

THE CARLISLE DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS



Patron: The Lord Bishop of Carlisle

Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at Greystoke Village Hall

Annual Award to a Young Ringer in Memory of Leslie Boumphrey: The 2023 award was presented to Hannah Saudek of Great Salkeld at the service prior the business meeting.

- 1) Guild prayer:
 - a) The meeting start with the Guild Prayer C.
- 2) Welcome & attendees introductions
 - a) All members present introduced themselves, led by Richard Pratt.
 - b) 21 were present including three non members: Richard Pratt, Ruth Gilbert, Duncan Walker, Imogen Carrie, Hannah Saudek, Mike Allison, Katherine Prince, Tony James, Ian Godfrey, Gwyneth Hall, Mike Hall, Stephen Hall, Lorna Hall, Sue Thomas, Kate Saudek, Julia Cater, Hilary Ward, Amanda Rodger, Gillian Powell, Farshad Kiani, Ron East, Anne East, Edwin Matthews.
- 3) Apologies for absence
 - a) Andrew Moncrief; Chris de Cordova; Mary and Martin Snape; Richard and Diana Green; Tony and Helen Ruberry; Sue Smith; Jane and Andrew Holland; John Proudfoot and Sally Starkey; Bridget Kelly; Margaret Miller.
- 4) Minutes of the 2022 AGM
 - a) Proposed by Ruth Gilbert and seconded by Ron East as a true record. They were signed in the minute book by Richard Pratt.
- 5) Presentation of the 2022 Annual Report
 - a) Sue Thomas had prepared some physical copies and these were circulated electronically and will go onto the website. There are 2-3 for each tower and an electronic copy is on the website. Sue Thomas has extra copies if anyone would like them. Sue noted the cover illustration had been drawn by John Mather.
 - b) Sue Thomas proposed thanks to all the contributors, especially Duncan Walker for the accounts. Ruth led a vote of thanks to Sue for her work.
- 6) Presentation of the 2022 Financial Update
 - a) Duncan Walker had presented a short report and update as circulated prior to the meeting. Duncan explained that both accounts are in a healthy position and there is funding in the BRF to support the aims of the guild.
 - b) Duncan noted that the work done by Pat Evans was excellent and this made his very short notice hand over simple to undertake. Duncan offered his thanks to Sue Thomas for holding the report open to add this in and for Stuart Edger in doing the independent examination in a few days. Duncan thanked all the tower contacts for collecting the subscriptions. Duncan noted many have got gift aided contributions and this is valuable and encouraged others to start doing this if they are able. He noted that the Amazon Smile was now closed but had contributed to the funds. He offered special thanks to Anne for the work on the 50/50 club, raising £630 this year.
 - c) Acceptance of this financial update was proposed by Anne East and seconded by Sue Thomas. Received and all in favour.

