

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

2022: OFFICERS' REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Tracy Stevens

St Martin's Guild Treasurer's Report for 2022

- £1641 subs were collected in 2022, 36 members are unpaid. 2 members have paid for a couple of years in advance.
- Donations have been received from LVPs and life members in lieu of subscriptions
- Zoom – The Guild has now cancelled the zoom account.
- 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 £1442. From this surplus the guild donated £250 to the central council mobile belfry appeal and £200 to the brumdingers to support their travel costs to the annual RWNYC. The remaining £991.70 has been transferred to the BRF as per the members wishes. This year the 100 club has raised £1490 and this has been transferred to the guild account and ring-fenced for projects/events. Clare will report further on the 100 club.
- AmazonSmile has raised £27.29 for the BRF. Thanks to members who have used Amazon Smile.
- Kingsury Bell ringers have requested support with work on their bells. With the agreement of both BRF trustees, the Standing Committee offered 10% (£610) of the costs incurred to date and has offered to support planned future works.

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

St Martin's Guild Treasurer's Report

Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 2022

RECEIPTS	General	Peal	Library	Training Fund	100 Club Surplus	100 Club	HJ Dinner	BRF	2022	2021
Subscriptions 2022	Full	1541							1541	1754
	AM	145							145	20
Subscriptions Pre-paid									0	20
Apportionments									0	150
Donations	45		18						63	2568
HJD Ticket sales 2022							3140		3140	30
HJD Ticket sales Pre-paid									0	0
Merchandise Sales	38								38	3
Interest	0							14	14	3
100 Club Subs						2444			2444	2618
Other Income								27	27	48
100 Club surplus					1490			992	2482	1442
Total Receipts	1869	0	18	0	1490	2444	3140	1033	9994	8665
PAYMENTS										
Apportionments									0	150
Guild Insurance & Handbell Ins	370								370	364
Donations					450				450	0
Ringing World	- binding	0							0	71
	- advertising	75							75	0
Central Council:	- Fees	80							80	80
	- Library	0							0	30
	REPS Exp	0							0	0
Guild Activities	660								660	305
Library			25						25	8
HJ Dinner Expenses 2022							3200		3200	0
HJ Dinner 2023 Deposit							570		570	222
Merchandise	31								31	0
Directory Printing	275								275	188
Meeting expenses / general admin	161								161	197
Other Expenses	25								25	103
100 Club Prizes						919			919	1187
tfr of unused 2021 100 club surplus to BRF					992				992	0
tfr to general fund (subs)									0	15
tfr of 2022 100 club surplus to general fund						1490			1490	1442
Total Payments	1678	0	25	0	1442	2409	3770	0	9325	4361
Increase/(decrease) in Funds	191	0	-8	0	48	35	-629	1033	609	4304
Opening Balance	3590	1243	232	246	1442	86	2110	26984	35931	31627
Closing Balance	3781	1243	224	246	1490	121	1480	28017	36600	35931

Cash and Bank Accounts

	Deposit	Current	Total	Total
General Fund Accounts	50	6933	6983	6752
Bell Restoration Fund	27710	305	28017	26984
HJ Dinner		1480	1480	2110
100 Club		121	121	86
			36600	35931

Independent Examiners' Report

We can confirm that the above statement of receipts and payments for the year ended 31 December 2022 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:

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
2019:	284 Members-(inc:4 LVP, 16LM, 22 Assoc)	1 Unpaid
2018:	289 Members-(inc:4 LVP, 16LM, 29 Assoc)	46 Unpaid

BRF funds committed:

Kingsbury Parish Church	£ <u>610</u>
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Summary analysis of General Fund:

Ongoing 'operating' income & costs

Subscription income (excl BRF allocation)	1,786
Library	(8)
Insurance (Member & Handbell)	(370)
Ringing World	(75)
Central Council	(80)
Central Council Rep Expenses	0
Guild Activities	(660)
Meeting expenses & general admin (Zoom)	(161)
Directory Printing	(275)
HJD Ticket Subsidies	0
Interest	0

