

# Society of Cambridge Youths AGM

Monday 18th March 2024 in GSM Ringing Chamber

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome

The meeting started shortly after 8pm and was chaired by the Vicar. The meeting started with a prayer.

Present: Jonathan Agg, Alison Brooke, Patrick Brooke (Secretary), Jutta Brueck (President), Greg Chu, Gareth Davies, Kirsten Hawkins, Philip Hensman, Lynne Hughes, Barry Johnson, Jonathan Nash, Michael O'Callaghan, Anne Orme, Elizabeth Orme, Phillip Orme (Treasurer), Cecilia Pipe, David Pipe, Henry Pipe, David Richards (Master), Christine Seaman, Jonathan Shanklin, Luke Smith (Belfry Maintenance Officer), Richard A Smith, George Unsworth, Jadd Virji.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Catriona Agg, Claire Barlow, June Mackay, Melissa Nash, John Peverett, Akiko Saito, John Sherwood, Ben Willetts, Michael Williams, and Chris Winkless-Clark.

Akiko Saito had asked for her gratitude to everyone, especially the officers, to be passed on. June Mackay had expressed the wish that given the content of the Masters' report it had been circulated sooner.

### 3. Minutes of 2023 AGM and EGM

All minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Two historical corrections had been requested.

- John S Rank was incorrectly named as P John Rank in the Minutes of the 24.05.65 AGM.
- William B Kempton was incorrectly noted on the most recent Membership List as having been elected in 1903. In fact, he was first elected to the Society in 1870.

These corrections were both noted and appropriate information will be added to the membership lists via a label on their backs. **Action** Secretary

The minutes for the 2023 AGM were accepted, proposed Jonathan Shanklin, seconded Greg Chu. The minutes for the 2023 EGM were accepted, proposed Greg Chu, seconded Cecilia Pipe. The minutes of the 2022 and 2023 AGMs and the 2023 EGM were signed by the President.

#### 4. Matters arising

None

#### 5. Election of new members

Two new members were proposed for election: Anne C Orme (*Retired*) and Andrew J Carlotti (*Software Engineer*), both proposed David Richards, seconded Patrick Brooke. Anne Orme was elected unanimously, Andrew Carlotti nem con.

#### 6. Master's report

The Master's full report is available in Appendix I.

The Master was invited to draw out highlights from his report. The focus on the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary year has been very good. There has been a good response to requests for ringing following the EGM, flowing through to next year. The only distinct trend the wrong way is service attendance. The Master would like to form a core 8 for evensong ringing and use that as an opportunity to push the boundaries on 8 and 10, particularly through the summer. He wishes to reverse that negative trend. He is looking forward to celebrating Philip Hensman's 1000<sup>th</sup> consecutive attendance, which should happen in late May or early June.

The tricky bit of the report is how to improve the atmosphere at the practice while maintaining a high standard. Members are encouraged to approach the Master with thoughts and suggestions. One member asked about how a consensus was being sought. It was both suggested that this could be done in the pub and also that it should not be done in the pub. In previous times, a questionnaire has been sent round. The Master felt that it would be difficult to find a good forum.

The Master was asked about his proposal for evensong. He is trying to make sure that there is regular attendance from a core group of people, and maybe encourage that with a focus on ringing on lower numbers. A member asked about what barriers prevent people from coming. The possibility of having quarter peals was mentioned, but that is tricky. Another idea is to provide a focus for the evensong ringing, but again that requires organisation. Having invited or focussed ringing may put off visitors. There is a particular problem in the summer waiting to go ringing because the tower is busy. The earlier service time has made it difficult to do other things in the afternoon. The President said that service times are being reviewed and asked the Master to write a note saying that the service time is not ideal. The issue of all Cambridge churches with bells having their main Sunday morning service at 10am,

preventing ringers from supporting multiple churches was again mentioned, but there is no prospect of the morning service time being changed. **Action** Master

One member raised the issue of behaviour, reporting that they had witnessed behaviour in the ringing chamber that would not be tolerated in the workplace, and which would in that environment be regarded as bullying. They added that they had raised this issue with the Officers but that it had not been responded to. It was stressed that the issue is not just with shouting. A member asked for specifics. There are two sides to this, not just the person being corrected but also the person making the correction can feel criticised. It is all about best practice. The Secretary reported that one of the apologies for absence had commented on the difficulty in finding the mental strength to attend. The Master was thanked for being calm. Two new members expressed their surprise at what had been raised and both spoke about being made welcome. A concern was raised as to whether there was a potential safeguarding risk. The President asked whether the Society has a Safeguarding Officer. The Master is responsible for safeguarding, and the matter was left to the officers to discuss and take forward. Jonathan Shanklin, who is safeguarding officer for another society, offered his expertise to the officers. **Action** Master

The Master reported that the final NET report has been received. There will not be a telecoms installation in the tower. This was met with strong approval.

There was a final question about the averages mentioned in the Master's report. These are across morning and evening ringing.

The President thanked the Master for his work with acclamation.

## 7. Treasurer's report and accounts

The Treasurer's report for the period ending 31st December 2023 is available in Appendix II.

These had been available for viewing for a couple of weeks. The accounts are in good health with above average profit of nearly £2,900 after allowing for the delayed University donation. The peal and wedding income is up on last year, as is the income through the box. The Faulkes fund looks after itself. As promised last year, a cheap card reader has been purchased at a cost of less than £23 to provide alternative means for donating to the Society.

We have looked at registering with HMRC as a charity. This brings tax advantages, but also an administration burden. Our income also brings us near the limit where this scheme operates. The Treasurer discussed this with the Independent Examiner and the other officers, and we have decided not to go ahead.

The Treasurer was thanked, and the accounts were received with gratitude. The accounts were adopted proposed Jonathan Shanklin, seconded Richard Smith.

## 8. Statement from the Independent Examiner

There is nothing further to add to the statement in the accounts.

#### 9. Martin C. Faulkes Bell Fund

Frank King, as one of the Bell Fund Managers, had presented the report for 2023. A correction to the historical percentage figures in the report had also been received. After the meeting this was accepted by Frank and the corrected report is available in Appendix III.

