

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

2020
OFFICERS' REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Tracy Stevens

- £1780 subs were collected in 2020, down £520 on last year as 28 members are unpaid. One member has paid for next year.
 - Merchandising shows a profit of £110. We do not hold stock as orders only take approximately one week to turn around.
 - Apportionments – At the 2020 AGM it was agreed that the library would receive £50.00 and the BRF would receive 25% apportionment of annual subs totalling £432.50 this year.
 - Donations have been received from LVP and life members who wish to donate their subscriptions to the BRF or General Fund and personal generous donations from members to the general fund.
 - Zoom – the Guild has subscribed to Zoom to enable guild meetings, Wednesday webinars and other activities within the Guild, costing £14.39 per month.
 - Website Development – we have recently taken over the payments for the website domain and hosting which Simon Linford had very kindly paid for previously. Mark has also done a great deal of work on the website and incurred other costs in doing so. Mark will be working on the hosting of the website this year.
 - Supporting Members – we supported a few vulnerable members with shopping during the first lockdown. To enable this we used the guild general fund. All members involved reimbursed the general fund immediately and no funds are outstanding.
 - The 100 Club has raised £1416 for the BRF this year £72 of which is donated prizes. The 100 Club Report is included with all the reports.
 - The Shifnal peal board project is now complete and we no longer hold funds for this.
 - BRF received £11000 from the Castle Bromwich ringers, the residue of the funds for their installation.
 - AmazonSmile has raised £43.61 for the BRF. Thanks to members who have used Amazon Smile.
 - The Standing Committee have discussed Guild funds
 - The BRF is in a healthy position
 - The general fund expenditure has increased to accommodate expenses for our online presence e.g. website hosting and development, zoom etc
- The standing committee wish to suspend apportionment to the Bell Restoration Fund rather than increase member subscriptions to cover new expenses, the net decrease in income to the BRF amounts to approximately £500 annually.

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:

- £150 to the library

Peal fee

- To remain at zero

Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 2020

RECEIPTS	General	Peal	Library	Training Fund	100 Club	HJ Dinner	BRF	Total 2020	2019
Subscriptions 2020	Full	1730						1730	2215
	AM	45						45	85
Subscriptions Pre-paid		5						5	0
Apportionments			50				433	483	629
Donations		232					11027	11259	190
HJD Ticket sales 2020						4125		4125	4139
Merchandise Sales		187						187	221
Interest		1					7	8	5
100 Club Subs					2706			2706	2208
Other Income		171					44	215	197
BRF from 100 Club							1416	1416	1303
Total Receipts		2371	0	50	0	2706	4125	12927	22179
PAYMENTS									
Apportionments		483						483	629
Guild Insurance & Handbell Ins		365						365	346
Donations		27					400	427	795
Ringing World	- binding	0						0	59
	- advertising	38						38	43
Central Council:	- Fees	80						80	80
	- Library							0	0
	REPS Exp	0						0	74
Striking Competitions		0						0	19
Guild Activities		90						90	589
Library			85					85	96
HJ Dinner Expenses 2019						3258		3258	3798
HJ Dinner 2020 Deposit								0	770
Merchandise		77						77	192
Meeting expenses / general admin		449						449	136
Other Expenses		479						479	481
100 Club Prizes					1331			1331	905
trfr to BRF					1416			1416	1303
Total Payments		2087	0	85	0	2747	3258	400	8577
Increase/(decrease) in Funds		284	0	-35	0	-40	867	12527	13602
Opening Balance		2568	1243	124	246	152	1435	12259	18026
Closing Balance		2852	1243	89	246	112	2301	24785	31627
Cash and Bank Accounts							<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Total</i>
	General Fund Accounts						50	4379	4429
	Bell Restoration Fund						24571	214	24785
	HJ Dinner							2301	1435
	100 Club							112	152
									31627
									18026

Independent Examiners' Report

We can confirm that the above statement of receipts and payments for the year ended 31 December 2020 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:

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
2017:	261 Members-(inc: 4 LVP, 17 LM, 17 Assoc)	24 Unpaid

BRF funds committed:

	£	
Summary analysis of General Fund:		
<i>Ongoing 'operating' income & costs</i>		
Subscription income (excl BRF allocation)		1,348
Library	(50)	
Insurance (Member & Handbell)	(365)	
Ringing World	(38)	
Central Council	(80)	
Central Council Rep Expenses	0	
Striking competitions	0	
Guild Activities	(90)	
Meeting expenses & general admin (Zoom, website hosting, Web SSL, Sec expenses)	(449)	
HJD Ticket Subsidies	(80)	
Interest		1
		(1,152)
		197
 <i>Discretionary' income & costs</i>		
Merchandising Profit	110	
Sundry donations	205	
Other Income (£91 12 bell reimbursement, 80.30 AGM profit)	171	
	(399)	
Other expenses (£88 GM gift, £20 Bake off exp, £91 12 bell exp, £100 A Stubbs funeral donation, £100 A Craddock Donation for information for website and archive.)		88
		284

Bank reconciliation

Balance per cash book	31,627
Less unrepresented cheques	
Chq in hand	0
Cash in Hand	30
Balance	31,657
Balance per bank statements	
GF	4,379
BRF 30 Day	24,571
BRF	214
HJ Diner	2,301
General Dep	50
100 Club	112
	31,627

100 Club Report

Clare McArdle

SEP

		August 2020	
Phil Sealy	£49.50	Joanne Goodall	£50.00
Gill Fielden	£14.85	Bernadette O'Dwyer	£15.00
Christine Barnell	£4.95	Jon Townsend	£5.00
February 2020		September 2020	
Tony Daw	£50.00	Steve Pugh	£50.00
Richard Andrew	£15.00	James Ramsbottom	£15.00
Will Davies	£5.00	Clare McArdle	£5.00
March 2020		October 2020	
Richard Andrew	£50.00	Phil Sealy	£50.00
James Ramsbottom	£15.00	Jane Chapman	£15.00
Brenda Thompson	£5.00	Triona Jowett	£5.00
April 2020		November 2020	
Simon Linford	£50.00	Richard Lewis	£50.00
Phil Ramsbottom	£15.00	Graham Kelly	£15.00
Graham Kelly	£5.00	Margaret Burling	£5.00
May 2020		December 2020	
Phil Sealy	£50.00	Olly Bouckley	£50.00
Eleanor Linford	£15.00	Stephen Shipley	£15.00
Ann Smart	£5.00	Stephanie Warboys	£5.00
June 2020		Christmas 2020	

Trish Everett	£50.00	Alex Ross	£95.92
Chris Mills	£15.00	Margaret Burling	£47.96
Christine Barnell	£5.00	Olly Bouckley	£47.96
July 2020		Janet Horton	£11.99
Olly Bouckley	£50.00	Angie Wakefield	£11.99
Phil Ramsbottom	£15.00	David Flint	£11.99
Alison Edmonds	£5.00	Rowena Shipley	£11.99
BRF total	£1,344.36		
Prizes donated	£71.99	BRF total	£1,416.35

Ringling Master's Report

Arthur Reeves

In my first Ringing Master report, six years ago, I discussed the job description of the role. I outlined how the role didn't really have many required jobs set out in our Rules: the role of Ringing Master is one which each individual can interpret and mould. My ambition was to promote the possibility that someone could learn to ring in Birmingham, from scratch, and (should they want to, and put in the required effort) find no barrier to ringing at whatever level they wanted. Clearly 2020 has halted that ambition. Even before Covid-19, we were clearly somewhat off meeting that highly ambitious aim. I still think it is a worthy target to strive for, but I'm not naïve to the fact that barriers still exist within the Guild. The full consequences of this year are yet to be felt, but ringing in general and towers across the wider Birmingham area will have to think more than ever about recruitment, retention and teaching. Guild Officers are beginning to reflect on the recent survey we sent to all Tower Captains to see what general resources can be provided and the nature of the support which can be given centrally.

