

**General Meeting**  
**Saturday 10th May 2025**  
**Meeting held at The Bull, Price St, B'ham**  
**Following the City Centre Ring**

Details of those in attendance and apologies given are held in a separate record. Eleanor Linford chaired the meeting which was attended by two other members of the Steering Committee.

**1. Welcome**

Eleanor welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked Rachel for having arranged a successful days ringing.

**2. Updates**

- Ringing Master's Update – Rachel Mitchell

Rachel thanked those attending during the day despite the lovely weather! Yet again we had a successful Henry Johnson dinner weekend with so many attending in the evening. She was pleased to see that two people rang their first peal of Bristol surprise maximus on dinner day at St. Alphege. An example of what the guild does so well in supporting the advancement of other ringers. Higher Numbers practices are still being attended well, with some new faces most recently from Moseley. Margaret's special practices have been pushing boundaries by holding a focused Grandsire Caters session. The ART masterclass held in Birmingham this year, was a success as always.

Looking to the future there is an exciting programme of events over the summer, kicking off with the outing today. The National 12 Bell final will be held in Bristol this year. Well done to all teams that qualified but in particular to the Birmingham band who won comfortably at Shrewsbury. Hopefully the Taylor trophy will be back in its rightful home by June!

The Ringing World National Youth Contest will be taking place on our home turf this year. Not strictly a Guild event but a significant amount of support is being provided by our membership. The youth contest is brilliant for promoting ringing and encouraging the young people in our bands to get together and aim to ring to the very best of their ability. It's essential to encourage future generations in ringing. Finally, the Robert B Smith competition on 27th September. There may be some plans afoot from us for the competition this year.

- Finance Update - Malcolm Paulson

The Guild's move of bank account to Metro Bank has been successful and is now working well. Subs have now been collected, and we currently have 267 members. This is 3 down on the total for 2024. Members should be aware that the guild does have a number of books that are available to purchase. These can be found on the website.

With regards to the BRF, the balance on the accounts is £34,248.21 as of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

We have four projects that have asked for funds from the BRF, these are:

Clapper refurbishment - Edgbaston

Rope Guides - Coleshill  
Clapper refurbishment - St Paul's  
Lighting - Edgbaston

Now we have moved the Guild bank account to Metro Bank, Malcolm is considering moving the BRF account as well. This is to avoid charges and make it easier to manage all the accounts in one place.

- **Safeguarding Update – Trish Everett**

The Church of England Birmingham have announced Safeguarding Team Changes to meet the requirements of the new regulations. The changes require them to have a full time Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) who has full accountability and oversight for professional leadership and management of all matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, with independence from the bishop. In line with the national safeguarding standards, this new role's areas of responsibility include culture, leadership and capacity; prevention; recognising, assessing and managing risk; victims and survivors; and learning, supervision and support. To take account of the scale of the new DSO post, they have expanded the capacity of the current Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor post. Steph Haynes will move into the new DSO post and will be joined by a new colleague to job-share the role, bringing it to the required level of resource. Sarah Rose is currently the Safeguarding Officer and she will now take on the wider remit of Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (ADSO). The new team structure does not require a full-time Safeguarding Training and Development so there will be a new, part-time, role focusing on the delivery of training and recruitment is in process. The Support Officer role will continue to facilitate and record training events but in the new structure will also provide wider support for the whole of the Safeguarding Team.

**The new team comprises:**

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer – Steph Haynes and new colleague tbc

Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer – Sarah Rose

Training Officer – New colleague tbc

Safeguarding Support Officer - Shannon Bonnick

Please note, the process for reporting concerns has not changed. For any safeguarding concerns please contact the team on 07342 993844

Safeguarding training requirements for Bellringers remain unchanged

**Basic Awareness:** All ringers

**Foundation:** All Tower Captains and 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. For the Guild this is considered to be Birmingham Cathedral, St Martin's, St Paul's JQ, Moseley and Solihull.

The Guild master and Safeguarding lead are now also required to undertake leadership training.

As Safeguarding lead I have completed the Leadership training required. Eleanor is still to attend)

**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:

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

For safeguarding queries or advice Trish can be contacted as follows

Mob 07968 362501

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

### **3. Election of Members**

Agreed as follows:-

- Full Members  
Jackson Day
- Associate Members  
Reza Salami

### **4. Future Events**

- Sunday 18th May Bell Sunday

Details of the event were clarified, all are encouraged to get involved even if a change of date is needed.

- Saturday 5th July Ringing World National Youth Contest

100+ volunteers will be needed. There will be a range of roles irrespective of ringing experience. Clare McArdle is collating volunteer names. The competition towers will be Edgbaston, Erdington and Moseley, St Mary with ringing also taking place at Solihull, the city centre, Harborne and Walsall.

- 14th Sept Online General meeting
- Saturday 11th October Guild Outing to Nottingham

The 10 and two 12s in Nottingham are booked as is the 10 at Beaston. We will be using public transport including trams and will accommodate ringers at all levels.

The outing Saturday 19th September 2026 to Oxford has also been booked.

The Surprise practice is the first Saturday of each month, The Sheldon Special Practices the 3rd Wednesday, The Midweek practice at Moseley St Mary, the third Thursday and the High Numbers at Solihull is the fourth Wednesday.

All events are advertised on social media and included in the monthly update.

### **5. Residential Ringing Course Bursaries**

Eleanor described the scheme which is as last year and we are encouraged to apply for these funds which are from the 100 Club. In particular the new South West course is very short of helpers.

We have had some difficulty with the application form so if anyone has any trouble accessing it, email [smgcbr@gmail.com](mailto:smgcbr@gmail.com) for help.

## **6. Guild Yearbook**

This year's Yearbook is in hand and, as in previous years, one copy will be issued to each local tower as well as given to each newly elected member. A digital copy will be uploaded to the website to be viewed and/or downloaded from there.

## **7. Any other business**

- Newsletter

It was confirmed that the last Newsletter had been issued with the Monthly update in April.

- Ideas for the Guild calendar

Whilst Guild Challenge Days have been well received, the need for two towers close together does limit the locations available.

We have taken a break from the Walking Tour this year though thanks go to Mike Dodson for previously organising. While this year it would have clashed with the RWNYC, we would like to bring it back next year if we can find someone to organise it.

All are asked to think about what Guild events they would like to see in place?

One idea that other guilds run is a 'Firsts Week' - concentrating on as many firsts in QPs as can be scored and it was suggested that this could be run in the week ahead of The Henry Johnson Dinner in February 2026.

- Sheldon Special practices.

Margaret advised that she is still keen to find people wanting to come and help or learn at the next practice which will be Stedman Doubles singles. Following this the next practice will be a follow-up from earlier in the year on beginners Grandsire Doubles.