



St Martin's Guild Yearbook 2020





SMG at a glance

The St Martin's Guild (SMG) is a voluntary association of bell ringers, centred on the wider Birmingham area, with the objectives of:

- Maintaining ringing for church services
- Practising, encouraging and advancing the art of change-ringing
- Providing a fund to support belfry restoration and improvement projects within its area

Who we are

SMG members represent numerous towers within the wider Birmingham area, each housing bells suitable for change ringing. SMG is a member of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCCBR) and works alongside other national and regional bell ringing bodies.

When were we formed?

The Guild was created in 1755, the date of the first peal of 5000+ changes known to have been rung by members of the principal Birmingham change ringing society, The Society of St Martin's Youths. The current Guild is in direct line of descent from this society.

Why?

In a nutshell, SMG is about working together and forging a collective identity for the region's bell towers. In times of recruitment challenges and conflicting demands on individuals' time, collaboration is more important than ever. Sharing our knowledge and expertise makes us collectively stronger, and creates new opportunities for exciting joint projects.

Our aims

- Help maintain strong local bands of ringers who ring for church services
- Maintain the heritage of ringing as an art by training new ringers
- Provide a rewarding and enjoyable activity for its members
- Demonstrate excellence in ringing and achieve the highest standards of performance
- Push forward the boundaries of change ringing achievement and ambition
- Support the improvement of bells and ringing infrastructure through the provision of funds

How we are funded

SMG is a member subscription-based organisation.

Charitable status

SMG's Bell Restoration Fund is a registered charity (Registered Charity Number 508571)

For more information

Website: <https://stmartinsguild.org>

YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/smgcbr>

Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/smgcbr1>

Email: smgcbr@gmail.com

President, Vice Presidents and Officers of the Guild for 2021

President	The Bishop of Birmingham , The Right Reverend David Urquhart
Life Vice Presidents	John Anderson, Richard Grimmett, Richard Jones, Simon Linford, Christine Mills
Master	Clare McArdle 07810 544949; smgcbr@gmail.com
Guild Ringing Master	Philip Ramsbottom smgcbr@gmail.com
General Secretary	Arthur Reeves 07941 955883; smgcbr@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tracy Stevens smgcbr@gmail.com
Archivist	Mark Eccleston smgcbr@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer	Trish Everett 07968 362501; 0121 449 1088; trish_everett@hotmail.com
Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner Secretary	Jenny Sunter bells@brierleyhill.org
Public Relations Officer	Jonathan Townsend smgcbr@gmail.com
Webmaster	Mark Eccleston
Newsletter Editor	Andy Clark c72ad@aol.com
Central Council Representatives	Richard Andrew, James Ramsbottom
Trustees (General Fund) Trustees (Bell Restoration Fund)	John Anderson, John Fielden Don Finnemore, Anthony Daw
Independent Examiners	Steven Horton, Thomas Horton

Meet the Team for 2020



President: The Bishop of Birmingham, The Right Reverend David Urquhart

Life Vice Presidents: John Anderson, Richard Grimmett, Richard Jones,
Simon Linford, Andrew Stubbs



Master: Clare McArdle

I joined the St Martin's Guild in the 1970s, not long after learning to ring at Harborne. Although I have dabbled with peal ringing, my main focus has been to help to improve the standards of teaching across the Guild. I am very proud of the success of the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing, both for the quality of teaching that is delivered and the opportunities we are able to offer mentoring people learning to teach. My work in this field has been recognised by the Association of Ringing Teachers – I am an ART tutor and sit on the ART Management Committee.



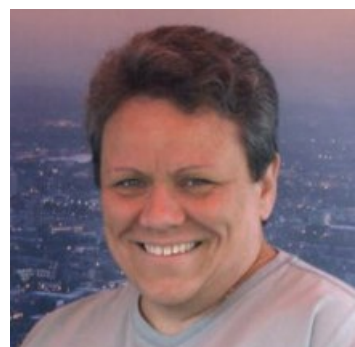
Ringing Master: Phil Ramsbottom

Having joined the St Martin's Guild in 2013, I quickly found myself organising ringing activities ranging from elementary theory sessions up to entry level quarter peals on higher numbers for the benefit of helping ringers to progress. Along with many others I also teach at the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing which was founded at around the same time. I take great pleasure in helping ringers to discover new and different ways of learning the many facets of this wonderful ancient craft.



Secretary: Arthur Reeves

I am a member at St Martin's, St Philip's Cathedral, and St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham city centre, though I like visiting other practices as often as I can. I enjoy many aspects of bell ringing: the music we create itself; the challenge of learning new things; the commitment to a team; the personal drive to keep getting better; and certainly not forgetting the social opportunities to meet new people. Bell ringing certainly has something for everybody, so if you haven't had a go then get in touch!



Treasurer: Tracy Stevens

I learnt to ring in October 2008, requiring a new hobby following a sporting injury. I soon became hooked by the art of campanology. I ring at Harborne where I am also Assistant Tower Captain and in 2011 I became the Guild's Treasurer, a position I enjoy. I have also completed the ITTS Modules for teaching bell ringing and am a full member of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART)



2020 Stats & Facts

35
Full
Members
elected

7
Associate
Members
elected

69
Guild practices
and online events
organised

17
Peals rung for
the Guild

Members elected during 2020

Full Members

Tony Rowan
Sarah King, Shirley
Jeffrey Carr, Northfield
Denise Carr, Northfield
David Roberts, Coleshill
Lesley Roberts, Coleshill
Helen Surr, Harborne
Rachel Oakes, Harborne
Liz Oakes, Harborne
Joanne Goodall, Selly Oak
Heather Griffiths, Lichfield
David Pipe, Cambridge
Katherine Price-Feraud, Solihull
Chris Shaw, Fairwarp
Michael Shaw, Fairwarp
Gillian Stead, Solihull
Jimmy Yeoman, Exning
Steve Askew, Brewood
Peter Bennett, Newport
David Large, Great Barr
Denise Large, Great Barr
Alison Hodge, Malvern
Oliver Bates, Birmingham City Centre
Rachel Mahoney, Birmingham City Centre
Elizabeth Wilby, Birmingham St Paul

Associate Members

Anna Shortt
Hannah Cawthorn
Emily Walker
Elliot Daniel
Harvey Butler
Thomas Healy
Matthew Healy

Reflecting on 2020



Almost a year has passed since I was elected Master of the St Martin's Guild. It has been a year like no other in living memory as far as ringing is concerned and I would like to pay tribute to Guild members and my fellow officers for the ways in which they have risen to the many different challenges that 2020 brought.

As life as we knew it ground to a halt in late March, I don't think anyone was predicting such a prolonged period without ringing returning to normal. In March and April, as the Standing Committee met for the first time virtually, our immediate concerns were for the health and welfare of members, some of whom we knew would be classified as vulnerable. Our next concerns were around how we could function as a Guild when our primary activity was no longer viable.

As Master, I am proud to be able to say that the Guild – both its officers and its members – has risen to the challenges admirably. Our number one concern, to support vulnerable members, was dealt a sobering blow right at the beginning of the first Lockdown with the hospitalisation of Andrew Stubbs before we had been able to make contact with him. We did make contact and were able to put him in touch with close friends in his last few days in hospital, but his death was a shock. Fortunately, we were able to support other vulnerable Guild members and I am very grateful to all those members who supported ringers from their own towers in any way, keeping them safe.

As to the question of how to continue to function as a Guild, we very quickly embarked on an ambitious plan of Zoom webinars, initially twice weekly until the summer break and then weekly. Incredibly, we have been able to sustain this throughout the year and already have a programme that takes us through to the end of March. Our series of webinars has gained momentum during the year and recognition of excellence in many quarters. With the revamping of our website and the addition of the Resources page, access to the webinars is truly without boundaries, something of which we should be justifiable proud. In addition, we have been able to facilitate necessary Safeguarding Training in partnership with the Birmingham Diocese.

We have hosted other imaginative guild events during the year – the 'Bake-Off' competition, with an amazing 50 entries and an incredible £1,300 raised for charity; the photographic competition, again well supported; and the treasure trail. Guild meetings have been better attended on Zoom than they would have been normally, something that we will certainly be looking to carry forward in the future. I have been incredibly fortunate as Master to have a brilliant team of officers around me. I would like to pay tribute to their efforts supporting members and finding ways to continue the business of the Guild. Not only that, they have risen to new challenges and found new ways of doing things. Thank you Arthur (Guild Ringing Master), Stella (Secretary), Tracy (Treasurer), Mark (Webmaster and Archivist), Trish (Safeguarding Officer).

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to everyone for making the best of 2020 and for making it better for others.

Clare McArdle, Guild Master



2020 around the Guild

Handbells on the radio

When I was told that I had the chance to ring handbells on the radio, I immediately said yes. The night after, I thought, "What if I go wrong? I won't have a chance to correct myself." The event was for Heritage Open Day. It was to start at sunrise on Saturday 12 September 2020 at St Michael's Church, Brierley Hill. Black Country Radio broadcast the live event which included music, poetry, bells and a bit of history. Tim and Jenny Sunter would normally have organised tower bell ringing for Heritage Open Day but, because of coronavirus, the Guild was asked to ring handbells instead. These had been discovered a few years ago after many years of sitting in a box, unused, and Tim got them renovated.

I was very nervous, but also excited. When the day came, I had to wake up at 5am to be at Brierley Hill for 6am. We had two slots on the programme, and we rang Plain Bob Minor. The first, we completed perfectly. The second, there was a small hiccup. It was so interesting to see all of the radio equipment and learn a bit about how a radio broadcast is made. It was one of the best experiences of my life.

Report by Elizabeth Wilby (aged 9)

Online Training Resources

Guild members have been busy delivering online training sessions throughout 2020.

All resources (including video recordings, slides and supporting documents) can be found on the Guild website:

<http://www.stmartinsguild.org/teaching/training-and-resources/>

Andrew Stubbs

Andrew Stubbs died on Thursday 2 April 2020 after a short illness.

Andrew, Life Vice President of the St Martin's Guild, held the position of Master for 11 years. He served as Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1968 and held the office of Treasurer from 1981 to 2006. He held prominent positions within the Central Council and the Ringing World and was a long serving member of the OUS and St Paul's Cathedral Guild. A man of great influence and infinite wisdom, he will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, Andrew.

