

**Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers
Peterborough Branch**

**Minutes for AGM 2020
held at St Mary's Peterborough on January 18th**

The meeting commenced at 2pm with ringing at St Mary's followed by a church service conducted by Rev. Michael. At the end of the service a retiring collection was made to support the night shelter at St Mary's church. Following the service afternoon tea was served before the meeting. The AGM closed at 4.30 and ringing resumed until 5 pm.

Present:

A Dyer, H Hardie, A Whiteway, J Thorpe, T Wright, J Robinson, C RobertsLewis, S Upex, C Mould, H Allton, R Allton, C Dixon, J Cowcill, S Hodgkinson, J Benner, B Jones, J Rogers, R Rogers, J Nicholson, J Burton, A Russell, D Jones, S Jones, A Christie, G Christie, A Heaton, J Pocock, C Burgess, B Clapp, H Cornford, J Mills, A Gunstone, C Edis, J Parker, D Street

1. **Welcome** The Chairman, Alex Dyer, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending and for their support of the Branch over the last year. He also introduced the new Guild secretary, Helen Allton to the meeting, and the 100 club organiser, Cathy Dixon.
A minute's silence was held in memory of David Wilkinson from Easton
2. **Vote of thanks** Chris Edis proposed the vote of thanks to St Mary's church for hosting the meeting, to Rev Michael for taking the service which everyone had enjoyed, to Michael Keck for playing the organ for us (even though he hadn't time to stay for tea) and to all the people who had organised and produced the afternoon tea.
3. **Apologies for absence:** D Teall, P Teall, G Roffe, D Banks, A Terry, B Quinn, M Goodall, J Pocock, R Fraser, B Hardie, G Simpson, J Webb, C Groome, J Pitcher, M Keck, P Pohling Brown, N Elks, S Marsden, J Pocock, J Riley, Y Halewood, S Lakeman, M Palfrey, N Malcolm, W **Baxter**, N Elks

4. Approval of minutes of 2019 AGM

The minutes were approved, proposed by T Wright and seconded by J Cowcill, with all in favour. The chairman signed a copy of the minutes.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes but not included in the agenda

There were no matters arising

6. Officers' reports:

Ringin master – report attached. The report was circulated at the meeting.

Steward

Nick Elks was not able to attend the meeting but had reported earlier to the branch committee that he had had a quiet year with only a few visits to Cotterstock to replace a stay and to put on/ remove the muffles. Most towers now had competent steeple keepers which cuts down the amount of work he needs to do. He would be visiting Wittering to do an inspection, and would aim to visit those towers that did not have regular ringers to look after the bells.

Treasurer- report attached. The accounts were circulated at the meeting

Press Correspondent – report attached

Please see all attached reports below

7. Adoption of accounts for 2019

A Whiteway presented the accounts which had been inspected by C Groome. The accounts were adopted, proposed by J Robinson, seconded by S Hodgkinson, with all in favour. **Please see attached copy of the accounts.**

8. Report on Castor ringing school

H Hardie presented the report on behalf of D Teall. **Please see attached copy of the report**

9. Election of new members

No new members were proposed this year although recruitment continues. Members recruited last year are still ringing and some received their quarter peal certificates this year (see below) and an entirely new group of ringers have started at Castor with the aim of forming a band at Wittering. We hope we may be welcoming them as new members in the future.

10. Presentation of certificates

First quarter peal certificates were presented to Bernie Clapp (Warmington) and to Alex Heaton, Jane Robinson, Caroline Mould, Jane Webb, Helen Cornford & Julie Pocock, all from Nassington.

11. Election of Branch officers for 2020

The following were elected:

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chairman Alex Dyer | Proposed J Rogers | Seconded A Gunstone |
| Ringing master Hilary Hardie | H Cornford | C RobertsLewis |

| | | |
|--|------------|----------------|
| Assistant ringing master James Thorpe | B Jones | S Jones |
| Secretary Sylvia Upex | A Dyer | AWhiteway |
| Treasurer Angela Whiteway | S Upex | C RobertsLewis |
| Steward Nick Elks | A Whiteway | T Wright |
| Press officer and newsletter editor Terry Wright | C Mould | A Christie |
| Guild management representative | tbc | |
| Committee members Chrissie RobertsLewis Jane Robinson Tom Thorpe (junior rep) | AWhiteway | C Edis |
| 100 club representative Hilary Hardie | D Jones | C Mould |
| Examiner of accounts Christopher Groome | D Street | J Benner |

12. Nomination for Guild officers

Guild secretary, Helen Allton, explained the procedure for nominations which needed to be made before the Guild AGM. All nominations should state the post, the name of the proposed, plus proposer and seconder. She stressed that the Guild president is standing down and nominations for this post are being sought.