In no way am I about to suggest that Covid-19 has been a positive thing. It hasn't. Yet future planning for what the Guild might look to do once restrictions are eased provide us with opportunities. It would be a mistake to think that the Guild was flourishing everywhere before March 2020. Certainly, there were many pockets of excellence across Guild towers; excellence of teaching, training and of ringing. Yet there were many areas of inactivity across our area which Guild members have struggled to support for many years.

But 2020 has seen some areas of Guild activity really flourish. I'm conscious this seems an odd thing to say in a year with very little ringing. Yet we have demonstrated our capacity to introduce high quality training online. We now have a new virtual library stacked full of teaching resources, freely accessible for all ringers, which we can continue to expand and develop. We have engaged with members and non-members from across the world, in ways we simply have never been able to do before. Members have continued to achieve, whether that has been on Ringing Room or on handbells. Many members have now completed their Leadership in Safeguarding qualification. In so many ways, ringers have shown their capacity to support one another in spite of the very odd circumstances we have found ourselves in, whether that is through a regular phone call or by picking up shopping for others. The fact the Guild 'Bake Off' raised over £1,000 for charity demonstrates the generosity of our members. The spirit of friendship has permeated through the physical barriers that social distancing have forced upon us.

2021 should be a year of optimism. I'll be looking forward to getting back to ringing and, in spite of the challenges that undoubtedly will pervade, I am optimistic that in time ringing across the Guild will return stronger. I am positive because I have seen how many members have demonstrated flexibility, commitment and resilience through 2020; exactly the values we need for us to re-build. As we plan for the future, the time is right for me to pass on the privilege and responsibility of this

post to my successor. It has been an honour to serve as Ringing Master over the last six years. I am extremely grateful to my fellow officers, both past and present, for the unswerving support they have provided. I am grateful to those members who have led and supported practices throughout this time. I've said this often before, but the Guild can only be as strong as the contributions people are prepared to voluntarily put in. We are fortunate in our Guild that so many are prepared to give so much.

Dinner Secretary's Report

Jenny Sunter

We can now see that we were very lucky to hold the 2020 dinner, not long before the Covid pandemic took hold. The event, held in the Banqueting Suite of Birmingham Council, went well and was on budget. However, the rising cost and options on food and service, did cause us to look at alternatives going forward.

After some deliberation the Burlington Hotel was secured for 2021, which obviously now cannot go ahead as a physical event. Subsequently, the Burlington are holding for 2022, when we hope to resume normal play.

The 133rd Henry Johnson Commemoration, will therefore be celebrated with an event on Saturday 27th February 2021, through the magic of Zoom. This is the date as originally scheduled, so it should be in your calendars already.

The online event will be much shorter than the usual celebration, (8pm start) lasting approximately 45 minutes, but it will be a blend of light entertainment, history and handbells, not to mention another opportunity to see friends, albeit in their little video boxes. The event will also serve as a marker, for when we can next hold the dinner 'proper' in 2022.

Janet and Steve Horton are happy to remain as joint holders of the Chair for 2021/22.

While we cannot have our dinner served in a grand location, we can offer the opportunity to share the same menu at home. Picking up on similar events by other guilds, please see an optional three course menu below. While I have not provided recipes, I think you will easily be able to find these, or similar, on the internet or in well-thumbed recipe books. In the case of the soups, I believe both options come in a can!

To book please follow the link below to the eventbrite booking page
<https://bit.ly/3rUq4Pb>

Menu suggestion

Starter

French Onion Soup or Broccoli and Stilton Soup

Main Course

Cod or chicken wrapped in pancetta, served with French green beans and roasted tomatoes

Vegan option of stuffed field mushrooms

Dessert

Fruit Crumble of your choice, served with custard, cream or ice cream!

Or cheese board favourite!

Coffee or tea with mint chocolates.

Archivist's Report

Mark Eccleston

The events of 2020 have provided an opportunity for focused development of our library and archives. I have been working on a section of the Guild website devoted to the library. If you have not yet taken a look, please do: <https://www.stmartinsguild.org/heritage-and-history/library-and-archives/> An archive of the Guild's peal records, from 2005, and Guild peal compositions, from 1990, can also be found on our website.