Andrew's obituary can be found in this Yearbook.



St Martin's

Sunday service ringing temporarily recommenced at St Martin's on 26 July 2020. A detailed risk assessment was compiled and agreed with the church authorities, and is updated weekly based on the latest national guidelines and those from the Central Council. Bands are agreed in advance, maintain social distancing, wear face coverings and sanitise hands upon entry and exit.



The size of the ringing chamber at St Martin's has allowed us to ring a sub-set of the available bells. We've been ringing 'The Magnificent Seven' (bells 2, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 16), or a lighter six (bells 1, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 12). A particular highlight has been a specially composed touch, created by John Warboys, comprising 13 Spliced Surprise Minor methods, the first letter of each method forming the acrostic: 'Covid Selected'! <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1387608>



All Saints, Kings Heath

An opportunity has arisen to put a ring of bells into All Saints, Kings Heath. A chance conversation with Stan Hems, a prominent mover and shaker in Kings Heath with strong links to the church, led to a visit to the tower with a churchwarden, and a very positive response to the potential of this fine tower having the ring of bells it was clearly designed for.

There would be lots of benefits to the Guild of having a light six in Kings Heath. Our six bell ringing development is hindered by not having a light six to practice on – most of our six bell ringing is done on front sixes of tens, or back sixes of eights, which is not ideal. There is a lot of interest in multi-method minor ringing at the top-end of the experience scale and such peal attempts do not have a natural base. And finally the Guild's young ringers, and Brumdingers in particular, would benefit from a tower where the bells are easy to ring. All Saints is an active church in a prominent position in the centre of a large community, so finding ringers would not be difficult. One of the churchwardens turned out to be a lapsed ringer who learned at St Anne's Moseley!



The Keltek Trust, which helps churches acquire surplus and redundant bells for change ringing, made me aware of a possible ring of six being created by bellhanger Matthew Higby, and offered a grant of £10,000 towards the cost should they be suitable. Matthew's ring of six, which is being created from two rings of three he took in part exchange from other projects, are indeed suitable, so we have a proposal to acquire these and install them in All Saints for a grand total of £70,000 less the Keltek grant. Builder's work would be in addition, comprising installation of two floors, casting of one concrete ring beam, and provision of sound control.

Overall this is a very achievable project. It needs to get formal sign off from the PCC, but assuming that happens I will be looking for any offers of support. A project manager would be ideal!

Smethwick: Horton handbells

Rose and Janet Horton rang our first quarter on handbells in March 2020. When they realised that they were not going to be able to do any tower bell ringing for a while, the Hortons' thoughts turned to what we could do instead. There are only so many games of Bananagrams that one could play. So they asked Clare whether we could borrow the set of handbells from out of the ringing room at Harborne.

They started gently with four of them ringing Rounds on eight and trying a few call changes. Then some Plain Hunt on four with one bell each. They progressed by fits and starts to Rose and Janet ringing Plain Bob Minimus, firstly with the numbers in front of them, and then progressing to ringing without the numbers. Firstly one extent, then a couple, three. How many could they do? This was a problem as they couldn't count extents and keep ringing. So to ring a quarter they were going to need help. They enrolled Steve as Umpire. The first time they tried, it fired out after Steve said 10. The next time it fired out because he didn't say 10! Finally they got used to him saying the number of extents and they did the whole thing.

Future targets would be for Rose and Janet to ring another but on the opposite pairs. Also for Steve to ring his first quarter. They are also looking at Reverse Bob Minimus.



Brumdingers

The Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust is currently working on its second stage Lottery Fund application for the proposed museum of bell ringing, and is doing consultation and research. As they were keen to hear the views of young ringers and future visitors, they asked if the Brumdingers would be prepared to be a focus group for their research.

So over the course of two Thursdays, the mass ranks of Brumdingers, six each week, took part in Zoom meetings with Chrissie van Mierlo who is organising the consultation, and had a great time thinking about exhibits, designing 'merch' (including Susan's bell rope embroidered polo shirt), and making sure that the cafe is well-stocked with bell-shaped biscuits and masses of caramel wafers.

They were delightfully inventive, but it was also interesting for Clare and me to hear them describe ringing to Chrissie, including what they loved about it. There was a lot about the friendship it gives – 'It's great because you like have your friendship group from like your own tower, but then you get friends from like other towers as well'.



Linford Family Handbell Ringing

The Linford family had a burst of ringing handbells at home at the start of lockdown. Starting with bitesized chunks, we built up from a course, to 120 to 360 before eventually ringing a full quarter peal at the second attempt.

Although there hasn't been much time spent on the next stage of learning, the Guild's 1920s set of handbells is certainly getting well used in lockdown. In addition to our home ringing, they are used by the Brumdingers on Sunday mornings, and have been used by the Guild band that is practicing ringing Cambridge Royal.

If anyone wants to make a handy carrying case to supplement the large heavy wooden box that would be very useful!



BUSCR (Birmingham Universities Society of Change Ringers)

It will come as a surprise to no one that, along with the rest of the ringing community, the BUSCR ringers have been without a weekly practice night since the beginning of lockdown. In fact, this year the AGM had to be held online since the vast majority of our members had fled from Birmingham back to their respective home counties (or country in Joe Berry's case!).

In light of the distinct lack of physical ringing, the members of BUSCR, like so many other ringers, turned to Ringing Room in order to keep practice going. We started out small, just doing Plain Hunt, so that those of us unfamiliar with the virtual ringing experience could get to grips with it (learn the ropes if you will). Afterwards, we progressed to other methods, such as Plain Bob, Bastow and Grandsire, among others. The one benefit we found with this online version of ringing was that if you went wrong, you could simply blame it on a poor internet connection!

Needless to say, while we are enjoying ringing together in the virtual sense, we are all very much looking forward to the return of ringing in the tower. It is our hope that by the beginning of the academic year, BUSCR will be able to return to a somewhat normal practice night, but if this is not the case there is still much we can do together as a society outside of the tower (while remaining socially distant if required).

The Sound of Sunday Service Ringing Again...

OK, so it might be a while before we are ringing again. Whilst churches are planning to reopen, we have no details as to when our church, St Alphege in Solihull, will move away from their daily YouTube offerings to hold services in church with an actual congregation. So instead, we've been in touch with our Parish Team to see whether they can start adding the sound of our bells at the start of the Sunday Services that are posted. We want to be a part of the Parish's ongoing worship and let's be honest, we're keen not to be forgotten. Our approach was met with a really warm response so if you haven't already made a similar approach for your tower, it may well be worth you doing so? Of course, having received an enthusiastic response, we then needed to come up with the goods! And who could have predicted anything like what we have been dealing with over the last few months so, I'm afraid we had no pristine, pre-prepared recording of our bells ready for lockdown. Instead the hunt was on, which in itself has been rather fun.

With the help of band members, amongst the recordings we found were those made for the BBC; one being for Radio 4's, Bells on Sunday back in April 2012, albeit that the recording is no longer available from the BBC site. Another, a quarter rung for the christening for the son of one of our band members, some 33 years ago. We also found a recording of ringing for a local couple's 60th Wedding Anniversary, when they visited the tower to hear us ring. And then there were the four recordings of our bells that we found on YouTube. The biggest issue we have had is that most of these recordings are made from our ringing room and so include the sound of the conductors, rope noises and the sound of talking from those sitting out. However, the Parish have only been looking for short excerpts to play at the start or end of a service so by listening through it all and suggesting the best bits which included well struck rounds on eight and some Grandsire Caters, we believe we will now have made a useful contribution and we look forward to hearing our recordings being included in future services. Perhaps you were already ahead of us? Either way, we hope your bells are also still being heard.

Report by Sand Cooper.



Birmingham, St Paul's

Christmas 2020 has to be put into the context of the COVID pandemic.

The band has taken every allowable opportunity to ring during the pandemic. Our new Vicar, Revd David Tomlinson, is extremely supportive of our ringing and impressed by our lively and friendly band. After many years of decline the congregation is now reviving and includes members of the Farsi community, exiled from Iraq and Iran, who have made St Paul's their spiritual home. The congregation is very appreciative of our ringing, and once the pandemic is over, we will start to teach many of them (in particular the Farsi) to ring.

Earlier in the year we found ringing odd combinations of bells from the full ring unsatisfactory, and made internal alterations to allow some of the bells to be rung from the schoolroom below. We could then increase the number of ringers beyond the '6' we had become accustomed to (as we now had two venues), and ring all ten bells if we so chose. Before Christmas we successfully negotiated this arrangement on many Sundays and had rung rounds on the full 10, and methods on 6 and 8. The treble, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th are now rung from the ringing chamber whilst the 4th, 6th, 8th and tenor are rung from the schoolroom.

Sunday tower bell ringing had to stop when we entered Tier 3, but we continued ringing handbells in the churchyard on Sundays, always observing the necessary social distancing rules whilst enjoying our takeaway coffees. We received many compliments from Jewellery Quarter residents, who said they found it very comforting to sit in the churchyard and listen to our ringing. Some of our single ringers have also said how important they have found these meetings to ring tower bells and handbells, as it has provided a much welcome break from working and living at home alone, allowing them to have some precious social interaction. Our ringing has also served as a place of continuity for three student ringers who left their homes for the first time to study at University in Birmingham in September.

This year we rang on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our most recently elected member of the band, Elizabeth Wilby, rang in the first touch on both days. These touches were rounds and call changes on the front 6, with four ringers above and two below. Both touches were followed by extents of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles on the back six, with three ringers in each room.

Leaving the tower was a sad experience, knowing it would be some time before ringing is permitted again. We have found solace from knowing handbell ringing may become possible a little sooner. Whilst it has been wonderful to perform a service within the community which has been noticed and appreciated, it has not been the ringing that has brought us together but the camaraderie of the ringers. The St Paul's band meets fortnightly for online quizzes via Zoom, and has held its AGM, Annual Dinner and Christmas Party using the same technology, but it cannot adequately replace meeting face to face, especially in a time when one needs one's friends.

Report by Richard Grimmett.