- d) Ruth proposed a vote of thanks to Duncan for his work to produce this report in such short order in these tragic circumstances and the meeting showed their appreciation through a round of applause.
- 7) Appointment of an Independent Examiner:
 - a) Stuart Edger proposed by Duncan Walker. This was accepted.
- 8) Guild Strategy
 - a) Ruth noted this had been circulated with the papers for this AGM. Ruth had devised the original structure which had been developed into this Strategy. The strategy has a number of themes, but the main tenet Ruth focused on was that this was to give a bottom-up approach for the members to tell the Guild what they want and the Guild will do its best to arrange what is requested.
 - b) Ed explained that the Strategy is intended to be a working document and that the last page is intended to provide useful guidance. Sue noted that the whole point is for Tower Captains to speak to their ringers; Julia explained that Ruth has collected two different approaches for collecting this information. Sue noted that Pat & Gareth had collected this information for Workington just before their accident so this had allowed the Guild to better support the ringers there.
 - c) Richard Pratt asked that all towers consider the Strategy and respond to the committee with information relevant to their ringers and feedback on the Strategy itself. Richard offered his thanks to the Guild for the support of ringing in the Diocese.
- 9) Election of Officers
 - a) Guild Ringing Master – no nominations were made.
 - b) Finance Officer – Duncan Walker elected March 2023 via committee until this AGM for formal appointment. Duncan is happy to do this role for another year but would look to get a replacement so he can focus on the Compliance Officer role. Duncan was proposed by Anne East and seconded by Imogen Carrie. This was approved.
 - c) Archivist (1 year term with no max number of terms) – Ruth proposed John Mather from Carlisle; this was seconded by Ron East. He is undertaking the role of “Custodian” at Carlisle Cathedral and it is recommended that both roles run in tandem. Duncan noted that he currently holds the Guild Peal Books and the intention is to house these at the Cathedral.
 - d) Western Branch Ringing Officer – Richard Green proposed by Edwin Matthews and seconded by Richard Pratt (ratified at the AGM as this nomination was subsequent to the Western Branch AGM.)
 - e) Additional officers - 3 more positions are available. No nominations were received.
 - f) Other officers were previous elected at the last AGM – see appendix A.
- 10) Re-election of existing officers
 - a) Additional Officers – Katherine Prince proposed by Julia Cater and seconded by Ruth Gilbert (previously elected April 2022, 1 year term with no max number of terms).
- 11) Election of New Members
 - a) Hazel Eccles from Bampton. Accepted.
- 12) Incorporation of St Mary Dalton-in-Furness into the Guild
 - a) As the required letter from the Tower Captain has been received, counter-signed by a majority of their ringers and was ratified at the Western Branch 2023 AGM ahead of this meeting.
 - b) This was approved.
 - c) Richard Pratt volunteered to write to the towers that are within the Carlisle Diocese but not members of the Guild to ask them to consider dual membership of the CDGCBR as well as their existing affiliations.
- 13) Proposed Events for the coming year
 - a) Striking competition 13th May 2023 at Keswick (Crosthwaite).
 - b) Previous ART course at Appleby was under-subscribed so this was cancelled; ringers who are interested need to notify Sue Thomas if they would like to attend.

- c) Further events to be identified in due course and the membership notified. Ringers' information as identified under the Strategy section will be utilised to bring this programme of events together.
- 14) Utilisation of clusters for towers to work together
- a) Ruth noted that this had already happened naturally in the East but that the Western Branch were looking towards two more formal clusters looking towards the Centre of the West and the South of the West. Further developments on this will be discussed in committee in due course and at the AGM if required. Julia suggested that it might be best to consider this as part of the language the guild uses to describe events should the Clusters progress further than is currently identified. Richard Pratt suggested that this could be aligned to the Mission Communities being developed by the Diocese.
- 15) Date and place of next AGM
- a) Suggested to be 13th April 2024 in the West.
- 16) Any other business
- a) Ruth asked Richard Pratt about his plans for retirement. Richard outlined his plans and confirmed he will move out of the area when he retires and that this is likely to be before the next AGM. Ruth therefore proposed the Guild's thanks to Richard for all of his work over the years as our President. Richard responded that he wanted to thank all of the ringers for all they do in supporting ringing. Richard has asked Stuart Fyfe if he would be willing to take over as President, which will maintain the close connection to the Diocese.

The meeting was concluded at 6.29pm

Appendix A: Other officers already elected via earlier AGM or Branch AGMs

- Guild Master – Ruth Gilbert elected April 2022, 3 year term (2 terms max)
- Guild Secretary – Edwin Matthews elected April 2022, 2 year term (3 terms max)
- Events Officer – Sue Thomas elected April 2022, 2 year term (2 terms max)
- Communications & PR Officer – Julia Cater elected April 2022, 2 year term (3 terms max)
- Compliance Officer – Duncan Walker elected April 2022, 2 year term (2 terms max)
- Eastern Branch Ringing Officer – Ruth Gilbert
- Eastern Branch Secretary – Amanda Rodger
- Western Branch Joint Secretary – Margaret Miller & Andrew Moncrief
- CC rep – Chris de Cordova
- CC rep = Duncan Walker