

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

14th June 2025, 3 p.m.
St. Peter's Church, Ropley

(Additions in red)

1. Master's welcome and opening prayer

2. Striking Competition Results

3. Apologies for absence

Martin Barnes, Lindsay Cawte, Anne Deegan, Caroline Fairley, Heather Galley, Andrew Glover, Tony Jewell, Harry & Simon Poyser, Susan Turner, Frances Warwick

4. Loss of members through death since the 2024 AGM

David Atkins	Alverstoke
Tony Ayres	New Alresford
Alan Bentley	Ringwood
John Gresswell	Hawkley
Colin Hares	Amport
Derek Jackson (LM)	Eling
Maggie Johnson	Hawkley
Graeme Keel	Bentley
Gwen Mackrell (LM)	Chesterfield, formerly of Eling and St. Lawrence, Alton
David Parry	Ryde
Alan Price (LM)	Surrey, formerly of Romsey and Lockerley
Chas Seamons	Selborne
Bill Webb	East Woodhay
John Bolt	formerly of Christchurch
Angela Brown	formerly of Chale and Brighstone
Jill Burry	formerly of St. Lawrence, Alton, and Upton Grey
Hilary Coles (née Brown)	formerly of Chale
Mike Hayward	formerly of Broughton and Romsey
Chris Kippin	formerly of St. Michael, Southampton and Ellisfield
John A Nundy	formerly of Catherington
Canon Gary Philbrick	formerly of Hursley, Fawley, Southampton and Fordingbridge
Kate Rogers	formerly of Wonston
Jack Shovel	formerly of Silchester
Roger Simons	formerly of Petersfield
Sonia C Tucker	formerly of Winchester Cathedral
Adrian Tumber	formerly of Southampton
Cressida Wheelwright	formerly of Brown Candover

Geoffrey Whitear	formerly of Micheldever
Pauline Wood	formerly of St. Mary Bourne

5. [Minutes of the last meeting](#)

6. **Matters arising**

7. **Life membership on completion of 50 years' ringing membership of the Guild in 2025**

Roger A Barber	Hawkley
Carol Cooper	Blackmoor
David M Lay	Sopley
Graham Nobbs	Ryde Carisbrooke

8. **Officers' and committee reports for 2024**

[Printed in the Annual Report for 2024 and Handbook for 2025]

- i. **General Secretary.** Position vacant.
- ii. [General Treasurer](#) (and [accounts](#))
- iii. [Peal Recorder](#)
- iv. [Librarian and Archivist](#)
- v. **Public Relations Officer.** Position vacant.
- vi. [Education Committee](#)
- vii. [Striking Competitions Committee](#)
- viii. [Belfry Stewardship Committee](#)
- ix. [Communications Committee](#)
- x. [Youth Ringing Committee](#)

9. **Bell Restoration Fund**

- i. [Trustees' Report and Accounts for 2024](#)

[Printed in the Annual Report for 2024 and Handbook for 2025]

- ii. Grant Proposals

10. **Report of 2024 Central Council meeting**

[Report](#) from Mike Hopkins Till

11. **Motions**

Motion (A)

The Master proposes and Andy Ingram seconds, on behalf of the Executive Committee, that a new Guild committee be created, specifically that “Youth Ringing Committee” be added as rule 9.b.v and the following Terms of Reference as rule 10.e.

To encourage and promote youth ringing within the Guild; to arrange regular practice and events for young ringers under the age of 19 within the Guild area, providing youth ringers an opportunity to ring with people their own age; to coordinate, when appropriate, participation in national and regional youth ringing events, such as the Ringing World National Youth Contest and the South East England Youth Contest.

Motion (B) ([supporting paper](#))

Adam Greeley proposes, on behalf of All Saints’, Basingstoke, and Greg Jordan seconds that the Guild contribute to the cost of installing a training bell at All Saints’, Basingstoke.
(The principal officers suggest a grant of £500 from the Central Fund.)

12. Appointment of Youth Ringing Committee

(If ~~the~~ motion A is passed)

13. Officer Triennial elections

- i. Master
- ii. Vice-Master
- iii. Hon. General Secretary
- iv. Hon. General Treasurer
- v. Minute Secretary
- vi. Hon. Peal Recorder
- vii. Hon. Librarian and Archivist
- viii. Hon. Report Editor
- ix. Public Relations Officer
- x. Safeguarding Officer
- xi. Central Council Representatives (five)
- xii. Independent Examiner
- xiii. Portsmouth Diocese BRF Trustee
- xiv. Winchester Diocese BRF Trustee

14. Future Guild events

5th July 2025	RWNYC - Birmingham
6th or 13th September 2025	Essex Trophy - Carisbrooke Basingstoke
20th September 2025	Inter-Tower 8-bell striking competition
4th October 2025	Novices’ striking competition
11th October 2025	Education course - Double Oxford Bob Minor, Eling

15th November 2025 Executive Committee Meeting
22nd November 2025 Education course - Call changes/ basic calling of PB5 and G5

15. Date and place of 2026 AGM

Saturday 13th June 2026 in the Christchurch and Southampton District.

16. Any other business (as notified in advance)

i. Proposed Winchester Training Hub

Updated 10th June 2025

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 8 JUNE 2024

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE PATERSON CENTRE ADJACENT TO ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH, SWANMORE

1. Master's welcome

The Guild Master - Rachael Barber, supported by Vice-Master - Peter Niblett, Hon. Gen. Treasurer - Robin Milford and Minute Secretary - Tony Smith, opened the meeting at 5.03 p.m. and Barry Fry said a prayer. The Master welcomed those present and thanked the Portsmouth District for making the arrangements, the Striking Competition committee for organising the competition that morning, the judges, the Rev'd Liz Quinn for taking the service, Jeremy Pratt for playing the organ, and the Swanmore band for the refreshments (*applause*).

2. Striking Competition results

Paul and Kate Flavell from Kingston upon Thames had judged the Inter-District 8-bell Striking Competition at Curdridge that morning. The following results had been announced and certificates presented to the team captains.

Position	District	Method	Peal speed	Score	Drawn
1st	Portsmouth	Grandsire Triples	3h15	85%	3rd
2nd	Winchester	Grandsire Triples	3h18	83%	2nd
3rd	Christchurch & Southampton	Grandsire Triples	3h27	76%	6th
4th=	Alton & Petersfield 1	Grandsire Triples	3h16	75%	4th
4th=	Alton & Petersfield 2	Call changes	3h	75%	8th
6th	Isle of Wight 1	Grandsire Triples	3h23	73%	5th
7th	Isle of Wight 2	Call changes	3h15	67%	7th
	W&P Youths	Plain hunt	3h16	67%	1st

The Master presented the trophy to Mark Esbester representing the winning team (*applause*).

3. The following 61 members attended: Graham Brown, Lizzie Colliss and Carole Pym (Alverstoke), Richard Paxford (Andover), Margaret Smith (All Saints, Basingstoke), Lynne & Pete Jordan, and Steve Lutener (St. Michael, Basingstoke), Harry & Simon Poyser (Bentley), Clare Carpenter, Richard Manby, and Anne & Jeremy Pratt (Bishop's Waltham), Ann & Roy LeMarechal (Bishopstoke), Wendy Smart (Botley), Julia Brunt (Bramshott), Marie Boniface, Mark Esbester, Bill Harris and Andrew Ramsay (Catherington), Terry Freemantle and Robin Milford (Curdridge), Sally Sturt (Droxford), Steve Hough (Eling), Roger Smith (Fawley), Kev Lee (Hambleton), Ellen & Roger Barber, and Francesco Greenslade (Hawkey), Tessa & Tony Smith (Hursley), John Palk (Lockerley), Elizabeth Johnson (New Alresford), Phil Watts (North Stoneham), Robert Hatch (Old Alresford), Jackie & John Downham, Rebecca Restall and Caroline Welsh (Petersfield), Ian Carey (Portsmouth Cathedral), John Davey (Ringwood), Rachael Barber (Selborne), Barry Fry and Daniel Graham (Southampton), Mo & Hugh Routh (Steep), Charlotte & Edd Colliss, and Andrew Wilkinson (Swanmore), Edwina Carpenter (Upham), Lucy & Michael Church (Upton Grey), Peter Niblett (Whitchurch), John Colliss (Winchester Cathedral), Christine Knights-Whittome (Wonston), John Croft and Sallie, Erin & Andy Ingram (Unattached).

