

CARLISLE DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

MINUTES OF THE 46th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Saturday, April 2nd 2022 at St John's Hensingham

Annual Award to a Young Ringer in Memory of Leslie Boumphrey: The 2022 award was presented to Jayden Milby of Barrow-in-Furness at the service prior the business meeting. Young ringer not awarded in 2020 as previous winner (Bethany Cater) only collected the award in November 2019 due to the covid-19 pandemic and lockdown..

The meeting opened at 5:45pm.

Present: Richard Pratt (Chair), Julia Cater, Gareth Evans, Pat Evans, Ruth Gilbert, Andrew Holland, Jane Holland, Bridget Kelly, Ed Matthews, Margaret Miller, Andrew Moncrief, Robert Nicols, Sally Nicols, Sue Thomas, Hilary Ward, Jeanne Clements, Jayden Milby, Andy Pollock

1. **Apologies for absence:** Richard and Diana Green; Gordon and Soo Gray; Andrew Warboys; Anne & Ron East; Duncan Walker; David & Judith Horne; Rosalind & Keith Amey; Tony Dunning; Wendy Graham, Chris de Cordova.

2. **Minutes of the 2021 AGM** Richard Pratt proposed, and Pat Evans seconded, that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried. Richard Pratt signed the minutes.

3. **Presentation of the 2020 Annual Report** The Annual was distributed at the meeting. Sue Thomas was thanked for her efforts in producing the Annual Report. Proposed Sue Thomas, seconded Andy Pollock. Carried.

Noted Arlecdon intend to ring for Queen's platinum jubilee.

Question about Brough and whether the project is fully funded? The decision made to retain as the original 4. Project is moving forwards.

Ron East has noted he will be resigning as Diocesan Bell Advisor; Diocesan Advisory Committee advises on this and appoints the Bell Advisor. CDGCBR is the obvious place to draw from for a suggestion on this. Would be good for a nomination from CDGCBR. Thanks to Ron for all the work he has done for all of these years. To be taken forward to the committee to discuss.

4. **Presentation of the 2020 Financial Report** Pat Evans reported that this report is now included in the annual report - pages 10 and 11. The 2021 accounts have picked up more subscriptions even with membership numbers falling slightly (catch up from last year). This year the subs have gone up to £10 and £5. Pat thanked Anne East for organising the 50/50 club. Noted that Anne was not available today the draw would be at a future Carlisle Tower AGM.

Pat Evans outlined some key points. Regular subscriptions with gift aid are still available - relevant papers are on the website. CDGCBR now set up with Amazon Smile so members encouraged to sign up for this if they already use Amazon. Three items of expenditure from BRF: Penrith; Great Salkeld and Arlecdon. ART course for teach the teacher - 18th June - Guild to support with funding please encourage people to attend.

Richard Pratt thanked to all members for continuing to pay during the pandemic and thanked Pat Evans for preparing the report.

Pat Evans proposed, and Ruth Gilbert seconded, that the meeting accept the Financial Report. Carried.

5. Appointment of an Independent Examiner Stuart Edger had scrutinised the 2021 accounts. Pat proposed that he continue to examine the accounts in future. The meeting agreed.

6. Change to the Guild Structure and Constitution a detailed document had been circulated to members before the AGM "New Guild Structure and Constitution proposal".

Richard Pratt introduced the changes that have been proposed. The guild questionnaire is the source for these changes. Richard has looked at the guild objects and been involved in the guild service. His view is that this type of refresh is coming at an appropriate time. The review documents were to be considered for specific points.

Robert Nicols asked about the Branch set up. Whilst this appears to look like branches will stand alone, but this is not the intention. Current plan is to keep the branches as is but if a series of towers wants to create a different branch (e.g. aligned to a cluster) then the constitution has been written to allow this. Branches have been retained due to geography of the Carlisle DG. Barrow is in the Western Branch but may look towards consideration of a cluster. Diocese is very keen for churches to work together so the clustering approach fits with this.

Everyone was given the opportunity to ask questions in the AGM. The branch AGMs had also discussed these proposed changes and no objections raised.

R Pratt proposed acceptance for the new guild structure, constitution, objects and service. Julia Cater seconded this. Carried unanimously.

There was good feedback from the business meeting for the revised service that was trialled earlier. Andy Pollock proposed a vote of thanks to the committee members that have delivered this work.

7. Election of Officers in line with the revised structure that had just been agreed the officer elections were made with nominations taken from the floor.

Prior to election, Pat Evans proposed a word of appreciation for both Gerald and Susan Sewell for all the work they had put into the Guild over the previous decades. Certificates have been provided and they will be given to the Sewells in due course.

President - The Venerable Dr. Richard Pratt was re-elected

Guild Master: Julia Cater proposed Ruth Gilbert, seconded by Richard Pratt. and outlined her credentials in support. No other nominations from the floor. Carried.

Guild Secretary: Sue T proposed Ed Matthews, seconded by Richard Pratt. No other nominations from the floor. Carried.

Events Officer: Ed Matthews proposed Sue Thomas, seconded by Richard Pratt. No other nominations from the floor. Carried.

Guild Ringing Master: no nominations from the floor. Committee to consider co-opting in future if needs be.

East Ringing Officer: Ruth Gilbert has been elected by the Eastern Branch AGM.

West Ringing Officer: no nominations were given at the Western Branch AGM. Gareth Evans does not believe the position should be left empty so is willing to be considered as long as there is support for him in this role. He will intend to perform this for 12 months with the aim to find a permanent appointee at the next Branch AGM. Western Branch members present voted to accept.

Comms & PR: Bridget Kelly nominated Julia Cater, seconded by R Pratt. No other nominations from the floor. Carried.

Finance Officer: Pat Evans has done this for a long time but is keen to stay on to provide continuity in this role. Proposed Ed Matthews, seconded Richard Pratt. Carried.

Compliance Officer: does include Safeguarding and H&S elements. Richard Pratt is happy to support the role holder as he understands the relevant elements from a Diocesan perspective. Julia Cater nominated Duncan Walker, seconded by Sue Thomas. Carried.

Archivist: no nominations from the floor. Committee to consider co-opting in future if needs be.

Additional Officers: Julia Cater nominated Katherine Prince (Greystoke). Pat Evans nominated Margaret Miller (Workington). Richard Pratt seconded both. Carried.

CC reps: East have nominated Duncan Walker. West have nominated Chris de Cordova, who will stand down after September; Western Branch to find another representative at this point.

8. Election of New Members None raised.

9. Dates for 2022/23 Events The dates for Guild events were agreed as follows:

- Striking competition had been identified as 14th May, but this clashes with the Dalemain Marmalade Festival. Post the AGM, it was decided that it would be better to fully support the Marmalade Festival as a recruitment event due to the prominent position the Borders Mini Ring has been given, lack of time for bands to be ready for this post-pandemic and to run a complementary open day session at Greystoke the same afternoon.
- Jubilee weekend ringing to be encouraged by the Guild.
- ART training as identified earlier in the meeting 18th June based at Penrith.
- West AGM Saturday 4th March 2023 at Barrow in Furness
- East AGM Tues 14th March 2023 at Penrith
- Usual meetings in calendar to be considered by Events Officer:
 1. Guild Ringing Meeting on Saturday, 14-01-23 at Workington
 2. Striking Competition on Saturday, 13-05-23 at an Eastern Branch tower

16. Next Guild AGM This would take place on Saturday 22-04-23 at an Eastern Branch location.

The business was completed at 7pm. Thanks to St John's Hensingham for hosting and the extra support given in from the church members in light of the unexpected absence of Gordon and Soo Gray. Richard Pratt extended his thanks for the work done to get to the position reached with respect to the structure of the guild going forwards and for the retiring and new officers.