The Treasurer added that Frank has been asked about the Bell Fund reserves policy. He also brought members' attention to the change to the Ordinance for the Bell Fund to allow part of the income of the Fund to be used to support bellringing at Great St Mary's Church, if the Managers are satisfied that sufficient funds are available. The fund was worth £105,277 on 28<sup>th</sup> February, so it is going in the right direction.

#### 10. Belfry Maintenance Officer's report

The Belfry Maintenance Officer's full report is available in Appendix IV.

In summary, the Belfry Maintenance Officer said that it had been a fairly normal year of steeple keeping, fixing ropes and stays and the simulator on the 8<sup>th</sup>. He also said that everyone would be delighted to hear that the fat sallies were going to be fixed. There was feedback that the simulator on the 8<sup>th</sup> had only worked for one day and then stopped. The Belfry Maintenance Officer replied that he will investigate. It was also suggested that a quick start guide would be useful for the simulator. The item in the report about lone working was queried. This is covered in the Risk Assessment. The item on cleaning was also queried. There is a spring clean scheduled for the Monday in Holy Week and members were urged to come along if they could. The ongoing mention of the upper void was also queried. This has been on the agenda for a long time. Frank King has mentioned getting Lodge to look at it, but this has not yet happened.

The Belfry Maintenance Officer was thanked for all his work with acclamation.

#### 11. Election of Officers

The following nominations were made prior to the meeting:

Role	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
President	Jutta Brueck	Elizabeth Orme	Frank King
Master	David Richards	Patrick Brooke	Phillip Orme
Secretary	Patrick Brooke	Phillip Orme	June Mackay

Treasurer	Phillip Orme	Jonathan Agg	Richard Smith
Belfry Maint. Officer	Luke Smith	Phillip Orme	Catriona Agg
Ind Acc. Examiner	Michael O'Callaghan	George Unsworth	Richard Smith

These were all voted on together on a show of hands. All were declared elected with acclamation. All the officers were thanked.

## 12. Events for 2024

- Sat 23rd March - National 12 Bell Eliminators.
- Mon 25th March – Monday in Holy Week (Spring Clean).
- EDA 12 Bell Practices – Saturdays 6th April, 31st August, 30th November.
- Sat 15th June - National 12 Bell Final.
- Sun 16th June - Youths vs Guild rounders and picnic.
- Thu-Sun 25th-28th July – Cambridge Folk Festival including the Charmborough ring (part of 300th celebrations).
- Sat/Sun 21st-22nd Sept – 300th Anniversary Weekend.
- Sat 28th Sept - Robert B Smith 12 Bell Competition.

The Secretary reported that we should use the kitchen stairs for access up the tower for the spring clean due to there being a concert in the church that evening and was asked to confirm that the key fobs would work correctly.

The Master mentioned the Tewkesbury Shield on May 4<sup>th</sup>, for which an entry from Cambridge is planned since we were successful in the ballot this time.

## 13. 300th Anniversary

A full update on the plans for the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebrations appear in Appendix V.

Liz Orme is now coordinating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and spoke to her report. The works on the events is now motoring forwards. There are already 15 performances linked to the Society's 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year event on BellBoard. George is working on the folk festival and already has lots of volunteers. Liz also highlighted Gareth's book, the excellent souvenir print, and the Anniversary Dinner weekend. There will be plenty going on, something for everyone.

The Dinner will be the high point of the celebrations. Some years ago, the Society secured the Great Hall of Trinity as the venue. This will provide a lot of prestige but comes at a cost. The venue itself will cost £1,200. The overall cost per person would be about £110 if 110 people came and it was felt that this is too high. We have ended up with a cost of just under £80 per person, which is felt to be about

right, but leaves a £4,000 deficit. There are 3 groups of sponsors who are donating to make the event work. In addition, there is sponsorship allowing cheaper tickets for under-26s. If we have more than 120 attendees, the deficit will be greater. The organising committee propose that the Society provides the £1,200 venue cost. An application was made to Trinity for a grant to cover the hall fee, and though initially no reply was received we have been told to apply again. The Society is blessed with very strong funds, and this appears a modest request. The proposal is that the Society pays £1,200, regardless of whether we get the money from Trinity or not. 111 tickets have been sold so far and this money will allow more people to come to the dinner. If Trinity do not provide a grant to cover the cost of the venue, then there will need to be a waiting list for the dinner. There was a suggestion that the Society underwrite the cost further. The President spoke warmly in favour of the proposal, saying that gratitude and kindness go a very long way to performance, so sponsoring a party is not frivolous and is a good way of celebrating. The proposal was amended (prop. Richard Smith, sec. Phillip Orme) to replace £1,200 with "up to £2,500".

The amended proposal that Proposal that this Society covers up to £2,500 of the costs of holding the tercentenary dinner was carried with 18 in favour and 4 abstentions.

The sponsors were thanked.

Gareth Davies, a member of the organising committee, spoke to other parts of the celebrations. The book is now on offer through the Ringing World. The book costs £21.50, or you can have your name in the book as a subscriber for an amount available from the Ringing World (currently £46.50 including a copy of the book).

Gareth highlighted our strong links with the city, citing that we still ring for civic events. He has written to the Mayor's office, offering our services to ring for the election of the new Mayor as happened in years gone by, but without the accompanying demand for a guinea payment. He also offered the prospect of an invitation to the Mayor to visit the ringing chamber. It is hoped that this will be discussed by the Vicar and Mayor's office. **Action** President

Gareth also talked about plans for an exhibition. Originally, we approached the University Library, but this was fruitless. Instead, we hope to hold an exhibition in Michaelhouse for 4 weeks around the dinner anniversary weekend. Gareth is currently in discussion about this with the Church Operations Manager.

