

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

13th June 2026, Time 3 p.m.
The Parish Hall, West Street, Hythe, Southampton, SO45 6AA

(Additions in red)

1. Master's welcome and opening prayer

2. Striking Competition Results

3. Apologies for absence

Paula Aldrich, Stephanie Andrews, Martin Barnes, Martin Daniels, Julia Day, Anne Deegan, Mark Esbester, Chris Ford, Marian Fell, Joe Gaskin, Peter George-Jones, Andrew Glover, Nick Halder, Fiona Harvey, Lucy and Mike Hopkins Till, Elizabeth Johnson, Greg Jordan, Kim Matthews, Margaret Morton, Bren and John Palk, Aila Peacock, Harry Poyser, Simon Poyser, Rebecca Restall, Frances Warwick, Gill and Robin Wilson

4. Loss of members through death since the 2025 AGM

i. Members

Albert F W Burbidge (LM)	St. Mary, Portsmouth
Rob Chapman	Lymington
Matthieu Chassagne	Highclere
Phil Clarke	St. John, Bournemouth
Bill Harris (LM)	Catherington
Di Mavor	Sopley
Frank R Morton	Milford-on-Sea
David Poulton	Christchurch
Diana Sanderson	Highclere
Andrew Spiller	Petersfield
Terry Tarrant (LM)	Andover

ii. Former members

Philip Belgeonne	Hursley (<i>died April 2024</i>)
Don Blissett	Sherborne St. John
Bill Briggs	St. Mary, Liss
Jon Burgess	Ryde
Canon Norman Chatfield	Bishop's Waltham
Terry Drabble	Sherfield English
Ted Duff	Brading and Arreton
C Reader Englefield	Bishopstoke
Peter H Gallienne	Forest, Guernsey
Linda Hallett	Bishopstoke

Mike Halsey	St. John, Jersey
Graeme Keel	Bentley
John Maybrey	unattached member of A&P District
Michael Morley	Brockenhurst
Shân E Nash	Eversley
Keith Salmon	Alderney
Robbie Sherwood	Vale, Guernsey
Christopher J Stubbington	Upham
Rod Warren	Netley
Keith White	Rotherwick

5. **Officer vacancies**

i. **Confirmation of Safeguarding Officer appointment**

Helen McCormack proposed by the Master, seconded by Nick Halder

ii. **Election of Central Council Representatives (two)**

6. Minutes of the last meeting

7. **Matters arising**

8. **Life membership on completion of 50 years' ringing membership of the Guild in 2026**

Alan D Elsmore	Eling
Angela Forder-Stent	Twyford
Christine McCallion	Hursley
Francis W Mitchell	Netley
Mary Sterry	Lyndhurst

9. **Officers' and committee reports for 2025**

[Printed in the Annual Report for 2025 and Handbook for 2026]

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

10. Bell Restoration Fund

i. [Trustees' Report and Accounts for 2025](#)

[Printed in the Annual Report for 2025 and Handbook for 2026]

ii. Grant Proposals

11. Report of 2025 Central Council meeting

12. Future Guild events

4th July 2026 RWNYC - Nottingham
12th September 2026 Essex Trophy - Sussex County Association
19th September 2026 Inter-Tower 8-bell striking competition - Petersfield
10th October 2026 Education course - Listening skills
14th November 2026 Education course - Stedman Doubles & Triples
21st November 2026 Executive Committee Meeting

13. Date and place of 2027 AGM

Saturday 12th June 2027 in the Basingstoke District.

14. Any other business (as notified in advance)

i. St. John the Baptist, Winchester project update

ii. Membership database study

Updated 12th June 2026

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14 JUNE 2025

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH, ROPLEY

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 3 p.m. and Barry Fry said a prayer. The Master welcomed those present and thanked the Winchester District for making the arrangements, Micki Nadal, Roger Booth and the organising team, Elizabeth Johnson and the New Alresford band and Alison Wood and the Ropley band for the refreshments, the Rev'd Bryce Fletcher for taking the service, the Striking Competition committee for organising the competition that morning, the judges, and Trisha Shannon for staffing the Ringing World stand (*applause*).

2. Striking Competition results

John Harrison and James Moynihan from Wokingham had judged the Inter-District 8-bell Striking Competition at New Alresford that morning. The following results had been announced and certificates presented to the team captains.

Position	District	Method	Peal speed	Faults	Drawn
1st	Portsmouth	Grandsire Triples	3h	13	6th
2nd	Basingstoke	Grandsire Triples	2h58	15	3rd
3rd	Christchurch & Southampton	Cambridge Surprise Major	2h45	21	5th
4th	Winchester 1	Grandsire Triples	3h10	23	7th
5th	Alton & Petersfield	Grandsire Triples	2h48	31	2nd
6th	Winchester 2	Call changes		35	1st
7th	Isle of Wight	Grandsire Triples	3h5	64	4th

The Master presented the trophy to David Mattingley representing the winning team (*applause*).

3. The following 102 members attended: Kathryn Carter, Andy & Judy Sparling, and Matt Watts (St. Lawrence, Alton), Jessica Lloyd (Arreton), Ben Constant, Adam Greenley and Margaret Smith (All Saints, Basingstoke), Lynne, Pete & Greg Jordan, and Stephen Lutener (St. Michael, Basingstoke), Katryn Eagland (Bentworth), Clare Carpenter and Richard Manby (Bishop's Waltham), Ann, Roy & Steph LeMarechal, Helen McCormack and Graham Wright (Bishopstoke), Sally Beech, Carol & David Cooper, and Jan Goodyear (Blackmoor), Wendy Smart (Botley), Claire & Ian Roulstone (Bramley), Julia Brunt (Bramshott), Barry Fry (Brockenhurst), Ros Brandwood (Burghclere), Viv & Graham Nobbs (Carisbrooke), Mark Esbester (Catherington), Terry Freemantle and Robin Milford (Curdrige), Kirsten Cousens (Droxford), Stephen Hough (Eling), Ellen & Roger Barber (Hawkley), Lucy & Mike Hopkins Till (Highclere), Andrew Craddock, Tessa & Tony Smith, and Pam & Richard Thompson (Hursley), Charlotte & Jonathan Smith (Kings Worthy), John Palk (Lockerley), Roger Booth, Rob Hatch, Jessica Hay, Elizabeth Johnson and Sue Smith (New Alresford), Frazer Hyde (Newton Valence), Christine & David Holmes (Overton), Francesco Greenslade, Alice Kidd, Rebecca Restall, Christine Rushton, Jason Wedley and Caroline Welsh (Petersfield), Ian Carey and David Mattingley (Portsmouth Cathedral), Jennifer & Nigel Herriott (Romsey), Jason Clements, Stella Kenny, Jo Rodgers and Rodney Skinner (Ropley), Joseph Sharp (Rotherwick), Rachael Barber, Elaine Barnett, Nicholas James, and Gill & Jarvis Ranson (Selborne), Alex Blissett (Sherborne St. John), Caroline & Martin Daniels (Sherfield English), Dan Graham and Steve Castle (Southampton), Mo & Hugh Routh (Steeple), Micki Nadal (Stockbridge), Charlotte & Edd Colliss (Swanmore), Edwina Carpenter (Upham), Lucy & Michael Church (Upton Grey), Peter Niblett (Whitchurch), John Colliss, Marion Daniell, Bruce Purvis and Jean Whewell (Winchester Cathedral), Christine Knights-Whittome (Wonston), Jeremy Barnett,

Alan Buswell, John Croft, Andy Ingram and Edmund Wratten (Unattached), Tim Jackson (Compounding).

Apologies for absence had been received from Tony Jewell (St. Lawrence, Alton), Susan Turner (Amport), Richard Paxford (Andover), Harry & Simon Poyser (Bentley), Julia Day (Bentworth), Kim Matthews (Sacred Heart, Bournemouth), Frances Warwick (Cheriton), Lindsay Cawte (Easton), Norman Powers (East Woodhay), Heather Galley (New Alresford), Fiona Harvey (Petersfield), Martin Barnes (Rotherwick), Andrew Glover (Romsey), Paul Robinson and Anne Deegan (Ryde), Caroline Fairley and Jill Fuller (Winchester Cathedral).

4. Loss of Members from death since the 2024 AGM

The meeting remembered members: 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) and Bill Webb (East Woodhay); and former members: John Bolt (Christchurch), Angela Brown (Chale and Brighstone), Jill Burry (St. Lawrence, Alton, and Upton Grey), Hilary Coles (née Brown) (Chale), Mike Hayward (Broughton and Romsey), Chris Kippin (St. Michael, Southampton and Ellisfield), John A Nundy (Catherington), Canon Gary Philbrick (Hursley, Fawley, Southampton and Fordingbridge), Kate Rogers (Wonston), Jack Shovel (Silchester), Roger Simons (Petersfield), Sonia C Tucker (Winchester Cathedral), Adrian Tumber (Southampton), Cressida Wheelwright (Brown Candover), Geoffrey Whitear (Micheldever) and Pauline Wood (St. Mary Bourne). Barry Fry said a prayer.

5. Minutes of the 2024 AGM

The [minutes of the 2024 AGM at Swanmore](#) were adopted on the proposition of Christine Knights-Whittome, seconded by Terry Freemantle, and signed by the Master as a true record.

6. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

7. Life Membership

Roger Barber (Hawkley), Carol Cooper (Blackmoor), David Lay (Sopley) and Graham Nobbs (Carisbrooke) had completed fifty years' ringing membership of the Guild. The Master presented Carol and Graham with their Life Membership certificates (*applause*).

8. Officers' and Committee Reports for 2024

The Vice-Master had prepared a slide presentation with highlights from the reports printed in the *Annual Report for 2024 and Handbook for 2025* and distributed with the Agenda. Edwina Carpenter thanked the Guild and Belfry Stewardship Committee for the grant to Upham. Ian Roulstone asked the Youth Ringing Committee how they were doing in terms of retention and recommended the Young Ringers Hub, organised by the CCCBR Young Ringers for Ringing 2030 workgroup, for ringers from school age to age 30. The Reports were adopted *en bloc* on the proposition of Edwina Carpenter, seconded by Clare Carpenter.

9. Bell Restoration Fund

i. Trustees' Report and Accounts for 2024

The report and accounts had been independently examined and agreed by the Trustees.

ii. Grant proposals

Barry Fry said the Trustees met earlier that day and a new grant application had been received from **St. Mary's, Overton**. The project was to rehang the 8 bells with new fittings in the existing frame, new headstocks on 1 & 2, reposition clock hammers, replacement louvres and sound attenuation; cost £98,314 inc VAT. PCC approved, faculty now obtained and go-ahead given. It was noted that the PCC and local ringers were covering a large part of the cost, including a generous donation by David and Christine Holmes. The Trustees proposed a grant of £5,000. This was seconded by Adam Greenley and agreed.

Roger Booth was disappointed that a supplementary grant application from Ropley had not been considered. Barry said that it would be considered in November when the appropriate forms with necessary supporting quotations and documentation had been received.

10. Report of 2024 Central Council meeting

There were no comments on Mike Hopkins Till's comprehensive report (see [Appendix](#))

11. Motions

Motion (A)

The Master proposed and Andy Ingram seconded, 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.

The rule change was approved by the required majority.

Motion (B)

Adam Greenley proposed, on behalf of All Saints', Basingstoke, and Greg Jordan seconded that the Guild contribute to the cost of installing a training bell at All Saints', Basingstoke.

A supporting paper had been distributed. The principal officers suggested a grant of £500 from the Central Fund. Mark Esbester proposed and Lynne Jordan seconded that the grant should be £1,000. Both the amendment and the substantive motion were passed.

12. Appointment of Youth Ringing Committee

The Master proposed those people who had formed the provisional committee, viz. Andy Ingram, Rachael Barber, John Maddams, Amy Robertson and the Safeguarding Officer (*ex officio*). Roger Barber seconded and the proposal was agreed.

13. Election of Officers for the next three years

i. Guild Master

Peter Niblett proposed by Michael Church and seconded by David Holmes. Michael spoke of Peter's contribution to the Exercise and the Guild. The retiring Master invested the new Master with the Master's Badge (*applause*) but remained in the chair until the end of the meeting.

ii. Guild Vice-Master

Andy Ingram proposed by Margaret Smith and seconded by Judy Sparling.

iii. Honorary General Secretary

Alex Blissett proposed by Adam Greenley and seconded by Greg Jordan.

iv. Honorary General Treasurer

Robin Milford proposed by Liz Manship and seconded by John Murrell.

v. Minute Secretary

Tony Smith proposed by Edd Colliss and seconded by Clare Carpenter.

vi. Honorary Peal Recorder

Martin Daniels proposed by Caroline Daniels and seconded by Dan Graham.

vii. Honorary Librarian and Archivist

Bruce Purvis proposed by Bevis Clarke-Smith and seconded by Tony Smith.

viii. Honorary Report Editor

Lizzie Colliss proposed by Barry Fry and seconded by Clare Carpenter.

ix. Public Relations Officer

Viv Nobbs proposed by Micki Nadal and seconded by Clare Carpenter.

x. Safeguarding Officer

Dan Graham proposed by Peter Niblett and seconded by Micki Nadal, and Adam Greenley proposed by Andy Ingram and seconded by David Mattingley. The candidates made personal statements and retired. Following discussion, Adam Greenley was elected on a show of hands. Clare Carpenter proposed a vote of thanks to Dan for his work over the past three years (*applause*).

xi. Central Council Representatives (five)

Michael Church proposed by Mark Esbester and seconded by Roger Barber. Mike Hopkins Till proposed by Pete Jordan and seconded by John Palk. Greg Jordan proposed by Margaret Smith and seconded by David Holmes. There are two vacancies.

xii. Independent Examiner

Matt Donnelly proposed by Roger Barber and seconded by Tony Smith.

xiii. Portsmouth Diocese BRF Trustee

David Mattingley proposed by Barry Fry and seconded by Robin Milford.

xiv. Winchester Diocese BRF Trustee

Barry Fry proposed by Julie Hodkin and seconded by Steve Castle.

14. Future Guild Events

5th July 2025 RWNYS - Birmingham
13th September 2025 Essex Trophy - 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

- i. Marion Daniell described a scheme for a Training Hub based at St. John the Baptist, Winchester.
- ii. Christine Knights-Whittome said that it had been about eighteen months since the last order for Guild garments. There was a minimum order of twenty-five and anyone interested should [contact her](#).
- iii. Barry Fry asked that all retiring and new BRF Trustees meet immediately after the AGM.
- iv. Michael Church thanked the retiring Master for all her work over the past three years (*sustained applause*).

There being no further business, the Master closed the meeting at 4.33 p.m.

APPENDIX

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.

HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARIES REPORT 2025

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Tony Smith for his generous support during the transition into my new role. His extensive knowledge and guidance have been invaluable as I have settled into the post and, quite literally, learned the ropes of being Secretary of the Guild. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the District Secretaries for their continued dedication and the considerable work they undertake in supporting and informing members across their respective Districts.

I was elected to the office of Secretary at the AGM in June 2025, kindly hosted by Ropley. I am sure all who attended, appreciated the tremendous effort that went into providing the excellent Ringers' Tea. It was rewarding to witness the culmination of many years of fundraising and to see the community's resilience, coming together to rebuild from the ashes and hear the bells ring out once again at Ropley.

As is tradition, the Inter-District 8-Bell Striking Competition took place on the morning of the AGM, hosted by New Alresford. First place was awarded to the Portsmouth District for their Grandsire Triples, achieving only thirteen faults.

I have had the opportunity this year to meet many ringers from around the Guild and to see the encouraging growth in membership across the Districts. Recruitment remains a key priority, aligned with the Central Council's objective to increase national ringing numbers by 2030. It is heartening to see the enthusiasm with which Guild members have embraced this challenge, including the establishment of after-school bell ringing clubs for primary-aged children and the planned dedicated ringing school and training hub at St John's, Winchester.

The success of these recruitment efforts is reflected in the achievements of our young ringers. In 2025, the W&P entered two teams into the RWNYP hosted in Birmingham. The W&P Youths achieved an impressive 2nd place in the Eight-Bell Method Ringing with 90%, and 4th place in the Six-Bell Method Ringing with 75%, a truly inspiring accomplishment for all involved.

Since also becoming a trustee of the Bell Restoration Fund (BRF), I have gained a deeper appreciation of the importance of working collectively to preserve our bells for future generations. It is encouraging to see the number of current and planned restoration and augmentation projects underway. These endeavours highlight the continued need for donations to the BRF. It is only through the generosity of our members that we can sustain this vital work. If you would like to make a donation beyond your annual subscription or consider leaving a legacy gift to the BRF, please do get in touch so we can support you through the process.

One of the more recent tasks I have been asked to lead is the exploration of how the Guild might appropriately recognise and celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2029. Plans are already taking shape, and I look forward to sharing more details with you in due course, so please watch this space.

The Guild is also seeking to reinstate the quarterly newsletter, and we need your help to make it a success. We are looking for creative and engaging content from across the Guild. The newsletter will only be as vibrant as the contributions we receive. Examples of material

we would welcome include; District updates and news, upcoming event announcements, reports from recent outings, fundraising and restoration project updates, training opportunities, Quarter Peal and Peal congratulations, in memoriams, poetry, artwork, or anything else you feel would be of interest. Please send submissions to hon.secretary@wpbells.org.

In reviewing previous Guild reports for inspiration, I came across the following reflection; *"The greatest lesson I have learned in life is that I still have a lot to learn"*. This sentiment resonates strongly with our shared art, where no matter our level of experience, there is always something new to learn. I wish you all every success in your ringing throughout the coming year.

Alex Blissett

Honorary General Secretary

Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

hon.secretary@wpbells.org

District	Membership Type						
	Full	Senior	Student	Life	Assoc	Prob	Total
Alton & Petersfield	49	95	13	8	1	9	175
Andover	37	73	4	2	1	12	129
Basingstoke	67	103	11	3	1	17	202
Christchurch & Southampton	47	101	18	14	0	14	194
Isle of Wight	23	60	15	6	1	21	126
Portsmouth	51	138	8	13	0	5	215
Winchester	58	143	14	11	3	17	246
Non-resident				9			9
TOTALS	332	713	83	66	7	95	1296

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 2025. There are some significant changes between this year's accounts and previous years.

The independent examination found that a mismatch between accounting practices used in different Guild accounts when dealing with subscriptions has resulted in Guild Central Fund accounts incorrectly representing the total financial assets of the Guild in recent years. Subscriptions due from districts to the General Fund at the yearend have been omitted from both the District and General Fund balances in recent years. They are now included in the Central Fund balance.

There are two lesser changes. The Peal Recorder's bank account has been closed and subsequent payments of peal fees have been made directly into the General Fund, so peal fees are now taken into the accounts in the year in which the fee is paid rather than the year the peal was rung. The corresponding payments to the BRF are also taken when they are paid. Finally, the nominal £1 value of the Guild simulator has been written off as it is understood that this is no longer available.

2024 accounts have been recalculated to give a comparison and updated 2024 accounts are included with this report. Taking the revised 2024 figures gives an increase of £6,561.00 in the Central and Reserve Fund sub-total of £16,519.35 as previously calculated and printed in the 2024 Report, and also in the 2024 overall total financial assets over the printed £45,085.18. This corresponds to the 60% subs amount paid to the Guild by the Districts in early 2025. The total assets calculated by the revised approach are shown below, with 2024 figures for comparison.