No nominations were made at this meeting.

13. Discussion of Branch events draft programme for 2020

A draft programme of events was circulated for comment and members were invited to contact the committee if they later think of any queries, alterations or requests.

None were made at the meeting and the committee will go ahead with finalising the programme as outlined in the draft.

14. Methods of communication within the Branch

This was raised following comments made by both the secretary and the press correspondent in committee meetings (see attached report from the press correspondent) concerning the methods of communication in the Branch. Members

were asked if they felt that the current methods of communication via petnet and the branch web site were adequate and if they would be interested in any other means of communication, such as Whatsapp for example. Generally members felt that they were kept well informed. J Thorpe commented that it is only direct personal communication with individuals that really achieves a response (eg in raising support for the 8 bell practice) – but that this is of course labour intensive.

15. Any other business

- 15.1** The chairman reminded members about ringing for VE day on May 8 and J Cowill added that VJ day in August should also be commemorated. H Hardie said that she would organise ringing in many towers in the same way that she had for Remembrance Day in 2018 .
- 15.2** A Gunstone remarked that the Branch had not supported the Guild 8 bell contest in the recent past and he felt that we should try harder to organise support for this. He was immediately detailed to organise a group to take part and kindly agreed to do so.
- 15.3** H Hardie asked if anyone would like to join the 100 club and if so to see her after the meeting.
- 15.4** R Allton reminded the Branch that the Guild 10 bell practice will take place every 2 months and that all are welcome. (Proposed dates for the 10 bell practice have been listed on the Branch web site in the Events section)

The chairman thanked everyone for taking part in the meeting asked members to pay their subscription (£7) to the treasurer plus £3 for tea. The meeting closed at 4.30pm and ringing resumed til 5pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Attached reports:

Ringling Master's Report on 2019

8 Bell Practices

At the beginning of the year we took the decision not to hold practices in January and August, and to hold them on the other months. This has proved to be the right decision, as we haven't cancelled any practices in the year due to lack of numbers attending. Indeed, we have had an improved attendance at many of the sessions. We did change the July session from the first Friday in the month to the second to avoid clashing with a major event in Castor. The newer ringers are moving on from rounds and plain hunt to trebling to triple and major methods, and the numbers attending have also allowed for surprise methods to be rung. The final session in December had only 7 ringers, but we were able to build on the Cambridge workshop, so rang surprise minor all evening. Not what was planned, but an enjoyable ring anyway.

I am most grateful for the support of the more experienced ringers who come and support these practices. It is important that we continue to welcome everyone to these practices, at whatever level they ring.

Workshops

James has run two very successful workshops for those wanting to develop their ringing, the first a Conducting Workshop in July at Barnack, where those attending learnt to call a touch of Bob Minor. The second, for those wanting to move onto surprise methods, was split into a theory session on Cambridge in October, to be followed by a practical session to be held at Wadenhoe on Saturday.

In October, a very successful Bob Minor Workshop was held, jointly with Castor Ringing School, to develop the less experienced ringers and encourage them beyond Bob Doubles.

Ringling at the Cathedral

This continues to be a popular session ringing on higher numbers of bells and we held two sessions, one in May and one in October. I am very grateful to the Cathedral ringers for this opportunity and for their support of it.

Branch Outings

In August 18 members of the branch joined the branch outing, visiting some lovely 6 and 8 bell Towers in Rutland. We were made very welcome at Barrowden, Uppingham, Braunston, Oakham, Greetham and Great Casterton churches and enjoyed the opportunity to ring their bells. Lunch was at the Blue Ball at Braunston. A very enjoyable ringing and social event.

We were joined along the way by several visitors: a tourist in Uppingham, some local ringers, and most surprisingly by Jim Lilley who made a very lengthy journey by train from Shoreham on Sea to come and ring with us, notching up his 3,400th tower at our final ring of the day in Great Casterton! Jim has been ringing since 1944 and after injuring his shoulder 20 years ago he rings with one hand only. It was amazing to watch his relaxed and skilled ringing with one hand, the other placed nonchalantly in his pocket.

Another very successful Ringing and Cream Tea event was held in September. 14 ringers, accompanied by some non ringers, visited Twywell, Cranford St John and Barton Seagrave Towers, followed by afternoon tea at Bosworth's Aspen Cafe in Burton Latimer. A big thank you to Diana for organising it.

Recruitment

Much of 2018 was taken up with the recruitment of new ringers through the Ringing Remembers campaign. Most of those ringers have taken part in Branch events over the year and are progressing with their ringing.

This year I have been working with some volunteers at Wittering, to identify potential new ringers to both develop their own band, and to get the bells ringing regularly again. The first handling session for six potential ringers was held at Castor Ringing School at the end of November and they are developing well.

Safeguarding

Following concerns about Safeguarding, which started when Cathedral ringers were all required to complete Safeguarding certificates, the Secretary and I did some research on national requirements and expectations, and I then put together and circulated an advisory information notice to the Branch. This had been well received and found to be useful guidance both for members of the Branch and for some PCCs.

Summary

It has been a busy year, with lots of events, the majority well attended, and I would like to thank everyone who has supported them. A particular thank you to James for all his support and encouragement, and for running a significant number of events this year.

Hilary Hardie
Branch Ringing Master
December 2019

Castor Ringing School 2019

In a year that was dominated by a lack of progress in Parliament, pupils at Castor Ringing School came along, week by week, and made steady progress along our Record Board. Indeed, so great was the number of promotions that we had some weeks last Autumn with every single pupil in the two final columns on the board, Plain Bob Doubles and Plain Bob Minor. Their enthusiasm and perseverance have been a joy to behold and make everything that we do worthwhile. Thank you.

At the end of November, six new recruits from Wittering came along for their first visit. We adjusted our time schedules to provide them with some intensive tuition throughout December and I am very pleased to report that, not only are they making good progress, another four will be joining us in February. At the other end of the scale, two of our pupils, Jane Robinson and Julian Burton, have recently graduated from the Ringing School having each rung a quarter peal on an inside bell. Congratulations to you both. I am pleased to say that they have both accepted my invitation to continue attending, but now as Helpers rather than pupils.

Our ability to offer top quality tuition to this number of people is only possible with the support of a large number of people to whom I offer my thanks this afternoon on behalf of us all:

The Rector, PCC Members, Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper at St Kyneburgha's, Castor whose support and encouragement make it possible for us to run our sessions. Thank you. The four very experienced Tutors who have provided the backbone of the Ringing School for many years, Chris Burgess, Stuart Weston, Pat Teall and Paul Reed, and our more recently-qualified ART Teachers, Hilary Hardie, Angela Whiteway and Terry Wright. Thank you so much for all that you do; we could not run the school without you.

The 'Helpers' who come along week after week to help make up the circle so that each one of our pupils can have what is known as a 'prime ring' every time in which there is only one learner in the circle at a time. Thank you, all of you, especially Ronnie Fraser and Anne Russell who have been very regular attenders.

The other experienced ringers who have helped us to keep the number of Tutors and Helpers up to six throughout the year, especially Alan Ellis who has become one of our regulars. We are very grateful to you all for your willingness to give up your Saturday mornings for the benefit of others, often at short notice. Thank you.

During the course of this year we have run two Bob Minor Workshops. The first took place in May during our normal Saturday morning session and was attended by nine pupils. The second, a much larger all-day event run in conjunction with the Peterborough Branch, took place in October and was attended by fourteen pupils. My grateful thanks go to all our regular Tutors and the experienced ringers from the Branch who came along for the day. Between them they provided three prime rings for every pupil, a total of 5040 changes! Sadly we can't claim it as a peal!

I look forward to the remainder of this year in the confidence that Castor Ringing School will continue to offer expert tuition to all who wish to come along to learn the basics of Change Ringing. Long may it continue to do so.

David Teall Head Tutor January 2020

Press Correspondent's Report.

There is not a lot to report on since we held the last meeting. Having had a very busy 2018 organising media and press releases across the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire regions which proved to be a great success in getting the Ringing remembers and recruitment drive across to the general public 2019 has been a much quieter year on the press front.

The main concerns that I have regarding the branch and branch input is the volume of towers that forward reports and information for the guild ½ yearly newsletter.

When I took on the role of branch correspondent in 2017/2018 the first report, I sent in had input from 14 towers across the branch. The last report that was submitted at the end of August for publication in September this year showed there were reports from 6 towers and One from the branch ringing master.

This shows a significant slide over a relatively short space of time and I don't really understand why this is. Could it be that contacts have changed without the secretary being informed so the directory can be amended or what other reasons could there be.

Something that has arisen is the pattern that is forming with the same towers submitting info each time. I understand that not every tower has content to submit every 6 months but surely there should be something to say about their towers if only once yearly.