George Unsworth, also on the organising committee, spoke about how it would be nice to have a recording of what we do. This will require video and not everyone is comfortable with that, but George will talk to the Master about doing this sensitively. **Action** GU/Master

The President asked about who is doing coms for the celebrations. This is Lesley Boyle, who has now joined the organising committee. The President said that it would be good to have a piece in eMag, the church's fortnightly magazine, and to provide information to give to the Front of Church Staff on the tower, ideally on an A4 sheet. **Action** LHMB

The President also remarked that it is a shame that the service is moved from the celebration weekend but understands the reasons. She would like to mark it in some way in the service that weekend and will liaise with Liz. Plans for holding the anniversary celebration service on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 will be complicated and this will also need to be discussed further as the Sunday is already committed. **Action**  
EAO/President

#### 14. St Clement's update

It is now almost 2 years since the bells were dedicated. Barry Johnson, who has led this project, feels it is going very well, and gave thanks for the support from the Society. He gave a list of events from last week as an illustration of what is going on:

- 7 hours 1 to 1 teaching – bell handling, more advanced (on the simulator), handbells.
- Young ringers' practice.
- Open rounds and call changes session.
- Bell club (primary school).
- 1.5 hours on the simulator (Orion).
- CUG quarter peal.
- CUG open ringing for dinner day.
- EDA District course (rounds and call changes).

The open sessions are currently fairly quiet, but these will pick up when the weather improves. The meeting agreed that this was all very good to hear.

#### 15. Safeguarding

The Master said that he did not have anything prepared, except to say that the various leadership courses are up to date. There is a requirement for all ringers who have key fobs providing access to the church to do the Church of England Basic Awareness course. The Secretary will check with the Church Operations Manager for a list of those who have not registered their course attendance with the church and then email round instructions. **Action** Secretary

#### 16. Health and safety

The Secretary reported that the Risk Assessment was reviewed and updated last year and that the Church Safeguarding Officer had been informed. There has been one accident during the year, detailed in the Belfry Maintenance Officer's report. This had been reported to the Church Operations Director for entry in the church accident book. A First Aid Box has been purchased and is now in the ringing chamber with its location advertised on the notice board. A request was made for a list of qualified first aiders among the ringers and among the church staff. The Secretary has requested a list of qualified first aiders among the church staff but has

not yet received a reply. The Secretary will also compile a list of qualified first aiders among the ringers. Once available, these lists will be put on the notice board.

**Action** Secretary

The perennial item about fire escape routes was raised again. The Secretary reported that he had communicated all the points raised at the last AGM to the Church Operations Director who confirmed that the existing fire escape provision meets all fire safety requirements following advice. This response had been given to the questioner last May. The President asked whether any fire drill has been performed and was told that none had been done that anyone could remember.

The Belfry Maintenance Officer suggested that it would be good to remove the empty fire extinguishers that were used for Covid-related airflow measurements. He will do this as part of the clean-up of the ringing chamber. It was suggested that we should also test the safety lights in the ringing and bell chambers. **Action** BMO

#### 17. AOB

The Secretary asked that the members who have not yet paid their EDA subscriptions please do so before he needed to send out another reminder. **Action** Secretary

The meeting ended with the Grace and thanks to the whole Society from the Vicar at 9.55pm.

Appendix I Master's report. Pages 9 to 17.

Appendix II Treasurer's report. Page 18.

Appendix III Martin C. Faulkes Bell Fund report. Pages 19 to 20.

Appendix IV Belfry Maintenance Officer's report. Pages 21 to 22.

Appendix V 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans Update. Pages 23 to 25.

## MASTER'S REPORT FOR 2023 TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

Many thanks for the support shown in this year. Special thanks go to the dozen or so people who have covered my numerous absences during the year. Many thanks also go to the officers who keep things running smoothly – as has been commented in previous years, some of the roles have been expanding gradually over time and account for very significant numbers of hours contributed outside the tower.

As we start this 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary 'year', I would like to emphasize the goal of friends celebrating ringing with a connection to Cambridge. The window for anniversary celebrations is open until November 2025 – some great events are already planned, but do you have an idea for something to achieve in the next year? Share your thoughts!

### Ringling at GSM

One of the long-standing difficulties at GSM is that we encompass a very wide range of activities, often within the context of a single session. Sunday mornings are perhaps a pinnacle of this tricky ridge – five or six touches which need to provide engagement at the right level for everyone.

There are at least four distinct goals with obvious benefits. The natural desire is to try and push ahead with all of them, but we should recognise that the alignment is not perfect:

- Increasing average service ringing attendance
- Increasing the average quality of ringing
- Increasing the quality of the best ringing
- Individual growth and improvement of ringers

Of these, service ringing attendance is perhaps the only trend where there is a long-term concern – despite the apparent health of practices, this hasn't halted the slow decline in service ringing attendance. As mentioned last year, this can be partly explained by the fact that it's difficult to ring at both the student tower (St Bene't's) and Great St Mary's now that the service times are aligned. If there is concern about this trend, I would like to suggest tracking of attendance at morning and evensong ringing separately, given that Sunday morning is the de facto focus of Society service ringing.

A possible criticism is that the best ringing has not improved as quickly as we would like, given that the current band is as strong as at any time in the last decade. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be consensus on the way to improve.

I think the basic facts are agreed by all – improvement comes from ringing in touches of excellent quality. Avoidable striking errors and method mistakes are very strong detractors from the ability to produce excellent quality ringing and should be minimised as far as possible.

The main divergence in opinion is what practical measures can help to reduce method mistakes and improve striking quality. Whilst these are somewhat strawmen positions, I would characterise there as being a group in favour of higher pressure to try and improve focus and a group in favour of lower pressure to allow a more natural performance. Clearly we cannot pursue both routes simultaneously! I would note that Great St Mary's is amongst the most geographically isolated of the

regular entrants to the National 12-bell contest, and that adds to the need to accommodate differing styles and approaches to ringing.

In terms of practical actions, I can only suggest the following:

- Try to develop an understanding of how others are trying to improve and support them if possible.
- Recognise that we are all fallible (to annoyingly different degrees, I can say from personal experience!) and that a failure to reach or maintain a high standard cannot be simply equated to effort or desire to reach or maintain that standard.
- Trying to find a positive way to move forward on occasions we have missed what we could be capable of.

I understand ringing can sometimes have a 'conveyor belt' feeling as we try to pack ringing into sessions – that's largely a practical concern and certainly not designed to starve conversation about ringing. If there is a positive or open discussion to be had, I am keen for it to be shared.

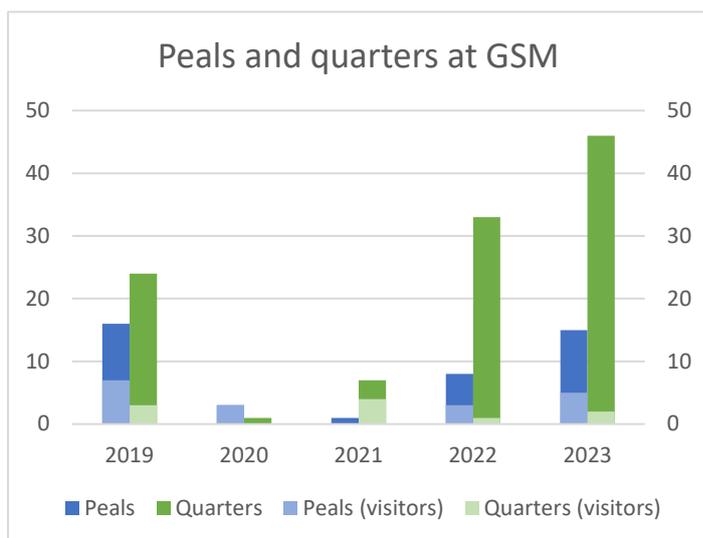
Following on from the suggestion at last year's AGM, I have tried to bring forward some of the best ringing in their respective sessions (i.e. trying to emphasise that it's not only the last one or two pieces which are expected to be of high calibre). This has been manifested as a goal to ring a touch of three stars or higher at or soon after 8pm on Monday nights, and similarly at or soon after 9.30am on Sunday mornings. The risk is that it 'flattens the peak' (average level is higher, but peak is lower) – this doesn't appear to be the case so far.

I feel that 'standing behind' culture has been reasonably well embedded in the last year – certainly the number of incidences of people giving 'additional advice' to the person who is being helped has decreased, which is good.

### Ringling trends

Average service ringing attendance is again slightly down from pre-pandemic levels (16.9 in 2019, 16.2 in 2022 and 16.0 in 2023). Median practice night touch quality has improved from the directly post-pandemic levels (~50ms) back to its pre-pandemic levels (~40ms). The top 5% of practice ringing shows a similar trend – it peaked at 35ms immediately post pandemic and has now returned to around 29ms as before the pandemic.

The number of peals and quarters rung at GSM is now similar to pre-pandemic levels – thanks to Patrick for the coordination this year. It should be noted that there is a slow upward creep of total ringing at GSM – more quarters rung, 12-bell practices as independent weeknight sessions and reduced silent period during Easter term. Both the Youths and, perhaps more importantly, the church are alert to the risk of noise complaints. As far as we are aware, there was only one formal complaint made in the last year (complaint to Environmental Health, June 2023). The church confirmed our ringing times and no further action has been taken.



Year	Peals		Quarters	
	Total	Visitor	Total	Visitor
2019	16	7	24	3
2020	3	3	1	0
2021	1	0	7	4
2022	8	3	33	1
2023	15	5	46	2

### Ringling for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Hopefully people will have seen the BellBoard event for the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary – it can be found at <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=18024>.

The goal is to use this event to celebrate ringing with a connection to the Cambridge Youths and/or Great St Mary's. Ideally, I would like to cast the net as far and wide as possible – especially to those who have been ringing regularly at GSM in the past but are no longer doing so. All ringing is accepted – from short touches through to quintuple-peals!

The plan is to have celebration ringing primarily led by members - i.e. providing an environment for members to do what symbolises ringing in Cambridge for them (past, present and future). To that end, we have tried to make GSM as available as possible. The majority of peal slots for 2024 were allocated shortly after the November 2023 EGM where this strategy was first announced and the expectation is that a similar number of slots should be available to members in 2025.

The anniversary arc is due to close in November 2025, after the tercentenary of the first peal at GSM, and a book will be produced for the Cambridge Youths archive. It will include all the performance summaries of ringing associated with the BellBoard event and any other relevant ringing which people make me aware of. It will also include a refresh of the general description of ringing in Cambridge in 2024 (analogous to the description recorded in the minute book in 1999). Whilst BellBoard is an excellent resource for recording and collecting the ringing, I am interested in any additional information for performances – as much or as little from the following list as you would like:

- Details of lost attempts (without any bitter recrimination please – that can be saved for 'Volume 2' of the book!)
- Video or audio of some or all of the ringing for the Youths digital archive
- Photos of the band and/or venue (if not already published on BellBoard)
- Why or when the venue was selected
- Whether there is a special background to the ringing not otherwise obvious
- How ringers got to the venue
- Any activities before or after the ringing (e.g. cafés / pubs visited)
- Thoughts about how the ringing fits into other contexts (e.g. other ringing at GSM, ringing in and around Cambridgeshire, other comparable ringing)

- Any other observations of interest (e.g. any well-wishers come to find out who is ringing, loud protests outside, shop staff or clergy coming into the ringing room to ask how much longer a peal might go on for)

Please send these details to me directly and they will be collated for inclusion in the book. If the ringing itself is not recorded on BellBoard, I would be grateful for equivalent details for publication.

There are a few 'commissioned' pieces of ringing for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:

- Ladies peal, 9th March at GSM  
With congratulations to the band and Liz for organising, a peal of Cambridge Surprise Major [was scored](#)
- Long length attempt, 1st April at GSM  
The goal is 10,300 Stedman Cinques.
- Peal, 29th October at St Mary, Redcliffe
- Long length attempt, 28th December at GSM

At the moment, there is no specific plan for a 'peal weekend' – if there is a strong desire for one, please feel free to suggest a location and a date in 2025.

### Teaching

Thanks go to Jonathan Shanklin for provision of the 6pm handling sessions and 6.30pm 'improvers' practice on Monday nights. It's good to be able to offer continuity from initial handling through to ringing on 12, but it's also good to appreciate that people need to build their 6 / 8 bell repertoire in parallel at other towers.

