

Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Minutes of the Guild Committee Meeting held in Leek Wootton Church September 14th 2017 at 7.30pm

1. Members present: Joy Pluckrose, Mark Sayers, Chris Worley, Chris Mew, Sue Roderick, Janice Sheasby, Mike Burdett, Keith Chambers, Becki Johnson and Annie Hall.
2. Joy opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and remarking with only two meetings a year, so much happens between meetings there is always a lot to catch up.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Alldrick and Simon Rogers.
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March had been circulated and were agreed to be an accurate record. Chris Mew proposed and Chris Worley seconded the minutes be accepted and signed by the President.
5. Matters arising from the minutes.
 - a. The report on Bishop's Itchington bells needs to be passed to Keith Chambers to proceed. Action Sue R
6. The Guild training mornings were being run again for the next few months. They had been well received with learners progressing from one level to the next. Many Guild members were helping at the session to provide a supportive environment. An 8 bell practice for these learners is to be run on the third Wednesday of the month from 6.30-7.30 at Warwick St Nicks.
7. The CRAG report had been released the week of the AGM so members had not had time for discussion. Two articles have been put on the Guild website. The impact to the Guild by people paying directly to CCCBR was not considered a threat to the Guild.
8. Diocese Centenary celebrations were only in the early stages of development. The actual centenary is 6th September 2018. The Archbishop of Canterbury will be visiting the diocese from 2-5th May, but his itinerary has not been finalised.
9. BRF
 - a. Bidford tenor clapper has been replaced and re-bushing on 4th and 6th is planned. Total cost £682+VAT. The meeting agreed a

donation of £100 should be recommended to the Guild meeting on 14th October.

- b. Pillerton Hersey. The Keltek Trust had offered to pay for a fifth bell and fittings, and hoped the Guild would help with the cost of nearly £8,000. It is not possible for the Guild to make a donation to the Keltek Trust, but it was to be suggested to Pillerton, they resubmit their application to the BRF, where the Guild would consider increasing their donation to reflect it is now a minor 5 and not a 4 bell tower. Action AH.

10. Towers and Belfry Committee. See report in App A.

- a. The Tower and Belfry Committee consisted of the following members: Andrew Alldrick; Mark Sayers; Graham Nabb; John Gwynne; George Wrycroft ; Mathew Arnold; Keith Archer. While the committee might need to be more proactive in arranging meeting, they are doing a lot of work servicing bells at Towers without regular ringers. Graham Nabb is very proactive in the south of the county. In addition, Keith Chambers reported on the following:
 - i. Brinklow is expecting a visit from Taylors, as the fourth is very odd struck.
 - ii. Stockton bells are now unringable as the bell cradle has a crack.
 - iii. At Moreton Morrell, the tenor is cracked, but the bells are being used by an Elacombe.
 - iv. Rowington ringers are helping keep Hatton bells ringing.
 - v. The tenor clapper has been put back at Stretton, but there will be more work as the other clappers need work. The main issue here is ongoing maintenance.
 - vi. Access to Hillmorton bells is causing an issue as the new toilet block is being put at the base of the tower, hindering access to the ringing room.

11. Joy had circulated the proposed Guild Handbook prior to the meeting for comments. The meeting agreed it should be brief and not replace the report. Each tower would have a copy in an A5 loose leaf binder which could be updated. Action: JP to pursue for the Guild meeting.

- a. The handbook is not aimed at new recruits, but CM suggested a welcome pack might be useful. (see App B)
 - b. The Towers and Belfry committee needs including in the handbook.
 - c. Map of Guild towers could be included.
12. AH reported the Youth team had performed very well in this year's National Youth Striking Competition, coming 7th out of a field of 19 teams. Next year's competition will be in Southwark on 7th July. 4 practices have been arranged this year, before the more formal practices begin in 2018. New members always welcome.
13. The Guild Carol service will be on Saturday 9th December at St Mary's Warwick. Ringing at St Nicks from 2.00-3.00; St Mary's from 3.00-4.00. Joy is writing the interactive service; Ricard Taulbut has agreed to conduct the choir; Barbara Howes is assembling the choir and John Newbold has offered to play the organ. Refreshments will be available during the afternoon at the pop up café, but the ringers will be providing mince pies and mulled wine after the service.
14. Simon to be asked to produce a brief statement on how the budget is performing for the Guild meeting. Action SR
15. A new President will need electing in April. The Committee were encouraged to think about future appointments.
16. The Queen's Platinum wedding anniversary is on the 20th November. It was hoped as many quarter-peals as possible could be rung to celebrate the occasion. Coventry Districts' quarter peal week is the previous week, but this may be extended to encourage more ringing for the royal occasion. A note to be put in the newsletter. Action AH
17. The closing date for submission of entries for the next edition of the Newsletter is 30th September.
18. Agenda for Guild meeting 14th October is attached in App C.
19. The next Committee meeting will be held on Friday 23rd March 2018 at Leek Wootton Church beginning at 7.30
20. AOB
 - a. With the Diocesan centenary, MS suggested re issuing of Guild Tea Towel. The idea was warmly received. Action MS.
21. The Draw Club was held.
22. The meeting closed at 9.15.

App A

Towers & Belfry Report for 14 Sept 2017

The major work that will involve members of this committee and its supporters will be late in this year when Pillerton Hersey return for installation as a minor five (hopefully) to add to the Guild's ringing resources. There are currently no other major schemes in the pipeline. With Keith Chamber's involvement on DAC plenty of notice and advice is given of what parishes may be up to that involve major work. Support continues to be given by various members to the upkeep of bells by undertaking routine basic maintenance. There are several pockets of this good practice spread across the county but very sparse elsewhere. This frequently works to our benefit by ensuring that we have ready access to bells for our "non liturgical" uses and those going to ring there know that things will be in good order. It is obvious that many ringers and towers are unaware of the skills available within the committee that can often be taken advantage of to get a cost more acceptable to PCC for the work being considered and thereby increasing the probability of much needed work being undertaken. There appears to be a limited geographical radius around the active members of committee where advice is sought (or often given unsolicited!). Even if the work will be undertaken by the professional bellhangers keeping the committee involved works to everyone's advantage. I am not convinced that articles in the Guild Newsletter are read by the majority of those who we ought to be targeting but we can only try this as a means of communication. The impact of the Whitechapel ceasing trading has still to be seen although they did not get much work from this area (for various reasons most of which are not publishable). Ropes are an area frequently mentioned and feedback on the various suppliers would be welcomed so that others can be better reassured of what sort of quality and service they will receive.

Andrew Alldrick

App B is a separate document.

App C

Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Agenda for the Guild Meeting to be held in Brinklow Community Hall
October 14th 2017 beginning at 5.00pm

1. Open and Welcome by President
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 22nd April.
4. Matters arising from the minutes.
5. Guild training mornings
6. CRAG
7. Diocese Centenary celebrations
8. BRF
 - a. Bidford
 - b. Pillerton
9. Towers and Belfry working group.
10. Guild Handbook
11. Youth team
12. Carol service
13. Budget
14. Guild officers
15. Ringing for significant occasions
 - a. Queen's 70 wedding anniversary
16. Newsletter
17. Date of next meeting.
18. AOB