

Society of Cambridge Youths AGM

Monday 19th March 2018, 8pm in the Ringing Chamber with Associate Vicar, Devin McLachlan,
in the chair

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Patrick Brooke, Michael O’Callaghan, John Sherwood, Megan Bardsley, Phil Wilding, Frank King, Claire Barlow, Camilla Haggett, Henry Pipe, Alf Pipe, Dorothy Brooke, Jonathan Shanklin.

2. Minutes of AGM 2017

No corrections were noted, and minutes were proposed by George Unsworth, seconded by Phil Orme. Accepted nem. con. As the position of President is vacant, the minutes are signed by the Master, Jonathan Agg.

3. Matters Arising

AGM Item 4 - Fire safety

Robert Smyth, the Head Verger, has again provided updated emergency contact information. At last year’s AGM, it was agreed that the officers should liaise with Robert with regards fire safety, however, this now also falls within the remit of Richard Summers, the church operations manager. There is agreement that the meeting should occur in the coming year.

AGM Item 4 – Quark Peal Board

Frank King has taken on organisation of the Quark peal board and has asked Richard Law to make it. The expectation is for it to be ready in time for the 12-bell competition. Barry Johnson asks if a space has been decided for the board. There is no specific place allocated, but it is noted that many of the peal boards are moveable.

Devin asks if the Society holds images of the peal boards for the Parish record. Jonathan Agg says that there are images.

4. Election of New Members

Akiko Saito, Alessandra Learmount, William Learmount and Hannah Campbell were proposed by Jonathan Agg and seconded by Richard A Smith. They were duly elected nem. con.

5. Safeguarding

A meeting with the church safeguarding officer reaffirmed the guidance which had been disseminated previously in the Ringing World – all adults who attend bell-ringing regularly, in this case defined as more than 12 times in a year, should be asked to complete C0 (Basic Awareness) safeguarding, and those in leadership and organisation positions would be asked to complete further training on a case-by-case basis.

Liz Orme asks whether there is a requirement to sanction people who refuse to complete the safeguarding training. David Richards replies that this issue has been explicitly discussed, and there is no requirement to write safeguarding compliance into the rule structure of the Society.

Devin comments that having people with an understanding of safeguarding issues is useful, as almost anyone could be approached with a safeguarding concern. In a way, it can be likened to First Aid training.

Cecilia Pipe asks if there will be someone responsible for administration. It is replied that the Secretary of the Society will coordinate with the GSM Safeguarding Officer. Cecilia further asks if it is local training, to which it is replied that it is diocesan level training, following national guidance.

Barry Johnson comments that a practice-night register seems a bit heavy-handed. Richard A Smith comments that a register is useful regardless of safeguarding issues. Will Bosworth comments that paperwork is useful in the hopefully unlikely event that there is a safeguarding 'near miss'.

The action is that a link and instructions for completing the CO course will be sent to all regular adult attendees.

6. Master's Report [Jonathan Agg]

Jonathan Agg prepared a report which was circulated prior to the meeting, and thanked ringers for their continued support.

Jonathan comments that the end of the practice is often the most productive time, but the start can sometimes be a little slow. It would be useful to be able to ring on twelve from 7pm, so everyone is encouraged to attend from 7pm. Additionally there is practice time before 7pm focused on ringing on fewer bells in a more relaxed environment.

Jonathan also notes that Society evensong ringing can be a little short on numbers. It is noted that these slots are a good opportunity to practice conducting.

Thanks are given to Jonathan Shanklin, Oli Bardsley and Megan Bardsley for their teaching efforts over the last year. There have been some great steps forward, and that's to the benefit of the whole ringing community in Cambridge.

Jonathan would like to bring new methods into the repertoire and asks members to put the time into learning them. Arranging target quarter-peals could provide a deadline.

Jonathan considered the efforts to improve striking. The Society could just ring Stedman Cinques over and over again, and that might result in improvement. Ringing facing outwards builds skills in this direction, but is also disruptive to the practice. Hopefully trying many different approaches will allow us to find a solution which works.