### National 12-bell Contest

David Pipe organised the entry to the 12-bell contest on behalf of the Cambridge Youths. He writes

For the third time in succession, the band representing Cambridge came first in the 12-bell contest eliminator - this time at Hursley. This consistency is not down to luck. In recent years, the preparation and build up ahead of the eliminators and final have been a positive and rewarding experience. Having a slightly larger core squad has worked well both in terms of giving those not ringing in the contest exposure to a higher standard or ringing as well as practice dates being easy to find because of having a larger squad.

Unfortunately, we were not able to convert the solid preparation into a result at the final at Sheffield and the team were placed seventh out of ten. The teams in the middle were tightly bunched and our score was only 6% off third place. Although Birmingham once again won, their ringing was definitely beatable - and potentially by us. We need to take that belief forward with us in 2024!

Thanks to everyone for their continued support in terms of our contest entry.

### Use of HawkEar in the tower

HawkEar continues to be a useful tool for improvement. Whilst there are possible enhancements that could be made to the ergonomics, the system has remained largely stable since 2019, providing automatic analysis of striking and feedback which can be reviewed during each session and then afterwards by a unique link which is typically circulated by email. If you wish to receive these emails, please sign up at <https://bellringers.org/listinfo/gsm-hawkear>

One benefit is that we are building a library of touch summary information of more-or-less all ringing back to 2019. Information about ringing trends within this report can be backed up by HawkEar data where relevant, which I am happy to share with interested parties.

#### Other news and events

A submission was made on behalf of the Cambridge Youths to the [Consultation on the 2003 UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#). Bell-ringing clearly fits within several of the defined activities given in the proposal, so it appears that there will be no barrier to recognition if the convention is finally adopted.

The [Market Square Project](#) is on-going, but seems to be focussing mainly on cosmetic issues relating to the space. Bell-ringers are mentioned as stakeholders in the project, but no further consultations have been announced.

It was confirmed that a termination and mutual release agreement was signed with NET in January 2024, meaning that there is no longer the threat of telecoms equipment installation in the tower.

An intercom between the shop and ringing chamber was installed in May 2023, with 100% of the cost covered by donations from the ringers. Despite some initial (literal) snagging issues, it has been quite reliable and beneficial to communication.

Dave Richards

Master, Society of Cambridge Youths

## Appendix – Performance details

### Peal details

18 peals were rung by the Society in 2023 and there were 8 further peals at GSM:

Date	T/H	Location	Performance	Society	Footnotes
05/01	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5040 Stedman Triples</a>	EDA	
19/01	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5016 Spliced Maximus (6m)</a>	SCY	
26/02	Hand	Risby (Risby Manor South)	<a href="#">5040 Treble Dodging Minor (7m)</a>	SCY	
07/03	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	<a href="#">5040 Stedman Triples</a>	SCY	First as conductor in hand: Cecilia Pipe First woman to conduct Stedman Triples in hand in 65 years
08/03	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	<a href="#">5040 Bristol Surprise Maximus</a>	SCY	First on 12 in hand: Jadd Virji
11/03	Tower	Leighton Bromswold (St Mary)	<a href="#">5040 Doubles (14m)</a>	SCY	In memory of Rev'd Anna Matthews
16/03	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	<a href="#">5040 Spliced Fourths Place Delight Minor (35m)</a>	SCY	First of this composition in hand
26/03	Tower	Tibenhams (All Saints)	<a href="#">5040 Surprise Minor (7m)</a>	SCY	
15/04	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5088 Bristol Surprise Maximus</a>	ASCY	First maximus: Charlotte Linford
01/05	Tower	Exeter (Cathedral Church of St Peter)	<a href="#">5009 Stedman Cinques</a>	SCY	
06/05	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus</a>	SCY	Rung immediately following the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla at Westminster Abbey.
04/07	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	<a href="#">5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)</a>	SCY	
15/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5060 Stedman Cinques</a>	EDA	
27/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major</a>	EDA	
05/08	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5088 Spliced Maximus (3m)</a>	ASCY	
10/08	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5090 Bristol Surprise Maximus</a>	SCY	Engagement compliment to Stephanie Orme and Mark Deans. Ruby wedding anniversary compliment to Phil and Liz Orme.
19/08	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5040 Cambridge Surprise Maximus</a>	Suffolk Guild	A Suffolk Guild centenary peal
07/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus</a>	SCY	To welcome the Rev'd Canon Jutta Brueck as Vicar of Great St Mary's. First on 12: Kirsten Hawkins First of maximus: Greg Chu, Melissa Nash
28/10	Tower	Wisbech (St Peter and St Paul)	<a href="#">5200 Stedman Caters</a>	SCY	
28/10	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	<a href="#">5040 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)</a>	SCY	

Date	T/H	Location	Performance	Society	Footnotes
28/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5040 Spliced Surprise Maximus (4m)</a>	ASCY	
09/11	Hand	Cambridge (3 Ditton Lane)	<a href="#">5760 Spliced Surprise Minor (41m)</a>	SCY	Composition rung in hand for the first time
12/11	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	<a href="#">5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (120m)</a>	SCY	
18/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">5042 Cambridge Surprise Maximus</a>	ASCY	
05/12	Hand	Cambridge (102 Mawson Road)	<a href="#">5056 Cambridge Surprise Major</a>	SCY	
16/12	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	<a href="#">5040 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (76m)</a>	SCY	

## Quarter-peal details

The following 51 quarter peals were rung either for the Society of Cambridge Youths or rung at GSM:

Date	T/H	Location	Performance	Society	Footnotes
02/01	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">2023 Plain Bob Major</a>		First inside for Lena van Dongen, Henry Morley
15/01	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1295 Grandsire Caters</a>	CUGCR	First on 10: Sam Spencer
22/01	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1346 Cambridge Surprise Maximus</a>		
29/01	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1313 Stedman Cinques</a>	SCY	Welcoming Alexander, son of Emily and Dale
11/02	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1259 Grandsire Caters</a>		
12/02	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1320 Grandsire Cinques</a>	CUGCR	First on 12: Andrew Roberts
18/02	Hand	Willingham (53 Covent Garden)	<a href="#">1260 Stedman Triples</a>	SCY	
26/02	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus</a>		In memory of Roger Kendrick
05/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1260 Stedman Triples</a>		
09/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1260 Plain Bob Minor</a>	CUGCR	First inside: Lucy Hennessy First for the Guild: Alessandra Learmount Rung to celebrate the life of Rev'd Anna Matthews
12/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1344 Lessness Surprise Major</a>	CUGCR	Rung in memory of Anna Matthews
18/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1259 Grandsire Caters</a>	CUGCR	
18/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1260 Plain Bob Doubles</a>	CUGCR	Rung by a band all taught from scratch by the Guild
18/03	Hand	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor</a>		
19/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1311 Stedman Cinques</a>	CUGCR	First Stedman Cinques: Greg Chu Remembering Shona McKay
18/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1320 London Surprise Minor</a>	CUGCR	
26/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1378 Spliced Maximus (7m)</a>	SCY	
30/03	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1311 Stedman Cinques</a>		First quarter of Stedman: Rachel Arnold First quarter of Stedman Cinques: Alice Kirk
16/04	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1376 Superlative Surprise Major</a>		
23/04	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1260 Stedman Cinques</a>	SCY	
22/04	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1280 Grandsire Royal</a>	CUGCR	First royal: Kate Jennings, Thomas Haslam
30/04	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal</a>	SCY	
07/05	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1270 Stedman Triples</a>	SCY	Marking the coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla
28/05	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus</a>	SCY	First of maximus: Greg Chu
18/06	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus</a>		70 <sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Philip Hensman
05/07	Tower	Cottenham (All Saints)	<a href="#">2160 Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (180m)</a>	SCY	
09/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1361 Stedman Cinques</a>	SCY	

Date	T/H	Location	Performance	Society	Footnotes
15/07	Tower	Westminster (St Martin in the Fields)	<a href="#">1250 Cambridge Surprise Major</a>	SCY	
15/07	Tower	City of London (St Giles without Cripplegate)	<a href="#">1260 Stedman Triples</a>	SCY	
16/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1250 Cambridge Surprise Major</a>		
23/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1280 Spiced Surprise Major (8m)</a>	CUGCR	
30/07	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1259 Grandsire Caters</a>	EDA	First of caters: Lena van Dongen
13/08	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1287 Stedman Cinques</a>		Wedding compliment to Benedict and Lucy Todd
20/08	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1340 Stedman Caters</a>		
03/09	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1296 Little Bob Royal</a>		
10/09	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1287 Stedman Caters</a>		Wedding compliment to François and Verity Sherwood.
30/09	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1320 Surprise Minor (2m)</a>		To mark the induction of Rev'd Canon Jutta Brueck as Vicar of Great St Mary's
08/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1296 Stedman Caters</a>		First of Stedman Caters: Sam Spencer, Andrew Roberts
19/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal</a>		
22/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1282 Yorkshire Surprise Royal</a>		Rung for the 40 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Richard and Diana Pargeter
29/10	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1250 Yorkshire Surprise Major</a>	CUGCR	
11/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1265 Stedman Triples</a>	SCY	
12/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1299 Stedman Cinques</a>	SCY	
17/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1250 Pudsey Surprise Major</a>	CUGCR	
19/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1360 London No. 3 Surprise Royal</a>		
26/11	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal</a>		First of royal: Sam Spencer
02/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1299 Stedman Cinques</a>		First on 12: Chris Winkless-Clark, Ben Gladwyn First of Stedman Cinques: Melissa Nash
02/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1344 Superlative Surprise Major</a>	CUGCR	
06/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1260 Stedman Cinques</a>		
10/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1313 Stedman Cinques</a>		Engagement compliment to Imogen Brooke and Andy Nash
17/12	Tower	Cambridge (GSM)	<a href="#">1344 Bristol Surprise Maximus</a>		First of Bristol Maximum: Melissa Nash With best wishes to Callum Brittain, leaving GSM after seven years

**Society of Cambridge - Youths**  
**Treasurer's report for period ending 31st December 2023**

**SECTION A**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
AGM/EGM Drinks		£60.00	Bell Maintenance	-£514.09	-£5,431.09
Donation (Box)	£474.83	£336.18	Donation (GSM)	-£750.00	
Donation (via BACS)	£204.00	£204.00	Donation (Bell in St Clements)		-£5,000.00
Donation (via Card Reader)	£20.62		Keyfobs cost donation to GSM		-£200.00
Donation (University)		£500.00	Nat12 Bell - Entry	-£96.00	-£96.00
Donation (Visitors)	£55.00	£211.00	Secretary Expenses (1st Aid Kit/Engraving)	-£57.87	
Interest	£116.54	£9.91	Subscription RW	-£91.00	-£91.00
Maintenance - Faulkes Fund	£1,632.40	£4,290.59	Treasurer expenses (Card Reader)	-£22.80	
Peals	£985.00	£520.00	Wedding Payments	-£600.00	-£400.00
Sale of Books		£33.01			
Wedding Fees	£860.00	£260.00			
Wedding Fee- Ringer Donation	£50.00				
	<b>£4,398.39</b>	<b>£6,424.69</b>		<b>-£2,131.76</b>	<b>-£11,218.09</b>

**SECTION B**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Balance brought forward	<b>£13,057.09</b>	<b>£17,850.49</b>
Income over expenditure	<b>£2,266.63</b>	<b>-£4,793.40</b>
Balance carried forward	<b>£15,323.72</b>	<b>£13,057.09</b>

**SECTION C**

<b>Summary</b>	<b>CREDIT</b>	<b>DEBIT</b>	<b>Assets</b>
Balance Brought Forward :			Handbells
High Interest Account	£12,856.46		Demonstration Booklets
Cash in box	£200.63		Miscellaneous Tools/Extension Ladder
General Account	<b>£4,398.39</b>	<b>£2,131.76</b>	Simulator, Hawkear
Balance Carried Forward :			Society's archives in Cambridgeshire Archive Services
High Interest Account		£15,313.72	Various Books (Method, Composition etc.)
Cash in box		£10.00	Recording Equipment
	<b>£17,455.48</b>	<b>£17,455.48</b>	First Aid Kit
			Square Card Reader

