

THE CARLISLE DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Established 1975

OBJECTS

The objects of this Guild are as follows:

1. The provision of good ringing for Church Services, to the Glory of God.
2. The recognition of ringing as an integral part of the Church's life and work.
3. The furtherance of the art and science of change ringing and the encouragement of new members
4. The proper care of bells and belfries, and the supply of reliable information when necessary.

CONSTITUTION

1. The Guild shall be known as

THE CARLISLE DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

2. The Guild shall consist of (a) resident (b) non-resident and (c) life members.

(a) Resident members may be elected at any General, Committee or Branch business meeting of the Guild; they shall be proposed and seconded and the proposer shall be responsible for the payment of the subscription of the person proposed. Those admitted as ringing members must be able to ring rounds proficiently on tower bells. Resident members may be ringing members or non ringing members.

The rates of fees and subscriptions shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting called for that purpose, and shall come into force on 1st January following.

(b) Non-resident members are those not normally resident in the Diocese. They shall be elected in the manner provided in paragraph 2(a), or admitted to membership as hereinafter provided (paragraph 10), on payment of a single fee. Those who live in the Diocese but in an area not covered by the former Cumberland and North Westmorland Association may be either non-resident members, or become resident members by election in the normal way. Resident members who leave the area shall become non-resident members provided their subscriptions or donations amount to not less than two years' subscriptions. Non-resident members shall have no vote at any meeting.

(c) Life membership shall be an honour conferred by the Guild at the Annual General Meeting. Life members will not be asked to pay any further subscriptions.

(d)

(i) The Committee shall have the power to expel any member who fails to comply with the rules of the Guild as stated in the Constitution and its amendments or who in the opinion of the Committee renders himself or herself unfit for membership.

(ii) No member shall be expelled without having an opportunity to appear before the Committee to explain and defend any conduct under question. Any such member shall be given at least seven clear days' notice in writing by the General Secretary to attend a Committee Meeting.

(iii) The opportunity to make an explanation or defence before the Guild Committee will not apply in situations where any breach of the Guild's Safeguarding Policy has been held to have been involved.

(iv) In the event of a breach of Safeguarding Policy, i.e. involving a safeguarding issue allegation being made against a member, the member shall be suspended for the duration of an investigation. Due process, as set out in the Guild Safeguarding Policy, the Diocesan Policy, and the Parish Policy (where the event occurred) will be strictly applied. Where a member, after investigation, is found to be culpable or classed as a Known Offender, his/her membership of the Guild shall be terminated.

3. The Officers of the Guild shall be the President, General Secretary, Peal Secretary, Treasurer, Training Officer, Safeguarding Officer, Health and Safety Officer and Public Relations Officer. The management of the Guild shall be in the hands of the Officers and not more than four resident members elected annually to form the committee. The two Branch Ringing Masters and Branch Secretaries, and any representatives of the Guild on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers shall also be members of the Committee.

If the Guild is entitled to more than one Central Council Representative then, when possible, there should be equal representation from each Branch.

The Guild shall maintain associated policies for specific topics as appropriate, including Safeguarding and Health and Safety.

The Committee shall have power to co-opt a member to fulfil a specific role until the next AGM. Any seven members shall form a quorum.

The Committee shall have power to reduce subscriptions for resident members who are younger and older and to adjust subscriptions for particular circumstances.

The Officers and Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, the retiring members being eligible for re-election. If there are more candidates than there are available positions, there shall be an election by secret ballot.

An Independent Examiner shall be appointed each year at the Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year not later than the first Saturday in May at a place to be decided at the previous Annual General Meeting.

4. Trustees: The Trustees shall be the Committee. The General Secretary and Treasurer plus up to two other Trustees elected by Committee shall be authorised as signatories. The Trustees shall invest or otherwise deal with such monies or other assets as the Guild shall place in their hands in such a manner as the Committee shall direct.

5. The year (financial or otherwise) of the Guild shall end on December 31st and the **Annual General Meeting of the Guild** shall take place as hereinbefore stipulated for the purpose of receiving the report of the Committee and the statement of Accounts by the Treasurer and for the transaction of the normal business of the Guild in manner as herein appearing.

The Committee shall have power to call other General Meetings at such times as they shall consider necessary for the transaction of business and for other purposes or other matters concerning the art and science of change ringing.

An Extra-ordinary Meeting may be called at any time by the General Secretary on the request of the President, Committee or of any twenty resident members. The members of the Guild shall have at least three weeks' notice of such meetings with particulars of the business to be transacted, and such notice shall be deemed to be given by sending a copy to each affiliated tower to be displayed in the belfry, together with advertisement in "The Ringing World". Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be similarly advertised.