It is noted that the practice nights tend to be reasonably 'quiet', but that means there's a wealth of experience which we're not using. The Society should want to break the atmosphere which can be considered 'sterile'. Ander Holroyd suggests that building a 'standing behind' culture might be helpful. David Pipe comments that when people are learning, it helps enormously to have a band focussed on helping the learner rather than switching off, which can happen.

The tower is fortunate to have Hawkear, and thanks is given to David Pipe on his work to provide transcriptions.

Jonathan looks forward to the 12-bell competition which is coming to Cambridge in June, and thanks Liz for the organisation which has taken a substantial burden off his plate.

The list of quarters and peals rung during the year has a pleasing number of firsts, which is excellent for those achieving them and also a credit to those who have supported those achievements. It would be good to have more quarters of Maximus or Spliced Maximus. A number of slots, particularly over the summer, go unused, so please do request slots and we will try to fit them in.

Finally, Jonathan thanks the officers for their contribution.

7. Treasurer's Report [Phil Orme]

a. Accounts

There was an overall profit of £853, which makes it broadly a good year. The loss from the dinner represents the cost of the guest tickets.

b. Statement from the Independent Examiner [Michael O'Callaghan]

Michael O'Callaghan was not able to attend the meeting but has examined the accounts and continues to consider a rule change to further define the role of the Independent Examiner.

c. MCF Bell Fund

It is noted that no money has left the bell fund since the installation project in 2009. The new set of ropes, the Taylors inspection and acoustic treatment for the void are all within scope of the fund.

A request for reimbursement will be put to the fund in October, with an aim for refund to the Society to be processed at the end of the year. £3,260 is the likely drawdown.

As an aside, Phil Orme notes that cash projections for the 12-bell are looking positive, with profit going to the church.

Financial matters having been fully discussed, George Unsworth proposes the accounts and they are seconded by Barry Johnson. Accepted nem. com.

8. Belfry Maintenance Officer's Report [Richard A Smith]

Stays and ropes have been the main business during the year. The ropes are getting old and hence need more attention. Several stays have needed to be produced, especially for the 4th. The act of cutting down the stays may have contributed to the weakness. A new batch of stays arrived before Christmas, 7 stays for £60. They're narrower than the previous stock, and therefore easier to fit.

Work on the 8th has been something of a saga. Richard Smith, Jonathan Agg and Barry Johnson all had a go at adjusting the odd-struckness, with Barry probably having been most successful.

A new set of ropes is due to arrive in a couple of weeks – thanks is due to George Unsworth for sorting that out. The back two will have Dyneema tops. Mendip Ropes suggested Dyneema all the way around, however, that can make the ring quite unforgiving. New ropes will be in place for the first bands to practise.

The handling of the 11th was somewhat poor, however, it was found that the rope was threaded through the wrong garter hole on the wheel.

There had been a liability in the accounts for several years for £400-worth of acoustic treatment. The aim is to reduce the overall volume and hum. The bells can be difficult to push at the speed they are best to ring – the fastest peal on the bells was minor on the back six.

ArmaFlex foam sheet is on order and will arrive in a week and will be placed on the upper void floor.

Richard A Smith has been Belfry Maintenance Officer for twelve years and is looking forward to passing it on. Jonathan Agg proposes a vote of thanks.

It is noted that there is no practice next week, but there will be a 'spring clean' instead.

9. Election of Officers

Post	Nominee
<i>Belfry Maintenance Officer</i>	Oliver Bardsley
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	Michael O'Callaghan
<i>Master</i>	Jonathan Agg
<i>President</i>	<vacant>
<i>Secretary</i>	David Richards
<i>Treasurer</i>	Phil Orme

Devin McLachlan asks if the Society accept those nominations and proposes that they be elected en bloc. Luke Smith proposes with Cecilia Pipe seconding, the election of officers is put to a vote. There being a large majority in favour and none against, the nominees are declared as elected.

