

Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting, held in St Bene't's Church, Cambridge, on 16th February 2024

Members Present

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

Amy Dunn
Ben Willetts
Chris Winkless-Clark
Greg Chu
James Tan

Jonathan Martin
Jonathan Nash
Joshodeep Sarma
Luke Butcher
Michael D'Avanzo

Oliver Winkless-Clark
Sam Johnson
Sam Spencer
Stella Johnson
Thomas Haslam

The President opened the meeting at 21:04

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Andrew Cooke
Ben Gladwyn
Catriona Agg
Claire Barlow
Eleanor Marshall
Jadd Virji

Jonathan Shanklin
Kate Jennings
Lucy Hennessy
Matthew Wadey
Melissa Nash
Oliver Richards

2 Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting 2023

With minor corrections raised by Chris Winkless-Clark and Ben Willetts (correcting 'with' to 'will', 'be be' to 'be', 'he' to 'they', adding 'get in touch'), the minutes were proposed as a true and correct copy of the meeting by Kirsten Hawkins, seconded by Oliver Winkless-Clark and were accepted unanimously.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Election of New Members

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

Abudea Larson-Amartefio (Trinity)
Erin Fitzsimons-West (Christ's)
Nivita Sukhadia (Wolfson)
Tianyi Xiao (Newnham)
Toby Clifton (Fitzwilliam)

5 Cambridge Towers

St Andrew the Great

The Steeplekeeper, Amy Dunn, reported that nothing major has happened since the last meeting. Ben Willetts commented that surely plenty of major has been rung at this eight bell tower. The Steeplekeeper clarified that there have been no major issues.

St Bene't's

Sam Johnson reported that the ropes are starting to reach the end of their life, although currently they are all still fine except for the rope of the 4, which is still very stretchy. Just a few hours before the meeting he had emailed for a quote for new ropes, so hopefully we will have new ropes before too long. He continued on to say that there are no other issues with the bells, and there are inspections planned as usual during the quiet period. Jonathan Nash asked if the bells are still there, which Sam Johnson confirmed they were.

Great St Mary's

The President reported that the bells are Great St Mary's are also still there, and everything is still working well. The simulator was brought up, and it was confirmed to currently be working on all bells except the 8. The President added that issues have come from the distance between the sensors and reflective tape on the wheels, and issues may have arisen by the sensor getting knocked. If there are any further issues he urged anyone to get in contact with Luke or Dave.

OLEM

The President reported that there are no changes, and ringing at OLEM is still suspended. Paul Seaman and Richard Smith are still in contact with the church in order to try and get ringing started again, so hopefully there will be good news soon. Ben Willetts added that there was some trial ringing planned, but this had been cancelled due to illness.

St Clement's

Sam Johnson said that St Clement's is still being used as a teaching centre, so therefore are getting through stays at quite a high rate, but there are no issues with the bells themselves. There are now paying members of the public coming in to give ringing a try, so they are managing to open ringing up to a wider audience. The Master commented that the Guild are now more regularly making use of their one free hour of ringing at St Clement's each week, as we have Intermediate Practices there every few weeks. However, there are still more weeks where the hours are free for use, so the Master urged anyone to get in contact if they would be interested in ringing quarters or practicing with the simulator, for example. Sam Johnson added that the church is often very busy so it can be quite difficult to book the bells. This is largely due to the church getting booked up far in advance, and Chris Winkless-Clark added that the church itself often holds events on Saturday, therefore limiting times convenient to most ringers.

6 Diary Dates

Joint Outing with OUS, Saturday 17th February 2024 - The Master hopes that everyone going has received her email, but if anyone is unsure of where they need to go tomorrow morning, they should get in contact with her. She also added that if anyone would want to run a tower, they should let her know. There will be 10 people going.

Intermediate Practice at St Clement's, Sunday 18th February 2024 - Sam Johnson commented that there are a good number of learners for this practice, and there are now enough teachers. He thanked Melissa Nash for organising the Intermediate Practices.

University Sermon, Sunday 25th February 2024, 11:00 - The Master commented that this is happening at 11:00 as usual, and that anyone planning to go should let her know. She added that if anyone is interested in tolling the eleven, that they would be more than welcome to do so.

Intermediate Practice at St Clement's, Sunday 10th March 2024 - Sam Johnson said that it has not yet been decided what the focus of this practice will be, but could for example be a plain hunt, or rounds and call changes practice. This will depend on what seems most helpful for people, and it will be advertised closer to the time.

Annual Guild Dinner (Christ's College), Saturday 16th March 2024 - The Master urged anyone who hasn't yet signed up to do so. The deadline for this is 3rd March, and she emphasised that this year it will be a firm deadline, with no extensions.

Boat Race Ringing, Saturday 30th March 2024 - Amy Dunn reported that she has contacted both the towers (All Saint's Church, Fulham and St Mary, Putney), but the tower contact for Putney is currently on holiday, but hopefully she will be hearing back soon.

Guild Week (Dorset/Somerset), Saturday 17th to Wednesday 21st August 2024 - The President said that arrangements are going well, and thanked Christine and Peter Hill. Some good, cheaper accommodation has been found, and has kitchen and shower facilities. He encouraged people to come as it is an enjoyable few days of ringing. He urged anyone unsure of what Guild week is to ask, and noted that it is also possible to come for just the weekend, as Dorset is quite a short train ride away from Cambridge.

The President added that the Society of Cambridge Youths dinner is being held in September, and all Guild members would be very welcome to attend. There is a young person's price of £45 for those under 26. If anyone is worried about accommodation, they should get in touch, as there will be plenty of people in Cambridge with floor space.

Chris Winkless-Clark also added that the Cambridge District Striking Competition is being held in May, which is earlier than in the past few years, so if the Guild wants to put together a band for this then this should be considered sooner than usual. The striking contest is being held in Stapleford on the 11th May. The President added that Stapleford is not too far to travel to from Cambridge, so it could be a good break from exam revision for any students.

7 Any Other Business

The President commented that the photobook and minutebook still need to be digitised, and these are slow moving plans. Another slow moving project is uploading all of the Guild's peals onto Bellboard. He urged anyone enthusiastic to get in touch.

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at 21:17.

L I van Dongen