	2025		2024 (revised)	
Central Fund:				
General Fund	£14,288.49		£14,595.42	
Training and Development Fund	£49.81		£49.81	
Central Reserve Fund (TSB business account)	£8,561.68		£8,435.12	
Sub-total		£22,899.95		£23,080.35
Districts		£27,156.03		£26,669.62
Sub Committees		£1,877.57		£1,896.01
Total Assets		£51,933.58		£51,646.18

The surplus from the clothing sales, kindly organised again by Christine Knights-Whittome, was held over and paid out in 2026 for the benefit of the Vectis Youth ringers.

The assets held centrally by the Guild (Central Fund and Central Reserve Fund) decreased by £180.40 between 2024 and 2025, while the total assets, including money held by the Districts and Committees, increased by £365.60. There were no transfers in or out of the Reserve Fund, but the interest received increased marginally. Contributors to the reduction in central assets included an increase in insurance premium, contributions towards training and the increase in CCCBR subscription (which increased again in 2026). The small reduction in assets is not believed to be a concern and balances held are considered to be sufficient for foreseeable needs.

Income levels received by the Guild in 2025, from subscriptions paid to Districts in 2024, are shown in the table below, with comparable figures for income received by the Guild in 2024.

	2025	2024
Alton & Petersfield	943.50	1075.90
Andover	709.20	688.10
Basingstoke	1018.20	1092.35
Christchurch & Southampton	997.80	1142.05
Isle of Wight	564.90	641.55
Portsmouth	1092.30	1255.10
Winchester	1235.10	1338.05
Total	6561.00	7233.10

R Milford, Honorary Treasurer
21 March 2026

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
CENTRAL FUND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st DECEMBER 2025

	2025			2024
	General Fund	Training & Development Fund	Total	Total
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
INCOME				
Dues from districts	£6,116.30		£6,116.30	£6,561.00
Sales of badges and certificates	£368.00		£368.00	£259.00
Advertisements in Guild Report	£105.00		£105.00	£147.00
Sales of sweatshirts and polo shirts	£1,396.94		£1,396.94	£1,121.64
Peal fees incl BRF element	£340.00		£340.00	£345.00
Donations	£189.75		£189.75	£192.00
T&D Fund transfer from General Fund			£0.00	£1,085.00
	<u>£8,515.99</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£8,515.99</u>	<u>£9,710.64</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Guild Report	£548.00		£548.00	£620.00
Insurances - Ecclesiastical	£1,886.10		£1,886.10	£1,596.07
Hand Bells - Lark Music	£87.39		£87.39	£105.20
Central Council affiliation fees	£487.20		£487.20	£225.80
Central Council reps' expenses	£426.16		£426.16	£0.00
Master's expenses	£32.80		£32.80	£0.00
Guild Librarian	£250.00		£250.00	£550.00
Belfry Stewardship Committee expenses	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Public relation officer's expenses	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Meeting expenses	£225.20		£225.20	£218.50
Striking competitions	£340.10		£340.10	£97.00
Communications committee and website expenses	£399.69		£399.69	£366.29
Secretarial and administrative expenses	£2.10		£2.10	£9.00
Cost of sales - badges & certificates	£365.00		£365.00	£173.00
Cost of sales of sweatshirts and polo shirts	£1,175.38		£1,175.38	£895.89
Peal fee element to BRF	£170.00		£170.00	£172.50
Sweatshirts profit paid to BRF			£0.00	£225.75
T&D Fund transfer from General Fund			£0.00	£1,085.00
Contribution to expenses - Young Ringers' Striking Competition	£300.00		£300.00	£300.00
Youth ringing expenses for 2024 repaid	£876.80		£876.80	
Steve Marriott Call Change App sponsorship	£250.00		£250.00	
Bainsgstoke All Saints dumb bell grant	£1,000.00		£1,000.00	
Guild simulator write off	£1.00		£1.00	
Hawkley and Petersfield simulators				785.00
	<u>£8,822.92</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£8,822.92</u>	<u>£7,425.00</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u><u>-£306.93</u></u>	<u><u>£0.00</u></u>	<u><u>-£306.93</u></u>	<u><u>£2,285.64</u></u>

R Milford
 Guild Treasurer
 Date: 21 March 2026

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
CENTRAL FUND
BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 2025

	General Fund		Training & Development Fund	Total	2024 Total
	£	p	£	p	£
Fund brought forward at 1st January	14,595.42		49.81		12,359.59
Excess income for the year	-306.93		0.00		2,285.64
Transfer to Reserve	0.00			0.00	0.00
Fund carried forward at 31st December	14,288.49		49.81		14,645.23
Represented by:					
ASSETS					
Guild simulator (no longer available in 2025)	0.00			0.00	1.00
Belfry Stewardship Committee lifting gear	1.00			1.00	1.00
Stock of badges and certificates	157.00			157.00	522.00
Debtor - Dues from districts	6,116.30			6,116.30	6,561.00
Debtor - Peal fees from peal fee recorder					345.00
Balance at bank	8,017.69		49.81	8,067.50	7,387.73
	14,291.99		49.81	14,341.80	14,817.73
Less LIABILITIES					
Money for BRF paid into General fund				0.00	0.00
Peal fees to go to BRF	3.50			3.50	172.50
Donation for BRF				0.00	0.00
	14,288.49		49.81	14,338.30	14,645.23

R Milford
 Guild Treasurer
 Date: 21 March 2026

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
CENTRAL FUND
RESERVE ACCOUNT 02162048 - Year ended 31st DECEMBER 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£ p	£ p
Balance at 1st January 2025	£8,435.12	£8,310.39
Bank interest received	£126.56	£124.73
Transfer from Central Fund	£0.00	£0.00
Balance at 31st December 2025	<u>£8,561.68</u>	<u>£8,435.12</u>

R Milford
 Guild Treasurer
 Date: 21 March 2026

Independent examiner's report to members of the Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (the "Guild")

I report on examination of the centrally held accounts of the Guild for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

Although the scope of the central Guild independent examiner is not stated in the Guild rules, it can be inferred as encompassing all Guild funds outside those held by Districts and intended to be independently examined at District level. The Guild's Bell Restoration Fund is a separate entity and not part of this independent examination. In carrying out this examination, I have been guided, where they are relevant to a non-charitable organisation, by directions and guidance given for small charities by the Charity Commission.

Independent examiner's statement

I have examined accounts presented to me for the Guild's Central Fund, Education Committee, Librarian/Archivist and Belfry Stewardship Committee. I have, on a sample basis, examined bank statements and relevant vouchers such as receipts and evidence of electronic transfers.

I have completed my examination and record the following:

I have a concern that a significant amount of money (the library/archive balance of £536.50 at 31/12/2025) is being held on a long-term basis in a member's personal bank account. This is inconsistent with good practice as the money could become inaccessible to the Guild on a temporary or permanent basis, for example, if the account holder dies or becomes incapacitated. The member has confirmed that the money is held on behalf of the Guild but, as it is intermingled with the member's own funds, I cannot obtain independent confirmation of this. I would stress that I have seen no evidence that this arrangement has led to Guild funds being misused.

The initial draft of the 2025 accounts given to me followed practice in previous years and understated the Guild's assets by omitting, from both the district and Central Fund balances, subscriptions being transferred between these accounts shortly after the yearend. This has been addressed in the final version of the 2025 Central Fund accounts and so does not cause me a concern as independent examiner of these accounts.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *Chris Ford*

Name: Christopher (Chris) Ford

Address: 12 Whitehead Close, Basingstoke, RG24 8SG

Date: 21 March 2026

Peal Recorder's Report

There were 108 peals rung for the Guild in 2025, 76 on tower bells and 32 on handbells. This is an increase from the 101 peals rung in 2024. In total 154 Guild members rang in the peals and this includes 8 ringers who rang their first peal.

I would like to thank Andrew Craddock for sharing statistics generated by Pealbase and Tony Smith for the database of compositions rung by the Guild. These databases, along with Bellboard, assist me greatly as peal recorder and provide valuable information to the ringing community. We are fortunate to have them in our Guild.

Finally, a reminder that peal fees are due within one month of the peal being rung and can be paid electronically using the details found on the Guild website. I apologise for the change in these details this year. This was due to the peal recorder bank account starting to charge for its services. The fees now get paid into the Guild account, so the details should no longer need to change. I would like to thank all the conductors and organisers who regularly make payment on time.

Tower Bell Peals

There were 76 tower bell peals rung for the Guild in 2025 involving 132 ringers. This is a 20% increase in peals from last year with only a 5% increase in the ringers but encouragingly the number of ringers ringing their first peal has doubled from 4 in 2024 to 8 in 2025.

Roy LeMarechal once again was the top of the leader board with 47 peals and was again the leading conductor with 29 peals, an increase from last year. The top three towers were the same as last year but in a different order, Awbridge was the leading tower with 13 peals, Bishopstoke second with 12 peals and Portsmouth St Agatha's third with 5 peals.

The Guild officers would like to congratulate the following ringers who rang their first peals in 2025:-

James A Wedley, Annabel R Clements, Toby A Marriott, Rosie E Barrett, Daniel W Holmes à Court, Janet M Orsborn, Carl G McBean and James C Peal.

Other notable peal milestones included:-

50th	Matthew L Dancy
50th	Samuel M Senior
100th	Daniel Graham
500th	Ian M Redway
700th	Janet L Morris
1400th	Benjamin J Carey
1500th	John A Dodd

150th peal on the bells of Romsey Abbey

100th Peal for the Guild	Mike Pidd
250th Peal for the Guild	Stephen S Russ

Congratulations to all other ringers who achieved a 'first' during 2025 and those who celebrated a significant anniversary of their first peal.

Analysis of Tower Bell Peals

Leading Ringers		Leading Conductors		Leading Towers	
Roy LeMarechal	47	Roy LeMarechal	29	Awbridge	13
Janet L Morris	40	Edward P D Colliss	17	Bishopstoke	12
John A Dodd	29	Adam S Greenley	3	Portsmouth (St Agatha)	5
Matthew L Dancy	25	W Nigel G Herriott	3	Basingstoke (All Saints)	3
Mary-Kate Wells	25	James W G Twiney	3	Portsmouth (Cathedral)	3
James W G Twiney	20	Benjamin J Carey	2	Alton	2
Edward P D Colliss	19	Matthew L Dancy	2	Chawton	2
Stephen S Russ	19	James A Hodkin	2	Niton	2
Benjamin J Carey	18	15 conductors	1	Romsey	2
Daniel Graham	17	Total Conductors	23	33 towers	1
James A Hodkin	14			Total Towers	41
Maureen J Hanney	13				
Samuel M Senior	12				
Adam S Greenley	11				
Richard A Case	10				
W Nigel G Herriott	10				
Graham J Wright	10				
13 ringers	6-9				
102 ringers	1-5				
Total Ringers	132				

Analysis of Tower Bell Peal Methods

Doubles	4	Major	32	Caters	6
4m	2	Belfast Surprise	1	Grandsire	5
5m	2	Bristol Surprise	2	Stedman	1
		Cambridge Surprise	3		
Minor	14	Cassiobury Surprise	1	Caters & Royal	1
Cambridge Surprise	1	Causey Arch Delight	1	Spliced (3m)	1
2m	1	Cornwall Surprise	2		
4m	1	Kilkenny Delight	1	Royal	16
5m	3	Lessness Surprise	1	Bristol Surprise	4
7m	4	Lincolnshire Surprise	1	Cambridge Surprise	3
Surprise (7m)	2	London Surprise	1	Lincolnshire Surprise	1
Spliced Surprise (12m)	1	Plain Bob	1	Littleport Little Surprise	1

Spliced Surprise (41m)	1	Pudsey Surprise	1	London No.3 Surprise	1
		Rutland Surprise	2	Pale Rider Delight	1
		Superlative Surprise	1	Pudsey Surprise	1
		Uxbridge Surprise	1	Rutland Surprise	1
		Yorkshire Surprise	4	Superlative No. 2 Surprise	1
		Spliced (2m)	1	Yorkshire Surprise	1
		Spliced Surprise (4m)	3	Spliced Surprise (8m)	1
		Spliced Surprise (7m)	1		
		Spliced Surprise (8m)	1	Maximus	3
		Spliced Treble Dodging (2m)	1	Bristol Surprise	2
		Spliced Treble Dodging (8m)	1	Yorkshire Surprise	1

Handbell Peals

A total of 32 handbell peals were rung for the Guild in 2026 by 22 ringers. The Guild is fortunate in having two centres for handbell peal ringing.

This year the leading peal ringers and conductors are the same as last year with John Croft the leading peal ringer with 21 peals followed by Ian Redway with 19 peals. John Croft was the leading conductor with 14 peals and Benjamin Carey was joint second with Ewan Grant-Richardson with 7 peals.