Our digital archive has grown dramatically over the past 12 months. Recordings of the vast majority of our weekly training sessions and talks are accessible on our YouTube channel. In addition, we now have YouTube videos of recordings of ringing (including some notable Guild peals such as the first peal of Scientific Triples of handbells) as well as recordings of a number of oral history interviews. These interviews were originally recorded onto cassette tape and the sound quality has degraded over time. It is reassuring to know that digital copies, and ongoing migration, will limit further deterioration. Prior to 2020 we had no YouTube channel, we now have over 60 recordings uploaded to the site: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC654Hx0zQ_FmstQdFlqVXJA/videos

In recent months I have undertaken research to compile a complete list of all Guild officers from 1889 to the present day. If you're interested in the history of Guild, these lists make interesting reading. They can be accessed via our website and they serve as an important reminder of the part played by key individuals in the functioning of the Guild.

As many members will know, our library houses a beautiful set of handwritten and illuminated peal books. These books form a complete record of all Guild peals from 1755. Sample images of these pages are now able to be viewed online. These images were originally taken by Mike Lowndes and recently supplied to us by Chris Pickford: <https://www.stmartinsguild.org/heritage-and-history/peal-records/smg-peal-books/>

Our presence on Flickr remains a work in progress although, during 2020, we have created a number of albums which can be viewed via: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/188246618@N07> New albums include:

- 2020 Henry Johnson Dinner
- St Martin's Guild Peal Books
- Lockdown Bake Off, May 2020
- Photography competition, July 2020

Planned work to repackage and rehouse parts of the library has, understandably, been put on hold during 2020. I would hope to spend some time next year further improving the listings and physical arrangement of our archival items. This is something I have planned to do for a number of years, and remains high on my list of priorities.

I am always happy to answer queries about the library, and I would also be pleased to hear members' views on ways we can further exploit our rich holdings. Our library continues to grow, thanks to an annual apportionment, which I'm always grateful to receive, as well as through gifts, donations and bequests. Ours is very much an evolving collection and is one of the major ringing libraries anywhere in the world. I'd be very happy to speak to any members who may consider donating material in the future.

2020 NEW ACCESSIONS: PRINTED BOOKS		
Catalogue no	Title and other bibliographic details	Provenance
NA736	The rules and decisions of the Council (CCCBR), 2013	From the estate of Andrew Stubbs
NA737	The rules and decisions of the Council (CCCBR), 2016	
NA738	Tower changes (CCCBR), 1995	
NA739	Change ringing on handbells (CCCBR), 1951	
NA740	The Ringers' Handbook (E. S. and M. Powell), 4 th edition, 1952	
NA741	The Bells of St Paul's (W. T. Cook), 1981	
NA742	A Bellringer's Book of Brain Benders (Angela Newing), 1978	
NA743	Campanalogia: Little and Alliance Doubles (F. T. Blagrove)	
NA744	Campanalogia: Triples Methods (F. T. Blagrove)	
NA745	Campanalogia: Surprise Methods 1821 to 1950 (F. T. Blagrove)	
NA746	The CCCBR: A History (W. T. Cook), 1993	
NA747	Change Ringing on Handbells Volume I: Basic Techniques (T. Stoecklin and S. Gay), 2020	Purchased
NA748	De Tintinnabulis (translated by A. G. Martin), 2011	Purchased
NA749	Carillon Music (W. G. Rice), 1925	From the estate of John Illingworth
NA750	The Art and Science of Handbells (Turner), c 1950	
NA751	The Story of Big Ben (Phillips), 1959	
NA752	The Bells of Hereford Cathedral (J. C. Eisel), 1977	
NA753	The Priory Church of St Bartholomew (Winyard), c 1973	
NA754	York Minster: its bells (Walker), 1973	
NA755	Hertfordshire Bellfounders (J. Dodds), 2003	
NA756	Big Ben and the Clock Tower, 1987	
NA757	A History of Bells at Spalding (Porter)	
NA758	St Martin's in the Bull Ring (Crowe), 1975	
NA759	The Bells of Chester Cathedral (Whiting), 1974	
NA760	Collection of Doubles Methods (Hiller), 1985	Purchased
NA761	'Shake my hand and I'll show you the ropes': a biography of George W. Pipe (J. P. Loveless), 2020	

In addition, I have accepted receipt of the following archival items during 2020:

- Menu card for the 2020 Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner
- Manuscript ringing records compiled by Norman Goodman (2 volumes)
- Papers of Andrew Stubbs including a manuscript notebook recording his early peals, and some administrative papers relating to Andrew's mastership of the Guild during the 1990s.