First Performance of ‘Pendulums’ by Andrew Woodhead

There are methods, there are Call Changes, and there are occasionally attempts by composers to include bells in pieces of music. Some of these fall flat for the ringers, because they are asked; can you just ring this?’ and the answer is, unfortunately, no. Composer Andrew Woodhead took the trouble to watch and understand the sounds, processes and patterns of bellringing before he presented ‘Pendulums’ to the band at St Paul’s in the Jewellery Quarter and asked them whether they could take part in a performance of it at the ‘Ideas of Noise’ festival on 8 February 2020.

What he challenged the band to ring, in the Autumn of 2019, was deceptively simple. Each of eight bells would ring at a consistent and comfortable speed. What made it a fascinating piece of music was that each of the bells rings at a different speed, the treble the fastest, the tenor slowest. The cues for speed were delivered through earphones, and the ringers were successful only if they could ignore the rest of the band and focus only on their own bell and the electronic beeps. Like the Apollo program, it turned out that this was an endeavour that could have some unexpected lasting benefits. No, we have not invented a new type of non-stick saucepan... but the idea of trying to ring a bell accurately given only an auditory clue, was picked up by several of the band as a potential way of improving general listening and bell-handling skills and would be fairly easy to add to a course for learners, using just a smartphone, free metronome app and some headphones. We had to work out exactly where your hands are when the bell sounds, and exactly what the time lag is between pull and sound. These are transferrable skills into the quest for ever-better striking.

During the piece, which started with everyone firing at the same speed before diverging gradually into rounds, unexpectedly familiar rows appeared – Rounds, and Queens. Also new but recognisable patterns occurred such as pairs of bells ringing together, or half the bells firing then the other half. At the end, the bells returned to firing. Meanwhile, in the church, a 6-piece ensemble improvised alongside the ringing, layered with Electro-Acoustic field recordings from churches, bells and related found sounds. The whole performance, which included ringing up, a touch of Grandsire (on the front eight, just to keep things interesting!) and ringing down, lasted about an hour and was heard by an audience mostly comprised of students. The bells were used to good effect creating a unique soundscape including some moments of haunting melody. The audience received the work enthusiastically and the ringers were given a very warm round of applause when they descended from the belfry.

As ringers we are often focused on the qualities of evenness and regularity in our ringing and this was a real opportunity to hear the bells as a musical instrument in a way that is rarely considered.

Report by Ros and Tim Martin.

Pendulums – Andrew Woodhead

Saturday, February 8, 2020

1:00 PM – 10:00 PM

St Paul's Church JQ

Birmingham ([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) · [ICS](#)

In a brand new IoN commission, Birmingham-based composer/pianist Andrew Woodhead premieres an immersive, mixed-media work for bellringers and improvising ensemble.

I'm excited to be one of the improvisers in this fresh new project!

Saturday February 8th pm at St Paul's Church JQ, Birmingham



Brumdingers' Update

Keeping the Brumdingers interested and motivated has been my key task outside the mass of Central Council work. Ringing Room has of course been a blessing and with Clare's help we have been running around four sessions a week. At first, we had the entire group together at the usual Thursday evening time, but that descended into such chaos we needed a different plan!

So we split into smaller groups at different levels and at different times of the week. We toyed briefly with ringing Call Changes, Kaleidoscope exercises and Plain Hunt on single bells, but decided to take the plunge and just teach them all to ring change ringing on handbells. In many respects, ringing two bells is easier than one, especially if you are not having to think about the physical mechanics of ringing at the same time. All of them have embraced it, and on a roster of 14 regular attendees, all can ring Plain Hunt on coursing pairs, and six have gone past the stage of ringing Plain Bob Minor on the tenors to ringing Bob Minor on the trebles (which is much harder).

While doing the job of keeping the group together, it is interesting to see how these handbell skills are developing and how it will affect their tower bell ringing. Of those who can now ring Bob Minor on handbells, only three had even rung Plain Hunt on tower bells. So they know the concepts of the method, without any similar tower bell experience. We are now introducing Bobs, but it is done by thinking about what it does to the pair, rather than, as you might do on tower bells, thinking about what it does to your blue line path.

When the lockdown eased and we were permitted to meet with more than one other person outdoors, we started meeting to ring on real bells. That has just been with those who have successfully rung 5-6 to Bob Minor. So on Sunday morning we ring outside Moseley church with Susan and Orson, while Charlie and I have also been to the Paulson's house to ring with Sara and Malcolm, and to the Wilby's house to ring with Elizabeth. One rainy day saw Charlie, Kunal and me ringing Bob Minor under a tree in Perry Barr!

Report by Simon Linford.



The 132nd Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner: Saturday 29 February 2020

If the HJ Dinner were a touch of Stedman Triples (starting on the 7th)...

Dodging at the back – with a bob to keep you there!

The Birmingham Council House is the setting for the annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner at the end of February. The Banqueting Suite provides a fine setting as ringers dodge around each other in their finery, trying to reach the bar. To keep them at the back a bit longer, Richard Postill provided a picture quiz of Guild Towers from unusual angles – resident members and visitors alike were left scratching their heads.

Down into double dodge 4-5

As everyone made their way towards the front, the splendid table plan and arrangements made by dinner secretary, Jenny Sunter, ensured minimal dodging for all to find their seats. Imagine my delight at having graduated from the back student table to Table 5... which turned out to be at the back of the room (that said, the advantages of that will become clear).

In quick

Madam Chairman, Gill Postill, welcomed the assembled guests, inviting Dean Matt Thompson to say grace before the meal began. The quick work here represents perhaps the shortest of the speeches.

Double dodge 4-5 up

I'm sure that no one reading this really wants to know what everyone ate but I won't let that stop me. The starter, served to the guests at the table, was roasted sweet potato soup with a griddled scone. Just the one set of double dodges.

Dodging in 6-7 up

A buffet station, rather than table service, showed the advantages of sitting at the back. Seeing others walk past with their plates of beef steak, fish pie or mushroom and spinach chilli gave time to carefully consider the best choice. And if that choice was the wrong one being closest for going up for seconds (bob).

Repeat with dessert – with seconds of course (bob).



Double dodge in 4-5 down

Coffee or tea with mints, of course.

Go in slow

With everyone well fed and content, the main entertainment for the evening could commence. Despite being the slow work, with speeches from a range of interesting speakers interspersed with handbell ringing, all were kept captivated.

Gill Postill, secretary of the Birmingham Cathedral bell ringers, ringer at St James Shirley and chairman for the evening, opened the programme with toasts to both Her Majesty the Queen and the memory of the late Henry Johnson. In her speech, Gill recalled how this 132nd dinner was only the 4th time that the dinner had been held on 29th February. In her tribute to Henry Johnson, Gill revealed that she had been baptised in the same church as Henry Johnson – St Chad's Lichfield.

Following this, a toast to the guests and visitors was proposed by Clare McArdle, now Guild Master of the St Martin's Guild. All in attendance gave a round of applause but no one more enthusiastically than retiring St Martin's Guild Master Simon Linford. As well as welcoming those ringers who had travelled great distances to attend the dinner, Clare did her bit for ringing harmony by introducing John (attending his first HJ dinner) to fellow ringing widowers so they could compare notes after the speeches.

In response, Phil Rogers recalled his feelings at ringing in Birmingham including with the late Rod Pipe. On the whole this was a feeling of being nervous apart from the times he was terrified!

As a break in proceedings, a faultless handbell touch of Stedman Triples was expertly rung by Michael Wilby, Alistair Cherry, Mark Eccleston and Arthur Reeves.

Halfway through the slow work, the programme continued with





Julia Cater proposing a toast to the continued prosperity of the St Martin's Guild. Julia's recount of time with the well-loved former resident Guild members Maurice and Margaret Edwards was well received along with her attempt to replicate their accent. She spoke fondly of the Guild and remarked on how its reputation continues to grow with its cutting edge Monday night band at St Philip's Cathedral; 12 bell band and Birmingham School of Bell Ringing to produce 'made in Birmingham' ringers.

In his response, Michael Wilby proposed a round of applause to congratulate Simon Linford on his new role as President of the Central Council. In going on to propose the Health of the Chairman, Michael spoke with affection for Gill. Although he recalled how Gill could be ruthless with rotas, this is outweighed by her generosity with jelly babies for which she is known and loved.

Dodging some more (with a single and bob should bring it round)

With the slow work drawing to a close, ringers and non-ringers were left to mingle and socialise until 'that's all' was called. A successful touch of 123 changes of Stedman Triples.

Report by Fran Cinderey.



2020 Photography Competition



The St Martin's Guild Photographic Competition, held in July, produced some really good images and the judges had a difficult but enjoyable task. Judging was based on whether the category brief was fulfilled, on the impact of each picture and on technical competence, although this was not too emphasised as we accepted that these were not entries for a Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society! However we did notice whether a picture was in focus and correctly exposed. You can view all of the entries, along with the highly commended and the winners in each category here: <https://youtu.be/St7TeFDYW1M>



The winner of 'Summertime' (well done to Pauline Foster) caught the mood well and we could almost feel the warmth. Water, a half-timbered house, a church and the cows added up to an idyllic scene.

Monochrome (or black & white) relies on a range of tones to make the impact rather than colour. Here the winning shot had a good range without the whites being burned out and the blacks forming a solid block with no detail. Well done to Jon Townsend for this winning entry.

The 'Funny' category stretched people's imagination. The winning shot (well done to Annie Smith) reminded us of what people do when photographing the leaning tower of Pisa. It was well composed. Finally, churches can be quite tricky to photograph. The winner went for a nicely angled shot which gave the picture strength. Well done to Susan Webb for this excellent photograph.

Judges: Richard and Gill Postill; Michael, Vicky and Elizabeth Wilby.