Plain Bob Major was the most common method rung this year, 10 peals, followed by Yorkshire Surprise Major, 5 peals. The peal of Deva Surprise Major was the first in method in hand for the Guild and the peal of 24 Spliced Plain Major by a Winchester District band is the most major methods in hand for the Guild.

Congratulations to Andrew G Booth who rang his first handbell peal in 2025 and Martin J E Daniels who rang his 400th handbell peal. Also by ringing a handbell peal of Plain Bob Major Frank R Morton rang his 1000th peal of Plain Bob Major. Congratulations to all the handbell ringers that rang 'firsts' of any kind in 2025.

Analysis of Handbell Peals

Leading Ringers		Leading Conductors		Leading Venues	
John S Croft	21	John S Croft	14	New Alresford, Jubilee,	12
Ian Redway	19	Benjamin J Carey	7	Bosham, Little Creed Cottage	8
Maureen J Hanney	14	Ewan Grant-Richardson	7	Portsmouth, 53 Fearon Road	4
Martin J E Daniels	12	4 conductors	1	Portsmouth, St Mary, Portsea (Ringing Chamber)	3
Benjamin J Carey	10	Total conductors	7	Micheldever, 37 Northbrook	2
4 ringers	6-9			3 Venues	1
13 ringers	1-5			Total venues	8
Total ringers	22				

Analysis of Handbell Peal Methods

Minor	1	Royal	3
Treble Dodging (4m)	1	Lincolnshire Surprise	1
		Yorkshire Surprise	2
Major	28		
Bristol Surprise	1		
Cornwall Surprise	1		
Deva Surprise	1		
Double Bob	2		
Double Norwich Court Bob	1		
Kent Treble Bob	3		
Lincolnshire Surprise	1		
Plain Bob	10		
Yorkshire Surprise	5		
Spliced Plain (23m)	1		
Spliced Plain (24m)	1		
Spliced Surprise (3m)	1		

Martin J E Daniels

LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST'S REPORT, 2025

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 I have completed my quest for fair copies of *The Ringing World* for binding, and these have now been handed over to our binder, to be joined shortly by the 2025 issues. The cost of the work should account for the balance I am carrying forward and last year's vote of £250. Following a suggestion by Andrew Craddock I have created a circulating copy of *The Education Column* which includes copies of the two series of the column following the six separately published by the Ringing World, and some other relevant articles. It has already proved of interest within the Winchester District. Other acquisitions have been *The little green and little purple ringing books*, *Foolish youths and substantial rewards*, on ringing in Cambridge, *On their shoulders we stand and ring*, on ringing in the Stroud Valleys, *Bells & bellfounding*, on the history of the Loughborough Foundry, and *Bells: music, art, culture and politics*, a study as wide-ranging as it is lavishly illustrated. Research continues, most recently on the origins of the bells of St John the Baptist, Winchester, in consequence of the plan to install a new ring there.

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 Ringing 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 2025

Income	£ p	Expenditure	£ p
Balance b/f	544.92	Sub. to The Ringing World	110.00
Income	250.00	Sub. To the Friends of the CC Library	10.00
		Six books, as detailed above	119.94
		Sundries	16.98
		Balance c/f	538.00
	-----		-----
	794.92		794.92
	=====		=====

Bruce Purvis
2nd March 2026

Public Relations Officer's Report 2025

As there had been no Public Relations Officer in post since I had stood down in June 2023 and no volunteer was coming forward at the 2025 A.G.M., I offered to serve again. I considered it to be important to have a name of a direct contact on the Guild website for enquiries, at least. It was accepted at the meeting that I might only be able to give time to do basic activities.

I had initial conversations with the Principal Officers but I took no specific actions during the June to end-of-the year period.

Viv Nobbs

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2025 REPORT for GUILD EXECUTIVE

2025 saw the Guild education activities settling into a new norm of courses focussing on specific methods. Instead, the Guild education committee offered courses supporting improvement of ringing and teaching skills. We are pleased that some district providing training in more basic skills has enabled this shift in focus.

In March, we ran a course on Stedman Doubles / Triples. During Holy Week we offered some bell handling tuition, with limited take up. April saw us repeat 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. In October we offered a new course on Double Oxford, and in November we offered a course for those wanting to start calling call changes.

As we move into 2026, courses offered will cover an introduction to method splicing, ringing on higher numbers, how to learn methods (Holy Week theory course) , listening skills and Stedman.

Financially, our 2025 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 over costs of hiring halls for courses. This is enabling us to reduce prices of courses in 2026. We are hoping to use some of our funds to install an additional simulator within the Guild area to provide more flexibility over times and dates of courses.

Andy Ingram – for The Guild Education Committee

Winchester & Portsmouth Guild Education Committee Accounts as at 31st December 2025

Income			Expenditure		
	2025	2024		2025	2024
Balance brought forward	1,267.14	1,052.60	Envelopes	0.00	0.00
Course fees	747.50	819.00	Labels and ink	32.99	0.00
Donation	0.00	10.00	Refreshments	163.18	172.72
Total	2,014.64	1,881.60	Hire of Halls	196.00	166.25
			Tower Donations	410.00	240.00
			Zoom fee	0.00	12.99
			Refunds	10.00	22.50
			Balance Carried Forward	1,202.47	1,267.14
			Total	2,014.64	1,881.60

Judy Sparling
31 December 2025

Guild Striking Competitions 2025

The Inter tower competitions were hosted by the Portsmouth district this year.

Guild Inter Tower 6 Bell Competition

The Guild Inter Tower 6 bell competition held on the morning of Sat 17th May at Wickham. Many thanks to the local ringers who made us very welcome and provided refreshments to those waiting to ring.

Many thanks to Peter Niblett who judged the competition. It is often difficult to find judges for this competition as there are many other events around this time in neighbouring Guilds and Associations. There were an outstanding 7 entries from across the Guild and the results were as follows.

Place	Tower	Method	Faults	Ringing order
1st	Selborne & Hawkley	Grandsire Doubles	22	5
2nd	Basingstoke (All Saints)	Grandsire Doubles	27	6
3rd	Bishopstoke	Grandsire Doubles	34	2
4th	Petersfield	Call Changes	42	3
5th	Portsmouth (St Mary)	Call Changes	49	4
6th	Titchfield	Plain Bob Doubles	54	1
7th	Scratch Band	Call Changes	67	7

Guild Inter Tower 8 Bell Competition

The 8 bell inter tower competition was held on the 20th September at Soberton. Disappointingly there were only 3 teams taking part so we would like to encourage towers to take part in 2026, and don't forget you can enter a joint band with another tower if you are short on numbers.

