

CARLISLE DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

MINUTES OF THE 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Saturday, April 24th 2021 on Zoom

Annual Award to a Young Ringer in Memory of Leslie Boumphrey: The 2019 award was presented to Bethany Cater of Penrith on Sunday, November 1st 2020 at St Andrew's Church, Penrith.

The meeting opened at 4:30pm.

Present: Christine Brennan, Julia Cater, Chris de Cordova, Anne East, Gareth Evans, Pat Evans, Ruth Gilbert, Gordon Gray, Soo Gray, Andrew Holland, Jane Holland, Bridget Kelly, Ed Matthews, Margaret Miller, Andrew Moncrief, Robert Nicols, Sally Nicols, Eleanor Perrott, Richard Pratt (Chair), John Proudfoot, Gerald Sewell, Susan Sewell, Sue Thomas, Andrew Warboys, Hilary Ward

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Diana & Richard Green, Christine Hadfield, David & Judith Horne, Nick Newby, Andy Pollock, Chris Reay, Amanda Rodger, Doug & Liz Sim, Sue Smith, Martin & Mary Snape, Duncan Walker
- 2. Minutes of the 2019 AGM** Anne East proposed, and Margaret Miller seconded, that the minutes be accepted as a true record. They would be signed at some future date.
- 3. Presentation of the 2020 Annual Report** The Annual Report had been circulated in electronic form to all Guild members. It would go to print in a few weeks' time. Any corrections should be notified as soon as possible. Sue Thomas was thanked for her efforts in producing the Annual Report.
- 4. Presentation of the 2020 Financial Report** Pat Evans reported that it had been a quiet year. Membership had fallen slightly, but gift-aided donations and the 50/50 draw had provided a regular income. Pat thanked Anne East for organising the 50/50 club.

Insurance had been maintained despite the cessation of face-to-face meetings. There would be further expenses in the near future. The possibility of access to Guild funds for Covid-related ventilation measures was mentioned.

Ed Matthews proposed, and Ruth Gilbert seconded, that the meeting accept the Financial Report. Carried.
- 5. Appointment of an Independent Examiner** Stuart Edger had scrutinised the 2019 and 2020 accounts. Pat proposed that he continue to examine the accounts in future. The meeting agreed.
- 6. Guild Subscriptions** Guild subscriptions had not changed for a number of years. It was proposed that, as from January 2022, subscriptions would increase as follows: Adults £10, Seniors/Non-Residents £5, Juniors £1. Approved.
- 7. Report from the Guild Safeguarding Officer** The Guild Safeguarding Policy Version 2.1 Part 1, Part 2 and Appendices had been circulated before the meeting. Gerald Sewell explained that Part 1 was the Central Council's wraparound policy which had been modified by the Guild. Part 2 covered how the Guild was in complete compliance with the Diocesan Policy; the Diocese would be monitoring the Guild.

The President thanked Gerald for all his hard work. It was proposed by Sally Nicols, and seconded by Pat Evans, that the meeting accept the updated policy. Carried.

8. Change to the Guild Constitution In order to comply with Church of England policies, the following amendment to Section 2(d) of the Guild Constitution was proposed:

- (i) *The Committee shall have the power to expel any member who fails to comply with the rules of the Guild as stated in the Constitution and its amendments or who in the opinion of the Committee renders himself or herself unfit for membership.*
- (ii) *No member shall be expelled without having an opportunity to appear before the Committee to explain and defend any conduct under question. Any such member shall be given at least seven clear days' notice in writing by the General Secretary to attend a Committee Meeting.*
- (iii) *The opportunity to make an explanation or defence before the Guild Committee will not apply in situations where any breach of the Guild's Safeguarding Policy has been held to have been involved.*
- (iv) *In the event of a breach of Safeguarding Policy, i.e. involving a safeguarding issue allegation being made against a member, the member shall be suspended for the duration of an investigation. Due process, as set out in the Guild Safeguarding Policy, the Diocesan Policy, and the Parish Policy (where the event occurred) will be strictly applied. Where a member, after investigation, is found to be culpable or classed as a Known Offender, his/her membership of the Guild shall be terminated.*

The meeting approved the amendment in its entirety.

9. Report from the Guild Health & Safety Officer The Health & Safety Policy Issue 2 (June 2020) had been circulated before the meeting. Ed Matthews proposed, and Sue Thomas seconded, that the policy be accepted. Carried.

10. Report from the Guild Training Officer Gareth Evans reported that planning for in-tower training and virtual events online had amalgamated. Gareth was thanked by the President.

11. Election of Officers The President noted that the post of Public Relation Officer remained vacant. He would do what he could to help out.

John Proudfoot was standing down from the Guild Committee. He was thanked for his years of service.

The following were re-elected en bloc. Proposed: Eleanor Perrott. Seconded: Hilary Ward.

President - The Venerable Dr. Richard Pratt

General Secretary - Susan Sewell

Treasurer - Pat Evans

Peal Secretary - Duncan Walker

P.R.O -

Training Officer - Gareth Evans

Safeguarding Officer - Gerald Sewell

Health & Safety Officer - Ed Matthews

Central Council Representatives - Chris de Cordova & Duncan Walker

12. Election of Committee Sue Thomas, Julia Cater and Margaret Miller were elected as members.

13. **Election of New Members** Susan Lister (Irton) was declared elected.

14. **Recovery Champions** Julia Cater had circulated a description before the meeting. The President thanked Julia for volunteering to take the lead in the Guild area. Andrew Warboys proposed that Julia Cater be appointed as Recovery Champion. Gareth Evans seconded. The meeting agreed.

15. **Dates for 2022 Events** The dates for Guild events were agreed as follows:

- Guild Ringing Meeting on Saturday, 08-01-22 at Workington
- Training Day on Saturday, 05-02-22 at Hensingham
- Striking Competition on Saturday, 14-05-22 at an Eastern Branch tower

16. **Next Guild AGM** This would take place on Saturday 02-04-22 at Hensingham.

The business was completed at 5:52pm. The 50/50 draw and presentation of cheque followed.