

Master's Report – 2006 AGM

We have been pleased to regain our usual slot St Andrew's for practices. This is a lot more convenient for everyone. Although we seemed to have suffered from variable and often low turn out at practices, things seem to have gone well. Bene't's practices have been fairly well attended with a lot of people making good progress. The weekly Sunday QPs have helped with this.

We have, unfortunately, lost our lunch time quarter peal slot at StAG as they will not allow ringing while the offices are being used. General relations with the Church do seem to be improving and they have been more generous with allowing ringing on Saturdays.

We have continued to ring peals during the year, including several at StAG. Notable peals include an undergraduate peal of 8-spliced surprise major and a student peal of the standard 41 surprise minor. At the beginning of the year, peals were rung to mark the 50th anniversary of the Guild's first 12 bell peal on tower bells and the departure of the Brothers from St Bene't's.

Although numbers at GSM on Sunday evenings were lower than last year we have still had a good standard of ringing. Again this year we entered the national 12 bell striking competition. We had an encouraging practice at Mancroft but unfortunately did not ring as well on the day and came last in our eliminator. I would like to thank all of those in the band for their hard work and commitment and hope that although we were not successful at Mancroft, everyone had an enjoyable day.

As well as entering the Ridgman trophy, the EDA striking competition and the SUA this year, the Guild also took part in the College Youths 12 bell striking competition at the end of May. The band was organised by Dickon Love and several residents were involved. Although they were knocked out in the semi-final, by all accounts they rang well.

As well as ringing, we have of course enjoyed a good selection of social events. These have included the alternative dinner at New Hall, Guild Week in Norfolk, New Year near Nottingham, pancakes at GSM, the joint outing in Bedford and lots of formal halls and parties. All of this was rounded off with the Annual Dinner at Fitzwilliam which included a presentation to Chris Johnson as a small token of our appreciation for his work as president. At the dinner we rang a dinner touch of spliced surprise Maximus. Thank you and well done to those that took part. Oliver Hall, Luke Smith and I were all ringing in the dinner touch for the first time. I have certainly enjoyed all of these events and would like to say thank you to all of those who helped so much with the organisation, especially Jennie for her work towards the dinner.

We have continued to have a good relationship with the Youths with many students attending the Monday night practice and members of the Youths coming to support us on Sunday evening. The Guild have certainly benefited from this support, for which I am extremely grateful.

I would like to thank both the Senior and Junior officers for their support and hard work over the year. This year has been hard work but enjoyable and I hope that everyone else has enjoyed the year as well.

Kate Langley
7th May 2006