

**THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL
RINGERS
PETERBOROUGH BRANCH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018**

held on Saturday 20th January at St Andrew's Cotterstock, St Mary and All Saints Nassington, and
Nassington village hall

Present: A Dyer, J Thorpe, A Whiteway, N Elks, H Hardie, S Marsden, E Wilkinson, S Upex A Parker, T Wright, B Hardie, A Whiteway, P Teall, D Teall, M Keck, M Jenner, C Burgess, J Rogers, B Clapp, R Rogers, D Street, J Benner, N Parsons, J Cowcill, S Jones, H Thorpe, T Thorpe, R Thorpe, D Bond, J Cloughton, S Cloughton, H Cornford, M Cochrane, J Webb, R Fraser, J Tinsley, J Mills, G Simpson, J Parker, G Christie, A Christie, K Underwood, J Riley, Y Halewood, C Groome, G Edis, C Edis (47 members)

Apologies: J Kennedy, D Banks, M Smedley, P Pohling- Brown, P Quinn, J Quinn, S Hodgkinson, C Clark, A Terry, M Goodhall, D Jones, A Russell

1. Welcome from the Chairman: Alex Dyer welcomed everyone to the 2018 AGM of the Peterborough Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and remarked how good it was to see so many people there and invited Bernie Clapp to propose a vote of thanks

2. Vote of Thanks: Bernie thanked Cotterstock and Nassington ringers for hosting the AGM and in particular Rev Jane and the organist for the lovely service in Nassington church. It being a freezing cold day the warming food and drink were especially welcome and he thanked all who had prepared food and made special mention of Margaret who had hot cups of tea waiting for us on our arrival.

3. Minutes of 2017 AGM: The minutes, which had been circulated by the Secretary prior to the meeting via PetNet, were adopted as a true record, proposed by D Teall and seconded by S Marsden and accepted by a unanimous vote.

The secretary apologised for a misspelling of a name that was pointed out by C Burgess and would correct that.

4. Matters Arising not included in within the agenda: there were no matters arising

5. Officers' Reports:

The Chairman thanked the Officers and Committee Members for all their help, dedication and hard work throughout the year. Reports from the Ringing Master: James Thorpe, Steward: Nick Elks and Treasurer:

Andrew Parker, were presented to the meeting. Copies of these reports and the accounts to 31/12/2017 can be found at the end of the minutes.

6. Adoption of Accounts for 2017:

The Accounts, which are attached, were adopted at the meeting, this having been proposed by H Hardie and seconded by A Whiteway.

7. Report from Castor Ringing School 2017:

David Teall the presented the report from the Castor Ringing School. This report can also be found attached at the end of the minutes.

8. Election of New Members:

The following ringers were proposed as new members:

Helen Cornford (Nassington), Jane Webb (Nassington), G Edis (Warmington), proposed by H Hardie and seconded by A Whiteway

Jane Mills (unattached) proposed by E Wilkinson and seconded by G Simpson

Julian Burton (Castor) proposed by C Burgess and seconded by P Teall

These new members were elected with all in favour.

9. Presentation of certificates:

Alex presented a special certificate to Marilyn Jenner to mark her 50 years of membership of the Guild.

Three members were presented with First Quarter Peal certificates: George Edis, Chrissie RobertsLewis, and Dave Brown.

10. Election of Branch Officers for 2018:

This year three officers had stated that they wished to stand down.

Alex thanked James Thorpe for his service as ringing master and commented that James had helped him and numerous other ringers to improve and that his service had been greatly valued.

He also thanked Elaine Wilkinson for her work as assistant ringing master and the excellent and enjoyable summer tours that she had organised.

Andrew Parker stood down after many years as treasurer and he was thanked for his excellent management of the branch accounts and for offering to help his successor in her first year as the treasurer.

The following members were proposed, seconded and elected to the positions stated:

Position	Member	Proposed By	Seconded By
Chairman	Alex Dyer	D Teall	A Whiteway
Ringing Master	Sue Marsden	N Elks	T Wright
Ringing Master	Hilary Hardie	N Elks	T Wright
Secretary	Sylvia Upex	A Dyer	H Hardie
Treasurer	A Whiteway	S Marsden	A Parker
Steward	Nick Elks	T Wright	A Whiteway
Press Correspondent	Terry Wright	D Street	C Edis
Guild Mgmt Com Rep	Nick Elks	T Wright	D Teall
100 Club Representative	Derek Jones	S Jones	C Groome
Examiner of Accounts	Christopher Groome	S Jones	A Parker
Branch Committee Member	James Thorpe	S Marsden	D Street
Branch Committee Member	Andrew Christie	H Hardie	T Wright
Branch Committee Member	<i>To be co-opted by the committee</i>		

11. Nominations for Guild Officers:

Sue Jones addressed the meeting on behalf of the Guild. All of the current Guild committee are prepared to stand for re election with the exception of the Treasurer. It was proposed by Andrew Parker and seconded by Diana Street, with all in favour, that the Branch nominates the current committee for re-election. This was approved with all in favour.

S Jones said that the current Treasurer has completed 11 years and done a superb job of putting the Guild finances in order and that someone is needed for this role. The meeting were unable to propose any one for the task but members will give the matter their consideration.

12. Discussion of draft programme for 2018:

A draft programme was circulated for discussion. The members felt that the regular 8 bell practice should be continued. Comments on this included that it offered a good mix of abilities and opportunities for success and valuable experience for all levels. Some changes to dates for other events were discussed. The new committee will now prepare a schedule of events for publication in the near future.

13. Management of towers with no ringers:

William Baxter recently retired from providing ringers for special occasions at Wittering, Barnack, Thornhaugh and Wansford

Brian Hardie offered to manage the towers in the Nassington benefice : Wansford, Thornhaugh, Yarwell and also to look after Barnack.

Sue Marsden offered to manage Wittering.

Cotterstock is teamed with Warmington

Pauline Davidson has offered to continue as the contact for Oundle

14. AOB

14.1 Sue Jones asked members to donate to the Guild as two fund raising events will not be held this year (the raffle and the sponsored walk/ride). C Burgess noted that towers often used to have a bell fund and that this tradition of collecting contributions to the guild could be reinstated. Sue also offered Guild tea towels for sale (and these were soon purchased)

14.2 Sue Marsden spoke to the meeting about the Cathedral 900 celebrations and asked towers to get involved in ringing to mark this 900th anniversary.

14.3 Marilyn Jenner asked if the Branch is preparing anything special to mark the 100 th anniversary of the Armistice in November 1918. Alex replied that this would be a big focus for many towers and that several new ringers had already been recruited as part of the national campaign to introduce 1000 new ringers to mark this anniversary.

Judith Rogers asked that towers inform their PCCs that they are actively trying to recruiting for this November anniversary.

Terry Wright said that he is already preparing items for the press and television.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm and ringing resumed at Nassington for the remainder of the evening.

Signed

Date

Attached documents:

Castor Ringing School Report 2017

Ringing Master's Report 2017

Steward's Report 2017

*Treasurer's accounts 2017 **

*the documents presented to the AGM were signed by the Examiner of Accounts

Castor Ringing School Report

Report for Branch AGM - January 2018

The last year at Castor Ringing School has been a period of both stability and change. If that sounds like a contradiction in terms, let me explain.

The core beliefs that underpin our approach to teaching have remained unchanged and are stated on our website as follows:

At the centre of the Ringing School's approach to teaching is the understanding that no one gets anything wrong on purpose. Whether it be an aspect of handling, ringing a method or accurate striking, if one of our learners does not yet have the necessary skill to get it right, our task is to help them acquire that skill so that they can, no matter how long that might take. In pursuit of this task we promise to keep our advice constructive and supportive and never to be impatient or derogatory in either tone or manner.