Apologies for absence had been received from Heather Frazer and Peter Rowe (St. Michael, Basingstoke), Lucy & Mike Hopkins Till (Highclere), Jen Churchill and Brenda Palk (Lockerley), David Mattingley (Portsmouth Cathedral), Kathy & Alan Bentley (Ringwood), Andrew Glover (Romsey), Viv & Graham Nobbs (Ryde), Nicholas James (Selborne), Virginia & Martin Budd, and

Madge Platt (Silchester), Steve Castle (Southampton), Micki Nadal (Stockbridge), Caroline Fairley and Bruce Purvis (Winchester Cathedral). Further apologies were received from Rodolph De Salis (Highclere).

4. Loss of Members from death since the 2023 AGM

The meeting remembered members: Theo Getty (LM) (Alverstoke), John Hallett (Bishopstoke), Paul Holmes (LM) (Overton), Richard Hunt (Ryde), Andrew Johnson (New Alresford), Anne Longman (Eling), June Mitchell (Brading), Rona Mitchell (Liss), Joy Scanlan (Romsey), Jane Tarrant (LM) (Andover), Anne Tautz (Havant), Mavis Whitehead (LM) (Portsmouth Cathedral) and Carla Woolnough (Deane); and former members: Andrew Asher (Shanklin and Newchurch), Rosemary Asher (Shanklin), Kath Baldwin (Portsmouth Cathedral), Philip Carter (Winchester Cathedral), John Chamberlain (Fawley), Robert Duffy (Petersfield), Catherine Griffiths (New Alresford), Peter Hadaway (Fawley), Eric Headleand (Bramshott), Brenda Hough (Alverstoke), Peter Jenkins (Broughton & Houghton), Brian Kempton (Buriton), Thelma Mills (Tangley), Graham S Osborne (All Saints, Basingstoke), Sheila Padley (Bentworth), Canon George Rayner (Shanklin), Deirdre N Robbins (Shedfield), Nigel Tebbitt (Ryde), June Wilkes (Titchfield), Dawn Williams (Broughton & Houghton), Lesley Wilson (St. Lawrence, Alton). Barry Fry said a prayer.

5. Elections to fill officer vacancies

i. Hon. General Secretary

There were no candidates.

ii. Public Relations Officer

There were no candidates.

iii. Central Council Representative

Margaret Smith proposed by the Master, seconded by Pete Jordan.

Tony Smith said the vacancy was caused by Allan Yalden standing down due to ill health and thanked him for his past service.

iv. Independent Examiner

Matt Donnelly proposed by Simon Poyser, seconded by the Master.

6. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The [minutes of the 2023 AGM at Whitchurch](#) were adopted on the proposition of Clare Carpenter, seconded by Michael Church, and signed by the Master as a true record.

7. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

8. Life Membership

- i. Graham Brown (Alverstoke), Bill Harris (Catherington), Steve Hough (Eling), Ann LeMarechal (Bishopstoke), Ian McCallion (Hursley) and Steve Noyes (Brighstone) had completed fifty years' ringing membership of the Guild. The Master presented Graham, Bill, Steve Hough and Ann with their Life Membership certificates (*applause*).

- ii. Tony Smith said that last September Christine and Peter Hill moved to Somerset after 40 years living and ringing in the Guild area. During that time they have successively been members of towers in three different Districts: Hambledon in the Portsmouth District, Southampton City Centre in the Christchurch & Southampton District and Hursley in the Winchester District.

They both held office in all three Districts: Christine as Portsmouth District Deputy Ringing Master, Christchurch & Southampton District Ringing Master and Winchester District Secretary and Ringing Master; and Peter as Portsmouth District Executive Committee Representative, Christchurch & Southampton District Vice-Chairman and Executive Committee Representative, and Winchester District Chairman.

They have also both held office at Guild level: both serving on the Striking Competition Committee, then Peter as Convenor of the Education Committee; and Christine as Vice-Master when Viv Nobbs was Master, during which term she led the team who organised the very successful Central Council visit in 2016.

They have done much to develop ringing in the Guild on all numbers of bells. Peter has rung 389 peals on tower and handbells for the Guild and Christine has rung 325 peals on tower and handbells for the Guild, conducting 153 of them, making her the leading lady conductor for the Guild and including the first twelve-bell peal rung by a ladies band for the Guild.

Tony recommended on behalf of the Executive Committee that, in recognition of their many services to the Guild over 40 years and in accordance with [rule 6.b](#), Christine and Peter should be elected to Life membership. This was agreed *nem. con.* (applause)

9. Officers' and Committee Reports for 2022

There were no comments on the reports printed in the *Annual Report for 2023 and Handbook for 2024* and distributed with the Agenda, and they were adopted *en bloc* on the proposition of John Davey, seconded by Christine Knights-Whittome.

10. Bell Restoration Fund

i. Trustees' Report and Accounts for 2023

The report and accounts had been independently examined and agreed by the Trustees. The following balances were held: TSB current account £6,020.24, TSB deposit account £3,676.18, CCLA deposit fund £52,177.91, TOTAL cash and investments £61,874.33 of which £22,674.33 unallocated.

ii. Grant proposals

Barry Fry said the Trustees met earlier that day and five new grant applications had been received:

- **Blessed Mary, Upham.** Rebush and refurbish clappers, replace stays and runner boards; painting by ringers; cost £8,850 inc VAT. The Trustees recommended a grant of £1,000.
- **St. Mary, Southampton.** Fit clapper adjusting screws; cost £2,354 excl VAT. The Trustees recommended a grant of £300.
- **Holy Cross, Binsted.** New ground pulleys, re-bush, forge twist and anneal clappers; cost £3,031.20, £2,241.60 already raised including whole £1,500 of ringers funds; possible later augmentation to eight. The Trustees recommended a grant of £350.
- **St. James, Bramley.** New fittings, rope guides, tuning, cost £43,436 exc trapdoor and frame painting. The Trustees recommended a grant of £5,750.

- **All Saints, Basingstoke.** Repairs to gudgeon on 5th; cost £3,740; £3,240 already raised by 3 April 2024. The Trustees recommended a grant of £500.

The grants were seconded by Edwina Carpenter and agreed. Barry said that since its inception the BRF had helped over 100 towers with grants of £300,000.

11. Report of 2023 Central Council meeting

There were no comments on Mike Hopkins Till's comprehensive report which appeared in the Winter 2023 edition of the *Guild Newsletter*. [*The [minutes](#) are available on the CC website.*]

12. Appointment of Committees

The following were appointed on the proposition of the Master.

i. Belfry Stewardship

Martin Barnes, Paul Bailey, John Pereira and Mark Warner.

ii. Communications

Rachael Barber.

iii. Education

Andy Ingram, Rachael Barber, Anne Pratt, Rebecca Restall, Fiona Sayers, Judy Sparling, Andy Sparling and Edmund Wratten.

iv. Striking Competitions

Pete Jordan and Peter Niblett.

13. Future Guild Events

6th July 2024 RWNYP - London
14th September 2024 Essex Trophy - Epsom
21st September 2024 Novices' striking competition
12th October 2024 Education course - Listening skills, Lockerley
9th November 2024 Education course - Calling & conducting, St. Mary Bourne
16th November 2024 Executive Committee Meeting

14. Date and place of 2025 AGM

Saturday 14th June 2025 in the Winchester District.

15. Any other business

- i. Andy Ingram said the W&P Youths won the Whitechapel Trophy for Method Ringing (displayed on the top table) at last year's RWNYP in York and the call change team was placed 12th= out of 17. The W&P Youths also won this year's SEECON Youth Striking Competition in Hertfordshire and teams will be entering both competitions at this year's RWNYP in London (*applause*).

