



Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers

Guild Summer Festival Meeting

13th September 2025 in Castor

Minutes

1. **Welcome:** The meeting began at 18:13 with a welcome to all by the President, who also welcomed the teams that had entered. The President read a statement relating to the nomination of the Training officer at the AGM.
2. **Vote of Thanks:** Jane Marsh proposed the vote of thanks to the incumbent of Yarwell and Wansford, Redd Jane Tailby and the Benefice Administrator at Castor, Jo Morris, for the use of the bells. To Guild Master, Jim Bence for arranging the competition and general ringing. To the judges for agreeing to judge the contest; and to Castor for the use of the church and all those involved in putting on the most excellent tea. The meeting expressed its appreciation in the usual manner.
3. **Bell Fund:** There were no applications for a bell fund grant. Steward John Beresford gave an update on progress of work at Corby and Greetham, where work is concluded, and at Badby, where the bells were due in September.
4. **Training Officer election.** There were two nominations for the role, Nich Wilson, proposed Jim Bence, seconded Richard Allton and Liz Reading, proposed Anthea Hiams, seconded Geoff Pullin. Each nominee spoke about their experience and what they hoped to bring to the role, their proposers and seconders also contributed. This was put to a vote and Nich Wilson was elected. The President thanked both nominees for standing. Nich Wilson thanked the meeting for electing him to the role.
5. **Central Council report** was given by Nick Elks, who reported on the main strands of the CCCBR AGM. This was the ringing 2030 initiative, the change to the publications and the move of the CCCBFR library, which has moved to Taylor's at Loughborough.
6. **Future Guild Events:**
 - a. Spring Meeting 2026 – 11th April in Rutland branch
 - b. AGM 2026 – 14th June in Wellingborough branch.
 - c. Summer Festival 2026 – 13th September in Culworth branch.
 - d. Based on the success of the social events in 2024, the Guild is initiating a Social event each year, and will start with a Quiz & supper on 14th February, 2026. Nether Heyford Village Hall is being arranged and will hopefully be confirmed at the end of the month.
 - e. The 10 bells for the remainder of the year are 8th November at Daventry. 2nd Saturday in January 2026 will be at Rothwell. March onwards towers are to be confirmed

7. **Notices:** there were none to add.
8. **100 Club draw.** This was made and winners were Richard Johnson, John Beresford, Dave Blezzard and Andrew Christie
9. **Any other Business:** There were 5 items raised
 - a. Cathy Dixon informed the meeting that the wombell that had been purchased by the Daventry branch has bene transferred to the Guild. It was to form part of the Old Black Lion, but now needs a home. It is used for fetes and other events where a ringable bell makes for a visual attraction. Storage is required, it is about 1.3 m³ and it will not fit in a normal sized car and will need collecting. Nick Elks asked if photos of it dismantled might be provided so that people might be able to assess if they could house it. Offers of storage are requested.
 - b. Cathy Dixon announced that the Guild's paper Quiz was available. Printed copies are available through the branches. Correct answers are due back end of February.
 - c. Jonathan Stuart informed the meeting that the newsletter had been delayed at the printer and would be distributed shortly to branches.
 - d. Sue Marsden asked the meeting if they had a copy of the 2005 annual report, as there was a gap in the Peterborough cathedral collection.
 - e. John Beresford reported on safeguarding. The diocesan office is currently carrying out a survey and has no resources to devote to other items. He continues to try and make progress.
10. **Striking Contest results.** The Master introduced the judges, Keith and Marilyn Brown. They gave comments on each team's performance before giving the scores in reverse order.

| Team | Rang | Score | Placing |
|----------------|------|-------|---------|
| Towcester | 3 | 18 | 1 |
| Wellingborough | 4 | 23.5 | 2 |
| Kettering | 1 | 26.5 | 3 |
| Peterborough | 2 | 36.5 | 4 |
| Daventry | 5 | 36.5 | 4 |
| Guilsborough | 6 | 42.5 | 6 |

Each team was presented with a certificate and Towcester were presented with the Weaver Shield. The judges were rewarded with suitable tokens of our appreciation.

11. The meeting was closed at 19:40

Appendix: List of those present:

Top Table: President Alistair Donaldson, Master Jim Bence, Steward John Beresford, Secretary Helen Allton,