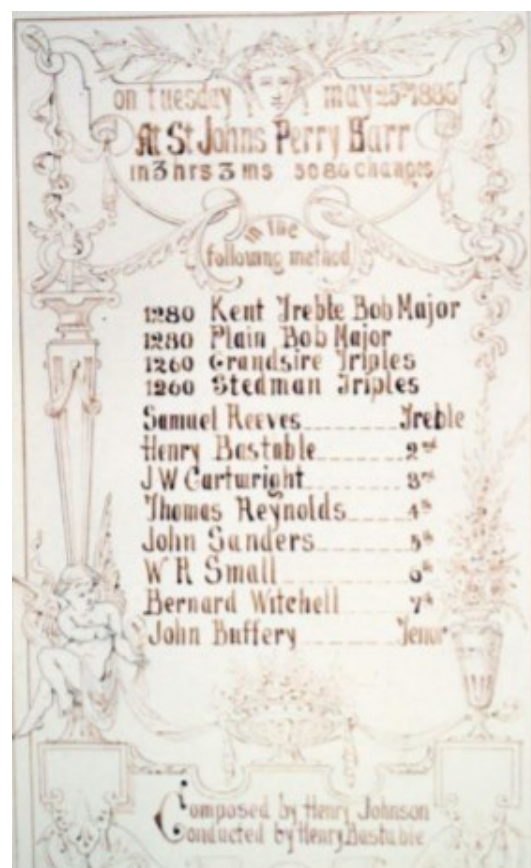
‘A Hotch-Potch Peal’ at Perry Barr

Few peal compositions splice methods across different stages (for example, Spliced Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major), yet it is almost 100 years since the first true mixed-stage peal was rung. Earlier false ‘peals’ had been rung during the 19th century, with the St Martin’s Guild involved in a controversy over a ‘peal’ rung at Perry Barr. The ‘peal’ was rung at Perry Barr on 25th May 1886 comprising 1280 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major and Plain Bob Major, along with 1260 changes of Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples. It was claimed as ‘the only known performance in these four methods on eight bells’. The report of this performance, printed alongside more conventional peals, caused more than a little consternation in the pages of Bell News. In point of fact this performance was a series of four consecutive quarter-peals, each quarter true in itself and with each coming back into rounds before the band proceeded to ring the next.

Experienced ringers of the day appear to have been immediately aware that this was no peal in any ordinary sense. The renowned composer John R. Pritchard published a letter in Bell News requesting confirmation that no row occurred more than once: ‘if any one change occurred twice I think that column should be closed to such performances’. His own views were evident in his concluding remarks where he explained that he could not ‘understand a hotch-potch of various dishes on eight bells, when a 5000 in any one method can be rung’. The correspondent N. N. Hills, instructor of the St Alban’s Cathedral Society of Ringers, was even more damning. He wrote a scathing attack on the Birmingham band requesting ‘that it may also be the last time such a mongrel affair is allowed to appear in the columns of our valuable paper, or we may eventually have some company ringing ten distinct 500’s of Grandsire Triples and calling it a peal’.

The conductor of the Perry Barr performance, Henry Bastable, was a well-known and respected ringer. He was one-time Ringing Master at St Martin’s Birmingham and, in 1888, was the conductor of the first peal of Stedman Cinques to be rung on handbells outside London. In replying to his detractors, Bastable did concede that the Perry Barr ‘peal’ was indeed not true in the usual sense. Yet he mounted a robust defence on behalf of the Birmingham ringers. In reply to N. N. Hills, Bastable suggested that ‘any band who attempts such a mongrel affair will find it more difficult to complete than any ordinary 5000’.

Bastable stated that the ‘peal’ did test the capabilities of his band. Although ringers today may be familiar with the concept of splicing different methods, compositions incorporating more than one eight-bell method were rarely rung in the 19th century. Bastable did concede that although changes were repeated at Perry Barr, each method was true in itself; and he even went as far as to suggest that peal columns should not be closed to such performances simply because of repetition across the whole. But Bastable would not get his wish: his approach to combining Triples and Major methods appears to have found no favour whatsoever with the other peal bands of his day.



Henry Bastable died, aged 50, on 18th January 1899. It would be over a quarter of a century before anyone would successfully develop a device to successfully incorporate Triples and Major methods into a true peal. That person was the extraordinarily talented A. J. Pitman, pioneer of spliced composing, and perhaps most remembered for his early ground-breaking work on Spliced Surprise Major.

Article by Mark Eccleston

Lockdown Bake Off: May 2020



When our new secretary was elected at our AGM in January, she took on the role having been assured by the former secretary and the Ringing Master that 'she would spend a maximum of about an hour a week on Guild business'. All went well at first – a little bit more time, perhaps, whilst the new Standing Committee got used to each other and she got her head round how we do things in the St Martin's Guild. But then... Covid-19 and all ringing ceased in a matter of days. In common with everyone else, guild officers felt profoundly shocked by the course of events and we were all thrown in at the deep end in an alien environment – we were presiding over a guild of bell ringers that were not able to ring. The view of the officers was that the Guild was needed now, possibly more than ever, to keep people together and reassure them as we entered what we now know has been a prolonged period without being able to ring or socialise.

The first big casualty in the Guild's calendar was the 6-bell Striking Contest and business meeting in May and we set about thinking what we might do instead to attract members to come. In previous years we have held a 'Bake-Off' competition – it showcases some of the other skills our members have and can involve our younger ringers too. It's also a very good way of providing the tea. And so, the idea of the St Martin's Guild Lockdown Bake-Off was born. How would it work? As there could be no judges, who would decide which was the best bake? The logical solution was that the winner would be decided by voting. There was a lot in the news at the time about how charities were hard hit by the cancellation of events and the closure of their shops, and this led us to the idea that we could raise some money for charity. Just two days before the lockdown was announced, we learned that Trish Everett's husband had died shortly after being diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. As friends we felt helpless, unable to comfort one of our own in need. Raising money for the hospice that had cared for him was one way that we could support her, so that was how we decided on our charity.

To enter we asked people to make a minimum donation of £2 to a JustGiving page set up in Chris's memory, then email a photograph of their bake. They had two weeks to do this before entries closed and voting opened. To vote, we asked that people made a minimum donation of £2 and they then received a digital voting form. All bakers were given the chance to vote. Voting closed two days before the Guild meeting. The coveted prize was a 'Star Baker' apron in both adult and junior categories.

We hoped that the Bake-Off would lift people's spirits, whilst at the same time raising money for a worthwhile charity. The response was amazing – way beyond what we had dared to hope. There were initial responses of 'we've got no flour' or 'we've got no eggs' but within a short space of time, spurred by the publicity of the trailer (what else do you do in lockdown other than teach yourself movie making?) the entries were coming in. In spite of the national shortages of all baking ingredients there were an incredible 39 adult and 10 junior entries to the competition and some amazingly generous donations to our JustGiving page by entrants and voters.

On the day of the business meeting, around 50 guild members logged into the Zoom meeting for the results of the Bake-Off. Trish had sent me a heartfelt tribute to read out thanking everyone for their efforts and contributions. There was a huge variety of bakes and each one meant something to their creators, succinctly put in one sentence with their entry. The winning entries were the spectacular Easter Simnel Cake baked by Pauline Forster of Moseley, a tribute to her grandmother who would bake one every year, and Max Earthquake's lovely rainbow cake, 'to thank the NHS for helping people with coronavirus'.

The event raised an amazing £1,355 for Solihull Marie Curie Hospice, who have written to the Guild to say thank you, and, I hope raised the spirits of all who took part. I have a feeling it raised Stella's blood pressure somewhat as together we worked out the logistics of making it work. Well done Stella for rising to the challenge and co-ordinating it all.

The photographs show Pauline's Simnel Cake, Max's Rainbow Cake, and the two bakers proudly sporting their new aprons



Ringling Zoom!

Deprived by lockdown of his usual opportunities to harangue learners at Wednesday evening workshops and Moseley midweek practices, Phil Ramsbottom has been hosting a series of Ringing Room workshops.

The structure we arrived at wasn't planned but evolved. We have sessions twice a week lasting just 45 minutes (plus a bit if it's going well and we want to). There are only five or six people involved (broadly the same six ringers – see photo below) so that we're all ringing all the time. And naturally there's chat beforehand and during, including some ringing theory discussions – often around how to ring a particular method without learning the blue line.



We use Zoom as the meeting host and everyone uses headphones to prevent echoing and feedback. The technology sometimes plays tricks like freezing one individual temporarily and buffering all their incoming sounds; then delivering them all together in an almighty crash. To the other five ringers, everything sounds fine and they can't understand why person six has gone wrong! This doesn't end well, but it's easy to stand the bells, refresh and try again – or move on. Often we find that the technology improves across the session, which is a bit weird. Ringing Room itself is, I think, fine and the problems are local. Perhaps someone else in your household decides to download a large file and hog all the broadband. It's worth asking your household to keep off their devices for the duration of the session! By contrast, having one of our group 'across the pond' has caused relatively few problems.

Simply the act of ringing a bell by pressing a keyboard is so different from normal experience that it takes quite a bit of practice to be comfortable with it. Things like spotting the treble are tricky compared with tower bells – at least for me! Against this background we have, nevertheless, managed an impressive array of 25 methods over the 14 workshops so far – with a liberal dose of spliced and touches: **Minor:** Plain Bob, Bastow, Little Bob, Single College, Single Oxford, Double Oxford, St Clements, Kent Little, Kent, Oxford Treble Bob, Double Court and Double Bob. **Doubles:** Plain Bob, Twineham, Union Bob, Reverse Canterbury, Cloister, George's Maggot, Devon Place, Stedman, St Simon's, St Martin's, Original, St Augustine's and Grandsire. **Minimus:** Reverse Bob Some of us have rung many methods that we've never rung on tower bells, so we hope this is transferable knowledge when we get back to our towers. Most importantly, we've had a lot of fun.

Report by Keith Whitehead.

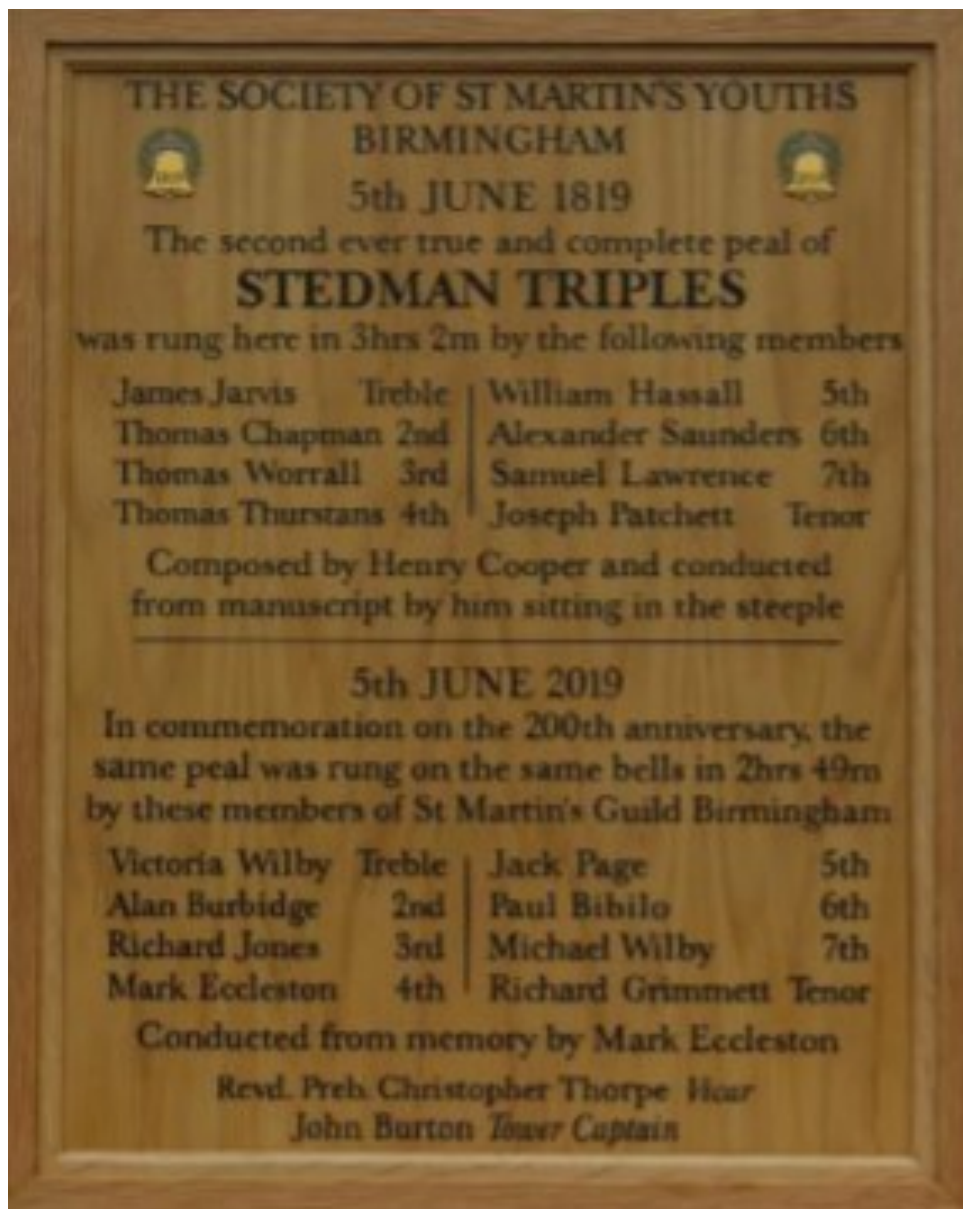
The Shifnal Peal Boards Project

Readers may recall that in June 2019, eight members of the Guild went to Shifnal (near Telford) to mark the 200th anniversary of the first peal of Stedman Triples by Birmingham ringers. The figures for the original peal, called from manuscript by its composer Henry Cooper, have survived, and so the same composition was rung again on the very same bells, this time conducted from memory by Mark Eccleston. A warm connection had been established on a couple of project-planning visits with the local ringers, particularly tower captain John Burton, and with the Vicar. So 5th June 2019 turned out to be a very good day out – as good, we reckoned, as the one enjoyed by the 1819 ringers in the company of their friend, the famous Shifnal ringer Samuel Lawrence.

Two 18th century peal boards at Shifnal include the names of Andrew Peake (formerly a leader of Birmingham ringing) and Sam Lawrence. These boards were in poor repair, and linked to our commemoration of the 1819 peal, money towards their restoration was raised among Guild members and with a grant from Guild funds. I am very glad to report that this work, along with the repair of four other boards sponsored locally, has just been completed by the conservator Annabelle Monaghan (of Longden, Salop). I went to the church on Friday 2nd October and can confirm that the old boards have been restored to a very high standard and their appearance has been transformed. They are beautiful pieces of ringing heritage (the conservator's report and photographs will be available shortly and I will publish more about the outcome of the project in the Ringing World). Thanks are due to those who kindly responded to our fund-raising appeal.

The Stedman Triples peal of 1819 itself did not have a board. So we commissioned Maggie Willans (of Bath) to make one to mark the bicentary, the cost subscribed by members of the peal band. This, along with the two old boards the Guild helped to restore, are to be hung in the ringing chamber after a brief period on display during a Covid-restricted flower festival in the church on 3rd & 4th October (the four other boards will be returned permanently to a wall in the church). It is very gratifying to think that this long-planned project honouring an achievement of our distinguished ringing forebears has now been successfully concluded – and we hope the renewed connection with Shifnal will live on.

Report by Richard Jones.





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 unwavering 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.



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.



100 Club Report:

Clare McArdle



Jan-20		Aug-20	
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
Feb-20		Sep-20	
Tony Daw	£50.00	Steve Pugh	£50.00
Richard Andrew	£15.00	James Ramsbottom	£15.00
Will Davies	£5.00	Clare McArdle	£5.00
Mar-20		Oct-20	
Richard Andrew	£50.00	Phil Sealy	£50.00
James Ramsbottom	£15.00	Jane Chapman	£15.00
Brenda Thompson	£5.00	Triona Jowett	£5.00
Apr-20		Nov-20	
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-20		Dec-20	
Phil Sealy	£50.00	Ollly Bouckley	£50.00
Eleanor Linford	£15.00	Stephen Shipley	£15.00
Ann Smart	£5.00	Stephanie Warboys	£5.00
Jun-20		Christmas 2020	
Trish Everett	£50.00	Alex Ross	£95.92
Chris Mills	£15.00	Margaret Burling	£47.96
Christine Barnell	£5.00	Ollly Bouckley	£47.96
Jul-20		Janet Horton	£11.99
Ollly 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



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. An archive of the Guild's peal records, from 2005, and Guild peal compositions, from 1990, can also be found on our website: <https://www.stmartinsguild.org>

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 on 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_FmstQdF1qVXJA/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.

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.



Archivist's Report:

Mark Eccleston

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 1: 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	
NA761	'Shake my hand and I'll show you the ropes': a biography of George W. Pipe (J. P. Loveless), 2020	Purchased



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



Henry Johnson 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.



Central Council

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 proposer 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 video talks with grassroots ringers. All being well, the Central Council plans to finally go to Nottingham for its AGM in 2021.

Obituary: Andrew Stubbs



Andrew was born in Birmingham on 9th October 1939. He attended King Edward VI School in Edgbaston and graduated from Oxford University in 1961. A move to London saw Andrew join Equity and Law Life Assurance Company where he had a successful career, working at their head offices in London and High Wycombe. When the company opened another decentralised head office in Coventry in the early 1980s Andrew returned to the Midlands.

Andrew learnt to ring at Handsworth during the 1950s, taught by Ian Thompson. He was extremely talented, an accurate striker and became a prolific peal ringer. He rang 2,184 peals between 1959 and 2014 and was a great supporter of the peals at Birmingham Cathedral.

Andrew was a dedicated member of the Ancient Society of College Youths (ASCY), having been elected in 1961. He joined the band at St Paul's Cathedral during the 1960s and remained a full member until 2000, long after he had relocated to Solihull. He competed in the National Twelve Bell Contest 20 times between 1978 and 2001 and was a member of the St Paul's winning bands in both the 1984 and 1996 contests.

Interested in the organisation and management of ringing, Andrew was a long-standing member of the Central Council from 1975 until his death. He was Steward of the Rolls of Honour from 1999 to 2008 and served on The Ringing World committee, later the Board, from 1978 to 2002.

In addition to long-held positions in the ASCY and the Oxford University Society, Andrew was also an officer of the St Martin's Guild, serving as Master for 11 years and subsequently as Life Vice-President. He was Bell Advisor for the Birmingham Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, Trustee of the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund, and Tower Secretary at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham. In these roles Andrew was likened to a non-executive director, concerned to ensure things were carefully considered and done properly. Andrew was conservative and stood his ground when he felt this was necessary, but his concern was always to do his best by the ringing organisations he served.

For many years Andrew had been an enthusiastic smoker and drinker. Upon recovery from abdominal surgery in 2004 he found he could no longer drink real ale. Then, following a subsequent operation, Andrew found that a shortage of breath meant that ringing even light bells was impossible. His long peal ringing career, and indeed all ringing, ended in 2014. Yet Andrew's approach was to concentrate on those activities he could still undertake. He continued his regular attendance at an annual cycle of ringing events, and remained a keen member of the 'Last Wednesday' daytime band centred in the Midlands.

Outside of ringing, Andrew's love of music saw him as a frequent attendee of CBSO concerts. He contributed to the administration of the housing complex where he lived in Solihull, and served as Treasurer for the Birmingham Ileostomy Association, being heavily involved in supporting patients in challenging times. Andrew enjoyed the events he had organised to mark his 80th birthday in October 2019. And although Andrew had not been in robust health for a number of years, his death less than six months later, came as an unexpected shock.

Andrew died on 2nd April 2020 of the Covid-19 virus. He will be remembered for his loyalty, courtesy, wise counsel, and his extensive contribution to ringing over very many years.

Tribute by Mark Eccleston.