- ii. Peter Niblett said the Novices' striking competition would be a training event, arranged jointly with the Education Committee, aimed at individual ringers who had been ringing for fewer than three years. They would be assigned to towers with a mentor and after practice sessions would take part in a call change competition.
- iii. Christine Knights-Whittome had two large polo shirts, left over from the last W&P garments order, for sale at £10 each. The Master proposed and Jeremy Pratt seconded that the profit be given to the BRF and this was agreed *nem. con.*
- iv. Lizzie Colliss said Portsmouth Cathedral were competing in the National 12-bell Striking Contest final at Chilcompton the following Saturday and would welcome supporters.

There being no further business, the Master closed the meeting at 5.45 p.m.

REPORT OF THE HONORARY GENERAL TREASURER

I have pleasure in presenting my report and accounts of the Central Fund for the year ended 31st December 2024. Income levels received by the Guild in 2024, from subscriptions paid to Districts in 2023, increased markedly as shown in the table below, reflecting the increase in subscriptions in 2023.

	2024	2023
Alton & Petersfield	1075.90	727.65
Andover	688.10	443.45
Basingstoke	1092.35	730.80
Christchurch & Southampton	1142.05	769.30
Isle of Wight	641.55	453.25
Portsmouth	1255.10	792.15
Winchester	1338.05	980.35
Total	7233.10	4896.95

The Central Fund balance increased by £2957.74, largely because of the subscription increase and the run-down of the Training and Development Fund last year. The one-off transfer from the Central Fund to the Training and Development Fund was all spent on simulators and support for the Young Ringers' Striking Competition. There were no transfers in or out of the Reserve Fund, but the interest received increased. The reduction in the proportion of subscriptions sent to the Guild from 70% to 60%, after deduction of BRF contributions, which was agreed for last year will reduce the amount received by the Guild next year but will hopefully contribute to an increase in local training and development.

Balances held are considered to be sufficient for foreseeable needs.

Total financial assets held by the Guild at the year-end were as follows:

	2024	2023
Central Fund:		
General Fund	8,034.42	5,076.68
Training and Development Fund	49.81	49.81
Central Reserve Fund	8,435.12	8,310.39
Sub-total	16,519.35	13,436.88
Districts	£26,669.82	24,867.45
Sub Committees	1896.01	1,664.42
	<u>45,085.18</u>	<u>39,968.75</u>

R Milford
Treasurer
Date 15 March 2025

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
CENTRAL FUND
BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 2024

	General Fund	Training & Development Fund	Total	2023 Total
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£
Fund brought forward at 1st January 2024	5076.68	49.81	5126.49	6385.71
Excess income for the year	2957.74	0.00	2957.74	-1259.22
Transfer to Reserve	0.00		0.00	0.00
Fund carried forward at 31st December 2024	<u>8034.42</u>	<u>49.81</u>	<u>8084.23</u>	<u>5126.49</u>

Represented by:

ASSETS

Guild simulator	1.00		1.00	1.00
Belfry Stewardship Committee lifting gear	1.00		1.00	1.00
Stock of badges and certificates	522.00		522.00	695.00
Debtors	345.00		345.00	375.50
Prepaid insurances (handbells)	0.00		0.00	17.81
Balance at bank	<u>7337.92</u>	<u>49.81</u>	<u>7387.73</u>	<u>4231.43</u>
	8206.92	49.81	8256.73	5321.74

Less LIABILITIES

Money for BRF paid into General fund			0.00	0.00
Peal fees to go to BRF	172.50		172.50	195.25
Donation for BRF			0.00	0.00
	<u>8034.42</u>	<u>49.81</u>	<u>8084.23</u>	<u>5126.49</u>

R Milford
 Guild Treasurer
 Date: 15 March 2025

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
CENTRAL FUND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st DECEMBER 2024

	2024			2023
	General Fund	Training & Development Fund	Total	Total
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
INCOME				
Dues from districts	£7,233.10		£7,233.10	£4,896.95
Sales of badges and certificates	£259.00		£259.00	£25.00
Advertisements in Guild Report	£147.00		£147.00	£63.00
Sales of sweatshirts and polo shirts	£1,121.64		£1,121.64	£0.00
Peal fees received in General Fund	£172.50		£172.50	£195.25
Donations	£192.00		£192.00	£0.00
200 Club			£0.00	£96.60
T&D Fund transfer from General Fund		£1,085.00	£1,085.00	
	<u>£9,125.24</u>	<u>£1,085.00</u>	<u>£10,210.24</u>	<u>£5,276.80</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Guild Report	£620.00		£620.00	£866.65
Insurances - Ecclesiastical	£1,596.07		£1,596.07	£1,583.51
Hand Bells - Allianz	£105.20		£105.20	£106.17
Central Council affiliation fees	£225.80		£225.80	£257.00
Central Council reps' expenses	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Master's expenses	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Guild Librarian	£550.00		£550.00	£0.00
Belfry Stewardship Committee expenses	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Public relation officer's expenses	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Meeting expenses	£218.50		£218.50	£290.90
Striking competitions	£97.00		£97.00	£450.77
Communications committee and website expenses	£366.29		£366.29	£596.69
Secretarial and administrative expenses	£9.00		£9.00	£0.00
Bishopstoke Hawkear gear			£0.00	£83.98
Alresford Bell Ringers T&D Grant			£0.00	£149.00
Andover Scouts Charmborough Ring hire			£0.00	£75.00
Winchester M2F course hall hire			£0.00	£96.00
W&P Youths expenses 2023			£0.00	£360.00
Portsea simulator grant			£0.00	£400.00
Donations to BRF			£0.00	£15.70
Cost of sales - badges & certificates	£173.00		£173.00	£304.65
Cost of sales of sweatshirts and polo shirts	£895.89		£895.89	£0.00
Sweatshirts profit paid to BRF	£225.75		£225.75	
T&D Fund transfer from General Fund	£1,085.00		£1,085.00	
Contribution to expenses - Young Ringers' Striking Competition		£300.00	£300.00	£900.00
Hawkley and Petersfield simulators		785.00	£785.00	
	<u>£6,167.50</u>	<u>£1,085.00</u>	<u>£7,252.50</u>	<u>£6,536.02</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>£2,957.74</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£2,957.74</u>	<u>-£1,259.22</u>

R Milford
Guild Treasurer
Date: 15 March 2025

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
CENTRAL FUND
RESERVE ACCOUNT 02162048 - Year ended 31st DECEMBER 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£ p	£ p
Balance at 1st January 2024	£8,310.39	£8,227.93
Bank interest received	£124.73	£82.46
Transfer from Central Fund	£0.00	£0.00
Balance at 31st December 2024	<u>£8,435.12</u>	<u>£8,310.39</u>

R Milford
 Guild Treasurer
 Date 15 March 2025

PEAL RECORDER'S REPORT

The total number of peals rung for the Guild in 2024 was 101, a slight decrease from the 111 peals rung in 2023. This involved 137 Guild members and included 4 ringers who rang their first peal. In comparison with the other 123 recognised societies the Guild again finished in the top ten in terms of overall peal totals. Handbell peals accounted for 38% of the total, thus maintaining the strength and momentum that handbell ringing has achieved in recent years.

I would again like to thank Andrew Craddock for sharing statistics generated by Pealbase which now has complete records extending back to 1900, a year in which just 41 peals were rung for the Guild comprising entirely of tower bell peals. Thanks also to Tony Smith whose comprehensive database of compositions rung by the Guild now has over 2,500 compositions recorded. Both these databases continue to be a great source of statistical information to the general ringing community.

Finally a reminder that peal fees are due within one month of the peal being rung and can be paid electronically using details found on the Guild website. My thanks to all conductors/organisers who regularly make payment on time.

Tower Bell Peals

There were 63 tower bell peals rung for the Guild in 2024 involving 95 ringers compared with 154 ringers in 2023. Roy LeMarechal once again was at the top of the leader board with 37 peals and was again the leading conductor with 20 peals. Bishopstoke was the leading tower with 11 peals and Awbridge and Portsmouth St Agatha's tied in 2nd place, both with 9 peals.