Safeguarding Officer's Report

Trish Everett

The Church of England has continued to make safeguarding a priority through 2020, with training being delivered on line. The training materials have been updated and the training available is at three levels: Awareness, Foundation and Leadership, (These were previously C0, C1 and C2).

Leadership Training

A leadership training module specifically for bellringers was held via Zoom on 30th November and was well received.

In addition, one of the Guild Wednesday evening Zoom sessions was led by the CCCBR Safeguarding leads, providing a useful overview of safeguarding and bellringing.

A reminder below re the training and DBS requirements

Training Requirements

Tower Captains and those who teach bellringing should have Leadership training. The Diocese previously held safeguarding training specifically tailored for tower captains and bellringing teachers and I am working with the Diocesan Safeguarding Training Officer to provide a Leadership module in the autumn of this year. I am also a member of the diocese's Safeguarding Training Reference Group.

Those who have not previously done Leadership (C2) training and who need to complete this for the first time will also need to have completed the Awareness and Foundation levels.

The Church of England Safeguarding group is reviewing which groups require Leadership training, and early indications are that bellringers may not need to do this in future.

Bellringers: The Diocese recommends that all bellringers should complete the Awareness and Foundation levels. These are available as online courses accessed via the C of E portal:

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>

All training from the Diocese is provided free of charge.

DBS checks

As a reminder, DBS checks are required for Tower Captains, their Deputies, those who teach ringing to young people face to face and those who transport children as a formal arrangement, even if this is a one off.

No DBS checks are required for ringers in a general supporting role, unplanned one-off teaching or deputising in an emergency or for transporting children as part of an arrangement between families.

Certificates and their Portability

When a person has undergone a DBS check, the results are notified to the Parish and the individual only will receive a copy of their certificate.

To enhance the usefulness and portability of a certificate, it is recommended that individuals register for the DBS Update Service. This service effectively monitors the status of the individual and can provide confirmation to an interested party that their status has not changed. However, to register for Update this must be done within 30 days of the date of issue of the certificate OR during a period of 28 days whilst their DBS is being processed. Note the time limit has increased from 19 days previously applied.

The Church of England has agreed that ringers carrying out similar youth training functions outside their home parish may rely on their certificate but only within the same Diocese. It is understood that ringers do teach across Diocesan boundaries and in these cases only those who have subscribed to the DBS Update Service may present their details to the host parish.

Parental consent for on line activities

With ringing activities moving on line, for example ringing room and Zoom sessions we developed a parental consent form for on line activities, for young ringers.

The on line form can be found here <https://www.stmartinsguild.org/wp-content/uploads/SMG-Online-Activities-Permission-Form.pdf>

Safeguarding audit of towers.

An audit of safeguarding in towers was carried out during the autumn.

Responses were received from 14 towers.

Of those 14 towers,

5 had ringers under the age of 18

1 had a vulnerable adult ringer

12 Tower captains had a DBS

10 reported those who teach had a DBS

12 tower captains had had Diocesan safeguarding training

7 had a role description

10 had been formally appointed by their PCC

10 kept a register of attendance

12 had safeguarding information displayed in the ringing room

All 14 knew where to seek advice.

Safeguarding Support and advice

Support and advice on safeguarding issues has been provided when required.

Contact details for the Guild's Safeguarding Officer are:

Email: trish_everett@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07968 362501

Landline: 0121 449 1088.

CC representatives' report

Richard Andrew and James Ramsbottom

When the UK went into lockdown on 23rd March 2020 all physical ringing suddenly ceased. It might therefore be expected that 2020 would be an inactive year for the Central Council, but nothing could be further from the truth. Right from the start the Council saw the potential danger of a long period with no ringing. No new ringers would be recruited, many that were learning would forget and not return and many bands would struggle to start again when the time came. A desire to remain connected with all ringers, plus an energetic new president, meant that this has been a very busy year.

