



St John's College
Cambridge
CB2 1TP

3rd January 2009

Dear Member,

As the new year begins it is traditionally time to update the Guild on our activities, and to invite you once again to become involved.

The Guild began the year in Surrey, where Tessa Beadman had ably organised the traditional New Year gathering. Ringing took place at a variety of towers in the Guildford area, including a peal of Spliced Surprise Major, a quarter of Stedman Cinques at Guildford Cathedral, and a date touch of 2008 Spliced Plain Major devised by Luke Smith. As ever, local members joined the undergraduates for the ringing and their assistance and company was most welcome.

During the Lent Term practices continued at St Andrew's and St Bene't's, where the methods rung were largely governed by the number turning up to practices. In February a handful of members enjoyed a weekend in Oxford for the OUS Dinner, followed two weeks later by the joint outing to St Albans. The OUS Dinner weekend is always great fun and I strongly recommend attending this year. A memorial service for Charlie Moule took place on 9th February at Gt St Mary's with a strong Guild presence. Earlier that day a quarter peal to his memory was rung at St Andrew's by a Guild band.

The 2008 Dinner was held at Queens' College. This proved to be an excellent venue in terms of both surroundings and quality of the food. Congratulations are due to Jake Suett, Emily Russell, and Rob Backhouse who rang in their first dinner touch. Those present enjoyed speeches from Chris Johnson, Luke Smith, and John Loveless. One Guild peal was scored that day - at Peterborough Cathedral - while other attempts at OLEM, Gt Shelford and St Bene't's were unsuccessful.

We celebrated May Week in customary fashion, with the punt outing to Grantchester, the Guild vs Youths rounders match (the result of which is unfortunately lost to posterity), and the Alternative Dinner at Robinson. A peal of Cambridge Maximus at Gt St Mary's was also scored, notable as Emily Russell's first on twelve just eight months after her first of Plain Bob Major.

Guild week in Cornwall this year provided its usual mix of interesting towers, satisfying ringing, excellent beer and congenial company. Everyone was very friendly and helpful, and we were made particularly welcome by the local ringers. Most, though not all, peals and quarters were scored, but standards were high. The very long ropes caused problems in some places, particularly since the damp weather had made the ropes very stiff. Non-ringing activities featured largely at times: for example, our base in Falmouth provided scope for grabbing the King Harry ferry. We were sadly short of undergraduates, and hope to rectify this for next time. As a whole, though, the week ran like clockwork, and we are most grateful to Chris Northeast for her meticulous organisation.

Michaelmas began with the freshers squash, college bar crawl, and cycle outing. We were delighted to welcome several new ringers (Jonathan Agg, Freddie Manners, Cara Taylor, Catriona Shearer, Annie Burman, Matthew Jordan, Oliver Staves, and Owen Woods) and to see them becoming more involved over the term. My particular thanks must go to

Jonathan Agg for taking over as Assistant Master in his first term at Cambridge after his predecessor's departure to the states. Several quarters were rung, from plain bob doubles to eight spliced major, and practices were generally well attended. The London outing was superbly organised by Jennie and it was good to see so many of you there. We rounded the year off with a fresher's quarter peal at Benet's, and a most successful Christmas dinner masterminded by Philip Earis.

The next year should be an exciting one for the Guild. In January the university will begin it's 800th anniversary celebrations, in which we are heavily involved. Later in the year we expect to see the replacement of the bells at Gt St Mary's, due to take place sometime over the Summer. We look forward also to the dinner, to be held at Robinson on March 14th, and to Guild Week, which will be based near Nantwich.

I would like to end by recording our thanks to all those who have attended ringing or other events over the past year. We hope to see you again soon!

With best wishes for a happy and successful 2009,

Dale Winter
Master, 2008-9.