The Guild officers would like to congratulate the following ringers who rang their first peal in 2024:-

*Katherine Wilkins
Oliver Maddams
Michelle McHugh
Charlie Barrett*

Other notable peal milestones included:-

<i>250th</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Philip Moyse</i>
<i>450th</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Maureen Hanney</i>
<i>500th</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Kathryn Arkless</i>
<i>600th</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>David Bath</i>
<i>700th</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Peter Sheppard</i>
<i>1,100th</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>James Hodkin</i>
<i>3,000th</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Shirley McGill</i>

George Vant conducted his first peal and Edward Colliss conducted his 500th.

Congratulations to all other ringers who achieved a 'first' during 2024.

Leading Ringers		Leading Conductors		Leading Towers	
Roy LeMarechal	37	Roy LeMarechal	20	Bishopstoke	11
Janet L Morris	32	Edward P D Colliss	13	Awbridge	9
John A Dodd	21	Benjamin J Carey	7	Portsmouth (St Agatha)	9
Edward P D Colliss	20	Peter W J Sheppard	5	Basingstoke (All Saints)	3
Benjamin J Carey	19	James W G Twiney	3	Carisbrooke	2
Ian J Carey	18	Roger A Barber	2	Holybourne	2
Matthew L Dancy	18	Benjamin D Constant	2	Winchester Cathedral	2
Mary-Kate Wells	18	Frank R Morton	2	24 Towers	1
James W G Twiney	17	Jack E Page	2		
R Mark Esbester	15	David A Warwick	2		
James A Hodkin	13	Toby Arkless	1		
Peter W J Sheppard	13	Matthew L Dancy	1		
Stephen P Noyes	10	Kieran Downer	1		
Stephen S Russ	10	Ian Roulstone	1		
George J Vant	10	George J Vant	1		
Graham J Wright	10				
8 Ringers	6 - 9				
102 Ringers	1 - 5				
Total Ringers	126	Total Conductors	15	Total Towers	31

Doubles	2	Major	2 8	Caters	4
2 Methods	1	Bristol Surprise	3	Grandsire	3
18 Methods/Variations	1	Cambridge Surprise	5	Stedman	1
		Glasgow Surprise	1		
Doubles & Minor	1	Lessness Surprise	1	Royal	1 2
6 Methods	1	London Surprise	2	Bristol Surprise	4
		Plain Bob	1	Cambridge Surprise	2
Minor	8	Rutland Surprise	1	Ely Surprise	1
3 Methods	1	Shoreditch Delight	1	Lincolnshire Surprise	2
5 Methods	2	Spliced Surprise (2m)	1	Spliced Surprise (4m)	1
Spliced TD (7m)	1	Spliced Surprise (3m)	1	Yorkshire Surprise	2
Spliced TD (8m)	1	Spliced Surprise (6m)	1		
Surprise (8m)	1	Spliced Surprise (8m)	2	Maximus	4
Surprise (26m)	1	Spliced TD (7m)	1	Bristol Surprise	2
Spliced Surprise (41m)	1	Steepholme Surprise	1	Spliced (2m)	1
		Superlative Surprise	2	Yorkshire Surprise	1
Triples	3	Yorkshire Surprise	3		
Grandsire	3	Zinnia Delight	1	Sextuples	1
				Erin	1

Handbell Peals

Handbell ringing within the Guild continues at a strong pace with the venues at Micheldever, Portsmouth and Bosham accounting for over 80% of the peals rung in 2024. John Croft and his band have continued to push the number of Plain Spliced Major methods rung for the Guild to 21 methods and Benjamin Carey with his winter and autumn handbell program has enabled many of the less experienced handbell ringers to make significant progress.

Needless to say, John Croft was the leading handbell ringer in 2024 with 26 peals, closely followed by Ian Redway with 21 peals. The leading conductor was closely contested with John Croft (11) just pipping Benjamin Carey (10).

Kent TB Major was the leading method (8) although the 21 Spliced Plain Major and Sgurr A'Chaorachain Surprise Royal are two other notable Guild performances.

Congratulations to Stephen Russ and Caroline Fairley who both rang their first handbell peal in 2024 and to Edward Colliss who conducted his first handbell peal and also to Maureen Hanney who rang her 200th handbell peal.

Leading Ringers		Leading Conductors		Leading Towers	
John S Croft	26	John S Croft	11	Micheldever, 37 Northbrook	11
Ian Redway	21	Benjamin J Carey	10	Portsmouth, 53 Fearon Road	11
Benjamin J Carey	15	Ewan Grant-Richardson	7	Bosham, Little Creed Cottage	9
Maureen J Hanney	14	Frank R Morton	6	New Alresford, Jubilee, New Farm Rd	3
Edward P D Colliss	10	4 Conductors	1	4 Venues	1
6 Ringers	6 - 9				
13 Ringers	1 - 5				
Total Ringers	24	Total Conductors	8	Total towers	8

Minor	1	Royal	3
Treble Dodging (7m)	1	Cambridge Surprise	1
		Kent Treble Bob	1
Major	3 4	Sgurr A' Chaorachain Surprise	1
Bristol Surprise	2		
Cambridge Surprise	1		
Kent Treble Bob	6		
Lincolnshire Surprise	2		
Plain Bob	9		
Spliced Plain (4m)	1		
Spliced Plain (6m)	1		
Spliced Plain (9m)	1		
Spliced Plain (13m)	1		
Spliced Plain (16m)	1		
Spliced Plain (19m)	1		
Spliced Plain (21m)	1		
Spliced Surprise (7m)	1		
Superlative Surprise	1		
Turramurra Surprise	1		
Yorkshire Surprise	4		

LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST'S REPORT, 2024

The George Williams Memorial Library is located in the ringing chamber of Winchester Cathedral and is available for readers and borrowers by appointment. The system for loans provides a standard loan period of eight weeks with a liberal renewal policy for serious research and special problems. The only exceptions are the archive material and the Guild's annual and triennial reports for which, because of their unique importance, loans are solely at the discretion of the librarian. A catalogue of the printed books and of the complete archive is maintained on the Guild website. Part of our collection of archive material, held at the Hampshire Record Office in Sussex Street, Winchester, is available for consultation only. The collection there has the call-number 20M94.

Since writing last year's report a year ago I have, with the much-valued help of Andrew Glover, overhauled and substantially updated the inventory and alphabetical hand-list of the Library's holdings, and added to stock a set of *The Education Column* from the *Ringling World*. Work is in hand on the rebinding of the *Ringling World*, with most if not all of the volumes to 2024 bound by the time this report is presented to the AGM. Research has been undertaken on early recordings of bells, the formation of the Alton and Petersfield District, and the Heathorn ringing dynasty of Surrey.

The Guild's online archive has the minutes of the Guild Annual meetings and Executive Committee meetings from 1980 to 2000, and since 2013 (Minutes since 2001 are also available from the Guild's Document Repository) and a collection of historical articles from *The Ringling World* about Guild people, places and events. These are all maintained by Tony Smith, to whom I am duly grateful.

I am always pleased to assist Guild members and others with an interest in the Guild with their researches. I should like to thank my colleagues within the Guild and the Winchester Cathedral band for their continuing support.

Librarian and Archivist's Accounts as at 31st December 2023

Income	£ p	Expenditure	£ p
Balance b/f	491.82	Sub. to The Ringling World	96.00
Income	200.00	Sub. To the Friends of the CC Library	
10.00		<i>The Education Column</i>	25.00
		Shelf support studs	15.90
		Balance c/f	544.92
	_____		_____
	691.82		691.82
	=====		=====

Bruce Purvis
16th February 2025

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2024 REPORT for GUILD EXECUTIVE

2024 was an experimental year for Guild education activities, departing from the pre-pandemic norm of courses focussing on specific methods. Instead, the Guild education committee offered courses supporting improvement of ringing and teaching skills.