(1,630)

Discretionary' income & costs

Merchandising	7	156
Sundry donations (£45 member donations)	45	
Other Income (100 Club surplus)	48	
Other Expenses (HJD Sec gift £25)	(25)	

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75

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Bank reconciliation	
Balance per cash book	36,600
Less unpresented cheques	
Chq in hand	0
Cash in Hand	0
Balance	36,600
Balance per bank statements	
GF	6,933
BRF 30 Day	27,710
BRF	306
HJ Diner	1,480
General Dep	50
100 Club	121
	36,600

100 Club Report

Clare McArdle

January 2022		August 2022	
Bernadette O'Dwyer	£51.50	Steve Pugh	£50.50
Michael Wilby	£15.45	James Ramsbottom	£15.15
Rowena Shipley	£5.15	Carl Jenkins	£5.05
February 2022		September 2022	
Peter Bennett	£51.50	Carl Jenkins	£50.50
David Hull	£15.45	Arthur Reeves	£15.15
Malcolm Paulson	£5.15	Sarah Vernon	£5.05
March 2022		October 2022	
David Ingram	£50.50	Margaret Burling	£50.50
Chris Mills	£15.15	Chris Mills	£15.15
AJ Barnfield	£5.05	Paul Bibilo	£5.05
April 2022		November 2022	
John Anderson	£50.50	David Ingram	£50.50
Steve Askew	£15.15	Colin Baugh	£15.15
John Cranmer	£5.05	Catt Smith	£5.05
May 2022		December 2022	
Gill Postill	£50.50	Jonathan Healy	£50.50
David Ingram	£15.15	Michael Wilby	£15.15
Andrew Brown	£5.05	Brenda Thomson	£5.05
June 2022		Christmas 2022	
James Ramsbottom	£50.50	AJ Barnfield	£97.28
Sarah King	£15.15	Tony Daw	£48.64
Richard Lewis	£5.05	Janet Horton	£48.64
July 2022		Eleanor Linford	£12.16
John Townsend	£50.50	Chris Mills	£12.16
Simon Linford	£15.15	Richard Lewis	£12.16
Simon Linford	£5.05	Margaret Burling	£12.16
BRF total	£1,337.60		
Prizes donated	£152.47	BRF total	£1,490.07

Ringling Master's Report

Phil Ramsbottom

2022 has seen the Guild's activity Guild return to pre-pandemic level and beyond. What follows is a brief resume.

HM The Queen

As might be expected there was no shortage of extra ringing in early June for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations for HM Queen Elizabeth, including additional general ringing and quarter peals at some towers and, with a peal of Stedman cinques at St. Philips.

Sadly this was followed all too soon afterwards by the half muffled ringing that followed the announcement in early September of the passing of Her Majesty. Many towers repeated what that had done only a few months earlier with muffled bells, either half or fully. The Guild's collective marking of the Reign of Elizabeth II included peals of Stedman at St. Pauls, St. Philips and St. Martins.

Commonwealth Games

Alexander Stadium in Perry Barr was the focal point for the Commonwealth Games hosted by Birmingham last year and, as would be expected, it was an opportunity to celebrate it with bells. In addition to the expected additional ringing, at the request of the vicar two quarter peals were rung at Perry Barr to mark the opening and closing of the games. Two peals were also scored St. Martins and St. Pauls.

Workshops

The Wednesday evening workshops have continued throughout the year generally accommodating the more 'ground level' end of the spectrum. The events ranged from a bell handling improvers' workshop up to treble dodging minor and pretty much everything in between. Learning some important theory also plays a part in all this. The workshops are always well enough attended and I'm grateful to those of you who come along wanting to develop your skills in some way and to the helpers who are willing to turn up and add much appreciated support.