Guild peals rung during 2020

No	Date	Place	Rows	Method(s)	RW Ref
1	09-Jan-20	Sapcote, All Saints	5760	Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (64m)	5675.012
2	18-Jan-20	Selly Oak	5040	Stedman Triples	5675.012
3	18-Jan-20	Towcester, St Lawrence	5040	Bristol Surprise Maximus	5676.014
4	23-Jan-20	Honiley	5760	Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (83m)	5676.014
5	02-Feb-20	Birmingham, St Paul	5040	Stedman Triples	5678.019
6	03-Feb-20	Birmingham, St Philip	5088	Spliced Surprise Maximus (4m)	5678.019
7	08-Feb-20	Brewood	5040	Stedman Triples	5680.024
8	10-Feb-20	Birmingham, St Philip	5090	Stedman Cinques	5679.022
9	13-Feb-20	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5681.027
10	19-Feb-20	Birmingham, St Paul	5760	Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (64m)	5680.024
11	27-Feb-20	Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral	5040	Stedman Triples	5681.027
12	28-Feb-20	Edgbaston	5760	Spliced Treble Dodging Minor (147m)	5682.029
13	02-Mar-20	Birmingham, St Philip	5088	Spliced Maximus (4m)	5682.029
14	05-Oct-20	Little Eaton, 5 Brooks Hollow	5040	Lincolnshire Surprise Royal	5715.11
15	18-Oct-20	Solihull, West Midlands, 46 Widney Lane	5088	Bristol Surprise Major	5714.107
16	20-Oct-20	Edgbaston, Birmingham, Belfry of St Batholomew	5088	Yorkshire Surprise Major	5715.11
17	04-Nov-20	Sutton Coldfield, 19 College Hill	5040	Cambridge Surprise Royal	5724.001



Directory of Guild Towers

ASTON, SS Peter & Paul (SP082899)

Bells: 12, 24-2-18 in D
PN: Thursday 19.45–21.00
SR: 10.15–10.45
Contact: Don Finnemore,
0121 386 2361; 07831 295246; donaldfinnemore@yahoo.co.uk

AUSTREY, St Nicholas (SK296063)

Bells: 5, 13-2-00 in F
PN: Wednesday 19.30–21.00 (1st only)
SR: none
Contact: Heather Cooke
01827 830548; cookes.austrey@tiscali.co.uk

BARSTON, St Swithun (SP207780)

Bells: 6, 5-2-3 in C
PN: Thursday 18.45–20.00
SR: none
Contact: Mary Daymond
01676 523951; randmdaymond@hotmail.com

BICKENHILL, St Peter (SP188824)

Bells: 6, 9-2-0 in A
PN: none
SR: none
Contact: The Vicar



Barston, St Swithun

BIRMINGHAM, RC Cathedral of St Chad (SP070877)

Bells: 8, 15-3-6 in F
PN: none
SR: 12:00 (approx)–12.45
Contact: Andrew Stubbs
0121 704 1638; alanburbidge@btinternet.com

BIRMINGHAM, St Paul, Jewellery Quarter (SP065875)

Bells: 10, 12-2-13 in F#
PN: Thursday 19.30–21.00
SR: 17.45–18.30
Contact: Angie Wakefield; stpaulbhamringersec@gmail.com

BIRMINGHAM, St Martin (SP073866)

Bells: 16, 39-1-19 in C
PN: Tuesday (1st & 3rd) 19.30–21.00
SR: 10.00–11.00
Contact: Clare McArdle
07810 544949; claremcardle151@gmail.com

BIRMINGHAM, Cathedral of St Philip (SP070870)

Bells: 12, 31-0-21 in D
PN: none
SR: 08.30–09.00; 2nd & 4th 10.15–10.55
Contact: Gill Postill
0121 744 6217; gill42@hotmail.com



Birmingham, St Philip's Cathedral

Directory of Guild Towers

BOLDMERE, St Michael (SP109938)

Bells: 8, 13-3-14 in F
PN: Wednesday 19.45–21.00
SR: 17.15–18.00
Contact: David Reeves
0121 354 6264; d.reeves@talktalk.net

BOURNVILLE, St Lazar (Serbian Orthodox) (SP034809)

Bells: 3, 9-1-23 in Ab
Tuning: 1, 3, 5 of 5; no stays or sliders.
Contact: The Church

CASTLE BROMWICH, SS Mary & Margaret (SP142899)

Bells: 8, 10-3-14 in Ab
PN: Wednesday 19.30–21.00
SR: 09.30–10.00
Contact: Ben Sassons
07786 030413; bimsassons@gmail.com

COLESHILL, SS Peter & Paul (SP201891)

Bells: 10, 14-0-0 in F
PN: Tuesday 19.30–21.00
SR: 10.00–10.30
Contact: Sue Rogers
01675 462272; john.suerogers46@btinternet.com

CURDWORTH, St Nicholas & St Peter ad Vincula (SP177928)

Bells: 3, 7½cwt in A
Contact: Revd Matthew Rhodes
The Rectory, Glebe Fields, Curdworth, B76 9ES
0121 323 4906; catmat30@hotmail.com

EDGBASTON, St Bartholomew (SP057848)

Bells: 8, 10-0-14 in G
PN: Weds 19:30-21:00 (check out of term-time)
SR: 09.45–10.30; 17:45–18.30 (check out of term-time)
Contact: Nicola Hibbert; nicolaehibbert@gmail.com

ERDINGTON, RC Abbey of SS Thomas & Edmund (SP112923)

Bells: 8, 15-3-16 in F
PN: Friday 19.30–21.00
SR: 10.10–10.30
Contact: Paul McEvilly
0121 3533942; 07973 952213; paulmceilly46@gmail.com

ERDINGTON, St Barnabas (SP110917)

Bells: 8, 15-1-15 in F
PN: Tuesday 19.30–20.30
SR: 10.00
Contact: David Hill-Ilderton
07730 191329; nasus-caerulus@live.co.uk



Coleshill, SS Peter and Paul



Edgbaston, St Bartholomew



Erdington, St Barnabas

Directory of Guild Towers



Grendon, All Saints

GRENDON, All Saints (SP287009)

Bells: 6, 11-2-14 in F#

PN: none

SR: by arrangement

Contact: Michael Allsop

01827 830086; michael.allsopp1@btinternet.com

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN, St Mary (SP203808)

Bells: 8, 12-0-22 in G

PN: Monday 20.00–21.00

SR: 10.30–11.00

Contact: Bridget Osmond

01564 778847; bridget.osmond@gmail.com

HANDSWORTH, St Mary (SP055904)

Bells: 8, 15-2-22 in F

PN: Wednesday 20.00–21.00 (visitors phone to check)

SR: 10.40–11.00

Contact: Rosemarie Seadon

0121 357 3280; rosemarie.seadon@gmail.com

HARBORNE, St Peter (SP028839)

Bells: 8, 12-3-24 in F#

PN: Monday 19.00–21.00

SR: 09.15–10.00; 17.45–18.30 (usually Quarter Peal)

Contact: Tamsin Lane

07760 100107; tamsin_lane@hotmail.com

KINGS NORTON, St Nicolas (SP048790)

Bells: 10, 17-1-6 in E

PN: Tuesday 19.45–21.00

SR: 09.45–10.30

Contact: Catherine Taylor; 07749 519033; c.r.taylor@bham.ac.uk

KINGSBURY, SS Peter & Paul (SP215963)

Bells: 8, 17-1-00 in E

PN: Friday 19.30–21.00

SR: Variable (please check)

Contact: Elaine Lane; 01827 873810

KNOWLE, SS John the Baptist, Lawrence & Anne (SP183767)

Bells: 8, 9-3-7 in G

PN: Monday 19.30–21.00

SR: 08.45-09.15 (Last Sunday: 10.15–11.00); 17.00–18.00 (usually Quarter Peal)

Contact: Judi Taylor; judithctaylor@gmail.com

LAPWORTH, St Mary (SP163711)

Bells: 6, 10-1-2 in G

PN: Thursday 20.00–21.00

SR: 10.25–11.00

Contact: John Cranmer

01564 782425; john.cranmer@b@nternet.com



Knowle, SS John the Baptist, Lawrence & Anne

Directory of Guild Towers



Moseley, St Anne



Northfield, St Laurence

LEA MARSTON, St John the Baptist (SP204927)

Bells: 3, 6-1-8 in B

Contact: The Vicarage, Nether Whitacre, B46

MIDDLETON, St John the Baptist (SP176984)

Bells: 3, 8-3-1 in G

Contact: Revd Matthew Rhodes

The Rectory, Glebe Fields, Curdworth, B76 9ES

0121 323 4906; catmat30@hotmail.com

MOSELEY, St Anne (SP074836)

Bells: 6, 7-0-5 in Bb

PN: Tuesday 19:00-20:15

SR: 10.30-11.00

Contact: Stella Tew

07759 223832; stellatew@yahoo.co.uk

MOSELEY, St Mary (SP077832)

Bells: 10, 18-0-9 in F

PN: Monday 19.30-21.00

SR: 09.15-09.55

Contact: Trish Everett

0121 449 1088; 07968 362501; trish_everett@hotmail.com

NETHER WHITACRE, St Giles (SP231924)

Bells: 6, 12-0-0 in G

PN: Thursday 20.00-21.30

SR: 10.30-11.00

Contact: Hazel Fellows; 01676 542697

NEWTON REGIS, St Mary (SK279074)

Bells: 3, 9-0-5 in G

Contact: Revd Stephen Banks, New Vicarage, Main Road, Austrey, Atherstone, CV9 3EB; 01827 830254

NORTHFIELD, St Laurence (SP025794)

Bells: 10, 14-1-13 in F#

PN: Friday 19.45-21.00

SR: 09.25-09.55

Contact: Graeme Lanfear

07973 866862; lanfearbg@aol.com

PACKWOOD, St Giles (SP170728)

Bells: 8, 6-3-14 in Bb

PN: Friday 20.00-21.30

SR: 10.30-11.15 (except 1st)

Contact: Clive Taylor

01564 772573; clive.taylor1953@b@nternet.com

Directory of Guild Towers

PERRY BARR, St John the Evangelist (SP068920)

Bells: 8, 13-3-22 in F
 PN: Monday 19.30–21.00
 SR: 09.45–10.25
 Contact: Matthew King
 07762 710094; matthewking_@live.co.uk

POLESWORTH, Abbey of St Editha (SK263024)

Bells: 8, 11-2-11 in F#
 PN: Monday (check advised)
 SR: 09.15–10.00
 Contact: Father Philip Wells
 01827 892340; polesworthabbey@aol.com

ROWLEY REGIS, St Giles (SO970874)