In March, we ran a well-attended course offering tips on teaching bell handling and identifying / correcting handling faults which learners sometimes acquire. Many of the attendees came away having identified some handling faults in their own ringing, as well as being able to identify errors in their learners' handling.

Holy Week saw two zoom courses being offered. The first was a quick canter through a possible series of steps to take learners from rounds through to Plain Bob Doubles in easy steps. The second course was entitled "the dark art of raising and lowering in peal", which was followed up the following month with practical raising and lowering in peal sessions in each district for those who had attended the zoom session. This enabled the Education Committee to offer more places on this course, while minimising travel for students and helpers.

During the autumn, we ran the ever-popular Listening Skills course, which was well received by attendees, who particularly liked a mix of classical and rock music, playing with children's toys, and getting their first experience of handbells. We also ran new courses on calling and conducting, including practical experience.

The previously stated intention of the Education Committee to encourage districts to run more basic courses (up to Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles), leaving the Guild to focus on more advanced courses, is starting to become a reality. Most districts are now offering focussed practices or training mornings/days on the more basic method ringing skills, such as Plain Hunt, Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles, generally on a monthly basis. The Education Committee is willing to offer training materials to support such sessions.

As we move into 2025, courses will focus on development of listening skills, basic calling and conducting, as well as some more advanced method courses (Stedman in the spring, and Double Oxford (to be confirmed) in the autumn). During Holy Week, we will be running some hands-on sessions for less experienced ringers to get some tips on improving their rope / bell handling, to provide a firm foundation for venturing into change ringing.

Financially, our 2024 end-of-year figure remains very healthy. The Committee remains in a position to continue to operate without any additional call on Guild funds. This is, at least in part, due to some great negotiation by Judy negotiation over costs of hiring halls for courses. This is enabling us to reduce prices of courses in 2025.

Andy Ingram – for The Guild Education Committee

Winchester & Portsmouth Guild Education Committee Accounts as at 31st December 2024

Income			Expenditure		
	2024	2023		2024	2023
Balance brought forward	1,052.60	875.96	Envelopes	0.00	0.00
Course fees	819.00	923.00	Labels	0.00	10.56
Donation	10.00		Refreshments	172.72	88.55
Total	1881.60	1,798.96	Hire of Halls	166.25	227.25
			Tower Donations	240.00	420.00
			Zoom fee	12.99	0.00
2024 - Accruals			Refunds	22.50	0.00
Bishopstoke – Mar 24	50.00		Balance Carried Forward	1,267.14	1,052.60
Basingstoke / C&S Districts - Apr 24	35.00		Total	1,881.60	1,798.96

Judy Sparling
31 December 2024

Guild Striking Competitions 2024

After the success of splitting the dates of the 6 and 8 bell inter tower competitions last year, we reverted back to the traditional formula this year out of necessity as the competitions were to be held on the Isle of Wight to make the logistics of transport and cost more favourable. To make use of the September slot we held a novices competition.

Guild Inter Tower 6 Bell Competition

The Guild Inter Tower 6 bell competition held on the morning of Sat 11th May at **Arreton, IoW**. The weather was kind to us and we enjoyed standing in the church yard listening to the bells and enjoying the refreshments laid on by the local band to whom we pass on our grateful thanks.

Many thanks to Liz and Phil Barnes who judged the competition. There were an outstanding 9 entries from across the Guild and the results were as follows.

Place	Tower	Method	Faults	Ringling order
1st	Selborne & Hawkley	Grandsire Doubles	44	5
2nd	Bishopstoke	Grandsire Doubles	60	9
3rd	Basingstoke (St Michael)	Plain Bob Doubles	62	6
4th	Basingstoke (All Saints)	Grandsire Doubles	66	3
5th	Alton	Plain Bob Doubles	67	2
6th	Ryde	Grandsire Doubles	115	1
7th	Portsmouth	Call Changes	121	7
8th	Shanklin	Call Changes	160	4
9th	Brading	Call Changes	178	8

Guild Inter Tower 8 Bell Competition

In the afternoon we held the 8 bell competition on the back 8 at Carisbrooke IoW. Our thanks once again to Liz and Phil Barnes who judged the competition having not scared them away in the morning.

The results were as follows.

Place	Tower	Method	Faults	Ringling order
1st	Basingstoke (All Saints)	Grandsire Triples	123	5
2nd	Bishopstoke	Grandsire Triples	150	1
3rd	Selborne & Hawkley	Call Changes	176	2
4th	Basingstoke (St Michael) & Sherfield on Loddon	Call Changes	211	4
5th	Shanklin & Brading	Call Changes	213	6
6th	Alton	Plain Bob Triples	302	3

Guild Inter District 8 Bell Competition

The Competition was held in the Portsmouth District at Curdridge. The weather was dry and once again gave the entrants good opportunity to stand in the church yard listening.

Many thanks to Paul and Kate Flavell who judged the competition.

The results were

Place	District	Method	Peal speed	score	Ringling order
1st	Portsmouth	Grandsire Triples	3.15	85%	3
2nd	Winchester	Grandsire Triples	3.18	83%	2
3rd	Christchurch & Southampton	Grandsire Triples	3.27	76%	6
=4th	Alton & Petersfield (method)	Grandsire Triples	3.16	75%	4
=4th	Alton & Petersfield (Call Changes)	Call Changes	3.00	75%	8
6th	Isle of Wight 1	Grandsire Triples	3.23	73%	5
7th	Isle of Wight 2	Call Changes	3.15	67%	7
8th	W&P Youths	Plain Hunt Triples	3.16	67%	1

Guild Novices' 6 Bell Competition

In an effort to get more interest in what is going on at Guild level, we held a Novices competition this year. It was open to anyone who had not taken part in a Guild level competition before who wanted to get more experience and a good day out.

After reviewing the entrants we split them into groups of 6 ringers, each of who met at a tower with a mentor for an hour in the afternoon of the competition to practice together and get advice on how to win a striking competition.

Following this we enjoyed a delightful ringers tea at Cheriton, supplied by the local ringers and then held the competition on the local Cheriton bells.

Many thanks to the following practice towers and their mentors

Easton - Andy Ingram

Old Alresford - Matt Watts.

Northington - Rachael Barber

Warnford - Andy Sparling

We invited Peter Maddams and Ellen Barber as judges, two of the W&P youth band who regularly compete in national level youth competitions for the Guild who have enjoyed much success in recent years. Our thanks to them.

The results were

Place	District	Method	Time mins	score	Ringling order
1st	Soggy Bottoms	Call Changes	4.34	82%	4
2nd	Northington Novices.	Call Changes	4.00	77%	1
3rd	Round The Bend	Rounds	4.35	64%	3
4th	Bells 'R' Us	Call Changes	4.25	60%	2

Financial report

Income

Balance b/f £0
Income from general fund £333.10

£333.10

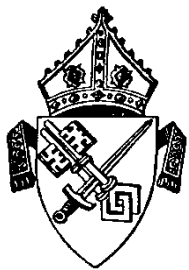
Expenditure

Tower donations £94
Judges Gifts £81
Certificate printing £27.60
Hall Hire £28
Travel £102.50
Balance c/f £0
£333.10

Pete Jordan.

Striking Competition Committee Convener.

Feb 2025



THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Founded 26 June 1879 as the Winchester Diocesan Guild

Belfry Stewardship Committee Annual Report March 2025

St Edward the Confessor, Netley (January 2024)

Following the overhaul of the bells and fittings, with the bells being retuned and ¼ turned on new headstocks etc., with the frame strengthened and sound control installed, the BSC went to inspect the work. Also, the Ellacombe chimes have been reconditioned with new ropes. The work had all been carried out to a very high standard

St Thomas, Woolton Hill (April 2024)

The BSC received a request from the Steeple Keeper at Woolton Hill to inspect the bells and advise on their condition. All was in generally good order with one or two points that needed addressing. Both the ropes and pulleys are worn. Some of the stays have been replaced and are not shaped correctly causing wear to some slider running boards where the stay had been fouling the board. Unlike the other bells, the tenor clapper has no grease cap, and we advised applying some lubricant to the pivot. There was also some woodworm infestation that was advised.