Following the summer break the workshops were scaled down to the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays for two reasons: Firstly, since taking up post I've wanted to visit some of the local practice nights which I'm now starting to do - I'll touch on this again later; secondly, and this is quite encouraging, I was sometimes competing for helpers with other ringers who were also arranging extra practices/workshops and the like. One instance was someone taking on the Three Events Challenge.

There are also a number of ongoing workshops organized by others, including the monthly event at Sheldon, several workshops throughout the year at Solihull and also the 'Why practice' at Harborne. Topics are many and varied and along similar

lines to those run by the Guild. Taking all the workshops together, Guild and those run by others, we had a regular and plentiful supply of learning opportunities throughout the whole of 2022, and I'd like to think more Guild members will take advantage of them in the coming year. There are also plans to introduce a monthly surprise major practice next year, so something else to look out for.

If any Guild member or band would like a workshop covering any particular aspect of ringing, practical or theory, then please get in touch and I'll see what can be arranged.

National 12 Bell Contest

Two years without a contest did nothing to dampen the skills and determination of the 12 bell team who were victorious from Guildford in June, having won the Taylor Trophy by no small margin. All being well I'm sure there will be many of us looking forward to supporting them next year.

Robert B Smith 12 Bell Contest

St. Philips entered a band into the Robert B Smith 12 bell competition, held this year at St. Margaret's in Leicester. They excelled themselves by coming third for the fourth time in all four competitions.

Other events

The Guild walking tour made a welcome return in July after the covid hiatus. Superbly organised by Mike Dodson, this year about 20 of us took a well-planned route around the North Worcestershire/West Midlands border. As well as ringing at Hagley, Clent and Oldswinford, we had an excellent lunch at The Vine in Clent, and enjoyed the fantastic views from the summit of the Clent Hills, making the climb very rewarding. Many thanks to Mike for taking the time to plan and organise the entire day with near perfect timing, and to really top it all, for arranging the fabulous weather.

The open ringing at Moseley St. Mary every third Thursday morning continues to be popular. I'm sure the wonderful tea, coffee and cakes has something to do with this. Ringing is aimed at accommodating whoever turns up, from rounds and call changes to Grandsire and occasionally Stedman triples. If you've not previously been and you find yourself at a loose end on a third Thursday morning of the month, then please come along and join in the fun.

The Guild outing at the end of November was to Leicester, with some 20 Guild members enjoying a 'walkabout' ringing tour of the City centre. The Towers included the very nice but challenging 10 at St. Mary de Castro, the challenging but glorious 12 at St. Margaret's and the fabulous 12 at St. Martin's Cathedral, where members posed for a group photo' on the transept roof, en-route to the ringing chamber. Various pubs were visited for lunch and post ringing, and a grand day out was had by all.

Going slightly 'off grid' about 20 Guild members enjoyed an evening's ringing at Tong in Shropshire on a balmy August evening. The church is a fabulous attraction in its own right, but also houses a super 12cwt ring of six bells and the 11th heaviest bell in the world hung for full circle ringing. Weighing in at just shy of 46cwt it is only usually rung on four days of the year and our visit was planned to take place on

one of them, St. Bartholomew's day, the patronal festival of the church. I'd be happy to arrange this again next year if there is sufficient interest.

Communication

I mentioned earlier that I have been visiting some of the local practice nights, primarily as a way of doing some fact finding on my part across the different towers in the Guild and to explore how local towers and the Guild might better engage.

Through my fact finding, the towers visited to date mainly receive Guild emails, but it seems messages get lost in transmission. For example, the feedback is that there are those who might like to attend workshops but are not aware of what's happening, when and where. We might want to think about whether there are other ways we can communicate to members to better hit the spot.

I'd welcome feedback from anyone (individuals or bands) with any thoughts they may have as to how to go about fixing this and I look forward to hearing further.

