

**Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell ringers
Oxford City Branch**

Half yearly meeting held on Saturday 9th May 2015 at St James the Apostle,
Cowley, 3.30pm

1. Apologies for Absence:

None

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the AGM, held at St Aldates on 15th November 2014 were approved.

3. Matters arising:

None

4. Election of New Members:

Zillah de Pavia – Wheatley – proposed Katie Lane, 2nd Charlotte Furneaux

James Scott-Brown and Rachel Croft – Headington – proposed Paul Lucas 2nd Simon Edwards

5. Presentation of Certificates:

Certificates were awarded to new members proposed at the AGM in November. It was pointed out that Clare Dyer should not have received a certificate as she had transferred from another branch. Lindsay Powell will contact Guild membership secretary to avoid confusion over there being two membership numbers.

6. Reports from Officers:

Ringing Master: Katie Lane reported that she was standing down. Due to so many other commitments, she felt she could not put in the time necessary to support and develop ringing within the branch. It was suggested that any decisions as to a new Ringing Master should be carried forward to the AGM in November. Simon Edwards gave thanks to Katie Lane for taking on the post, and agreed that the decision should be held for the AGM. John Pusey suggested that it would be a good opportunity to find out what the towers within the branch want from a Ringing Master. Katie Lane said that all branch practices and outings had been arranged for the rest of the year, and she would continue to support as many of the events as she could manage. It was agreed that no decision would be made before the AGM.

Katie Lane also said that this was a good opportunity to discuss the Striking Competition, which should have taken place today, but had been cancelled due to only two towers showing any interest. She asked if the format should change to include more “scratch” bands. Susan King said that many towers did not want to take part, it was not seen as fun or of benefit to them, with a couple of Oxford towers outclassing all the rest. After discussion the general consensus was that the competition needed to be aimed more towards an

enjoyable day for all towers in the branch, with less stringent rules, so that all felt they could join in. It was agreed that it would be an agenda item for the AGM in November, when more members would be present to have a say in the shape it should take.

Treasurer: Dorothy Hall reported we currently have 153 paying members, and after paying out the portion of subscriptions to the Bell Fund and Education Fund, the City Branch has nearly £3,000 in the account. Each year the amount we have grows as the amount paid out towards courses etc, is never as much as the money coming in. Dorothy suggested that of the £3 per person which we hold from subscriptions, we could donate £1 to the Bell and Restoration Funds. Ron Burgess asked if getting some soundproofing at Kidlington would be something some of this money could be spent on. Katie Lane suggested that Kidlington should get more details of the costings and bring this back to the Committee. Dorothy said that money being paid out to Towers from the Branch did not have a fixed criteria. If any tower would like to apply for money, then a written proposal needed to be sent to the Committee and could be considered at the next meeting. Dorothy Hall proposed that we should give £1 of each subscription to the Bell and Restorations Funds (50 pence to each). John Pusey seconded. Susan King asked if this should be carried to the AGM as so few members were present. A vote was taken and the proposal was carried. Dorothy pointed out that we still have the flexibility to cancel this, or miss a year, if we wanted to.

7. Any other Business:

Anthony Hughes gave an update on the work to be carried out on Marston Bells. Roy Jones had begun the process 2 years ago, and the plan was for White's to turn, tune and re-hang the bells, at the cost of approximately £25,000. As of February this year, Marston had raised between £16,000 and £17,000. Since then, there has been notification of a generous legacy from Roy Jones of £20,000. The planned work is now going ahead, and also sound control will be installed, along with a simulator. The work is timetabled for September, and could take about 2 months. Anthony wanted to thank everyone who has made this possible. On 13th June there will be a Garden Party at Cross Farm in Marston to say a thank you to the Parishioners who have supported the project. (N.B – due to Anthony's ill health, this has now been cancelled).

Katie Lane asked if anyone would be available to act as sidesperson at the Guild AGM next weekend. There were no volunteers.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm.