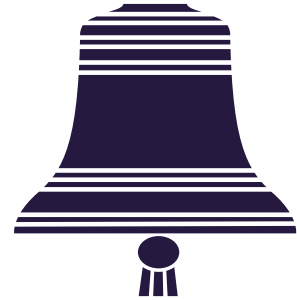


ST MARTIN'S  
GUILD  
OF CHURCH  
BELL RINGERS  
EST. BIRMINGHAM 1755



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AGM 2024: OFFICERS' REPORTS

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# Treasurer's Report

Tracy Stevens

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- In January 23 we introduced Membership Mojo as a platform for the guild to collect annual subscriptions. Mojo will support the collection of subscriptions by emailing members advising membership renewal is due. We still have the opportunity to support members/towers with payments via cash, cheque or bank transfer.
- We currently have 271 members including (5 LVP, 20 LM and 25 Assoc all paid up). £1659 subs were collected in 2023.
- £113 Donations have been received from members.
- We continue to provide Public Liability Insurance for members and associate members. We also insure the Guild's handbells which are currently residing at the Linford residence.
- The 100 Club last year raised £1490. From this surplus the guild purchased RfK badges and have committed £200 to St Anne's Moseley towards their simulator. The remaining £967.27 has been transferred to the BRF as per the members' wishes. This year the 100 club has raised £1298.50 and this has been transferred to the general fund account and ring-fenced for projects/events. Clare will report further on the 100 club.
- AmazonSmile has raised £32.65 for the BRF. Thanks to members who have used Amazon Smile, however this has now finished.
- The BRF has benefited from the generosity of Andrew Stubbs with a bequest of £7360.28. In 2023 the BRF supported Kingsbury, Coleshill and Harborne with bell maintenance and committed £280 to Northfield. An application from St Chad's is currently being considered by the Standing Committee.

## **Proposals will be put to the meeting for:**

### **Membership**

- Annual subscription to remain at £10 with 50% concession rate as per rules.
- Associate membership currently equivalent to the annual subscription

### **Apportionments to:**

- I am not proposing we apportion any funds to the BRF or Library for this financial year. If Mark requires any funds during the year the guild will support.

### **Peal fee**

- To remain at zero

### **Tower Fees**

- The Guild will continue to pay £15 to towers for guild events unless the tower stipulates an amount.

# St Martin's Guild Treasurer's Report

## Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 2023

RECEIPTS		General	Peal	Library	Training Fund	100 Club Surplus	100 Club	HJ Dinner	BRF	2023	2022
Subscriptions 2023	Full	1660								1660	1641
	AM	165								165	145
Subscriptions Pre-paid										0	0
Apportionments										0	0
Donations		113							7360	7473	63
HJD Ticket sales 2023								3959		3959	3140
HJD Ticket sales Pre-paid 2024								359		359	0
Merchandise Sales										0	38
Interest									265	265	14
100 Club Subs							2367			2367	2444
Other Income		6							33	39	27
100 Club surplus						1299			967	2268	2482
Total Receipts		1944	0	0	0	1299	2367	4318	8625	18552	9994
PAYMENTS											
Apportionments										0	0
Guild Insurance & Handbell Ins		367								367	370
Donations									1380	1380	450
Ringing World	- binding									0	0
	- advertising	66								66	75
Central Council:	- Fees	51								51	80
	- Library	20								20	0
	REPS Exp	235								235	0
Guild Activities		495								495	660
Year Book Printing		247								247	0
Library										0	26
HJ Dinner Expenses 2023								3181		3181	3200
HJ Dinner 2024 Deposit								354		354	570
Merchandise										0	31
Directory Printing										0	275
Meeting expenses / general admin		96								96	161
Other Expenses		229			50	323				601	25
100 Club Prizes							1108			1108	919
tfr of unused 2023 100 club surplus to BRF						967				967	992
tfr of 2023 100 club surplus to general fund							1299			1299	1490
Total Payments		1807	0	0	50	1290	2408	3535	1380	10468	9325
Increase/(decrease) in Funds		137	0	0	-50	8	-39	783	7245	6084	669
Opening Balance		3781	1243	224	246	1490	121	1480	28017	36900	35931
Closing Balance		3918	1243	224	196	1499	82	2263	35262	44685	36600

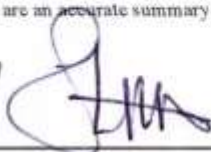
### Cash and Bank Accounts

	Deposit	Current	Total	Total
General Fund Accounts	50	7029	7079	6983
Bell Restoration Fund	35228	34	35262	28017
HJ Dinner		2263	2263	1480
100 Club		82	82	121
			<b>44685</b>	<b>36600</b>

### Independent Examiners' Report

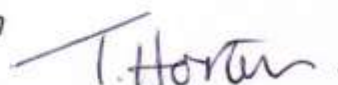
We can confirm that the above statement of receipts and payments for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the statement of balances held at that date in respect of each fund are an accurate summary of the accounting records.

Stephen Horton



Independent Examiner

Thomas Horton



Independent Examiner

## Supplementary information:

### Membership at 31 December:

2023:	271 Members-(inc:5 LVP, 20LM, 25 Assoc)	
2022:	278 Members-(inc:5 LVP, 17LM, 10 Assoc)	36 Unpaid (19 from previous yr)
2021:	293 Members-(inc:4 LVP, 18LM, 19 Assoc)	44 Unpaid (13 from previous yr)
2020:	288 Members-(inc:4 LVP, 18LM, 19 Assoc)	28 Unpaid

### BRF funds committed:

£ 280

### Summary analysis of General Fund:

#### Ongoing 'operating' income & costs

Subscription income (excl BRF allocation)	1,825
Year Book Printing	(247)
Library	0
Insurance (Member & Handbell)	(367)
Ringin World	(66)
Central Council (Fees & Library)	(71)
Central Council Rep Expenses	(235)
Guild Activities	(495)
Meeting expenses & general admin	(96)
Interest	0
	<u>(1,578)</u>
	247

#### Discretionary' income & costs

Merchandising	0
Sundry donations (member donations)	113
Other Income (Sale of year book)	6
Other Expenses (HJD Subsidy £70, Master & Secretary gift £118.50, C Millis Flowers 80th Bday)	(229)
	<u>£ (109)</u>
	137

### Notes

100 Club Surplus £200 committed to St Anne's Moseley towards Simulator

Bank reconciliation	
Balance per cash book	44,685
Less unpresented cheques	
Chq in hand	0
Cash in Hand	0
Balance	44,685
Balance per bank statements	
GF	7,029
BRF 30 Day	35,228
BRF	34
HJ Dinner	2,263
General Dep	50
100 Club	82
	44,685

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# Independent Examiners' Report

Steve Horton and Tom Horton

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As independent examiners Thomas and Steve have reviewed the accounts of the SMG as presented to us by the treasurer. We were satisfied that the final receipts and payments statement reflect the true and accurate financial position of the Guild for the year 2023. All our questions were addressed satisfactorily by the treasurer. A minor amendment to the statement was made. We made four recommendations to improve the presentation of the accounts and to anticipate future banking requirements.

We would like to recommend that the Guild adopt the accounts and wish to place on record our thanks to Tracy for all her many years of excellent work as treasurer.

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# 100 Club Report

Clare McArdle

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SEP

January 2023		August 2023	
Trish Everett	£49.00	Richard Andrew	£49.00
Robin Tighe	£14.70	Robyn Tighe	£14.70
Gill Postill	£4.90	Rebekah Horton	£4.90
February 2023		September 2023	
Olly Bouckley	£49.00	Jen Hickman	£49.00
Paul Bibilo	£14.70	Paul Bibilo	£14.70
Catt Smith	£4.90	Tracy Stevens	£4.90
March 2023		October 2023	
Eleanor Linford	£49.00	David Ingram	£49.00
Lyn Baxter	£14.70	Rebekah Horton	£14.70
David Hull	£4.90	Angie Wakefield	£4.90
April 2023		November 2023	
Carl Jenkins	£49.00	Alan Cottrell	£49.50
Jonathan Healy	£14.70	Clive Day	£14.85
Stephen Shipley	£4.90	Peter Bennett	£4.95
May 2023		December 2023	
Eileen Keeble	£49.00	Sarah Vernon	£49.50
Jeff Webb	£14.70	Tracy Stevens	£14.85
Rebekah Horton	£4.90	Jon Townsend	£4.95
June 2023		Christmas 2023	
Richard Lewis	£49.00	Sarah King	£94.24
Bernadette O'Dwyer	£14.70	Paul Bibilo	£47.12
Michael Wilby	£4.90	Clare McArdle	£47.12
July 2023		Colin Baugh	£11.78
Richard Cann	£49.00	Ruth Shepherd	£11.78
James Ramsbottom	£14.70	Brenda Thompson	£11.78
Robin Tighe	£4.90	Gill Fielden	£11.78
		<b>Money Raised</b>	<b>£1298.50</b>

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# Ringling Master's Report

Phil Ramsbottom

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In keeping with previous years I'm pleased to say that once again the Guild has enjoyed a very active and diverse 12 months. With events ranging from elementary workshops (theory and practical) up to peals rung for the coronation and everything in between, there really has been something for everyone. This has all been reported in detail elsewhere so here's just a brief reminder of what's been happening.

Coronation day and the weekend in general saw much ringing across the Guild at all levels with many of those having learnt to ring for the occasion managing to do so. A peal at St. Philip's Cathedral came round at 48 seconds after midnight on the Saturday morning thus making it the first peal to be completed on Coronation Day.

The following day the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing celebrated its 10th anniversary by inviting recruits and helpers, past and present, to a social event with ringing at St. Anne's Moseley.

On the contest front, congratulations go to the Brumdingers who did the Guild proud by being placed 6th out of 17 teams at the annual Youth Striking Contest held at York in July. Congratulations are also due to the Birmingham team who won the National 12 Bell Striking Contest at Sheffield in June, and also to the St. Philip's band who in September won the Robert B Smith Trophy which this year was conveniently held in Birmingham.

Still on the same theme, in June Moseley St Mary hosted what was the first National Call Change Competition not to be held in the West Country, the spiritual home of call change ringing. Six teams entered from Devon with a further seven teams from elsewhere in the UK. Not known for passing up an opportunity to show what they're capable of the St. Pauls band are to be congratulated for putting in a very creditable 2nd place result.

A very successful 'challenge day' was held at both of the Erdington towers in April. With three teams being given slightly obscure ringing challenges to complete it was a bit like I'm Sorry I haven't a Clue but with bells. A city centre open day in October provided some of our more recent recruits with their first opportunity to ring at St. Chads, St. Martins and St. Pauls followed by drinks in The Bull. This was a very well attended event, a great experience for many and much talked about positively by all those involved.

Except for a six week break early in the year, the twice monthly workshops at St. Pauls have continued covering a range of subjects such as basic theory, bell handling, elementary methods and method splicing to name a few. In addition there are regular targeted practices every 3rd Wednesday at Sheldon, surprise major practices every 1st Saturday at Edgbaston, higher number ringing every 4th Wednesday at Solihull and open ringing at Moseley St Mary every 3rd Thursday morning. As always my thanks go out to everyone involved in arranging and supporting these events which are a regular source of learning and development.

On top of all this, there's also a lot of troops on the ground, and I'm referring to Guild members who support their local tower, ring for services, attend practices, carry out bell maintenance checks and generally get involved in whatever needs doing to keep their tower active. To all Guild members out there, no matter how big or small the part you play in the functioning of the Guild, you all deserve a huge 'thank you' for contributing in whatever way you do towards keeping the Guild very active, strong and forward thinking.

Finally, I will be standing down as Ringing Master at the forthcoming AGM in January. It's been a most enjoyable three years and I thank all Guild members for your trust, help and support in my endeavours. It's been an honour to serve you.

In handing over the baton to my successor, I wish them all the very best in taking the Guild forward and trust that you, the Guild members, will continue to help and support them.

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## Henry Johnson Dinner

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The Dinner Secretary position is currently vacant though we are grateful to Simon Linford who has researched venues and dealt with the negotiations with The Burlington Hotel.

The 136th Henry Johnson Dinner will be held on Saturday 24th February 2023 6pm - 6.30pm at the MacDonald Burlington Hotel in Birmingham.

Chair - Eleanor Linford

Tickets

£46.50

£35 Concession (Students in full time education)

Tickets are available via the following link

[Participant.co.uk - 136th Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner](https://www.participant.co.uk/136th-henry-johnson-commemoration-dinner)

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## Archivist's Report

Mark Eccleston

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As in previous years, work to care for the Guild's invaluable collection of archives, rare books, and modern titles continues. During 2023 I have received enquiries concerning:

- The 1965 record peal of Stedman Cinques at St Philip's Cathedral
- Richard Faux, a Vice President of the Guild in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century

Our collections continue to grow. I am very grateful to Clare McArdle for generously donating her printed copies of *The Ringing World* to the library. We maintain a complete set of physical volumes of this title – one of only a few ringing libraries in the country to do so.



We have also received, from Vernon Green, archival papers relating to George Fearn. George was a leading figure in Birmingham ringing during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. These papers have been added to the existing collection of papers relating to George that are held at St Martin's.

I'm particularly grateful to those Guild members who, over the years, have contacted me to offer new additions for our collections. As always, I encourage members to make use of the library. The Guild holds items suitable for new recruits as well as experienced ringers. There are printed books, DVDs, CDs as well as manuscript items. The majority of items can be borrowed. If any member is interested in learning more about the library, please contact me or take a look at the relevant webpage on the Guild website: <https://stmartinsguild.org/heritage-and-history/library-and-archives/>

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## Safeguarding Officer's Report

Trish Everett

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I have continued to provide advice and guidance on Safeguarding issues as required throughout the year. I continue to liaise with the diocese Safeguarding team, having regular meetings and am part of their safeguarding training reference group, also being involved in supporting some leadership training sessions.

### **From the diocese of Birmingham Safeguarding team**

The diocese issued the following information to all Parish Safeguarding co-ordinators.

Bellringers are allowed to ring in a bell tower by permission of the incumbent/priest-in-charge/PCC. A PCC is, therefore, responsible for ensuring that their bell ringers have safeguarding arrangements in place in accordance with House of Bishop's safeguarding policy and guidance. This applies even if ringers have no connection to the church other than bell ringing.

Bell ringers are subject to the commitments and procedures set out in the parish safeguarding policy and should report concerns – including when a person known to pose a risk to others wishes to join the group – to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer via the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator (or directly, as appropriate).

The PCC is responsible for ensuring bell ringers carry out a risk assessment, implement the Church's Code of Conduct and undertake safeguarding training and DBS checks:

#### **Basic Awareness:**

ALL ringers

#### **Foundations:**

ALL Tower Captains

Bell ringers supervising or teaching under 18s

#### **Leadership:**

Tower Captains of 'major' towers, (e.g. Cathedral) and/or with young (under 18) bell ringers in their tower

#### **Enhanced DBS check:**

Required for Tower Captains/bell ringers who are supervising or teaching young (under 18) ringers.

Where bell ringers practice/ring weekly a check of the barred list for the child workforce is also required.

Where 'vulnerable adults at higher risk of abuse' (e.g. those with care and support needs) are being supervised/taught, consult the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator/diocesan safeguarding team re DBS eligibility.

Safeguarding advice for bell ringers is available:

- on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
- from the St Martin's Guild of Church Bell Ringers

## Training

As the diocese has stated, all bellringers should undertake basic awareness training.

This is on line via the Church of England portal - the link is <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

The guide to using the portal is <https://www.cofebirmingham.com/content/pages/documents/guide-to-using-the-training-portal-and-creating-a-profile-edited-june-2023.pdf>

## CCCBR resources

The Central Council have safeguarding resources available on their website

Resources can be found at <https://cccb.org.uk/safeguarding/>

The **Code for Ringing** which they have produced is a template, which can be freely used and adapted by towers and ringing societies who wish to develop their own code of conduct. It summarises the values of the ringing community and its expectations of all who ring, in their interactions with other ringers and when representing ringing at large.

It states the following

Every ringer, ringing leader and ringing society plays their part in creating a safe, welcoming environment and in representing ringing to both church and public ,

This recommended checklist for ringing societies summarises the values of the ringing community and its expectations of all who ring, in their interactions with other ringers and when representing ringing at large.

## ALWAYS

1. Create a tower environment where all feel safe, respected, welcomed and valued.
2. Create a positive learning environment where feedback is timely and supportive
3. Respect your surroundings, the tower, church and the community where you ring.
4. Understand and observe others' personal boundaries.
5. Ring responsibly, with the well-being of your band and visitors in mind.
6. Look out for others' safety, raise concerns promptly and know what to do if you witness unacceptable behaviour.
7. Make sure all your interactions, online or in person, show empathy and courtesy.
8. Consider the impact of your words and actions on others; apologise if you're at fault.
9. Uphold the safeguarding policies of your parish and the ringing societies to which you belong.
10. Take pride in being part of the ringing community.

## NEVER

1. Engage in, trivialise or endorse any form of abuse, bullying or harassment, or let these go unreported.
2. Engage in banter or language which could make someone feel demeaned, threatened or unwelcome, whether in person, by phone, online or via social media.
3. Undermine, ridicule or intimidate a less experienced ringer.
4. Personalise disagreements; deal with the issue, not the person.
5. Allow your decisions as a ringer to be compromised, by prejudice or any other cause.
6. Act unlawfully in your role as a ringer or in a way that brings ringing into disrepute.

If you witness unacceptable behaviour and are not sure how to respond, contact your parish or association safeguarding officer. Where someone is in immediate danger or requires urgent attention, call your local authority's children's or adult social services team, or the police on 999.

For safeguarding queries or advice I can be contacted as follows

Mob 07968 362501

E mail [trish\\_everett@hotmail.com](mailto:trish_everett@hotmail.com)

# CC representatives' report

Richard Andrew and James Ramsbottom

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This year's Central Council AGM weekend was held at Ipswich and was hosted by the Suffolk Guild who are celebrating their centenary this year. James Ramsbottom and Richard Andrew attended this as CC Reps for our own St Martin's Guild.

There was a full programme of events over the weekend, following the general format used at the AGM weekend held at Nottingham last year, but with the main exception that there was no mini roadshow this time. On the Friday there were several Ringing Development Sessions, organised by the Council in conjunction with the Suffolk Guild and held in local towers near Ipswich, covering topics aimed at different levels of ringing, such as 'Moving on to Minor/Major/Surprise Major'. In the evening there was general ringing on the fine 12 at St Mary-le-Tower in Ipswich. The main meetings of the weekend (Ringing World and Council AGMs) were held on the Saturday at The Hold, a heritage and conference centre run by Suffolk County Council in conjunction with the University of Suffolk.

## **The Ringing World AGM: -**

The AGM of The Ringing World Ltd was chaired by Paul Jopp. He reported that 2022 had produced a surplus of over £26K, after a deficit of over £12K in 2021. An even larger surplus is expected for 2023, and these recent surpluses are partly due to two big Royal events, and the associated ringing donations. However, 2024 is likely to be a tougher year, as no significant Royal events are anticipated and also an increase in postage rates is expected from Royal Mail.

New publications this year have included the Little Green Book (a prequel to the Purple Book) and 'Criblines – Treble Dodging Royal'. There are also some new Christmas card designs available.

Elva Ainsworth reported on a successful RW National Youth Competition in York this year, with an increase in the number of entries over last year. Next year's event will be in London (July 2024).

Elva also reported on the survey that the RW carried out in Spring 2023. This showed that people like BellBoard, front covers and special editions in particular. There also appear to be two basic groups of readers – those aged 61-80 who like the weekly RW publication as it is, and those under 60, who would like a less frequent publication without performances. One possible way of addressing this discrepancy might be to trial a new approach to sit alongside the current weekly publication.

## **Central Council Meeting: -**

Saturday afternoon was mostly taken up by the annual meeting of the Council, chaired by the President, Simon Linford, who would be standing down at the end of this meeting after four years in office. David Kirkcaldy, as Deputy President, would also be standing down.

The first main item on the agenda was an application to affiliate to the Council from the Central European Association, which has about 30 members. This was voted through.

After a few admin items, there then followed the usual succession of reports from the Council Executive and the various Workgroups. Items of particular note from these reports included the following: -

Public Relations Workgroup – Vicki Chapman, the workgroup leader, said that the 'Ring for the King' campaign was probably the biggest we had ever undertaken. Also, there are now two new promotional videos 'Discovering Bellringing' and 'Enjoyment from Bellringing' available for free use by anyone, which can be found on the Central Council's YouTube page via the following links: -

[Discovering Bellringing - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ_zN3zw5_s)

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ\\_zN3zw5\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ_zN3zw5_s))

[Enjoyment from bellringing - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjQCmBYKea8)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjQCmBYKea8>)

Stewardship and Management Workgroup – Alison Hodge, the workgroup leader, spoke about the trilogy of online documents covering aspects of running towers which the workgroup has developed over the last few years. She asked those present to spread knowledge of these documents as widely as possible, so this is our attempt to do this. Details are as follows, including the links where they can be found: -

Belfry Upkeep (for steeple keepers); –

<https://belfryupkeep.cccbr.org.uk>

Belfry Projects (advice for those organising bell restoration projects): -

<https://belfryprojects.cccbr.org.uk>

Running a Tower (for tower captains): -

<https://runningatower.cccbr.org.uk>

These online documents contain a wealth of useful information on these topics, much of which was formerly available in various CCCBR publications and other formats. The online format makes them easy to update, so they are not static documents. We encourage ringers to use them as much as possible.

Simon Linford then covered the Council's Forward Plan for 2024, including a Strategy to support the Ringing 2030 initiative, based on Three Pillars: -

1. Publicity and Marketing - Raise awareness of the art of bellringing and promote it as a social and voluntary activity.
2. Recruitment and Development - Encourage the development of local and regional structures to recruit potential new ringers and lapsed ringers, then ensure expectations are met as they progress.
3. Quality Environment - We have to create a quality environment that makes people enjoy ringing and want to stay doing it.

Elections of Trustees to the Executive then followed, with Tina Stoecklin being elected as President and Vicki Chapman as Deputy President. There was a close election for the vacant post of Ordinary Trustee, with Ian Roulstone being elected over Alison Hodge by just one vote.

The last part of the meeting was taken up with discussions and voting on three proposed motions as follows:-

Motion A – The reduction of the annual subscription rate of Small Societies from £20 to £10 was approved by the meeting.

Motion B – A contentious motion to reduce the number of CC Representatives. After much discussion (somewhat curtailed by the need to finish the meeting by the venue's closing time), it was clear that the majority feeling was against this motion, and it was defeated, so the number of CC Representatives remains as before.

Motion C – To endorse the proposal by the Historical & Archive workgroup that the Council Library should be moved to be housed by the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust. This was approved by the meeting.

#### **Ringing 2030 Q&A session: -**

This was held at St Clement's church in Ipswich after Sunday morning ringing at towers in and around Ipswich. It was titled 'Building a Strong Future for Ringing', and was led by the outgoing President, Simon Linford. It covered aspects of the Ringing 2030 initiative and also the Three Pillars discussed at the AGM the previous day, focusing on various questions, such as 'What is the logical unit of organising ringing?' (e.g. county?), the possibility of having a central membership system, and also if we get all young ringers into the Young Change Ringers' Association, it is quite possible that they might just grow (through universities and working life) into becoming the Change Ringers' Association.

Thanks are due to the Suffolk Guild members for their excellent organisation of the weekend.

Next year's meeting (2024) will be hosted by the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

#### **Peal Board photos project: -**

In addition to the above details on the Central Council weekend, it is also worth noting that Richard Andrew is currently working on a project for the Council's Historical & Archive (H&A) Workgroup to record and load to the group's historical database as many photos of peal boards from the UK and other countries as possible. A good number of photos have already been received since the CC weekend, but if any Guild members have any peal board photos from their local towers which they would like to submit, please email them to [pealboards@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:pealboards@cccbr.org.uk) so that they can be loaded to the H&A Workgroup's historical database. The photos already loaded can be viewed by accessing the database via the

following link:- <https://history.cccbr.org.uk> then going to 'Performances' on the top line and selecting 'Peal Boards' from the drop-down menu below this.