St Mary, Old Alresford (May 2024)

The BSC went out to St Mary's to inspect the welding and repairs to bell 5. All was fine and it is good to have these bells back in action after being silent for a few years.

Belfry Maintenance Education Day (June 2024)

On 1st June the BSC held a Belfry maintenance training day at St James, Bramley. St James was chosen as there are good hall facilities there for a power point presentation and refreshments. The climb up into the bells is easy and there is a good mix of fittings, and as a rehang is happening soon there is plenty to see there. It was well attended with four students, and we will run another course this year, with some already on the waiting list.

All Saints, Basingstoke (June 2024)

The BSC went out to inspect the replacement of the headstock on bell 5 and all was good.

Old St Mary's, Hartley Wintney (June 2024)

As per previous years, the BSC went out to Old St Mary's, Hartley Wintney which is in the hands of The Redundant Churches Commission. The 'Friends of Old St. Mary's' committee who look after the church and help fund raise asked for help again this year. The Friends have had led lights put in powered by solar panels on the tower top as there is no power supply to Old St Mary's.

Church of the Holy Cross, Binsted (October 2024)

Following the replacement of the pulleys and blocks, the twist turning of the clappers the BSC inspected the work which was fine.

St Martin, Ellisfield (October 2024)

The BSC went to St Martin's with protective clothing and masks to clear out a mass of twigs, bird detritus and sadly a dead owl. There was a great deal up there to clear, and the church warden then made repairs to the louvre netting to prevent a reoccurrence.

St Mary, Preston Candover (November 2024)

Following the success with the clearing up of bird infestation at Ellisfield a repeat performance was undertaken at Preston Candover. The amount of twigs had to be seen to be believed and about 50 sacks were cleared and burnt on a bonfire.

The Church of the Blessed Mary of Upham (December 2024)

The BSC went out to Upham to inspect repairs to the bells, rebushed and repaired clappers, new stays and repairs to some sliders and regrease bearings with new seals where necessary,

**Winchester & Portsmouth guild Belfry
Stewardship Committee accounts for year 2024**

Income

01/01/24	
Balance B/F	£120
01/06/24	
Sale of maintenance books	£51.00
01/06/24	
Maintenance course Attendance	
Fee	£30

£201

Expenditure

23/04/24	Maintenance books for course	£48.00
01/06/24	hall hire for Maintenance course	£32.00
20/10/24	PPE for helping to clear pigeon guano and Nesting material at St Martins, Ellisfield	£37.05

01/01/25 Cash held £83.95

£201

Communications Committee Report

I'm starting with a huge vote of thanks to Lizzie Colliss, who stood down from the Communications Committee at the AGM in June, to enable her to focus on her District role and young family. Lizzie has done a brilliant job in steering the Communications Committee during her time as Convenor, and in producing excellent issues of the Guild Newsletter which have been very well received by Guild members. I would also like to sincerely thank Andrew Glover, Guild Webmaster, for his tireless efforts to keep the Guild website up to date, and for all the technical help he gives the Communications Committee.

Unfortunately, Communications Committee activities have been somewhat curtailed by the number of members, and so the remainder of 2024 has been about holding the fort and keeping Guild communications ticking over. We'd really benefit from more hands to share the workload, so we'd love to hear from you if you would be willing to help with preparing newsletters or helping to come up with ideas and initiatives to help communications within the Guild run smoothly. You may have experience from your employment or other voluntary organisations that you could share with the Guild, or just have enthusiasm for getting the message out to ringers about things that are going on in the W&P.

Just a reminder of the communications channels that already in place and working well:

Guild/District emailing lists:

If you're not already on these, don't miss out on these essential communication channels! Fill out a consent form on the website here:

<https://www.wpbells.org/guild-communications/mailling-lists/>

Facebook:

The W&P Guild, and A&P, C&S, Portsmouth, Basingstoke and the IoW Districts all have Facebook accounts for informal sharing of photos, information and reports. These are a really nice way to find out what's going on, so join your relevant Group(s) here:

<https://www.wpbells.org/facebook/>

Rachael Barber

comms@wpbells.org

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

YOUTH RINGING

2024 REPORT for GUILD EXECUTIVE

The Winchester & Portsmouth Guild youth ringing group is comprised of young ringers up to the age of 18. The upper age mirrors the age limits for youth ringers participating in the Ringing World National Youth Contest, although we have some recent retirees from the group (aged up to 22) who continue to support the younger ringers.

Youth ringing in the Guild is currently in a very strong position, with 38 youth ringers participating in at least one youth event during 2024. Eleven general practices were held in different towers around the Guild, attended each time by between 15 and 20 young ringers. Ringing included rounds / call changes, up to Stedman Caters and Surprise Major. It was impressive to see a band of W&P YOUTHS ring some well struck Stedman Triples at Romsey Abbey with no adult help.

We have welcomed several new ringers to the group, some only just handling, but with the support of the more established youth ringers we hope to see them make some great progress in the next few years. These are the ringers of the future, and will be supported by the established youths and adult helpers.

The guild youth ringers entered two competitions during the year. In April, the W&P YOUTHS band travelled to Bushey in Hertfordshire for SEECON (South East England Contest). We were the only band who rang a method on 8 bells (Plain Bob Triples), and came away with first place, winning the newly established Broken Stay Award.

In July, two W&P YOUTHS band entered the Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC) in London, along with other 34 bands from across England, Scotland and Wales. Our 8-bell call change band managed to be placed joint 9th. Our 8-bell method band came a very creditable 2nd to the Yorkshire Tykes (who achieved the first ever 10/10 score in the competition). In addition, our band got to ring at St Mary le Bow, St Magnus, Hart Street, Spitalfields and St Dunstan in the West, joining with youth bands from other parts of the country.

As we look forward to 2025, the majority of our ringers are of an age to continue to ring with the group, so we go into the year with a strong (in numbers and ability) and experienced group of youths. We look forward to taking W&P YOUTHS bands to SEECON in April (being held in Berkshire) and to RWNYC in July (being held in Birmingham) – we may even have 3 bands this year!

Andy Ingram – W&P Youth Co-ordinator

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
BELL RESTORATION FUND
(A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 264606)**

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

The fund is a registered charity with the registered number 264606

The contact address is:
4 Ferrybridge Green
Hedge End
Southampton
SO30 0JX

The fund is governed by rules approved by the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (the Guild) in General Meeting.

The Trustees of the fund are the Guild Master, The Honorary Guild Treasurer, the Honorary Guild Secretary (post currently vacant) and two additional trustees, one from each diocese, elected triennially by the Guild in General Meeting.

The Trustees during 2024 were:

Mr R Milford (Honorary Guild Treasurer)
Rev Canon B J Fry (Winchester Diocese area)
Mr D Mattingley (Portsmouth Diocese area)
Mrs R Barber (Guild Master)

The independent examiner of the fund is Mr Matt Donnelly.

The principal bankers are TSB Bank plc.

The activities of the Bell Restoration Fund are restricted to the area covered by the Anglican Dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth. None of the Fund's assets is a permanent endowment. There are no borrowing limits imposed in the governing rules. The Trustees have no specific investment powers.

The main aims of the Fund are to provide financial assistance by way of grants to Churches, within the area mentioned above, incurring expenditure on the provision, maintenance **or improvement of their bells and bell installations or acoustics**, or for the maintenance of the fabric of their towers and belfries, to enable their bells to be properly rung in full circle.

Review of the year and the future

The Fund's income for 2024 dropped slightly compared with 2022, because of drop in investment income after releasing grants. There was a much greater increase in resources expended, because of several large grants or increases in grants. This means that the fund balances have more than halved over the year, and the Trustees are aware of several potential schemes which have not yet submitted applications. While several thousand pounds were raised during the year by District open days these were specifically for work at Ropley and Brading, and did not increase the BRF's funds. It is likely that further fund raising will be needed in the near future if the current level of grants is to be maintained.

The Trustees acknowledge, with thanks, donations from individuals including those in memory of Derek Jackson and David Atkins.