Bells: 8, 10-1-0 in G#
 PN: Monday 19.45–21.00
 SR: 09.45–10.15
 Contact: Alan Roberts
 7 South Avenue, Stourbridge, DY8 3XY
 01384 376622



Perry Barr, St John the Evangelist

SALTER STREET, St Patrick (SP123749)

Bells: 5, 8-0-21 in A
 PN: none
 SR: by arrangement
 Contact: Barbara Philp
 07734 228500

SECKINGTON, All Saints (SK260074)

Bells: 4, 5-3-24 in A#
 PN: none
 SR: by arrangement
 Contact: Anne Bufton-McCoy
 01827 830053

SELLY OAK, St Mary (SP037822)

Bells: 8, 12-1-17 in G
 PN: Wednesday 19.45–21.15
 SR: 09.00–10.00
 Contact: Joanne Goodall
 bells.stmaryssellyoak@gmail.com

SHELDON, St Giles (SP152847)

Bells: 8, 8-1-8 in Ab
 PN: Friday 20:00-21:00
 SR: 09.30–10.00
 Contact: Terry Nicholls
 0121 743 2639; www.st-giles-sheldon-bells.co.uk



Selly Oak, St Mary

Directory of Guild Towers



Shustoke, St Cuthbert



Yardley, St Edburgha

SHIRLEY, St James the Great (SP119788)

Bells: 8, 6-1-1 in Bb

PN: Thursday 19.45–21.15

SR: 09.15–10.00

Contact: Colin Baugh

0121 744 1361; colinbaugh@blueyonder.co.uk

SHUSTOKE, St Cuthbert (SP243910)

Bells: 6, 12-0-0 in G#

PN: Tuesday 20.00–21.00

SR: 09.30–10.00

Contact: Maurice Woodward; 01675 463358

SMETHWICK, Old Church (SP020877)

Bells: 8, 7-1-1 in B

PN: Thursday 19.45–21.00

SR: 09.45–10.15

Contact: Janet Horton

0121 429 1918; janet.horton@virgin.net

SOLIHULL, St Alphege (SP153792)

Bells: 12, 21-1-11 in Eb

PN: Tuesday 19.30–21.00

SR: 10.15–11.00; 17.30–18.20 (Quarter 1st Sunday)

Contact: Malcolm Paulson

07711 711867; yasmalc@hotmail.com

SUTTON COLDFIELD, Holy Trinity (SP121963)

Bells: 8, 23-1-17 in Eb

PN: Wednesday 20.00–21.00

SR: 17.00–17.30

Contact: Paul McEvilly

0121 353 3942; 07973 952213; paulmcevilly46@gmail.com

TANWORTH-IN-ARDEN, St Mary Magdalene (SP113705)

Bells: 8, 12-1-25 in F#

PN: Tuesday 19.45–21.00 (irregular)

SR: 10.00–10.30

Contact: Alan Hartley; alan.easemor@gmail.com

WISHAW, St Chad (SP177945)

Bells: 3, 6-0-6 in Bb

PN: Thursday 19.00–20.00

SR: 09.00–09.30

Contact: Brenda Thomson; 0121 323 2137; jeff178thomson@yahoo.co.uk

YARDLEY, St Edburgha (SP135863)

Bells: 8, 12-2-26 in F#

PN: Wednesday 20.00–21.15

SR: 10.00–10.30

Contact: Mr S E Adams

0121 786 1242; simon@spireviews.fsnet.co.uk

Guild members for 2020

Members are listed by date of election. The three columns next to each member's name records the number of peals they have rung for the Guild during the year, their total peals for the Guild, and the number of peals they have conducted for the Guild.

1955	Richard J Cann	-	8	-
1956	John A Anderson	-	487	25
1956	David R Ingram	-	59	-
1959	Donald T Finnemore	-	98	3
1960	Colin D Baugh	-	37	1
1961	Maurice F Edwards	-	1273	14
1961	Christine Mills	1	410	-
1961	Charles A S Webb	2	632	5
1962	B Gillian Fielden	-	109	-
1964	Paul L McEvilly	-	58	-
1969	David B Flint	-	58	2
1969	Paul W Webb	-	25	-
1971	Margaret A Edwards	-	139	-
1972	Frances Dodds	-	943	60
1972	Richard B Grimmett	1	516	211
1974	Helen M Crosby	-	2	-
1974	Cynthia Dodson	-	-	-
1974	Michael Dodson	-	25	2
1974	H T Keith Haslam	-	128	-
1974	Rowena J Shipley	-	3	-
1974	Stephen R Shipley	-	94	15
1975	Paul E Bibilo	6	1114	46
1977	Clare McArdle	1	140	2
1977	Sarah L Vernon	-	20	-
1978	Richard L Jones	-	358	4
1978	Jeffrey B Webb	-	59	-
1979	Jonathan P Healy	-	620	7
1979	Ruth E Shepherd	-	9	-
1982	Simon E Adams	-	98	-
1982	Janet A Horton	-	65	-
1982	Stephen W Horton	-	164	2
1983	Sarah C Jones	-	11	-
1983	Philip J Sealey	-	94	-
1983	Catherine R Taylor	-	241	43
1984	M Ann Bailey	-	-	-
1984	Bridget Osmond	-	6	-
1984	Gillian M Postill	-	24	-
1985	John H Cranmer	-	4	-
1985	Paul Needham	2	909	43
1986	Alan F Cottrell	-	-	-
1986	William G R Davies	-	1	-
1986	Terry R Nicholls	-	1	-
1986	Matthew Turley	-	-	-
1987	Julie A Adams	-	10	-
1988	David G Hull	-	361	120
1989	Julia R Cater	1	138	2
1989	Anthony M Daw	-	287	-
1989	Jill Erskine	-	2	-
1989	H Ann Smart	-	9	-
1990	Gwen Albrow	-	4	-
1990	Margaret Burling	-	-	-
1990	Anthea S Edwards	-	381	-
1990	John H Fielden	1	208	14
1990	E Anthea M Tinline	-	9	-
1991	Sandra J Cooper	-	3	-
1992	Christopher A Duckett	-	5	-
1992	Rosemarie Seadon	-	1	-
1992	Michael P A Wilby	6	606	139
1994	Richard J Andrew	-	46	1
1994	Michael Rigby	-	16	1
1994	Peter Sharpe	-	-	-
1994	Linda M Whitehead	-	-	-
1996	Lynda Cranmer	-	1	-
1996	Diane M Hooper	-	1	-
1996	Clive Taylor	-	-	-

1996	John S Warboys	4	315	138
1996	Stephanie J Warboys	7	321	4
1998	William E Dargue	-	-	-
1999	Tamsin S Lane	-	1	-
1999	Jill R E Ramsay	-	2	-
2000	Steven Maddox	-	-	-
2000	Sharon L Wall	-	1	-
2002	David G Blick	-	2	-
2002	Thomas W Griffiths	3	308	6
2002	Martin B R Parry	-	1	-
2003	Alan S Burbidge	4	543	147
2003	Clive Day	-	-	-
2003	Mark R Eccleston	8	825	324
2003	Susan J Healy	-	170	4
2003	Triona Jowett	-	-	-
2003	Seymore Lee	-	-	-
2003	Rosemary Watts	-	-	-
2004	Andrew D Clark	-	5	-
2004	Luke Daniel	-	4	-
2004	Sally Daniel	-	5	-
2004	Matthew D Hardy	-	74	-
2004	William H Mills	-	1	-
2004	Rev Richard Postill	-	-	-
2005	John Davis	-	-	-
2005	Margaret Griffin	-	-	-
2005	Victoria J M Wilby	-	152	-
2006	Ann Davies	-	47	-
2006	Clifford Davies	-	105	-
2006	Joan Garner	-	-	-
2006	Jen Hickman	-	-	-
2006	Rebekah G W Horton	-	4	-
2006	Eleanor J Linford	-	108	1
2006	Simon J L Linford	3	209	60
2006	Lesley Phillips	-	-	-
2006	Keith D Whitehead	-	-	-
2007	Muriel Higgs	-	-	-
2007	Susan E Marshall	-	291	-
2007	Emily Tamhne	-	5	-
2008	George R Harrison	-	1	-
2008	Stacey A Howard	-	7	-
2008	David Reeves	-	1	-
2008	Jean Willis	-	-	-
2009	Gordon R Birks	-	192	-
2009	Catherine F Smith	-	-	-
2009	Robyn Tighe	-	-	-
2010	Oliver Bouckley	-	-	-
2010	Simon P Felton	-	-	-
2010	Jack P Gunning	-	88	2
2010	Arthur J Reeves	1	54	4
2010	Tracy Stevens	-	10	-
2011	Hilary Bloxsom	-	-	-
2011	Gillian Campbell	-	-	-
2011	Hannah Campbell	-	-	-
2011	Kathryn Campbell	-	-	-
2011	Jonathan Hale	-	-	-
2011	Steven Harper	-	-	-
2011	Thomas M W Horton	-	1	-
2011	Matthew J R King	-	2	-
2011	Adam Lubin	-	-	-
2011	Ethel Lubin	-	-	-
2011	Jonathan M P Thorne	1	32	-
2012	Carl Jenkins	-	-	-
2012	Graham R Kelly	1	22	-
2012	Richard Lewis	-	-	-
2012	Malcolm J Paulson	1	2	-

