

Society of Cambridge Youths AGM

Monday 2nd March 2026 in GSM Ringing Chamber

MINUTES

The meeting started at 8:05 and was chaired by the President.

Members present: Alison Brooke, Patrick Brooke (Secretary), Jutta Brueck (President), Greg Chu (Master), Lynne Hughes, Barry Johnson, Catherine Morley, Jonathan Nash, Michael O'Callaghan (non-voting), Anne Orme, Elizabeth Orme, Phillip Orme (Treasurer), Cecilia Pipe, David Pipe, Henry Pipe, David Richards, Jonathan Shanklin, John Sherwood, Luke Smith (Belfry Maintenance Officer), Samuel Spencer, George Unsworth, Benjamin Willetts (non-voting).

Also present: Sam Brown, Stella Johnson, Christopher Winkless-Clark.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Catriona Agg, Jonathan Agg, Claire Barlow, Kirsten Hawkins, Frank King, June Mackay, Melissa Nash, Akiko Saito, Chris Seaman, Richard A Smith, Jadd Virji, Michael Williams.

The meeting offered congratulations with applause to Catriona and Jonathan Agg on the recent birth of their new baby, Oliver. At June Mackay's request, congratulations were also offered to Dorothy Brooke who got engaged last week.

2. Minutes of 2025 AGM

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

One correction was requested, to change "country archives" to "county archives" in Section 13 "Events for 2025".

Subject to this correction, the minutes were accepted, proposed Lynne Hughes, seconded David Richards, and signed by the President.

3. Matters arising

Conclusion of the 300th Anniversary

The final report on the 300th anniversary year celebrations is in Appendix V.

The President offered congratulations for such excellent anniversary celebrations. Liz Orme briefly described what is in the report, which now includes the ringing events from 2025. The report now provides a complete record for the future. The President thanked and offered congratulations to the organising committee, and this was greeted with applause.

Peal/Commemorative Board for 300th Anniversary

The full proposal is presented in Appendix 1c.

The plan is to have two boards, one peal board and one commemorative board, the idea being to capture everyone who has taken part. The peal board will be the Masters peal rung on December 13th, 2025. The commemorative board is currently up for discussion and the Master invited members to share ideas with him. The location for the two boards has been discussed with Gareth Davies and Frank King, and it is planned for them to replace two boards in the ringing chamber which have no direct relevance to the Society. The two boards being replaced will be relocated to the wall of the upper void to join other peal boards. The reason why a faculty may not be required is laid out in the appendix but we will be consulting the relevant authorities. The suggestion was made that we could also move peal boards into the body of the church, which would make them more visible to the public. The Master said that he would explore this possibility with the Director of Operations. Phillip Orme proposed and George Unsworth seconded that we allocate £1,000 in principle to the cost of these two boards. This was passed nem con. The final cost may in fact be slightly more than this, but a proposal will come to a General Meeting before a final decision.

Action Master

4. In Memoriam

We are not aware of any members having died during the year since the last AGM.

5. Election of new members

There were three proposals for new members who were present in the room. They were asked to leave while the elections were discussed.

Candidate	Proposer	Secunder
Christopher Winkless-Clark (School Teacher)	Greg Chu	Jonathan Shanklin
Stella Johnson (Hydrogeologist)	Greg Chu	Jonathan Shanklin
Samuel Brown (Student)	Greg Chu	Lynne Hughes

There was discussion about whether we should elect people who would be leaving Cambridge shortly, and how we should view contribution to the Society. The point was made that we have elected people before who have made a contribution but just been here a short time. The point was also made that we are a Sunday Service band and that those who are elected should show a commitment to Sunday Service

ringing. It was also suggested that we might expect people to show more than one year commitment. The President suggested that this would be a suitable discussion for an EGM. It was also suggested that the Officers could review the guidelines.

Action Officers

All were elected and welcomed to the Society with applause as they returned to the room. The Secretary informed Stella Johnson that she was now entitled to vote, and Christopher Winkless-Clark and Samuel Brown that they did not meet the threshold for this year.

There were three proposals for new members not in the room.

Candidate	Proposer	Secunder
Tilly Heaton (Undergraduate)	Greg Chu	Jonathan Shanklin
Lena van Dongen (Master's student)	Greg Chu	Samuel Spencer
Toby Clifton	Greg Chu	Jonathan Nash

There was further discussion about whether the Society should elect new members while they are away from Cambridge and should wait until they return.

Tilly Heaton and Lena van Dongen were elected members, but not enough members voted in favour of Toby Clifton and so he was not elected.

The Master expressed the opinion that the vote reflected poorly on the Society. It was repeated that the time has come for the Society to discuss what the underlying questions are.

The meeting was adjourned for a brief period.

6. Master's report

The Master's full report is available in Appendix Ia and Appendix Ib.

The President thanked the Master for doing a fabulous job. This was met with applause.

The Master feels the year has gone smoothly and that the atmosphere at Society events has been really positive. The Master also indicated that he sees all members as friends, and the company and friendship are the primary motivations for taking up the role. He highlighted the importance of continuing to invest in younger ringers, which has already translated into significant progress at Evensong ringing and success at the 12-bell in Bristol. The Master is looking forward to continuing in the role while he is still in the country. The Master was thanked again for the work he had done as Master.

The Master announced that he is looking for volunteers to organise striking competition bands and help organise peals.

7. Treasurer's report

The Accounts for the period ending 31st December 2025 are available in Appendix II. The report on the Martin C Faulkes Fund is available in Appendix III.

The Treasurer reported that the accounts had been circulated before the meeting. Our funds have grown over the year, and we are also due money from the Faulkes fund. The Treasurer is disappointed with the box receipts, both cash and electronic, which have declined since last year. He issued a reminder to place notes with cash placed in the box to describe what the money is for (outings/peals etc). The grant received from the Faulkes fund is the largest yet received, since the bells were put in. We made a donation to Great St Mary's of £750 which has been gratefully received.

The Society's account has been moved during year from Santander to HSBC. The outgoing Secretary is currently named on the account, and the Treasurer is looking to add a further name for safety.

The Independent Examiner stated that the accounts have been examined and are in good order.

The Treasurer proposed that we again make a donation of £750 to Great St Marys, seconded Greg Chu. This was passed nem con.

There was a query to whether we would make a donation to the EDA BRF. This is not currently planned, and the officers were asked to consider this. The Treasurer was asked whether there is a threshold for how much can be spent with asking the meeting. Currently the Treasurer feels that up to £500 is ok, but above that a vote is needed from the meeting. The point was made that there is a distinction between an expense and a donation. The Officers will discuss whether a donation to the EDACBR is appropriate. **Action** Officers

Ben Willetts said how appreciative the public are about the bells. In Great St Marys the bells are noticed and listened to and appreciated. They thanked the ringers on behalf of the church and staff.

Frank King, as one of the Martin C. Faulkes Bell Fund Managers, had presented the report for 2025. The fund is at a very healthy level. In 2018 the fund would buy 42 sets of bell ropes. Now it would buy 39, so the fund is maintaining value that we can draw on. There has been a change to the fund managers. Tim Dickens has taken over from Claire Barlow as the representative of the University. The Treasurer will have a meeting with him soon.

The President thanked the Treasurer, and this was met with applause.

8. Belfry Maintenance Officer's report

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

The report was circulated in advance and the Belfry Maintenance Officer said that everything that needs saying is in the report. This was met with applause. He thanked everyone for helping out and clarified that the risk assessment has been reviewed and updated. It was also mentioned that four coffin stools have been repaired and Frank King was thanked for organising this. Plans for the notice board can be considered with discussions about peal boards. Access to bell chamber has been reviewed and we are looking to change the arrangements to improve safety. This has been discussed with Director of Operations. **Action** BMO

The Belfry Maintenance Officer was thanked and applauded for his work.

9. Election of Officers

The following nominations were made prior to the meeting:

Role	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
President	Jutta Brueck	Kirsten Hawkins	Luke Smith
Master	Greg Chu	Phillip Orme	Patrick Brooke
Secretary	Chris Winkless-Clark	Sam Spencer	Lynne Hughes
Treasurer	Phillip Orme	Cecilia Pipe	Jonathan Nash
Belfry Maint. Officer	Luke Smith	George Unsworth	Cecilia Pipe
Ind Acc. Examiner	Michael O'Callaghan	Claire Barlow	Chris Seaman

Other nominations were invited.

The outgoing Secretary was thanked with applause.

It was agreed to vote on the new officers as a block, and they were all elected nem con.

The new officers were all thanked.

10. Events for 2026

- Sat 28th March - National 12 Bell Qualifiers
- Mon 30th March – Monday in Holy Week (Spring Clean)
- Sat 9th May – Cambridge District 6-bell striking competition
- Sat 20th June - National 12 Bell Final
- Sun 21st June - Youths vs Guild rounders and picnic
- (Provisional) Mon 17th–Mon 24th August - Summer maintenance
- Sat 26th September – RBS Contest

All noted.

11. St Clement's update

A full report supplied by Lynne Hughes is available in appendix VI.

Lynne highlighted some items from the report, particularly the two bell clubs, the emphasis on young ringers and the training of new teachers. The finances have just about broken even, which is amazing, helped by donations. There are several helpers for whom Lynne is incredibly grateful and she particularly mentioned Anne Orme and Ben Willetts. St Clements is now a flagship teaching centre, along with Norwich.

Lynne Hughes and Barry Johnson were thanked with applause for such an exciting and well supported project.

Barry pointed out that on trip advisor reviews "The Bells of St Clement's" (our public bell ringing experiences) is currently No 2 in Cambridge.

12. Safeguarding

The Master reported that we have under 18s ringing with us and thanked the Great St Marys Safeguarding Officer for the help provided with this. Some volunteer forms for supporting this are still outstanding, but everything else is now in place.

The President reminded members about the importance of having up-to-date Basic Awareness training. The Secretary reported that he had recently reminded members whose training was not up to date. Currently six holders of key fobs have failed to supply any training certificates, and four holders have not provided up-to-date certificates. Holding an up-to-date certificate is not mandatory but is strongly recommended. The Master is the safeguarding lead for ringers, but everyone is welcome to contact the Church Safeguarding Officer if they wish. There is information about this on the notice board.

13. AOB

The meeting ended with the Grace at 9:32pm.

The President was then thanked with applause.

Appendix Ia Master's report. Pages 7 to 8.

Appendix Ib Master's report supplementary. Pages 9 to 19.

Appendix Ic Peal and commemorative board proposal. Page 20.

Appendix II Treasurer's report and accounts. Page 21.

Appendix III Martin C. Faulkes Bell Fund report. Pages 22 to 23.

Appendix IV Belfry Maintenance Officer's report. Pages 24 to 26.

Appendix V 300th Anniversary Celebrations. Final report. Pages 27 to 46.

Appendix VI St Clements Ringing Centre report. Pages 47 to 48.