Eight new grants totalling £24,050 were approved during the year, four of which were also released during the year:

St Mary and All Saints, Droxford	£1,000
St Mary the Virgin, Old Alresford	£150 - released

Blessed Mary, Upham	£1,000 - released
St Mary, Southampton	£300
Holy Cross, Binsted	£350 - released
St James, Bramley	£5,750
All Saints, Basingstoke	£500 - released
SS Peter and Paul, Ringwood	£15,000

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
BELL RESTORATION FUND
(A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 264606)**

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024 (Cont')

The proposed grant of £13,000 to St Mary the Virgin, Brading, was increased by £7,000 to £20,000.

Six grants totalling £14,100 were released during the year:

Blessed Mary, Upham	£1,000
Holy Cross, Binsted	£350
All Saints, Basingstoke	£500
St Mary the Virgin, Old Alresford	£150
St Peter, Titchfield	£100
St Edward the Confessor, Netley	£12,000

The Trustees agreed to withdraw the proposed grant of £800 to St Mary, Portchester, as the reason for the grant had not happened and the way ahead was unclear.

Existing grants totalling £35,750 still outstanding from before 2024 are:

St Mary the Virgin, Brading	£20,000
St Peter, Ropley	£10,000
St James, Bramley	£5,750

The Trustees regularly review the level of reserves and wish to encourage use of the available funds.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves to cover expected future grants for at least a further twelve months. The reserves held satisfy that requirement.

A reminder to those applying for grants that the initial application needs to be with the Guild Treasurer at least 1 month before the Trustees meet. Trustees meet three times a year, before each of the Executive meetings and before the Guild AGM. Grants can only be approved at either the Executive meeting or AGM. Any approved at the Executive meetings are required to be ratified at the next Guild AGM. The forms required are to be found on the Guild's website or can be obtained in paper form from the Guild Treasurer. It is very important that all the documentation requested in the form is made available to the Trustees. If an application is sent by email then it should also be sent through the postal system. All applications are acknowledged so if no acknowledgment is received within two weeks then a chaser should be sent.

The Trustees would like to thank all those who have donated time, energy and money towards the aims of the Bell Restoration Fund.

For and on behalf of the Trustees

Trustee
15th March 2025

Trustee

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
BELL RESTORATION FUND
(A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 264606)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £ p	2023 £ p
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			
Incoming Resources			
Subscriptions and donations	3a	£6,083.75	£5,895.93
Gift Aided donations		£340.00	£365.00
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid (including repayment interest)		£87.79	£95.24
Investment income	3b	£2,755.01	£3,167.31
Peal fees		£176.50	£195.25
Total incoming resources		£9,443.05	£9,718.73
Resources Expended			
Direct charitable expenditure			
Grants approved	4	£30,250.00	£3,550.00
Total resources expended		£30,250.00	£3,550.00
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources		-£20,806.95	£6,168.73
Fund balances brought forward at 1st January		£37,825.74	£31,657.01
Fund balances carried forward at 31st December		£17,018.79	£37,825.74

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
BELL RESTORATION FUND
(A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 264606)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2024 £ p	2023 £ p
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	5,048.54	4,956.32
Short Term Deposits			
- Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund		54,220.23	51,322.37
- CCLA Q4 payment 3/1/2025		643.87	855.54
- TSB Bank plc - Deposit account		3,705.16	13,636.34
Cash at Bank			
- TSB Bank plc		5,450.99	2,955.17
		69,068.79	73,725.74
Creditors			
amounts falling due within one year	6	11,300.00	35,100.00
Net Current Assets		57,768.79	38,625.74
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		57,768.79	38,625.74
Creditors			
amounts falling due after more than one year	7	40,750.00	800.00
Net Assets		£17,018.79	£37,825.74
Funds			
Unrestricted		£17,018.79	£37,825.74

Approved by the Fund Trustees on 15th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Trustee

Trustee

The notes referred to form part of these accounts and are available from the treasurer on request.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
BELL RESTORATION FUND
(A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 264606)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

1 Basis of preparation

- a. These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with: Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (FRS 102) 2019, Accounting Standards, and the Charities Act.

2 Accounting policies

- a. Recognition of Incoming Resources.
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: the charity becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources, and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- b. Tax reclaims on donations and gifts
Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.
- c. Investment income
This is included in the accounts when receivable.
- d. Liability recognition
Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.
- e. Grants awarded
These are recognised in the accounts when the award of a grant has been approved by the Trustees.

3 Incoming Resources

3(a) Subscriptions and Donations

	Sub- scriptions £ p	Don- ations £ p	2024 £ p	Sub- scriptions £ p	Don- ations £ p	2023 £ p
Income from Districts						
Alton and Petersfield	684.00			652.00		
Andover	492.00			392.00		
Basingstoke	696.00			632.00	163.58	
Christchurch & Southampton	732.00			696.00		
Isle of Wight	408.00			400.00		
Portsmouth	780.00	35.00		752.00	86.50	
Winchester	896.00			816.00	14.50	
	4,688.00	35.00	4,723.00	4,340.00	264.58	4,604.58
Tower Donations		410.00	410.00		160.00	160.00
Sundry donations, not from districts		950.75	950.75		1,131.35	1,131.35
			£6,083.75			£5,895.93

Tower Donations Christchurch Priory 2 x £100, Hambledon £100, Ringwood £60, £50 Swanmore
Includes £225.75 profit from sweatshirt sales, and £725 received in 2024 in
Sundry donations memory of Derek Jackson or David Atkins

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
BELL RESTORATION FUND
(A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 264606)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

3(b) Investment Income	2024	2023
	£ p	£ p
TSB Bank plc	£68.82	£34.82
CCLA Deposit Fund	£2,686.19	£3,132.49
	-----	-----
	£2,755.01	£3,167.31
	-----	-----

4 Resources Expended

Direct Charitable Expenditure	2024	2023
Grants approved	£ p	£ p
St Mary Andover additional in 2023		£450.00
St James, East Tisted		£2,000.00
St Mary, Eling		£1,000.00
St Peter, Titchfield		£100.00
St Mary the Virgin, Brading, additional in 2024	£7,000.00	
St Mary and All Saints, Droxford	£1,000.00	
All Saints Basingstoke	£500.00	
Blessed Mary, Upham	£1,000.00	
St Mary, Southampton	£300.00	
St Mary the Virgin, Old Alresford	£150.00	
SS Peter and Paul, Ringwood	£15,000.00	
St James, Bramley	£5,750.00	
Holy Cross, Binsted	£350.00	
St Mary, Portchester	-£800.00	
	-----	-----
	£30,250.00	£3,550.00
	-----	-----

The grant to Portchester was withdrawn as the purpose intended has changed and the way ahead is unclear
At 31st December 2024 grants approved but not yet paid amounted to £52,050 (2023 - £35,900).
These commitments have been recognised in full as liabilities in the accounts for the year.

5 Debtors	2024	2023
	£ p	£ p
Peal Fees Receivable	176.50	195.25
Districts	4,723.00	2,003.00
Income Tax Recoverable	149.04	156.49
	-----	-----
	£5,048.54	£2,354.74
	-----	-----

6	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
		£ p	£ p
	Grants Payable	11,300.00	35,100.00
		-----	-----
		11,300.00	35,100.00
		-----	-----

7	Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2024	2023
		£ p	£ p
	Grants payable	40,750.00	800.00
		-----	-----

Falling due within one year

Falling due after more than one year

Droxford £1,000; Ropley £10,000; Southampton St Mary £300

Brading £20,000; Bramley £5,750; Ringwood £15,000

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT from Mike Hopkins Till

This year's meeting of the CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS was held on 7th September in Exeter. The draft minutes were published in The Ringing World on 4th October. The minutes and recording of the 127th Annual Meeting are also available on the CCCBR website together with the relevant meeting papers and the recording of the Ringing 2030 Presentation on Bells in Changing Churches. Members of The Ringing World Ltd are, by right, all those members of the Central Council who indicate a willingness to be company members before the AGM, which is held on the same day as the Council meeting.

This report includes just some key points from the meetings.

CCCBR AGM

Election of Fellows Chris Mew for his work on the Central Council, for the Ringing World and in safeguarding. Barbara Wheeler for her sterling work with Publications for 35 years.

The Trustees' Report The current Trustees are Tina Stoecklin (President), Vicki Chapman (Deputy President), Ernie de Legh-Runciman (Secretary), Fergus Stracey (Treasurer), Ian Roulstone, Clive Whittaker, Beverley Faber and Katie Lane (Ordinary Trustees). The role and duties of the workgroups were changed slightly during 2024 in the light of the Ringing 2030 Programme. Ringing for the Coronation was particularly well supported. However the national ringing centre has not proved to be viable. Much effort is focused on Ringing 2030. The Mobile Belfry is now in operation. Yellowyoyo has provided advice for rebranding of ringing which has already been used at the International Scout and Guide Jamboree in Essex. The President's Blog continues to be successful. The Council has continued its engagement with the Church of England's Safeguarding Training and Development team and scenarios related to bellringing are going to be included in the next edition of the "Basic Awareness" training course. The "Code for Ringing" was formally adopted by the Council in January 2024.

In the **Accounts for 2023**, the total assets of the Council were £419,257. However, the General Fund loss had risen to £18,712, primarily as a result of spending £16,613 for Ringing 2030. Nine grants were paid from the Bell Restoration Fund leaving a total of £33,200 in outstanding commitments. Resources Expended in 2023 exceeded Incoming Resources by £22,410.

The Executive and Workgroup Reports

The Executive Report. The Executive has met monthly online and held quarterly meetings with Workgroup Leads. It has also continued regular meetings with the Church Buildings Council, Historic England, Ecclesiastical Insurance, ART and The Ringing World. The Executive is of the opinion that the current affiliation fee is insufficient to sustain the current and planned work for Ringing 2030.

Historical and Archive WG. The CCCBR Library Collection has successfully been relocated to the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust and continues to be both used and added to. Subscriptions from Friends of the Library help to maintain it. Work has continued on the development of the ringing history website, capturing images for the peal board database, updating the Rolls of Honour, maintaining biographical information through obituaries and maintaining records of society badges, certificates etc.

Public Relations WG. This has been renamed "Ringing 2030 Marketing". A short film called "What do you enjoy about Bellringing?" was produced for the CCCBR You Tube channel. Bands were also

encouraged to ring for the 80th anniversary of D-Day and there was further promotion of Bell Sunday this year.

Stewardship and Management WG. This has now been split into two groups, the second one named “Ringing 2030 Environments”. Members of the Workgroups continue to respond to an assortment of enquiries from various sources, update and add to documentation.

Technical and Taxonomy WG. Reorganisation of the workgroups has resulted in the ICT team now reporting directly to the Executive as a support service. A draft report of Accepted Method Extensions is now available. The Methods and Composition Libraries continue to be maintained.

Volunteer and Leadership WG. This workgroup has been renamed “Ringing 2030 Recruitment and Development” and tasks have been adjusted to focus on that particular project. The Development Section has continued to supply and develop training posters for towers and 3D printed model bells. The North West Ringing Course is established and plans are progressing with the South West Ringing Course.

Young Ringers-Schools and Young Ringers WG. This workgroup is a merger of the former “Schools and Youth” and “Universities and Colleges” workgroups. Material supporting young people undertaking a Duke of Edinburgh Award has been developed further. An on-going project is the virtual hub for university ringing.

Technology for Ringing 2030 is a new workgroup which has been set up to create a Ringing 2030 digital platform.

Ringing 2030 Environments is another new workgroup focusing on safe and secure environments and technical and leadership training.

Support Services

Publications has a new team.

Performance Analysis. Peal numbers had increased slightly to 3,629 and most peals were still of Major. The Yorkshire Association was marginally the leading affiliated society, followed closely by the Ancient Society of College Youths. Quarter peal numbers had increased by more than a thousand to 16,090, the majority being Doubles this time and again the highest number were rung in Kent.

Safeguarding, Membership, ICT, Small Societies and Public Relations continue to provide their services.

External Liaison. Simon Linford has now established an important relationship with the Association of Festival Churches and is maintaining a high profile in the Heritage Religious Buildings Alliance. It is estimated that 10 - 15% of churches might close over the next ten years.

Stewards *The Bell Restoration Fund, Dove Database, Fred Dukes International Bell Fund, Carter Ringing Machine* stewards continue their work.

The Touring Tower is now fully operational and is now under the wing of the Mobile Belfries Trust.

Forward Plan The President explained the “Three Pillars” of Ringing 2030 – Publicity and marketing – recruitment and development – quality environment.

Financial Update The Treasurer reported that overall there had been a £25,075 spend with Yellowyoyo which is now complete. There being no upper limit on the value the Executive can

authorise, John Harrison encouraged Council Members to read Executive Reports closely and feedback responses to them.

Elections of Trustees Fergus Stracey was elected Treasurer and Peter Harrison was elected Ordinary Trustee.

Motions were carried to extend the maximum term of service of Stewards from six years to nine years and to increase the Annual Subscription to 40p per Affiliated Society member from January 2025 and £1 from January 2026.

Attendance at the meeting was 152 out of a possible 220. 41 members were absent and 27 positions were vacant.

Next Year's Meeting will be held on Saturday 6th September hosted by the Yorkshire Association

THE RINGING WORLD LTD AGM. There was a £34K surplus this year owing to royal events. In addition to the sales of merchandise, the Company received donations and legacies amounting to £67K. There are 2300 subscribers to The Ringing World.

Proposal for the installation of a dumb bell

All Saints, Basingstoke

Current situation

The band at All Saints is currently very strong. We have a strong “top end” of ringers ringing complex methods to a high standard and have won the local ringing Guild 8-bell striking competition for the last two years in a row. Monday night practices are bolstered by a number of regular visitors drawn to the tower for the standard of the ringing as well as the incisive and welcoming nature of the band. Along side this, for a number of years we have been training and increasing number of new ringers of all ages.

Over this period, our normal Monday evening practice has been extended to two hours of ringing from 7:00pm with the first 45 minutes being dedicated to teaching and making good use of our light six bells created at the point the new bell was installed in 2016. Our learners include a number of children who currently only stay for the early practice as the main practice is too late for them.

The issue

As the new learners have progressed, the early practice us being used more and more for ringing on 6 and not the initial physical teaching of ringing. To try and accommodate this, we are using the 7th bell as a training bell whilst ringing our light 6. This is less than ideal as it prevents those ringing from properly listening to what isn happening as there is a random bell sounding at the same time. Being aware of our neighbours, this is also not a pleasant sound to be coming from the tower. We could tie the clapper of the 7th bell, but its position in the tower would mean ringing all the bells down to access it both to tie the clapper and to untie it afterwards, again, eating into our already full practice time.

The proposal

To facilitate the teaching of bell handling alongside our current beginners practice on a Monday, we propose to install a dumb bell in the tower as a training aid. This is a weighted bell wheel with rope and pulleys that can be rung, and feels like ringing a small tower bell. The installation would be in the bell chamber along with the bells with the rope falling in the ringing chamber, but away from the lightest 6 bells so it can be used along side this ring.

Practicalities

Access to install the bell would be needed through the trapdoors in the tower. This shouldn't be an issue as they were opened when the 9th headstock was repaired in 2023. The Bellhangers will be asked to ensure the rope drops away from the circle of the light 6 bells, and will be asked for a costed proposal and drawings of where it would go. This work would require a faculty but this shouldn't be an issue.

Costs

It is estimated that the dumb bell and associated works are likely to come in at around £5000 +VAT. This can be part met through the use of tower funds, but I would propose asking for donations from those who have and are currently learning to ring at All Saints, along with likely grants from both the Basingstoke District and the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild. I also propose approaching the Parrett Trust for a grant, as this would fall into the remit of furthering the mission of the church in the same way as installing the new bell did nine years ago.