The competition was judged by Jonathan Deane.

The results were as follows.

Place	Tower	Method	Score	Ringing order
1st	Basingstoke (All Saints & St Michael)	Grandsire Triples	87.5%	1
2nd	Catherington	Grandsire Triples	79%	2
3rd	Bishopstoke	Grandsire Triples	78%	3

Guild Inter District 8 Bell Competition

The Competition was held in the Winchester District at New Alresford.

Many thanks to John Harrison and James Moynihan from Wokingham (All Saints) who judged the competition.

The results were

Place	District	Method	Peal speed	Faults	Ringing order
1st	Portsmouth	Grandsire Triples	3.00	13	6
2nd	Basingstoke	Grandsire Triples	2.58	15	3
3rd	Christchurch & Southampton	Cambridge Major	2.45	21	5
4th	Winchester 1	Grandsire Triples	3.10	23	7
5th	Alton & Petersfield	Grandsire Triples	2.48	31	2
6th	Winchester 2	Call Changes		35	1
7th	Isle of Wight	Grandsire Triples	3.05	64	4

Financial report

Income

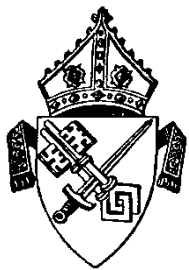
Balance b/f	£0
Income from general fund	£176.80
	£176.80

Expenditure

Tower donations	£70
Judges Gifts	£28
Certificate printing	£8.80
Hall Hire	£70
Travel	£0
Balance c/f	£0
	£176.80

Pete Jordan.

Striking Competition Committee Convener.
Feb 2026



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 2026

St John's, Farley Chamberlayne (March 2025)

The BSC met at St John's to look at the initial proposals to install a kitchen and lavatory under the tower. A proposed wall to enclose the lavatory will be close to the three bell ropes and the meeting was to see how this will work allowing the bells to be rung.

St Andrew's, South Warnborough (March 2025)

Inspect belfry and advise on the possibility of augmenting the bells from a ring of three to a ring of six

St Nicholas, Leckford (April 2025)

Fit a set of second-hand ropes

St Mary & All Saints, Droxford (May 2025)

The last visit the BSC carried out at Droxford was to check the condition of the bells following the bells being silent for a few of years. It was a pleasure this time to hear that there is an active band there now and to check the treble now lifted on the frame with new steelwork to enable a larger wheel to be fitted, and the fitment of all new pulleys.

Belfry Maintenance Education Day (May 2025)

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.

St Peter, Ropley (June 2025)

Following the major work at Ropley following the church fire, we went to inspect the reconstruction work. Bell three has been welded and the five recast, other bells have been annealed. All bells have been refitted with new fittings and galvanised frame. Bell four cracked after initial test ring and has been removed and replaced by a temporary bell.

St Mary, Southampton (July 2025)

An inspection was carried out at St Mary's following the installation of clapper adjusting screws.

Belfry Maintenance Education Day (September 2025)

We ran the second Belfry Maintenance Education Day at St Peter, Curdridge where we had 10 students. The facilities were good there with an easy, if long climb up to the bells. We all went to The Cricketers Inn, Curdridge for lunch and further discussion afterwards.

All Saints, Dummer

We assisted All Saints repair their four and five bell ropes. We fitted it a second-hand loan rope to the four so the original rope could be sent away for repair. Then fitted the repaired rope back to the four and fitted the loan rope to the five so that can also be sent away for repair.

New Committee member

We have added and are training Daniel Holmes to our committee who is an enthusiastic 14-year-old. Obviously, he can't do inspections during term time, but he joined in with the training days amongst other things. He has also been helping with routine bell maintenance at his home tower, All Saints, Odiham. Daniel is fired up with ringing and has joined the Youth bands and has now built his own mini ring using flowerpots and bicycle wheels!

Martin Barnes
BSC Coordinator
January 2026

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

YOUTH RINGING

2025 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 remains in a very strong position, with over 40 youth ringers participating in at least one youth event during 2025. 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 Grandsire Cinques and Surprise Major. It was impressive to see a band of W&P YOUTHS ring some well struck call changes at Winchester Cathedral 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 Twyford in Berkshire for SEECON (South East England Contest). We were the only band who rang a method on 8 bells, and came away with fourth place. During the day, the band had the opportunity to ring on the bells at Bray (8, 25 cwt) with a number of our young ringers showing their skills on a heavy tenor.

In July, two W&P YOUTHS band entered the Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC) in Birmingham, along with 38 other bands from across England and Wales. Our 6-bell method band managed to be placed 4th in their section. Our 8-bell method band came a very creditable 2nd (again) to the Yorkshire Tykes (again), with only ½ point separating the two teams. In addition, our band got to ring at St Martins in the Bullring, Solihull and Mossley, joining with youth bands from other parts of the country.

As we look forward to 2026, 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 hosting SEECON in April (being held in New Alresford) and to RWNYC in July (being held in Nottingham for the first time).

We are always looking for new under-18s to come to ring with us. We will be “retiring” a number of our youth band this year as they reach 19 years old, so will be looking to encourage younger ringers to fill their shoes.

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 2025

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 and two additional trustees, one from each diocese, elected triennially by the Guild in General Meeting.

The Trustees during 2025 were:

Mrs Rachael Barber (Guild Master, until June 2025 AGM)
Mr Peter Niblett (Guild Master, from June 2025 AGM)
Mr Alex Blissett (Guild Honorary Secretary, from June 2025 AGM)
Mr Robin Milford (Guild Honorary Treasurer)
Rev Canon Barry J Fry (Winchester Diocese area)
Mr David Mattingley (Portsmouth Diocese area)

The independent examiner of the fund is Mr Chris Ford. 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 2025 increased very slightly compared with 2024, and the resources expended halved compared with 2025, because of several large grants last year. However, the resources expended still exceeded income so the funds carried forward decreased by 32%. A small correction of £4 has been made to the overstated peal fee income of £176.50 in the 2024 accounts. As the peal recorder's bank account has been closed and peal fees are now paid directly to the Guild account, peal fees are now credited in the year in which the fee is paid rather than that in which the peal is rung.

The Trustees consider that current funds are sufficient to meet immediate needs, but costs are rising, applicants may have to pay VAT, and there are several potential schemes in the offing. It is likely that further fund raising will be needed in the near future if the current level of grants is to be maintained.

Members fortunate enough to have some spare money may wish to consider donating some of it to the BRF. Payments can be Gift-Aided if you let the Treasurer know about it.

