

**Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting held in the St. Bene't's church,
Cambridge
on Friday 12th October, 2007**

Members Present

President: C Y Barlow
Master: L T W Smith
Secretary: T K Beadman

R T Backhouse	H A-M Ingram
R A Bird *	T P Melen
C M Blackham *	E R Russell *
P L H Brooke	R A Smith
M S Edwards	A P Wallis *
D F Hagon	

* Elected during the meeting,

L D G Simpson, J E Butler, P J Earis, and C H Isitt arrived as indicated.

Non-members Present

G Unsworth

The president was in the chair and the meeting opened at 21.05.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

C M P Johnson

2. Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting

The minutes of the Lent term business meeting were read out by the Secretary. The meeting accepted the minutes as a true and correct record and they were signed by the President.

L D G Simpson arrived.

3. Matters Arising

The President stated that a number of matters had been resolved and asked the librarian to update us on the library.

D F Hagon reported that over the summer, the library had been moved from C M P Johnson's room in St. John's to C Y Barlow's room in Newnham. There the books had been sorted into classes and duplicates had been identified. The librarian also explained that he had sorted through the Guild's copies of the Ringing World and identified issues that were missing. A chunk of issues were missing from the 1950s, as well as the odd issue from the last few years.

The President announced that the long awaited Guild peal board commemorating the fiftieth

anniversary of the first tower bell peal rung on 12 by the Guild can now be seen up in the ringing chamber at St. Mary the Great. L T W Smith showed the meeting a paper copy of the final design of the board.

4. Relevant matters from the AGM

At the AGM, two central council representatives were elected. L D G Simpson and R O Hall will both attend the meeting next year. At the time of the AGM, there were no nominations for librarian or webmaster. Since the meeting, the duties of these posts have been carried out by D F Hagon and L D G Simpson. The meeting agreed to ratify these appointments.

5. Relevant matters from the Guild Week Meeting

There were no matters carried forward from the Guild Week Meeting.

6. Election of New Members

The following were elected to membership of the Guild, proposed by the Master and seconded by the Secretary:

R A Bird (Emmanuel)
C M Blackham (Christ's)
E R Russell (Churchill)
J Suett (Trinity Hall)
A P Wallis (Christ's)

All were elected unopposed.

J E Butler, P J Earis and C H Isitt arrived.

7. Michaelhouse

The President updated the meeting about the Michaelhouse project. She explained that the Guild hopes to install a ring of bells in Michaelhouse and that the Chaplain (The Rev'd. Dr. Andreas Loewe) is keen for them to be installed by May next year- the 50th anniversary of when bells were removed from the tower. The initial proposal has been presented to the PCC and the DAC has also been to visit. White's of Appleton have surveyed the tower and would be keen to undertake the work. A second estimate is currently being sought from Hayward Mills.

Michaelhouse is attached to the parish of St. Mary the Great and the PCC, along with the Michaelhouse Trust, will make the final decision as to whether the project will go ahead. Currently enthusiasm is high, however the project still needs to be accepted by the PCC and the DAC, who will require a more detailed description of the proposed plans.

The current proposal is to install a 7cwt ring of 8, all on one level. The expectation is that the Guild would raise the money and be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the bells. The Guild would ring at times to be agreed with the church and Gonville and Caius College. When the project was discussed at the Guild Week meeting, Guild members showed support and some donations have already been pledged, suggesting that raising the money should not be insuperably difficult..

The Master added that if the project went ahead, it would be important for the Guild to keep ringing at St. Andrew's and St. Bene't's. Concerns were expressed that St. Andrew's would be neglected and that it would be too costly for the Guild to maintain the bells in two towers.

It was agreed that a separate Guild meeting would take place to discuss this project, possibly in early December after the PCC and DAC meetings. This would take place before the Guild committed to fund the project, however the Guild would have to spend some money before then to keep the project moving e.g. for structural surveys etc. The President asked for an advisory committee to be formed. It was agreed that the Treasurer, Master, P L H Brooke, L D G Simpson and the Assistant Master should fulfill this role, and also that Clarke Walters, as an experienced bell engineer within the Guild would be approached. The Secretary would also be invited to be in attendance.

8. GSM

George Unsworth was asked briefly to explain that a proposal has been put forward to replace the 12 bells at St. Mary the Great with a lighter ring to reduce tower movement and make the bells easier to ring. The Cambridge Youths decided at an EGM in May 2007 that they would like this to go ahead and a proposal has been put forward to the PCC. George summarised the process by which these projects are approved within the church. The University feels it has a donor who is happy to pay for it, and it is hoped that the new bells will be installed in time to celebrate the University's 800th anniversary in 2009. While the project is being driven by the Cambridge Youths, it is felt that it is important to keep the Guild informed about the situation.

9. Other Cambridge Towers

With the Michaelhouse project moving forward, proposals for investigating other Cambridge towers will not be investigated at further at present.

The Senior Treasurer reported that the ongoing project to augment the bells at Great Wilbraham into a 6 may possibly develop into a project to install a light ring of 10. While the completion of this is likely to be a long way off, this might be a useful resource for the Guild in a few years time.

10. Diary Dates

The Master reminded members of the cycle outing tomorrow, followed by a bar crawl in the evening and encouraged freshers to come along. He also highlighted a clash with the SUA and the joint meeting with the Ely DA. The London outing will take place on the 24th November, although the towers are not yet confirmed. The Guild Dinner will be held in Queens' College on the 15th March and the guest speaker, John Loveless has been confirmed.

11. Any Other Business

R A Smith commented that the ropes at St. Andrew's need washing and some tail-ends need replacing, especially the tenor. It was agreed that new tail-ends should be purchased, and that the steeplekeeper would be informed that this work needed doing.

The President informed the meeting of the death of Charlie Moule. Charlie was a Senior Treasurer of the Guild and was very supportive of all the Guild's activities. It was thought that he was the oldest member of the Guild when he passed away. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, 9th February at St. Mary the Great.

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at 21:58.