Throughout the year the Council has been working with the House of Bishops to develop guidance as to what ringing can and can't be done within the COVID rules at any given time or in any given tier. When ringing started again on a limited basis in July ringers were told to keep to 2m distance between each other and to ring for no more than 15 minutes. This has now changed several times as the COVID rules themselves have also changed, and will change again as the situation continues to develop.

One of the early ideas to help revitalise ringing was the Ringing Returns campaign. Taking the format of its name from the highly successful 2018 Ringing Remembers campaign, it initially aimed to get as many towers as possible ringing together when lockdown ended, with the joint benefit of getting ringers back into towers and creating publicity. However, this was based on the expectation at the time that lockdown would last for about 3 months and life would then suddenly return to normal. This was not to be the case and the campaign is now very much 'on the back burner'.

Another idea, which was much more of a success, was the YouTube competition. There are currently a vast number of ringing videos on the video website YouTube, but the large majority of these are not of good quality and are often rather dull. This competition was a way of finding good-quality, engaging videos which would be of interest to all ringers and quite possibly non-ringers as well. People were invited to submit both new and existing videos to the competition as long as they fell into one of six categories. A different category was featured every month, meaning that the contest ran for half of the year, with an extra 'people's favourite' round held in November. A total of 133 videos were submitted, all of which can be found on the YouTube channel for the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

Moving from online videos to news broadcasts, the Council has been involved with 3 news items over the past 12 months. The first was in response to the campaign by Leave.EU which called for nationwide ringing on the morning after leaving the EU, with the Council stating that it didn't encourage ringing for political events. The second item focused on the new website 'Ringing Room', showing how ringers had managed to continue ringing during lockdown. This was timed to coincide

with the first international tower-bell quarter peal. The third item was broadcast in September and looked at towers returning to ringing after several months of silence.

September also saw the Council's AGM. This was to have taken place in Nottingham, but was instead held over Zoom. There had been questions and worries about how easy it would be to hold the AGM online, but from a technological point of view the AGM was expertly handled. There were discussions on matters which needed them as well as voting. In fact, despite not seeing all the familiar faces, it felt a lot like a normal AGM.

The Agenda for this year's meeting was notably shorter than average. Aside from workgroups reporting on their activities for the year and the matters of elections, the only major item was the subject of small societies being allowed to join the council (Small being defined as having fewer than 75 members, or 25 members for overseas societies). This would allow the Council to connect more easily with more ringers and allow for new members who bring new skills which could be of use to the Council. Representatives for small societies would be allowed to attend and speak at council meetings, put forward motions but not have any voting rights. It was mentioned during the meeting that several small societies had already enquired about joining the Council, including the Birmingham University Society. After some discussion on the matter, it was put to the vote, with 76% voting in favour of allowing small societies into the Council.

As well as the Central Council AGM, there was also the Ringing World AGM. Due to the ongoing lockdown, far fewer peals and quarter peals have been rung in 2020 and so there has been a significant lack of donations which accompany their publication in the Ringing World. The Ringing World is therefore expecting to make a significant loss for this financial year. To counter this in some measure, the suggested donation for performances has increased from 50p to 75p. This has been a very challenging time for the Ringing World as they've also had to come up with content to replace the space usually occupied by these performances, and many people feel that they have responded well to this.

The main focus of this meeting was voting to make the Ringing World a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Unfortunately, the draft CIO constitution had only been forwarded to members at 9am that morning, meaning that most people had not been able to read it before the discussion. However, the proposal was outlined in the meeting by its proposed before the debate. There were many points both for and against this proposal. When it went to the vote, it was supported by 55%, with a notable number of abstentions. This was short of the 75% needed to pass it.

Looking ahead to 2021, there are several ideas in the pipeline, including a photography competition and a series of videos talks with grassroots ringers. All being well, the Central Council plans to finally go to Nottingham for its AGM in 2021.