

**Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting held in St. Bene't's church, Cambridge
on Friday 16th January, 2009**

Members Present

President: C Y Barlow
Master: D A Winter
Secretary: R T Backhouse

J A Agg	T K Beadman	J E Butler
P J Earis	H A-M Ingram	C H Isitt
C M P Johnson	M S L Jordan*	J D Shanklin
C C Shearer*	L D G Simpson	L T W Smith
R A Smith		

* Elected during the meeting.

The president was in the chair and the meeting opened at 21.07.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

C L Taylor
J Hetherington

2. Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting

The minutes of the Michaelmas term business meeting had been circulated in advance. The meeting accepted the minutes as a true and correct record and they were signed by the President.

3. Matters Arising

It was agreed that there were no matters arising from the minutes not covered by the items on the agenda.

4. Election of New Members

The following were elected to membership of the Guild, having been proposed by P J Earis and seconded by J D Shanklin:

C C Shearer (Jesus)
M S L Jordan (Robinson)

Both were elected unopposed.

5. Cambridge Towers

J D Shanklin was invited to speak about St. Bene't's, remarking that there had been some complaints about the 4th and offering to look into the idea of fitting a rope with a thicker sally.

L T W Smith asked again that the Steeplekeeper be apprised of the need to wash the ropes at St. Andrew's.

R A Smith provided a brief update on the situation at Great St. Mary's, noting that the faculty had now been obtained and that work was likely to begin in either April or May. The work would likely take around 2 months to complete, meaning that the new bells (a 23cwt ring of 12 with a flat 6th) could possibly be

ringable as early as mid-June, although there was the prospect of the completion slipping over the summer as no work would be permitted in July or August due to the opening of the tower to tourists.

C M P Johnson was invited to speak about the St. John's project, stating that he aimed to take the proposal to college council during the Lent term; the meeting wished C M P Johnson the best of luck.

P J Earis informed the meeting that rope guides had been installed at OLEM earlier in the day, which would hopefully make the bells more suitable for Guild ringing.

6. Diary Dates

P J Earis was asked to provide details of the activities planned for the celebration of the University's 800th anniversary, listing: touches of 800 blows of Cambridge to be rung at the 4 city centre towers on Saturday 17th January, with a reception laid on afterwards; an attempt at 800 spliced minor in hand to be made on the same morning; and a number of touches organised by Guild members at various locations in the UK and around the world, notably as far away as Sydney. All information was to be collated by the University and passed on to P J Earis for the purpose of writing up a report. C M P Johnson enquired as to whether there would be any ringing at OLEM; R A Smith explained that it had not been thought politic to arrange any, given that there had been an attempt at 10,000 changes arranged for the Thursday before. P J Earis' new-found celebrity as a radio guest on the subject was also noted with amusement by the meeting.

The Master asked that a special effort be made to attend University Sermon ringing, especially since the Archbishop of Canterbury was to speak at the first of term.

The Master went on to invite people to attend the OUS Dinner, which he proclaimed to be an invariably enjoyable occasion, despite admitting having never actually attended it before.

Attendance was further encouraged for the joint outing with the OUS on the 28th February in Northampton, organised by John Camp.

L D G Simpson invited attendance at the Guild Dinner, to be held on 14th March in Robinson College; he noted that the price for a drinking ticket would be £42, a marked drop from previous years.

7. Any Other Business

P J Earis pontificated on Guild membership, concluding by stating that he would like to propose Dr Martin (Dill) Faulkes as an honorary member in light of his strong ringing background and generous donation of the new ring of 12 for Great St. Mary's, which would be of benefit to Guild members for many years to come. C M P Johnson seconded the motion. J E Butler enquired as to whether an invitation should be extended before any election took place; P J Earis replied that Dill could always turn the offer down. P J Earis also suggested that Dill be invited to the Guild Dinner. J D Shanklin remarked that Dill was not a direct benefactor to the Guild, but rather more to the Cambridge Youths; he noted that another honorary member, John Gipson, had had very direct connections of support for the Guild and consequently asked that the wider Guild be consulted before any election took place. R A Smith replied that, since the Guild only had two honorary members, the reasons for any subsequent election were quite likely to be of a disparate nature; the other honorary member is Prince Charles (not a ringer). The President noted that Dill's donation was in fact to the University, of which the Guild was the representative society. The vote was called and Dill Faulkes was duly elected as an honorary member of the Guild, *nem. con.*, but with J D Shanklin abstaining. The President offered to write to Dill informing him that the Guild wished to offer him Honorary Membership; P J Earis quipped that this was a good idea, since it would likely take the Master until the following Christmas to write one.

The Secretary read out a request to include one of the Guild's peal books in a display on University clubs and societies in the University Library; the meeting agreed that this would be very welcome.

With no further business, the President closed the meeting at 21:30.