As a committee what can we do to get towers to commit to submit at least one report for either the March or September editions? Its nice to read what all the other branches in the guild are doing, it would be nice for the other branches to read what our Peterborough branch towers have been doing.

Terry Wright.
Peterborough Branch Press Correspondent

Treasurer's Report

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

Peterborough Branch Annual Accounts to 31 December 2019

| 2018 | | 2019 | 2018 | | 2019 |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | CASH B/F | | | | |
| £0.00 | In hand | £3.33 | | | |
| £0.00 | In cheque account | £0.00 | | | |
| £1,348.76 | In deposit account | £1,427.08 | | | |
| | INCOME | | | EXPENDITURE | |
| £402 | Members @ £6.00 | £48.00 | £0.00 | Ringling World | 6.94 |
| £3.00 | Student Members @ £3.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | BRF collection | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Members @ £7.00 | £559.00 | £0.00 | Purchase of rope | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Student Members @ £3.50 | £7.00 | £62.00 | Quiz sheets | £79.00 |
| £0.00 | BRF collection | £0.00 | £303.75 | 75% subs to Guild | £460.50 |
| £58.00 | BRF donation | £46.00 | £55.07 | Expenses | £13.15 |
| £0.00 | Sale of reports | £0.00 | £58.00 | BRF Donation | £46.00 |
| £62.00 | Sale of quiz sheets | £79.00 | £0.00 | Books & Reports | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Branch donations | £0.00 | £243.50 | Branch meeting | £169.60 |
| £1.17 | Bank interest | £1.73 | £0.00 | Branch Outing | £120.00 |
| £345.30 | Branch Meetings | £286.00 | £0.00 | Guild draw prize | £0.00 |
| £4.00 | Branch Outing | £193.00 | £0.00 | Cycle ride sponsorship | £0.00 |
| £0.00 | Sale of Raffle Tickets | £0.00 | £0.00 | Raffle Tickets | £0.00 |
| £20.00 | Sale of Rope | £0.00 | £101.50 | Donation to Castor tower | £69.00 |
| £0.00 | Cycle ride sponsorship | £0.00 | £0.00 | Cost of web site | £36.00 |
| £10.00 | Afternoon Tea | £0.00 | £0.00 | Ringling Leaflets | £45.00 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | CASH C/F | |
| | | | £3.33 | In hand | 0.58 |
| | | | £0.00 | In cheque account | £3.06 |
| | | | £1,427.08 | In deposit account | 1601.31 |
| £2,254.23 | | £2,650.14 | £2,254.23 | | £2,650.14 |

Accounts Examined by Christopher Groome.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

3 January 2020

Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Branch Peterborough

BRANCH ACCOUNTS FOR 2019

1 Balance b/f 1/1/2019 £1,430.41

Income

2 Subscriptions
a) Ringing members £614.00
b) Associate members £0.00
c) NRLM £0.00
Sub total £614.00

3 Donations to Bell Fund £46.00
4 Church collections for Bell Fund £0.00
5 Branch Donations to Bell Fund £0.00
6 Sale of reports £0.00
7 Branch Events £193.00
8 Cycle ride/ramble sponsorship £0.00
9 Other sales: (Details Below) £79.00
10 Other income
Interest £1.73
AGM Tea £217.00
Sale of Rope £0.00
Donation to Branch £0.00
Castor monthly practices £69.00
Sub total £605.73

TOTAL 2019 INCOME £1,219.73

Expenditure

1 3/4 of total subscriptions as in (2) above £460.50
2 Donations to Bell Fund as in (3) above £46.00
3 Church collections for Bell Fund as in (4) above £0.00
4 Branch Donations to Bell Fund as in (5) above £0.00
5 Sale of reports as in (6) above £0.00
6 Cycle ride/ramble sponsorship as in (8) above £0.00
7 Other Guild purchases as in (9) above (Details Below) £79.00
9 Other Bell Fund income: £0.00
10 Total to Guild and Guild Bell Fund from Branch Funds £585.50

11 Other Branch expenses:
Castor Tower (donation for monthly practices) £69.00
Branch Events £120.00
Ringing World £6.94
AGM tea £169.60
Expenses £94.15
Guild Draw prize £0.00
Sub total £459.69

TOTAL 2019 EXPENDITURE £1,045.19

CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2018 £174.54

TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD £1,604.95

Other Sales/Purchases Details

Draw Tickets £0.00
Quiz sheets (2019) £79.00
Total £79.00

Accounts Examined by Christopher Groome

Signed.....

Date.....3 January 2020