

Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting, held in St Bene't's Church, Cambridge, on 27th October 2023

Members Present

President: J A Agg
Master: K J Hawkins
Secretary: L I van Dongen

Amy Dunn	Greg Chu	Matthew Wadey
Amy Keller*	Jadd Virji	Oliver Richards
Andrew Cooke	John Sturdy	Oliver Winkless-Clark
Andrew Roberts	Jonathan Nash	Sam Johnson
Ben Willetts	Jonathan Shanklin	Sam Spencer
Catriona Agg	Kate Jennings	Stella Johnson
Chris Winkless-Clark	Lucy Hennessy	
Faris Qureshi	Luke Butcher*	

*Elected during the meeting

The President opened the meeting at 21:07

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Ben Gladwyn	Chiara Delpiano-Cordeiro
Claire Barlow	Zijiao Zhao
Richard Pargeter	James Ellison
Melissa Nash	Michael D'Avanzo

2 Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting 2023

The minutes were proposed as a true and correct copy of the meeting by Oliver Winkless-Clark, seconded by Kate Jennings, and were accepted unanimously.

3 Matters Arising

Ringling room sound control at St Andrew the Great

Amy Dunn reported that the volume of the bells in the ringing room had previously been very loud, but that this has now hopefully been resolved. Over the past few weeks Amy Dunn and Melissa Nash have been working to fill the gaps in the void and put acoustic foam in place. She noted that there was still one slight gap that hasn't been done, but the volume is already much better so this may not be an issue. The President thanked Amy Dunn and Melissa Nash for the work they have done on this.

4 Election of New Members

The following were proposed for full membership by Jadd Virji, seconded by Andrew Roberts, and accepted unanimously.

Amy Keller (Pembroke)	Jonathan Martin (Churchill)
Benjamin Knight (Christ's)	Jonathan Westley (Downing)
Brian Lee (Downing)	Joshodeep Sarma (Gonville and Caius)
Chiara Delpiano-Cordeiro (Christ's)	Nathan Ilsley (Peterhouse)
Connor Chung (Trinity)	Roberto Salvia (Robinson)
Eleanor Marshall (Emmanuel)	Tilly Heaton (Homerton)
James Tan (Trinity)	Zijiao Zhao (St Edmund's)
Jing Zhao (Homerton)	

Luke Butcher was proposed for associate membership by Kirsten Hawkins, seconded by Sam Johnson and accepted unanimously.

5 Cambridge Towers

St Andrew the Great

Amy Dunn reiterated that the sound control issues have now been resolved, but there is a board next to the trapdoor that may need replacing soon. She also suggested that an audit of the tools in the void may be sensible, and that these could be supplemented by a file and torch, since the light in the void was not working again. Stella Johnson recommended acquiring a head torch for this. The President added that the church should be informed of the light once again not working. Chris Winkless-Clark mentioned that the previous time this had happened it was not a simple fix, since there was an issue with the type of lightbulb needed not being in production anymore.

Greg Chu added that a leg of one of the sofas at StAG has buckled, in addition to the leg that has already broken off. He suggested we should talk to the church about this, as well as taking care to not accelerate any existing damage to the furniture.

St Bene't's

Sam Johnson reported that Bene't's is still here, and that there have been no changes in the condition of the bells. He added that the ropes are starting to wear out and we are running low on spares, so he has been investigating the best place to buy new ropes from. Since there is approximately £400-500 in the ringing fund, this should be enough and he would most likely not need to use any Guild money for the purchase of new ropes. He also reported that St Bene't's has a very healthy band, in part due to the many recent graduates that have stayed in Cambridge leading to the church having a proper local band in the summer.

Great St Mary's

The President reported that there is lots of ringing going on at GSM, wearing out the ropes quickly, so leading to new ropes being put in fairly regularly. These tend to be stretchy to begin with but improve again with more ringing done on them. The President also asked people ringing for evensong to continue talking with the shop staff to go up and down the tower.