Next year

For 2023 I plan to continue workshops on the current basis ie every two weeks and to keep promoting and supporting the Three Events Challenge. See: <https://stmartinsguild.org/calendar-news-and-events/the-three-events-challenge/> if you're not already familiar with it. On a wider front the Association of Ringing Teachers is holding their annual conference in Birmingham in March and of course we'll have a Coronation to ring for on and around 6th May, something I'm sure we're all very much looking forward to.

Vote of thanks

In closing can I please thank everyone for their collective support of the Guild during the last year in whatever capacity it may have been, - the list is long and varied. The Guild has held the events it did because you, the Guild members, have supported them and for which you all deserve a huge 'thank you'.

Henry Johnson Dinner

The Dinner Secretary position is currently vacant.

The 135th Henry Johnson Dinner will be held on Saturday 25th February 2023 6pm - 6.30pm at the MacDonal Burlington Hotel in Birmingham.

Chair - Julia Cater

Tickets

£45

£35 Concession (Students in full time education)

Tickets are available via the following link

https://www.participant.co.uk/register/#/135thHenryJohnsonCommemorationDinner_167014560

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Archivist's Report

Mark Eccleston

Work to care for the Guild's invaluable collection of archives, rare books and modern works continues. Our archive collections – comprising a complete record of administrative papers charting the history of the Guild since its formation in 1889, along with papers of individual ringers, photographs, newspaper cuttings etc – are particularly important. In many cases, these materials are unique. I have continued to repackage these archives in acid-free folders and, whilst I was unable to complete this job during 2022, I hope to conclude the rehousing work in 2023.

The Guild's issues of *The Ringing World* for 2021 and 2022 will be bound next year, maintaining our complete set of this title. Many thanks to Clare McArdle for donating these issues to the Guild library: Clare's generosity is very much appreciated.

Special thanks to Richard Jones, my predecessor in this role, who has kindly rationalised some oversize materials stored in plan chest drawers in the clock room at St Martin's. With the best will in the world, I would have been unable to dedicate the time to do this myself: thank you, Richard.

Our library continues to grow through purchases, gifts, donations and bequests. 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/>

New accessions for 2022:

Catalogue no	Title and other bibliographic details
NA767	Change Ringing on Handbells. Volume 2: Advanced Techniques (Tina Stoecklin and Simon Gay), 2022

Safeguarding Officer's Report

Trish Everett

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

The Church of England began working on its new Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework several years ago and the final version became effective in January 2022. The Parish Safeguarding Handbook has been the “bible” on safeguarding in Church of England settings. Going forward, the Church have advised that the new Framework is the definitive document on current policy and the Parish Safeguarding Handbook will be updated to reflect it.

The new Framework applies only to Church of England settings and those ringing in towers belonging to other churches should check their local church policy. However, the safeguarding policies of all denominations in the UK are ultimately driven by government regulation and all church policies are therefore broadly similar. The new framework applies equally to all church officers, lay helpers and volunteers (including ringers).

The current position is that the following training is required:

Basic Awareness for all bell team members. It covers

- * Safeguarding Principles
- * Recognising potential issues
- * Recognising barriers which may prevent issues being addressed.
- * Raising a potential Safeguarding concern.

Foundation additional for Tower Captains and also for bell ringers who teach children and young people and covers

- * Safeguarding practice in respect of your own role and responsibilities.
- * Analysing/ responding to reports of a potential Safeguarding concern.
- * Wider Safeguarding support & governance arrangements.

Leadership additional for Tower Captains who take a lead role in shaping the culture and addresses

- * Adjusting your style of leadership to reflect best Safeguarding practice.
- * The role of leadership in promoting healthy and safe communities.
- * The impact of abuse on individuals' lives.
- * How faith, beliefs, and values underpin good safeguarding behaviours

You can access the training portal here: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Information on how to access the basic awareness and foundation online training is available here:

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5fof763ab8605/content/pages/documents/guide-to-using-the-training-portal.pdf>

Tower captains who undertook the Leadership training in 2020 which the Guild organised with the diocese do not need to do the Foundation training.

