

CUGCR Steeplekeeper's Report 2010/11

St. Andrew the Great

Due to a healthy number of learners this year, this year has relatively busy year in terms of steeplekeeping. A taster session for Freshers at the beginning of Michaelmas resulted in both the dramatic breaking of the slider on the 7th (the Assistant Master providing an unexpected demonstration of the dangers/excitement of tower bell ringing), and the breaking of the stay on the 6th. A new slider was purchased from John Taylor & Co., which arrived promptly and was replaced within a fortnight, along with the stay (a spare having been kept in the tower).

The success of the taster session was shown by the fact that the stay on the 6th was broken twice more during Michaelmas in the subsequent lessons. The first time a replacement was generously offered by J.D. Shanklin from the reserve at St. Bene'ts, for which the Guild is grateful.

Unfortunately, when the third stay broke at the end of Michaelmas, no replacements were easily obtained, and so the 6th was left without a stay over the Christmas vacation. Supply problems during Lent term meant that the replacement was not installed until the week preceding the Dinner weekend. The Manners family generously sent six new stays, of a cross-section chosen so that each may be fitted into the headstock of any of the bells at StAG. One of these was installed immediately, with one earmarked for replacing the stay on the 7th (not replaced after breaking the slider), and the remainder being stored in the tower for future use. It is the recommendation of the Steeplekeeper that this reserve be maintained in case of overly enthusiastic learners in future years.

Handbells

During the last AGM, the Guild allocated £400 to restore the Barnet set. Unfortunately the quoted restoration fee was more than twice this amount and so despite Guild fundraising efforts, the restoration will not be going ahead in the near future.

No other issues with any of the handbells have been reported.

The Steeplekeeper would like thank the Guild for being neither too reckless with the bells, nor too impatient of delays.

Matthew Jordan
CUGCR Steeplekeeper 2009-11