson)
Aine Williamson (Newnham)
Weian Zeng (Queens')
Xujing Zhang (St Edmund's)

Charlie Betts and Samuel Brown were proposed for associate membership by Kate Jennings, seconded by Stella, and accepted unanimously.

5 Cambridge Towers

St Andrew the Great

The Master provided an update on the condition of the bells. She informed the meeting that at the most recent practice the seven appeared more deep set than usual, which prompted an inspection which revealed a small crack in the fibreglass stay, although not in the place as to be expected from usual damage. A photograph was taken and the condition will be monitored over the coming practices. Other than this the bells remain in fine condition and are still as loud as ever. Sam Spencer made the meeting aware that the main door into the ringing chamber has been replaced with a fire door and as such is now self closing.

St Bene't's

Sam Johnson assured the meeting that the bells were indeed still here. A complete inspection was carried out during the summer with no major issues to report. Five of the six new ropes have now been installed, meaning only one of the original ropes remains.

Great St Mary's

Greg Chu informed the meeting that the simulator was currently out of action pending an update to Windows 11. The president reminded those present to continue to liaise with GSM shop staff before coming up or down the tower.

OLEM

The President noted that ringing has resumed although the scaffolding remains.

St Clement's

Sam Johnson explained that it is still a teaching center with lots of experience sessions running as well as the local practice. They tend to go through stays and sliders at a high rate, but other than this there are no notes. He informed the Guild that there are monthly practices focusing on rounds and call changes which may be of use to members of the Guild. The Master drew the Guild's attention to our weekly two hour slot at the tower organised by Ben Willetts, this time is occasionally used for intermediate practices but Guild members should feel free to organise further use of the bells.

Girton

The Secretary told the Guild that he had carried out an inspection in conjunction with Tom Ridgman. The bells are in very poor condition and there is no hope of allowing them to ring full circle without a substantial overhaul, which the church is uninterested in. A full report was given to the church providing good faith advice on how to preserve the bells and prevent further degradation.

6 Diary Dates

SUA Oxford, Friday 14th to Sunday 16th November 2025 - The Master encouraged individuals planning on going to sign up as per the email from Oxford. Those intending to go should speak to Kate Jennings who has created a group for easier communication.

Annual Dinner, Saturday 21st March 2026 - The Annual dinner will be at Lucy Cavendish this year.

London Outing, Saturday 29th November 2025 - The secretary informed the attendees that the London Outing did not occur on the 29th November 2024 as originally suggested by the agenda. Any questions should be directed to Sam Spencer who asks that people planning to come reply to his email for conformation.

Swavesey Visit, Saturday 8th November 2025 - Sam Canning has organised a guild trip to Swavesey, those interested in attending should let him know. The President suggested it would be nice to get out in the countryside for a lovely rural ring.

Intermediate Practice, Sunday 23rd November 2025 - The Master told those in attendance that there will soon be an intermediate practice focusing on ringing up and down, which could be useful to members of the Guild.

Guild Week, Saturday 22nd to Wednesday 26th August 2026 - The President told the Guild that Guild Week will proceed as normal with the normal mix of a nice bit of countryside and a nice bit of ringing.

7 Any Other Business

No further items were raised.

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at 21:18.

O M Bennett