CCCBR and Safeguarding

The Central Council has produced a guide for clergy, PCCs and Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers which explains how ringing ‘works’, through individual towers, territorial and non-territorial bell ringing associations, and the work of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

The guide focuses particularly on how church bell ringers are trained, safeguarded and organised. “From Practice to Perfect” was distributed to all Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers in December 2022 by Lisa Clarke, National Safeguarding Learning and Development Manager for the Church of England.

The Central Council have also produced guidance to individual ringers and ringing societies in the safeguarding section of their website, including their detailed approach to safeguarding training which can be found here:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/safeguarding/resources/safeguarding-in-church-of-england-settings/>

Safeguarding Support and advice

Contact details for the Guild’s Safeguarding Officer are:

Trish Everett

Email: trish_everett@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07968 362501

Landline: 0121 449 1088

Contact details for the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser are:

Steph Haynes

Email: StephH@cofebirmingham.com

Tel: 0121 426 0407

Tel: 07342 993 844

CC representatives' report

Richard Andrew and James Ramsbottom

With the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic well and truly behind us, the AGM of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers was held in person for the first time in 3 years on Saturday 3rd September 2022. It was held at the Clifton campus of Nottingham Trent University in Nottingham, a location originally planned for 2021.

The format of the day was different from previous years, notably with a much shorter AGM. Whereas this used to occupy almost the entire day, it was now consigned to an afternoon-only slot. The morning became much more sociable, starting with informal displays made by each of the Council Workgroups about what they do, which stimulated lots of conversation about plans for the future, whilst being provided with a good supply of tea, coffee and biscuits.

The formal aspect of the day started with the AGM for The Ringing World. Although the company is still in financial deficit, it made a good profit this year. A lot of this came from sales of merchandise and donations from publications of ringing performances. Expenditure was also down due to changes of contracts with printers and new software.

4 new books have been published – The latest compilation of The Education Column series by David Smith, The Core 7 and Beyond by Simon Linford, The Little Purple Book by Richard Smith, and an updated Criblines book, full of blue lines of popular methods. The Youth Contest will be going to York in 2023 and London in 2024, with the 2023 contest being the last one organised by David Hull. Richard Wallis and Claire Roulstone both retired from the board of directors. Graham Bradshaw joined as a director and Mary Bone joined as company secretary.

After lunch, the Council AGM began. Since small societies (those with 75 members or fewer) were now allowed to be affiliated with the council, an application to affiliate had been received from the Welsh Colleges Guild, which was accepted.

The workgroups then gave more formal reports on their activities over the past 12 months. In particular the Young Ringers workgroups had been very active, working with the new Young Change Ringers Association to connect with existing young ringers and working with the Scouting Association. At the time of the meeting it was unknown that 2023 would become a coronation year, but the Public Relations workgroup has subsequently launched the Ring for the King campaign as its latest recruitment drive, aiming to get as many bells as possible rung on Saturday 6th May 2023.

The Council President then gave his report for the year. Plans for a mobile ring of bells and a National Ringing Centre in Northampton continue to move forward. A new national striking competition – The National Call Change Competition – will have its inaugural event on Saturday 3rd June 2023, to be held at St. Mary's Moseley.

The first motion proposed at the AGM was to change to subscription rate for societies based upon their membership numbers. The current rates were based on the number of representatives a society can have, rather than the number of members it has. It was felt that this was unfair on smaller societies, who tended to pay more per ringer for affiliation to the council. This motion would be of benefit to smaller societies but may be detrimental to larger ones. However, the two largest territorial societies – the Oxford Diocesan Guild and the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers – were both happy with this change, along with most others present, and the motion was carried.

The second motion called for a review of the standing orders of the council. It was 5 years since the CRAG report was adopted, and one of the important points within the report was that a review is made of the rules after 5 years. There was already a known list of issues raised, and this motion was also carried.

The last item worth reporting on was that the current president announced his intention to stand down at the 2023 AGM, having served 4 years as president by then.