Oliver Winkless-Clark asked how extensive the water damage was in the ringing room due to a recent drain blockage and heavy rain. Ben Willetts informed everyone present that the damage thankfully hasn't been too great since most of the water ran down the inside wall. So far it seems that only some paperwork has been damaged in the box in the corner behind bells 2 and 3. There is a possibility that some peal boards in the corner may have some damage, but apart from that damage is minimal. They added that something like this will happen periodically, and requires the church to maintain the gutters. They requested that any new water features be reported to the church staff.

OLEM

The President remarked that ringing is still suspended, but the Guild is in touch with Richard Smith and Paul Seaman who are working on getting ringing up and running again.

St Clement's

Sam Johnson reported that St Clement's is now completely up and running: they are hosting a range of ringing events for existing ringers, learners and members of the public. They are currently still working at a loss, but thankfully have enough funds for another few years. He added that the bells are good bells to ring, and there have been a few broken stays which have been easy to replace. He also added that St Clement's have a working simulator, which is regularly being used. The Master added that the Guild has two free hours a week to use, so anyone wishing to arrange quarters or any other events should talk to Kirsten to organise using Guild time, but should speak to Lynne Hughes in order to book the bells. Greg Chu asked if this time is guaranteed to be open ringing, or if the bells may have to be tied. The Master responded that she assumed it would not be guaranteed to be open ringing. The President encouraged learners and anyone wanting more practice to use these bells alongside Guild teaching, as it is a very good tower to learn at.

6 Diary Dates

SUA (Bristol), Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th November 2023 - the Master mentioned that everyone planning to go should have been added to the group chat, but asked anyone to talk to her if not. She commented that it should be a fun weekend.

University Sermon, Sunday 6th November 2023, 11:00 - the Master pointed out that this is the same weekend as the SUA, and asked encouraged anyone not going to the SUA to attend. She also asked anyone to let her know if they are planning to attend. She commented that the Youths and other ringers will likely need to be asked in order to make up numbers.

The Master mentioned that the practice at OLEM on Wednesday 8th should be treated as cancelled since ringing is unlikely to resume before then.

London Outing, Saturday 25th November 2023 - This year's outing is being organised by Greg Chu, and all the towers for the day have been booked. Greg Chu encouraged people with any ringing ability to come; there will be a range of towers, followed by a curry in Brick Lane. Stella Johnson added that in previous years we have had people who can only ring backstrokes in rounds come, and the President commented that there are some easy towers, and others less easy, so there would certainly be opportunities for ringing backstrokes throughout the day.

Annual Guild Dinner, Saturday 16th March 2024 - to be held at Christ's College. There is a whole weekend of various ringing activities, followed by the dinner itself. The Master added that she would be recruiting a band for the handbell touch soon.

Oliver Winkless-Clark added that Guild Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday 2nd December. The location is not quite determined yet, but it is likely to be hosted by Lucy Hennessy. Kate Jennings commented that it is useful for anyone with fridge or freezer space living in the same area to get in touch.

The President added that Guild Week will be held on the traditional dates again: the week before the bank holiday week in August (Saturday 17th to 21st Wednesday August 2024), and it will be held in Dorset.

7 Any Other Business

The President raised the election of Toby Hibbert at the Guild Week meeting, as there had been some confusion over this. The committee has discussed this, and his election has been marked as null, which Toby is content with.

Stella Johnson raised that at a meeting a few years ago an old Guild membership book had been mentioned, and that it had been found again in an attic. The President was glad that another mystery has been solved, along with the Guild photo album. The membership book covers membership from 1879. The President commented that Richard Smith will digitize the book nicely with a scanner, and then the original book will be given to the UL for safekeeping. The President added that there is still work to do on the photo album which had been recently found, and encouraged anyone who would be keen to work on that to get in touch.

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at 21:27.

L I van Dongen