**Notes**

- 1) 2023 University Donation £625 delayed, expected to arrive 15/1/24
- 2) Box income increased to near pre-Covid levels
- 3) Faulkes income includes some 2022 expenditure
- 4) Card reader now available

*Report prepared by Phil Orme*  
**Treasurer**

**Report by the Independent Examiner**

I have examined the books and records of the Society of Cambridge Youths. In my opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the results for the year ended 31 December 2023

**Michael H D O'Callaghan**  
**Independent Examiner**

# REPORT ON THE FAULKES BELL FUND

## CALENDAR YEAR 2023

### Preamble

The Faulkes Bell Fund was set up in 2009. The Regulations governing its use are published in the Statutes and Ordinances of the University of Cambridge at:

<https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/so/pdfs/2023/ordinance12.pdf>

Search for Faulkes or navigate to page 840. Note that, by Grace 1 published in the Cambridge University Reporter of 22 November 2023, the wording of Regulation 4 was augmented to include: "...part of the income of the Fund may be used to support bell-ringing at Great St Mary's Church..." Full details can be found at:

<https://www.reporter.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2023-24/weekly/6719/6719.pdf>

The current Fund Managers are Claire Barlow (Chairman), Frank King (University Bellringer) and Tom Culver (GSM).

### End-of-December Capital Values held by the University since 2011

<i>31 Dec</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Draw Down</i>	<i>True Growth</i>	<i>Raw Growth</i>
2011	36377.79			
2012	40655.04			
2013	50398.38			
2014	55805.57		10.73%	10.73%
2015	59789.02		7.14%	7.14%
2016	70032.71		17.13%	17.13%
2017	80007.73		14.24%	14.24%
2018	83569.48	3855.60	4.45%	9.27%
2019	87014.06	480.00	4.12%	4.70%
2020	87043.32	2158.50	0.03%	2.51%
2021	106968.68	462.97	22.89%	23.42%
2022	100371.56	4290.59	-6.17%	-2.16%
2023	104549.41	1632.40	4.16%	5.79%

### Growth in 2023

The calendar year 2023 was the sixth year in which there have been drawdowns from the Fund to pay for maintenance. A single sum of 1632.40 was charged to the Fund in late December 2023. This left the Fund 4.16% higher than it was at the end of 2022. Without this charge, the value of the fund at the end of December 2023 would have been 106181.81 which is 5.79% up on last year but still less than the 2021 end-of-year value of 106968.68

My report for the 2022 AGM noted that "some commentators are predicting a sharp downturn this year (2022)." They were right and the 2022 entry in the table above is a stark reminder that "past performance does not guarantee future results." The 4.16% growth in 2023 is

undoubtedly an improvement on the 2022 performance but the value of the Fund is not keeping up with inflation.

### **Using the Fund for Maintenance**

It was suggested in the report prepared for the 2018 AGM that charges on the Fund should be made only in December each year. This keeps the accountancy simple and makes it easy to compare year-by-year growth figures.

This approach, implemented in 2018, has been continued ever since. There are no proposals to change it. Any expenses during the year are met from the SCY Funds and the SCY is reimbursed after the December draw-down.

As with all University-managed Funds, growth in the Faulkes Fund is a combination of increase in capital value and accumulated interest. If the December payment is less than the interest, then relatively little notice is required to gain access to the sum required. If there is a need to draw down from the capital itself then this requires selling units and, with bad timing, this can take several months.

The undersigned Fund Manager and the current SCY Treasurer have an agreement that the sum required in December will be decided at the end of September each year. If there is any expenditure after this date, then the SCY will roll that expense over until the following year.

Just such an expense was incurred in late 2019 which partly explains why the draw down figure for 2020 was much higher than that for 2019.

Frank King  
One of the Faulkes Bell Fund Managers  
Late March 2024 (Revised/Corrected Version)

**Society of Cambridge Youths**  
**Belfry Maintenance Officer's Report**

**2023 - 2024**

This has been a straightforward year of steeplekeeping. Many thanks to all the band members who have readily provided assistance during the year, such as practical help in the bell chamber, helping with rope replacements, highlighting potential maintenance problems, being present in the tower to avoid lone-working, and providing a taxi service to/from Addenbrooke's. This has all been much appreciated.

**Ropes**

Ropes on nine bells have been replaced over the past year. Rolling repairs to spare ropes have been undertaken by hand splicing where possible. Ropes requiring more serious attention were sent to Avon Ropes for repairs/replacement of sallies and/or tail ends. I have recently sent a small collection of ropes to Phil and Sam Gorman for repairs (they have their own rope walk in Six Mile Bottom) and I look forward to trialling the returned ropes.

I am aware that several sallies are too thick and am gradually sending these away to be trimmed down.

I would be grateful if band members could help me by being vigilant of potential problems with ropes and raising any concerns.

A full audit of all the ropes and an update of the rope register is in progress. We have plenty of spare ropes for all bells.

**Clappers and Muffles**

No changes to odd-struckness have been made since the last AGM, however I welcome any constructive suggestions for odd-struckness improvements.

A task for the coming year is to apply anti-slip paint to the clapper balls (to minimise the likelihood of muffles slipping).

**Frame and Fittings**

Apart from general maintenance (e.g. checking nuts and bolts for tightness), there have been no significant works to the frame and fittings over the past year. I am currently liaising with Taylors for them to visit and undertake a general inspection of the installation.

The stay on the 4<sup>th</sup> was broken during ringing and was subsequently replaced. We have purchased a cordless drill and wood auger bit to assist with stay replacements.

We still have a healthy stock of spare stays.

## **Sound Control and Internal Acoustics**

No work has been undertaken since the last AGM.

## **Simulator**

There has been an ongoing problem with the simulator on the 8<sup>th</sup> not working. After much investigation, the cause was established to be the reflective tape on the wheel being too far away from the sensor on the frame. To bring the reflective tape closer to the sensor, I have stuck the tape to a lightweight foam block mounted on the wheel shrouding. The simulator is now functioning for this bell.