Guild members for 2020

2012	Judith Taylor	-	-	-
2012	Michael Taylor	-	-	-
2012	Brenda Thompson	-	-	-
2013	Christine Barnell	-	2	-
2013	Nigel Crowther	-	-	-
2013	Roy Followell	-	1	-
2013	John W G Gwynne	-	1	-
2013	Andy Hardy	-	-	-
2013	D Rose W Horton	-	18	-
2013	Paul Lindley	-	-	-
2013	Diane Meacham	-	-	-
2013	Alan Munday	-	-	-
2013	Wendy Munday	-	-	-
2013	Gary Peynado	-	-	-
2013	Rio Peynado	-	-	-
2013	Catherine Pinnock	-	-	-
2013	Robert Pinnock	-	-	-
2013	Philip A Ramsbottom	-	6	-
2013	Steve Sharp	-	-	-
2013	Anne Snaith	-	-	-
2013	John Tanner	-	-	-
2013	Ruth Wilson	-	-	-
2014	Alistair J Cherry	6	160	9
2014	Trish Everett	-	-	-
2014	Eileen Keeble	-	1	-
2014	Michael Keeble	-	1	-
2014	Sophie M Keeble	-	1	-
2014	James P Ramsbottom	4	133	11
2014	John Rogers	-	-	-
2014	Stella Tew	-	-	-
2014	Brian Wevill	-	-	-
2015	Ruth M Border	-	286	-
2015	Daniel T Calvert	-	12	-
2015	Gillian Cottam	-	-	-
2015	Lyndsay Hickman	-	-	-
2015	Adam Knight-Markiegi	-	-	-
2015	Sue Rogers	-	-	-
2015	Angela D Wakefield	-	6	-
2016	Emma Clewlow	-	-	-
2016	Leo Fielding	-	-	-
2016	Pauline Forster	-	-	-
2016	Andy Foster	-	-	-
2016	Colin Frew	-	-	-
2016	David Hill-Ilderton	-	-	-
2016	Sallie Morgan	-	-	-
2016	Bernadette O'Dwyer	-	-	-
2016	Kunal Pal	-	-	-
2016	Richard Priestley	-	-	-
2016	Thomas Priestley	-	-	-
2016	Steve Pugh	-	-	-
2016	Annie Smith	-	-	-
2017	Chris Baker	-	-	-
2017	David C Bassett	-	1	-
2017	Ann Darvill	-	-	-
2017	Guy E Darvill	-	8	-
2017	Helen R Jarvis	-	1	-
2017	Graeme Lanfear	-	-	-
2017	Dickon R Love	3	114	1
2017	Neil Taylor	-	-	-
2017	Jonathan B Townsend	-	10	-
2017	Judy Yates	-	-	-
2018	David Baker	-	-	-
2018	Anthony J Barnfield	-	-	-
2018	David J Baverstock	-	57	-
2018	Graham M Bradshaw	2	36	-
2018	Andrew V Brown	1	18	-
2018	Elaine Cheeseman	-	-	-
2018	Philip J Day	-	4	-

2018	Max Earthquake	-	-	-
2018	Alison L Edmonds	-	3	-
2018	Andrew E Else	-	5	-
2018	Graham G Firman	-	16	-
2018	Katharine J Firman	-	12	-
2018	Michael Gregory	-	-	-
2018	David Horspool	-	-	-
2018	Eliza M A Hull	-	-	-
2018	Ewan G A Hull	2	4	-
2018	Paul Jopp	1	75	1
2018	Antony R Kench	-	8	-
2018	Charlotte D Linford	-	-	-
2018	Rosalind A Martin	-	-	-
2018	Timothy M Martin	-	1	-
2018	Beverley McAllister	-	-	-
2018	Tony McAllister	-	-	-
2018	Paul McNutt	5	234	-
2018	Simon C Melen	1	47	-
2018	Holly Pyke	-	-	-
2018	Annette Seeley	-	-	-
2018	David L Smith	-	-	-
2018	Julie A Tarling	-	-	-
2018	David M W Threlfall	1	40	-
2018	John Tolley	-	-	-
2018	Clare L S Townsend	-	-	-
2018	Colin Wright	-	-	-
2019	Jane Morris	-	-	-
2019	Karen Bowley	-	-	-
2019	Jonathan Newey	-	-	-
2019	Lex Earthquake	-	-	-
2019	Jane Aykroyd	-	-	-
2019	Rob Lynock	-	-	-
2019	Elaine Cheeseman	-	-	-
2019	Denise Carr	-	-	-
2019	Jeffrey Carr	-	-	-
2019	Robert Mayne	-	-	-
2019	Kay Foley-Davies	-	-	-
2019	Sarah King	-	-	-
2019	Sara C Paulson	-	-	-
2019	Alex Ross	-	-	-
2019	Martin J Whiteley	-	27	2
2019	Lucy J T Gwynne	-	1	-
2019	Margaret Whiteley	-	17	-
2019	Luke G Groom	5	45	-
2020	Stephen G Askew	-	-	-
2020	Oliver C Bates	3	3	1
2020	Peter S Bennett	-	39	5
2020	Denise Carr	-	-	-
2020	Jeffrey Carr	-	-	-
2020	Marianne Fisher	-	-	-
2020	Joanne Goodall	-	-	-
2020	Heather Griffiths	-	-	-
2020	Alison M Hodge	-	-	-
2020	David J Large	-	-	-
2020	Denise J Large	-	-	-
2020	Rachel L Mahoney	-	-	-
2020	Liz Oakes	-	-	-
2020	Rachel Oakes	-	-	-
2020	David J Pipe	1	598	195
2020	Kathryn Price-Feraud	-	-	-
2020	David Roberts	-	-	-
2020	Lesley Roberts	-	-	-
2020	Anthony J Rowan	2	11	-
2020	Chris Shaw	-	-	-
2020	Michael Shaw	-	-	-
2020	Gillian Stead	-	-	-
2020	Helen Surr	-	-	-
2020	Elizabeth Wilby	-	-	-
2020	Jimmy L Yeoman	5	11	-

Life Members of the St Martin's Guild

1955	Richard J Cann	-	8	-
1956	David R Ingram	-	59	-
1959	Donald T Finnemore	-	98	3
1960	Colin D Baugh	-	37	1
1961	Maurice F Edwards	-	1273	14
1961	Christine Mills	1	410	-
1961	Charles A S Webb	2	632	5
1962	B Gillian Fielden	-	109	-
1964	Paul L McEvilly	-	58	-
1971	Margaret A Edwards	-	139	-
1972	Frances Dodds	-	943	60
1974	Michael Dodson	-	25	2
1974	H T Keith Haslam	-	128	-
1974	Stephen R Shipley	-	94	15
1975	Paul E Bibilo	6	1114	46
1977	Clare McArdle	1	140	2
1977	Sarah L Vernon	-	20	-
1979	Jonathan P Healy	-	620	7

Any SMG Full Member can become a Life Member, subject to the submission of an application from two existing Full Members to the Secretary and approval at the next General Meeting.

In making its decision the meeting shall take into consideration the length of membership or service of the prospective Life Member.

Public Liability Insurance

The Guild has Public Liability insurance for itself and its members. The policy covers 'legal liability for injury to the public or damage to their property'. Such liability could occur for instance if a learner under instruction by you is injured due to your negligence. It would cover injury to non-members while travelling on a ringing trip, e.g. taking learners on an outing (if not covered by a motor policy). It would cover the cost of defending an allegation of abuse. It would cover damage to a building, e.g. a church hall caused by a Guild event, or members damaging a church they were visiting to ring.

It is not a Personal Accident policy, so it does not cover injury to yourself (which is normally covered by a household insurance policy). The indemnity limit is £1,000,000 any one claim, with an excess of £250.

The Policy is the 'Community Group Connect' policy from Ansvar. Ansvar is a general insurer specialising in insuring not-for-profit organisations and connected individuals. It is a business division of Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Practice nights

Monday

Hampton-in-Arden (8)
Harborne (8)
Knowle (8)
Moseley St Mary (10)
Perry Barr (8)
Polesworth (8)
Rowley Regis (8)

Tuesday

Bickenhill (6)
Birmingham St Martin (16)
Coleshill (10)
Erdington St Barnabas (8)
Kings Norton (10)
Moseley St Anne (6)
Shustoke (6)
Solihull (12)
Tanworth in Arden (8)

Wednesday

Boldmere (8)
Castle Bromwich (8)
Edgbaston (8, term-time)
Handsworth (8)
Selly Oak (8)
Sutton Coldfield (8)
Yardley (8)

Thursday

Aston (12)
Barston (6)
Birmingham St Paul (10)
Lapworth (6)
Nether Whitacre (6)
Shirley (8)
Smethwick (8)

Friday

Brierley Hill (8)
Erdington Abbey (8)
Great Barr (6)
Kingsbury (8)
Northfield (10)
Packwood (8)
Sheldon (8)



Membership

The St Martin's Guild is an individual membership organisation. Although the Guild is not a territorial association, the majority of our activities are focused in Birmingham and the surrounding area.

Affiliated towers:

Aston (12)	Knowle (8)
Austrey (5)	Lapworth (6)
Barston (6)	Lea Marston (3)
Bickenhill (6)	Middleton (3)
Birmingham, St Chad (8)	Moseley, St Anne (6)
Birmingham, St Martin (16)	Moseley, St Mary (10)
Birmingham, St Paul (10)	Nether Whitacre (6)
Birmingham, St Philip (12)	Newton Regis (3)
Boldmere (8)	Northfield (10)
Bournville (3)	Packwood (8)
Brierley Hill (8)	Perry Barr (8)
Castle Bromwich (8)	Polesworth (8)
Coleshill (10)	Rowley Regis (8)
Curdworth (3)	Salter Street (5)
Edgbaston (8)	Seckington (4)
Erdington Abbey (8)	Selly Oak (8)
Erdington Parish (8)	Sheldon (8)
Great Barr (6)	Shirley (8)
Grendon (6)	Shustoke (6)
Hampton-in-Arden (8)	Smethwick (8)
Handsworth (8)	Solihull (12)
Harborne (8)	Sutton Coldfield (8)
Kings Norton (10)	Tanworth in Arden (8)
Kingsbury (8)	Wishaw (3)
	Yardley (8)

Join Us

By subscribing you are supporting the work of the St Martin's Guild and also our Bell Restoration Fund. All new members receive a certificate of membership, a Guild pin-badge and, more importantly, you will be covered by the Guild's Public Liability Insurance.

Guild members have access to a range of practical and theoretical training opportunities, as well as a cycle of social events throughout the year including walking tours and ringing outings.

To find out more contact smgcb@gmail.com or visit our website: www.stmartinsguild.org

There are three types of St Martin's Guild membership: full, associate and life.

Benefits of Full membership:

- attendance at and participation in, free of charge, all Guild practices, training and development workshops and networking opportunities
- access to templates and guidance documentation produced by the Guild in relation to safeguarding and tower stewardship
- promotion of your tower's own achievements, events and celebrations, through the Guild social media accounts and Annual Review
- input into deciding future priorities for the Guild.



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Website: www.stmartinsguild.org