10. National 12-bell competition

Liz Orme is representing the officers of the Society for the competition. There are four elements being aimed for to make the competition a success: a good turnout, visitors to enjoy their day, timely availability of information and a reasonable profit returned. It is a good opportunity to strengthen and enrich relations with the church, University and the public more widely.

Liz has organised fortnightly catch-up meetings which started before Christmas. These meetings are a good time to draw things together, but attendance at each isn't mandatory. There is a shared cloud drive and a project planning site on Trello.

Fair sampling of beer and wine for the event has been important. We are close to deciding artwork for the glasses through Hannah Campbell's work. Glass is not permitted at the event, so we will have high quality plastic.

There is no final decision on catering as yet. Patrick Brooke is the main point of contact for issues with the church, and it is already agreed that the various offices around GSM can be used for judges or broadcast on the day. The body of the church will be accessible for ringers.

Liz is directly looking after Health and Safety and risk assessment for the event. Practices slots are already booked for the local band. George Unsworth will coordinate visiting bands. Volunteers will

be organised by Catriona Shearer and Hannah Campbell. Sign-ups were started at the beginning of the year, and there are about 40 volunteers so far. The link can be reached on the 12-bell website.

Devin McLachlan offers additional photos and artwork from GSM. The church congregation will be invited to take part in a demo with Frank.

Ander Holroyd asks where the judges will be. The answer is probably Devin's office, where they'll be judging from a feed. George Unsworth questions whether the shop below might be audible.

11. Report on St Clement's

Barry introduces the work from the last year. There has been progress in general at the church. The first building project is due to start next month, providing toilets, a kitchen and an upstairs meeting room.

There is a faculty for the first phase of work and an agreement with the Russian Orthodox which puts the church on a more reasonable financial footing. The next stage is a faculty for the bells, to which it is anticipated that the Georgian Society may have objection.

12. Future events

Invitation to Shipbourne

The previous Chaplain to the University, Peter Hayler, has invited the Society to his new parish at Shipbourne, Kent on 8th December.

It is noted that this clashes with the Cambridge District carol service and EDA handbell day. It is agreed that it would be nice to support, but further details would be required for a commitment.

It is suggested that there may be members of the Youths who have since left Cambridge who may be able to support this event too.

Funerals during Holy Week

Attention is drawn to two funerals during Holy Week.

The funeral of Stewart Hall, former head verger, will be at Brinkley on 28th March.

A high-profile funeral will be organised by Gonville and Caius college on 31st March. Ander Holroyd comments that, if the funeral is for who he thinks it's for, then marking it with ringing at some point would be appropriate.

Ringling Hub in Cambridge

Barry Johnson proposes setting up a 'Ringling Hub' in Cambridge with the aim of having it as a vehicle for ART teaching. The plan is to set it up with Great St Mary's and St Bene't's, adding further churches in the vicinity later as appropriate.

Jonathan Agg speaks in favour of the proposal. Will Bosworth speaks with caution – is there a degree of 'soul-selling' involved?

Barry Johnson replies that a ringling hub has some advantages for teaching and costs £50 annually.

Akiko Saito asks how easy it is to discontinue status as a ringing hub, once enrolled in the programme.

Barry Johnson agrees to take this proposal to another meeting. The overall feeling of the meeting is that teaching at GSM is a good policy but are concerned to make sure that the 'ringing hub' isn't committing us to anyone. Barry agrees to keep in touch with the officers on the proposal.

100th Anniversary of the end of WWI

Alison Brooke asks if there is any ringing planned for the event and also asks if the Society has been commemorating any of the fallen. There is a suggestion that a peal attempt is made for the anniversary of the Armistice.

The Cambridge District have a plan to try and have ringing in every tower over the anniversary weekend, to which the Society will contribute.

Devin asks to be kept up to date with the plans.

13. Any Other Business

Peal Allocation

A question about peal allocation is made. Jonathan comments that only one visitor slot has been requested so far (July), so there are plenty of slots available and people are welcome to ask for dates.

Narthex Screen

It is noted that there is a faculty application for a new permanent divider in the Narthex, and that is expected to pass.

The meeting was closed at 21:41pm