Members could make payments in their lifetime (when they can see the benefit), or in their wills, quoting the Fund name and Charity Number as given at the top of this report. Payments to charity may reduce the inheritance tax you have to pay, and if you leave 10% or more of the 'net value' of your estate to charity then the tax rate on some assets is reduced from 40% to 36%.

**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 2025 (Cont')

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

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

The Trustees also acknowledge, with thanks, donations from the following towers:

Catherington £200, Christchurch Priory £100, Hambledon £50, North Stoneham £250, Ringwood £60, Wickham £20

Three new grants totalling £15,000 were approved during the year:

St Peter, Ropley (supplementary)	£2,000
St Mary, Overton	£5,000
All Saints, Dogmersfield	£8,000

Three grants totalling £11,300 were released during the year:

St Mary & All Saints, Droxford	£1,000
St Peter, Ropley	£10,000
St Mary, Southampton	£300

Existing grants totalling £40,750 still outstanding from before 2025 are:

St Mary the Virgin, Brading	£20,000
SS Peter & Paul, Ringwood	£15,000
St James, Bramley	£5,750

Unrestricted funds stand at £11,529.68, down from last year's figure of £17,018.79.

Reserves Policy

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

For and on behalf of the Trustees

Trustee

Trustee

20th March 2026

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 2025

	Note	2025 £ p	2024 £ p
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			
Incoming Resources			
District subscriptions and donations	3a	£4,592.00	£4,723.00
Tower donations		£660.00	£410.00
Sundry donations		£1,213.07	£950.75
Gift Aided donations		£355.20	£340.00
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid (including repayment interest)		£90.61	£87.79
Investment income CCLA	3b	£2,383.95	£2,686.19
Investment income TSB	3b	£50.06	£68.82
Peal fees		£166.50	£176.50
Correction to 2024 excess income		-£4.00	
Peal fees owing from Dec 2025 payment to Guild		£3.50	
Total incoming resources		£9,510.89	£9,443.05
Resources Expended			
Direct charitable expenditure			
Grants approved	4	£15,000.00	£30,250.00
Total resources expended		£15,000.00	£30,250.00
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources		-£5,489.11	-£20,806.95
Fund balances brought forward at 1st January		£17,018.79	£37,825.74
Fund balances carried forward at 31st December		£11,529.68	£17,018.79

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £ p	2024 £ p
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	4,660.55	5,048.54
Short Term Deposits			
- Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund		56,674.00	54,220.23
- CCLA Q4 payment 5/1/2026		574.05	643.87
- TSB Bank plc - Deposit account		3,755.22	3,705.16
Cash at Bank			
- TSB Bank plc		1,615.86	5,450.99
		67,279.68	69,068.79
Creditors			
amounts falling due within one year	6	12,750.00	11,300.00
		54,529.68	57,768.79
Net Current Assets			
		54,529.68	57,768.79
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			
		54,529.68	57,768.79
Creditors			
amounts falling due after more than one year	7	43,000.00	40,750.00
		£11,529.68	£17,018.79
Net Assets			
		£11,529.68	£17,018.79
Funds			
Unrestricted		£11,529.68	£17,018.79

Approved by the Fund Trustees on 20th March 2026 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 2025

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	2025 £ p	Sub- scriptions £ p	Don- ations £ p	2024 £ p
Income from Districts						
Alton and Petersfield	644.00			684.00		
Andover	460.00			492.00		
Basingstoke	740.00			696.00		
Christchurch & Southampton	680.00			732.00		
Isle of Wight	396.00			408.00		
Portsmouth	796.00			780.00	35.00	
Winchester	876.00			896.00		
	-----	-----		-----	-----	
	4,592.00	0.00	4,592.00	4,688.00	35.00	4,723.00
	-----	-----		-----	-----	
Tower donations			660.00			410.00
Gift Aid donations			355.20			340.00
Sundry donations			1,213.07			610.75
			-----			-----
			£6,820.27			£6,083.75
			-----			-----

Tower Donations	Hambledon £50, Wickham £20 (2024), North Stoneham £250, Catherington £200, Ringwood £60, Christchurch Priory £100
Sundry donations	£1213.07 received in 2025 in memory of Derek Jackson, David Atkins or Chas Seamons

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025 (continued)

3(b) Investment Income	2025 £ p	2024 £ p
TSB Bank plc	£50.06	£68.82
CCLA Deposit Fund	£2,383.95	£2,686.19
	<u>£2,434.01</u>	<u>£2,755.01</u>

4 Resources Expended

Direct Charitable Expenditure Grants approved	2025 £ p	2024 £ p
St Mary Overton	£5,000.00	
All Saints, Dogmersfield	£8,000.00	
St Peter, Ropley (supplementary grant)	£2,000.00	
St Mary the Virgin, Brading, additional in 2024, bringing total to £20,000		£7,000.00
St Mary and All Saints, Droxford (paid 12/05/2025)		£1,000.00
All Saints Basingstoke (paid 12/07/2025)		£500.00
Blessed Mary, Upham (paid 14/12/2024)		£1,000.00
St Mary, Southampton (paid 12/07/2025)		£300.00
St Mary the Virgin, Old Alresford (paid 04/05/2024)		£150.00
SS Peter and Paul, Ringwood		£15,000.00
St James, Bramley		£5,750.00
Holy Cross, Binsted (paid 19/10/2024)		£350.00
St Mary, Portchester (grant withdrawn 16/11/2024)		-£800.00
	£15,000.00	£30,250.00

At 31st December 2025 grants approved but not yet paid amounted to £55,750 (2024 - £52,050). These commitments have been recognised in full as liabilities in the accounts for the year.

5	Debtors	2025	2024
		£ p	£ p
	Peal Fees Receivable	£3.50	£176.50
	Districts	£4,592.00	£4,723.00
	Income Tax Recoverable	£65.05	£149.04
		£4,660.55	£5,048.54

6	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
		£ p	£ p
	Grants Payable	£12,750.00	£11,300.00
		-----	-----
		£12,750.00	£11,300.00
		-----	-----

7	Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2025	2024
		£ p	£ p
	Grants payable	£43,000.00	£40,750.00
		-----	-----

Falling due within one year

Falling due after more than one year

Ropley £2,000; Bramley £5,750; Overton £5,000

Brading £20,000; Ringwood £15,000; Dogmersfield £8,000

Independent examiner's report to trustees of the Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *Chris Ford*

Name: Christopher (Chris) Ford

Address: 12 Whitehead Close, Basingstoke, RG24 8SG

Date: 20 March 2026