## **Other**

Whilst leaving the bell chamber on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 a simple misstep caused my leg to slip off the stone block near the doorway, resulting in a torn meniscus in my right knee and a period on crutches. I am grateful to Jonathan Agg for helping me down the tower and recommending I skipped going to the pub that evening, and to George Unsworth for driving me to A&E the following morning. This incident highlights the importance of taking care at all times whilst moving around the bell frame and bell chamber, and avoiding lone working in the tower.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September saw the induction of our new vicar. We rigged the 3<sup>rd</sup> for chiming from ground level near the font, using a telescopic pole to keep the rope clear of the balcony and University Organ casing. Jutta chimed the bell with great success!

## **Future Steeplekeeping Activities**

In addition to regular maintenance, the I would like to undertake the following during 2024-25:

- Arrange for Taylors to undertake an inspection.
- Continue making odd-struckness adjustments.
- Continue with repairs to the ropes that still require attention and complete the rope audit.
- Carry out a thorough clean/tidy of the ringing room, upper void and bell chamber. Liaise with FHK regarding the upper void.
- Investigate greasing the bearings and fixing pulley-rattle.
- Install Nyloc nuts where the clock-hammer stacks fix to the void ceiling (the nuts tend to work loose).
- Apply two coats of anti-slip paint to the clapper balls.
- Purchase larger wood auger bits suitable for the stays on the heavier bells.
- Write up notes for future use for rigging the vicar's induction bell.

Luke Smith  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

# Update on plans for 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebrations

Prepared by: Liz Orme

10th March 2024

The 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations span from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025, the focal point being the dinner weekend in September this year, corresponding with when the Society was founded, and the end date coinciding with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first recorded peal on GSM bells.

This short update covers the main items being actively progressed at present by the small group of members involved in anniversary preparations, i.e. Liz Orme, Dave Richards, Phil Orme, George Unsworth, Gareth Davies, and Lesley Boyle. Our focus has been on items that require attention now. There are many other activities happening or planned to take place during the course of the anniversary celebrations that are not covered in this update, for example, the exhibition in Michaelhouse, and recording a Frank King ringing demonstration for posterity. These will be picked up and taken forward at the appropriate time.

The following sections provide an update on peals and quarters, the Cambridge Folk Festival, the new book, souvenir prints, the dinner weekend, the dinner, and the special service at GSM.

## Peals and Quarter Peals

At the time of writing, fifteen performances have already been associated with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. There are a further sixteen peal attempts at GSM in the diary for the rest of this year and there will be many more quarters as well as ringing events at other locations. This is an excellent start to this aspect of the celebrations.

## Cambridge Folk Festival

*From Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 28th July*

Plans are well advanced for the Cambridge Youths to have a pitch at this year's Cambridge Folk Festival, and preparations for this activity are being led by George Unsworth who is putting a considerable amount of time and energy into this venture. The centrepiece of our pitch is the Charmborough Ring, and the aim is to give visitors an experience of what it is like to ring on tower bells as well as an opportunity to take part in handbell workshops and demonstrations. There has been a good response so far from volunteers willing to help make this event a success.

## Book: 'Foolish Youths and Substantial Rewards'

Gareth Davies' book celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary is progressing to plan. There have been productive discussions with Will Bosworth, editor of the Ringing World, that mean the majority of activities linked to producing a book will be taken forward of them. This frees up Gareth to focus on writing it.

Copies will be available at the dinner weekend and a book signing is planned. Pre-ordering will be enormously helpful.

## Souvenir print of Cambridge towers with bells in 1724

Hopefully, everyone will have seen the explanation of this souvenir print on our website, featuring Great St Mary's and other Cambridge towers with bells as they would have likely looked in 1724.

---

10 March 2024



Independently commissioned by Phil Orme and exquisitely drawn by Ben Keating, a ringer from Bury St Edmunds, prints are now available for purchase. All profits are being donated by Phil to cover costs associated with the anniversary dinner. The intention is for any unsold prints to be given to the church shop for sale there.

## Anniversary dinner weekend

*From lunchtime Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September to lunchtime Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September*

The dinner weekend is taking shape and is planned to encompass a broad range of activities, including:

- A peal and open ringing at GSM, including Sunday morning service ringing
- Peals, quarter peals and open ringing at a few local towers
- Quiz prepared by Richard Smith
- Three separate history tours by Gareth Davies

– Lost towers

– The Society

– Lost pubs

*Depending upon demand these may be repeated*

- Activities at Michaelhouse (TBC)
  - Exhibition
  - Book signing
  - Drinks reception
- Dinner at Trinity College
- Pubbage
  - Various throughout the weekend
  - Quiz results on the Sunday

## **Anniversary dinner at Trinity College**

*Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 7.30pm*

The dinner is proving popular and three weeks after sending out the initial invites we have a hundred confirmed guests. Our original target was one hundred and we are currently estimating around 120, but this figure could be higher. We may be able to accommodate up to 150 guests, however, the associated increased costs are a potentially limiting factor.

It is wonderful that so many Cambridge Youths wish to participate, and it is excellent that we have guests from a wide cross-section of ringing societies with whom the Cambridge Youths have a connection, for example, from Norwich, Ipswich, and Birmingham.

The guest speaker is Simon Linford, who until recently was President of Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

We have use of the Allhusen room and Old Combination Room at Trinity for pre-dinner drinks, however, a better alternative may be for the pre-dinner drinks to take place at Michaelhouse, affording us an opportunity to hold a book signing event at the same time and allowing guests the opportunity to see the exhibition. A final decision on the pre-dinner drinks venue has not been made as yet.

The dinner is being substantially underwritten by the generous donations and sponsorships of a few individual members of the society. There is a separate proposal that the Society covers some of the costs associated with holding the tercentenary dinner, and therefore this aspect of ongoing anniversary preparations is not repeated here.

## **GSM Special Service**

*November 2025*

The special service at GSM as part of the anniversary was originally planned to be held on the dinner weekend, however, given how busy this weekend will be it is now planned to take place on a Sunday close to the anniversary of the first peal on the bells of GSM, which was 5<sup>th</sup> November 1725. This change of date has yet to be communicated to the GSM church office.