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Master 2011-12  
CU Guild of Change Ringers  
Jesus College  
Cambridge  
CB5 8BL

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011

Dear Ringer,

Cambridge is once again a sparkling grotto of festive merriment, and so it must be time to retreat inside and write the master's letter. As ever, it gives me great pleasure to report that the Guild has equally good spirits, but we finished these off at the Christmas dinner; with 25 of us there it was a cosy affair, but it showed off the healthy position in which we are closing the year.

And a busy year it has certainly been. We started back in Shropshire in the warm hospitality of Freddie Manners and family for a second year, where the host scored a first peal, in Telford, and we brought round 2011 changes of a Philip Sadleton composition of Surprise Major. We would all have enjoyed the views over the Welsh countryside on the outing around Welshpool if the fog hadn't kept us guessing where the road was; yet the wet weather still didn't stop the engineers in the band taking us all for a look around Ironbridge the next day. Professor Moriarty the Scottish Terrier made a welcome contribution throughout proceedings, so we named a Delight Minor method in his honour, rung in the peal.

New Year gave us the opportunity to discuss plenty of silly ideas, leaving a band attempting on a Saturday in Lent term to ring six quarters on six different sixes across the city, all in methods beginning with c. This was unfortunately revised due to illness on the day, but four quarters were scored. A peal of 41-spliced minor was also scored at Chesterton during the term. Helen Smith also rang a first quarter, and we were pleased to elect Nahum Clements (Homerton) to the Guild.

A good contingent of us went to support (or heckle) Philip Earis when he delivered an amusing speech to the OUS dinner in Harris Manchester college, and we later joined the OUS again for an outing, starting in Watford and working its way along the Metropolitan line, organised by Luke Camden.

Lent term finished with an extended and busy but very enjoyable dinner weekend. The highlight was of course the dinner at Jesus college, where the master (Catriona Shearer) organised, hosted and spoke with expert skill and entertaining speeches were also given by Stephanie Warboys and Mungo Stacy. Congratulations to the ringers of the handbell touch of Stedman Cinques, particularly to Helen Smith and Stephen Croxall for whom this was a first Guild performance; Helen had rung neither handbells nor Stedman before this term. The only peal to be scored was on the front six at St Neots, but three bands including one of Jesus alumni brought quarters round to mark the occasion. A cycle outing the day before was unfortunately not well enough attended to enjoy the newly augmented six at Great Wilbraham, but Edward Yang turned up later on and was soon coned into a first quarter, having been taught by the Guild during the year. I regret to inform those of you expecting dinner at Selwyn next year that they have let us down, but I can invite you all to Robinson college on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

As ever, the start of the Easter term saw the AGM and the election of the new officers. Many thanks to Claire Barlow, Frank King and Patrick Brooke for continuing their roles as senior officers, and to our two CCCBR representatives, Leigh Simpson and Robin Shipp; Leigh also maintains the Guild website. Helping me as master this year are Will Benfold (Downing) as assistant master, Nahum Clements (Homerton) as secretary, Jack Cranfield (Homerton) as steeplekeeper and Helen Smith (Newnham) as librarian. We were also pleased to elect Tom Irving (Emmanuel), Teifi Walters (Trinity Hall), Edward Yang (Fitzwilliam) and Joe Rogers (Clare).

The Guild were pleased this year to find (some degree of) national and international fame, as March saw recording for a broadcast on Swiss national radio, while in May we joined with ringers across Cambridge in the filming of a BBC documentary led by composer and conductor Charles Hazlewood. This will be aired on BBC4 at 21:00 on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December and repeated throughout the week.

We rounded the year off with a well-attended dinner at Christ's college (17 people dined and the handbell touch even came round) and some traditional punting in the rain. We also enjoyed the usual picnic with the Cambridge Youths, but we unfortunately had to concede our rounders title following the sharing of some key players.

Barbara Le Gallez organised an excellent Guild Week in Cambridge in the summer, aided by Nicholas Small. We were based in Girton college for meals and accommodation, and ringing took place from Saffron Walden to Peterborough, Bury St Edmund's to Wisbech. We enjoyed Sunday morning at the campanile in Willingham, and an expedition to St Ives and beyond on the newly opened guided busway. A peal of Stedman Cinques was lost at GSM but other peals were scored at St Bene't's Cambridge and Longstanton. We were pleased to elect Naomi Laredo (Newnham 1974) and David Richards (St John's 1997) to the Guild at the meeting, and we look forward to next summer's week in Nottingham organised by Ian Vincent. We were also able to give our best wishes to Christine Northeast on her retirement, and our thanks for all her work maintaining the Guild address list for the last 30 years. Nicholas Small has kindly agreed to take the job on.

The new academic year saw an encouraging intake of freshers, and we have enjoyed some good ringing this term thanks to the enthusiasm of the resident Guild. We rang a quarter in September at St Magnus, London with Jon Daniels (Downing) and also elected Oliver Bardsley (Pembroke), Robert Flockton (Queens'), Mary Hughes (Robinson), James Dann (Corpus), Sarah Pike (Pembroke), Nick Butler (Jesus) and Tom Hinks (Homerton) to the Guild at the Business Meeting.

Being in such good health, the Guild was pleased to enter two eligible 8-bell teams in the Southern Universities Association striking competition this year, and retain both the 8- and 6-bell titles. We hosted the competition this year and were very encouraged to see so many young ringers from all across the country join us, with at least 80 people in the hall at St Luke's church on Saturday evening for a thoroughly enjoyable ceilidh.

October also saw the marriage of Jennie Butler to Philip Earis at GSM; our best wishes to both. Peals were scored all week for the occasion, including one for the Guild at Trumpington on Saturday morning by a student band, a first peal for Georgina Harris.

The term was finished off with an excellent outing to London organised by Luke Smith, with the day beginning at St Margaret's, Parliament Square and finishing at St Magnus. Later that week we numbered 25 in enjoying some 'Christmas' festivities when we prepared a Christmas dinner ourselves in a room in Robinson college, and followed on the term's success with a peal of Cambridge Major by a band of undergraduates (and one friend!), a first for Oliver Bardsley, Robert Flockton and James Dann.

My thanks to the Cambridge Youths for their help in Guild ringing throughout the year: we made use of our peal slot at GSM this year with a peal of Cambridge Maximus at the start of December. With a good core of ringers and some excellent progress already this year, I look forward to next year and the opportunities it could bring.

Could I take this opportunity to remind you to keep the address list keeper, Nicholas Small, updated with any changes in contact details, and particularly to ensure that we have a current e-mail address if possible. ***We should only be communicated with you on paper if absolutely necessary.*** Nicholas can be contacted at [addresslist@cugcr.org.uk](mailto:addresslist@cugcr.org.uk).

It leaves me only to record with sadness the deaths of Geoff Dodds (master 1948), Mark Jones, John Clark-Maxwell and Harry Winter (master 1974), and of Bill Ridgman whose prolonged work with the EDA and the Guild will be well remembered; and to congratulate Cara Taylor on her engagement to Simon Cooper.

Thanks to Jonathan Agg who will host the Guild celebrations for New Year in Guildford. I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year!

Yours faithfully,  
Max