This approach to teaching has seen a steady stream of new pupils join us throughout the year and an encouraging number graduate once they have rung a quarter peal on an inside bell. This level of success is entirely due to the dedication of the Tutors and Helpers who give up their time week after week to make up the band, and guide and encourage our learners as they acquire the physical and mental skills necessary to become change ringers. They are all members of this Branch and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them, along with the Rector, PCC Members, Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper at St Kyneburgha's whose support make it possible for us to run our sessions.

This stability has been under-pinned by two significant developments during the year. First, the drawing up of proper Terms of Reference and, with that, the establishment of a Committee comprised of Officers appointed by the PCC and Members elected at our AGM. This broadening of responsibility will, I believe, bring many benefits as we move forward.

Secondly, in addition to coming along to help week after week, six of our Graduates have attended training sessions either through the Association of Ringing Teachers, or at the Ringing School, or both and some are now well on their way to becoming qualified Tutors. This is a particularly significant development for, in their hands lies our future.

One smaller change that was introduced during the drawing up of the Terms of Reference was our change of name from Castor Ringing Centre to Castor Ringing School. Our new name emphasises what we do – teach - rather than where we do it and I believe better reflects our purpose and mission. This change has been recognised by the Central Council following approval of our new Terms of Reference.

I believe that the combination of stability and change that we have seen over the last twelve months puts us in a very strong position to go forward and continue to be a major influence for good on ringing in this area. I look forward to the future with confidence.

David Teall
Head Tutor
January 2018

Ringling Master's Report

Report for Branch AGM, January 2018

James Thorpe gave the following report:

In many ways this has been a very successful year. The Branch has recruited and retained many new ringers over the past few years and they play an enthusiastic and active part in Branch events but the year has been a mix of very successful highlights and some low points.

The Bob Minor workshop was very well attended and the many developing ringers seem to enjoy the workshop format. As usual, Ring for Your Supper was the most popular event of the year, attracting 29 ringers.

Thanks to Elaine Wilkinson a very enjoyable tour took place in August, attracting more ringers than usual, and providing the novel experience of ringing in some 3 bell towers as well as in some 6 and 8 bell towers.

Unfortunately the advanced ringers' workshop met with a poor response and lack of interest and did not take place.

The Branch visit to the cathedral was well attended also but it was fortuitous that 2 experienced ringers from out of the Branch arrived unexpectedly as without them it would have been almost impossible to ring successfully with the large number of less experienced ringers who attended, so this event could be described as a "near miss."

The 8 bell practice has continued throughout the year and attempts to make it more inclusive and attractive to those ringers just moving on to ringing on 8 have been very successful, but unfortunately as their numbers have grown the number of experienced ringers has decreased, posing the question: "How do we develop the skills of keen learners if experienced ringers do not wish to be involved?" I would though like to thank all those who have supported the 8 bell practice unfailingly, particularly John Riley.

To summarise, this year it has been rather like the curate's egg, "good in parts"!

Steward's Report

Report for Branch AGM, January 2018

The role of the Branch Steward is to assist ringers and towers with maintenance of bell installations. This may be in the form of advice, or practical help. Over the past year I have been actively involved with the augmentations and rehunging at Nassington and Cotterstock. All bell installations require regular maintenance to remain in a ring-able state, so I have also been giving particular attention to the lesser-rung installations within the branch, those without a local band or regular ringing. This has included towers with eight bells (Oundle), five bells (Polebrook), four bells (Ufford and Yarwell), three bells (Tansor), and even one with two bells (Woodnewton).

I have also been generously given most of a tin of Protectakote paint which was left over after the augmentation project at Cotterstock. This paint can be applied to clappers to provide a 'sticky' surface which enables muffles to better grip and therefore be less inclined to 'slip' during ringing. If anyone would like to make use of this paint then please contact me, and If anyone requires any assistance with maintaining their set of bells then likewise, please contact me and I will do my best to help myself or to organise suitable help.

Nick Elks

Branch Steward

Branch Accounts 2017

Report for Branch AGM, January 2018

Andrew Parker presented the following accounts:

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

Peterborough Branch Annual Accounts to 31 December 2017

2016		2017	2016		2017
	CASH B/F				
£0.00	In hand	£0.00			
£0.00	In cheque account	£0.00			
£1,039.48	In deposit account	£1,150.82			
	INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
£408.00	Members @ £6.00	£528.00	£0.00	Ringing World	£0.00
£9.00	Student Members @ £3.00	£9.00	£0.00	BRF collection	£0.00
£0.00	BRF collection	£0.00	£0.00	Purchase of rope	£0.00
£16.00	BRF donation	£118.00	£44.00	Quiz sheets	£49.00
£0.00	Sale of reports	£0.00	£312.75	75% subs to Guild	£402.75
£44.00	Sale of quiz sheets	£49.00	£6.40	Expenses	£46.57
£0.00	Branch donations	£0.00	£16.00	BRF Donation	£118.00
£1.29	Bank interest	£1.26	£0.00	Books & Reports	£0.00
£307.00	Branch Meetings	£485.10	£281.00	Branch meeting	£359.00
£0.00	Branch Outing	£9.00	£18.00	Guild draw prize	£0.00
£47.00	Sale of Raffle Tickets	£0.00	£180.00	Cycle ride sponsorship	£0.00
£51.20	Sale of Rope	£0.00	£47.00	Raffle Tickets	£0.00
£180.00	Cycle ride sponsorship	£0.00	£47.00	Donation to Castor tower	£45.10
£0.00	Afternoon Tea	£19.00	£0.00	Cost of web account	£0.00
				CASH C/F	
			£0.00	In hand	£0.00
			£0.00	In cheque account	£0.00
			£1,150.82	In deposit account	£1,348.76
£2,102.97		£2,369.18	£2,102.97		£2,369.18

Accounts Examined by Christopher Groome

Signed:

Date:

Peterborough

Balance b/f 1/1/2017 £1,150.82

Subscriptions

a) Ringing members	£537.00
b) Associate members	£0.00
c) NRLM	£0.00
Sub total	£537.00

Donations to Bell Fund	£118.00
Church collections for Bell Fund	£0.00
Branch Donations to Bell Fund	£0.00
Sale of reports	£0.00
Branch Events	£298.00
Cycle ride/ramble sponsorship	£0.00
Other sales: (Details Below)	£49.00
Other income	
Interest	£1.26
AGM Tea	£170.00
Sale of Rope	£0.00
Donation to Branch	£0.00
Castor monthly practices	£45.10
Sub total	£681.36

TOTAL 2017 INCOME £1,218.36

3/4 of total subscriptions as in (2) above	£402.75
Donations to Bell Fund as in (3) above	£118.00
Church collections for Bell Fund as in (4) above	£0.00
Branch Donations to Bell Fund as in (5) above	£0.00
Sale of reports as in (6) above	£0.00
Cycle ride/ramble sponsorship as in (8) above	£0.00
Other Guild purchases as in (9) above (Details Below)	£49.00
Other Bell Fund income:	£0.00

Total to Guild and Guild Bell Fund from Branch Funds £569.75

Other Branch expenses:

Castor Tower (donation for monthly practices)	£45.10
Branch Events	£225.00
Ringing World	£0.00
AGM tea	£134.00
Expenses	£46.57
Guild Draw prize	£0.00

Sub total £450.67

TOTAL 2017 EXPENDITURE £1,020.42

CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2017 £197.94

TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD £1,348.76

Other Sales/Purchases

Details

Draw Tickets	£0.00
Quiz sheets (2016)	£44.00
Quiz sheets (2017)	£5.00
Total	£49.00

Signed.....
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Date.....
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