

Peterborough Branch of the Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Minutes of AGM held January 16th 2021 at 2pm via ZOOM

The meeting was kindly hosted by Hilary Hardie and the Nassington ringers on their Zoom account.

Attended by:

A Dyer, H Hardie, J Thorpe, S Upex, T Wright, A Whiteway, N Elks, C RobertsLewis, J Robinson, J Burton, J Cowcill, D Teall, P Teall, J Rogers, R Rogers, J Brenner, B Jones, S Marsden, H Allton, C Groome, A Christie, H Cornford, D Banks, D Street, S Hudson, G Simpson, W Bosworth, J Pocock, D Jones, S Jones, A Russell, C Burgess, J Nicholson, J McKee, H Thorpe, A Donaldson

Apologies: M Keck, M Smedley, P Reed, J Parker, G Christie, J Pitcher

1. Welcome from the Chairman

Alex welcomed everyone to the meeting in these strange times and said that although he couldn't see everyone on the screen he was pleased so many people had joined and he hoped everyone would find the meeting useful.

2. Annual report from the ringing master

The report had been circulated and is available on the branch web site. Hilary added her thanks to all who had supported the few Branch events that we had been able to hold and to the experienced ringers who had given their time to help and support.

3. Approval of accounts for 2020

A signed copy of the accounts is available on the Branch web site. Angela explained that there had been few transactions this year.

The accounts were approved and accepted by all attending the meeting.

Angela explained that she would be stepping down and some discussion took place as to the method of paying subscriptions. Many remain unpaid for 2020 since collection has been so difficult and the subscriptions for 2021 are due. Although no or very few events took place in 2020 the Guild are not waiving the subscriptions as expenses such as insurance and bell fund remained unchanged.

Angela agreed to work with a new Treasurer to set up a system of on line payments and David Teall offered to be involved in this to make the web site secure for payment information to be circulated.

4. Election of new members

R Rogers proposed Will Bosworth and this was seconded by H Thorpe and approved by all at the meeting. Will, who is editor of The Ringing World, is to join the Cathedral ringers.

Jane McKee requested to transfer her membership to the Peterborough Branch.

Alex Dyer welcomed both to the Branch.

5. Discussion and planning of events for 2021

With the future still uncertain no events or provisional dates were agreed although the idea of accepting the event schedule for last year was suggested and a discussion took place concerning the need for return to ringing refresher courses.

It was felt by several members that ringers may have lost confidence and skills and that some refresher sessions would be welcomed. David Teall said that unfortunately those most in need of this would be the last to be given the opportunity since teaching new ringers requires close contact. He also felt that any events needed to be held in a ground floor location with plenty of room for socialising.

Alex Dyer suggested that the Ringing Master liaise with tower captains to work out the demand for refresher sessions. A Donaldson added that one goal of refresher sessions is the social aspect of meeting other ringers again and W Bosworth felt that the role of the Branch should be to encourage and enthuse.

D Street was concerned that ringers may have been lost and that some towers would struggle to make a band again, and so generally it was felt that encouraging ringers by holding a programme of return to ringing support would be beneficial.

J Thorpe added that the Branch structure tends to divide ringers into small groups, some not viable, so inter-branch co operation should be encouraged to maximise the return to ringing. A Donaldson added that the Guild would be looking at ways of doing this.

6. Election of Branch officers:

Several officers are standing down this year and Alex Dyer offered his thanks to all of them for their work on behalf of the Branch. The following committee members were elected with all in favour:

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Alex Dyer	J Rogers	D Teall
Ringing master	James Thorpe	H Hardie	T Wright
Assistant Ringing Master	Will Bosworth	J Rogers	H Thorpe
Events organiser	Hilary Hardie	J Rogers	S Upex
Secretary	Julie Pocock	J Burton	S Upex
Treasurer	Andrew Christie	J Rogers	D Teall
Steward	Nick Elks	A Whiteway	D Street
Press correspondent	Terry Wright	A Christie	D Street
Guild management Rep	Nick Elks	D Teall	A Dyer
Committee member	Chrissie RobertsLewis	D Street	S Upex
Committee member	Jane Robinson	D Street	S Upex
Committee member	Helena Thorpe	D Street	S Upex
Committee member	Angela Whiteway	D Street	S Upex
100 club organiser	Hilary Hardie	T Wright	D Jones
Examiner of accounts	Christopher Groome	A Whiteway	D Street

7. Any other business

7.1 Derek Jones reminded everyone to return their Guild quiz sheets to him by the end of the month

7.2 A minute of silence was held in memory of Jane Saunders. Sylvia Upex paid tribute to Jane who had first taught her to ring and who had been an active ringer at Fotheringhay and had lead the fund raising campaign to re hang the bells there.

7.3 Terry Wright asked Helen Allton if there would be a March newsletter this year and if he should collect contributions. Helen said that this was to be discussed but probably would go ahead.

7.4 Members of the meeting said that they had read the minutes of last year's AGM, so these were approved and accepted, proposed by Sue Jones and seconded by J Rogers, with all in favour.

7.5 David Teall offered to run a tutorial session via Zoom on using the Branch web site.

7.6 Andrew Christie reminded members that St Mary's run a weekly practice on Ringing Room Thursdays at 7.30pm. If you would like to join this please contact him.

7.7 Judith Rogers thanked Alex Dyer for chairing the meeting and for his work for the Branch as Chairman.

Alex closed the meeting at 3.10 pm

Peterborough Branch Ringing Master's Report for 2020

Well it's been a strange year for bell ringing, as it has for everything else. We started off the new ringing year with two, well attended, 8 bell practices in February and March 2020, but then all planned events for 2020 had to be cancelled. In addition to the 8 bell practices, this included workshops on Striking and on Ringing Up and Down in Peal; social events such as the Branch outing and the afternoon tea ring; and the Branch Ringing at the Cathedral for Evensong. Unfortunately I cannot see any Branch events taking place for many months to come, but if we can, I suggest we run planned 2020 events in 2021.

The very helpful Guild advice on return to ringing after the first lockdown was communicated to all Tower Captains and Correspondents in the Branch, and I then dealt with any queries or provided advice, as requested. I am aware of some Towers rang for Sunday services during the period between lockdowns with all necessary precautions in place, however, many others are yet to return. The good news that we were allowed to ring for Christmas services was circulated as soon as it was received.

This will be my last report, as I will stand down as Branch Ringing Master at the AGM in January 2021. I would like to thank everyone in the Branch for their support over the past 3 years, particularly James as Deputy Ringing Master, and the experienced ringers. Without their support we would not have been able to run the 8 bell practices and various workshops, all of which are much appreciated by those who attend.

Hilary Hardie

Ringing Master

December 2020