6. No amendment shall be made to this Constitution, except at the Annual General Meeting, or at an Extraordinary General Meeting specifically called for that purpose. One calendar month's notice shall be given in writing to the General Secretary of the proposed amendment before a motion shall go to the vote as required under this Constitution.

7. The Guild shall abide by the decisions of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

8. Any avoidable damage done at a Guild meeting to bells or fittings by members shall be made good by the Guild.

9. The Guild may be divided into convenient branches, the management of which shall be conducted as hereinafter provided:-

(a) The management of each branch shall be in the hands of the Secretary and Ringing Master who shall be elected by the members of that branch only.

(b) The Branch Secretary shall keep the General Secretary of the Guild informed of any matter that is within the province of the Guild and its business. Branch Secretaries and Branch Ringing Masters shall be members of the Committee ex officio. The Branch Ringing Master shall take charge of the ringing at all branch meetings, be responsible for the conduct of business at such meetings, and act as chairman if necessary.

(c) The Annual Meeting of each branch shall be held before the Annual General Meeting of the Guild.

(d) No tower shall be transferred from one branch to another without the written consent of a majority of the members of the Guild who are attached to that tower. Any such request for a transfer must have the approval of the majority of members present at a General Meeting of the Guild.

(e) Affiliated towers are those listed in the current Annual Report and consisting traditionally the Eastern and Western Branches. Any other tower in the Diocese of Carlisle wishing by a majority of its ringers to be affiliated to and to join a branch of the Guild must submit a written request at least one month before an Annual General Meeting of the Guild to the General Secretary and this must be proposed and seconded by adult resident members of the Guild.

(f) For the purpose of conducting branch meetings, this Constitution shall be considered the Constitution of each branch.

10. No person shall take part in a **Guild peal** if not a member of the Guild; the tower election of such a person shall be valid provided it is subsequently ratified by a Committee, Branch or General Meeting of the Guild.

11. Records of all peals and other matters of ringing interest shall be kept by the Guild.

12. A peal booking fee shall be charged in respect of any peal which is to be recorded as a Guild Peal.

13. The Guild shall establish and maintain a Bell Restoration Fund. The rules of the fund shall be as hereinafter stated:

1. The fund shall be known as THE CARLISLE DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS BELL RESTORATION FUND.

2. The object of the fund shall be to advance the Christian religion by providing financial assistance to Churches in the Diocese of Carlisle for the purpose of maintaining and improving their bell installations by making grants to them. Maintenance and improvement of a bell installation shall be deemed to include the following:

(a) taking out an existing ring of bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fittings, recasting the bells and erecting the same.

(b) taking out, overhauling and reclapping existing bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fitting and erecting bells.

(c) taking out existing bells, overhauling existing frame and fittings, recasting, or overhauling and reclapping same and re-erecting.

(d) augmentation and bringing existing bells, frame and fittings into an adequate state of repair. (e) other major repairs to bells, frames, fittings and towers.

(f) the provision of bells, frames and fittings and erection of the same in Churches which previously had none.

(g) the acquisition of bells from Churches within the Diocese of Carlisle declared redundant, for subsequent redeployment and/or recasting.

(h) the restoration of any set of change or tune ringing handbells belonging to the Guild.

3. The membership of the Fund shall be that of the Carlisle Diocesan Guild as defined in the rules thereof.

4. (a) The Fund shall be administered by the Management Committee of the Carlisle Diocesan Guild, hereinafter referred to as the Committee.

(b) The Committee shall have the power, after considering an application submitted to it in writing, to approve a grant from the Fund.

(c) The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees which shall report back their actions fully and promptly to the Committee.

(d) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt such persons as it considers necessary to assist in its deliberations. The number of co-opted persons at any one meeting of the Committee shall not exceed three.

(e) The management of the Bell Restoration Fund shall be an item on the agenda of every Committee meeting.

5. (a) The General Secretary and the Treasurer of the Guild, and the Eastern and Western Branch Ringing Masters shall be ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

(b) Such bank accounts as may be required shall be opened in the name of the Fund. Any two of the four nominated Trustees shall have the power to sign cheques.

(c) Any outstanding monies in the hands of the Committee not required for the immediate purposes of the Fund shall be invested in any manner the Trustees may think fit in the best interests of the Fund.

(d) The Committee and its sub-committees shall have the power to raise funds in any manner they see fit as long as permanent trading is not engaged in.

(e) The Fund shall be set up by the total transfer to it of the balance of those monies collected, made available or ear-marked for Bell Restoration by the Guild.

6. In the event of the dissolution of the Fund the assets of the Fund shall be distributed equally among those Churches which at the time of the dissolution were in union with the Guild for the purpose of bell maintenance and restoration.

7. The Treasurer shall prepare a balance sheet as at 31st December in each year and an income and expenditure account for the year ended on that date which shall be audited by an independent examiner appointed by the members of the Guild at their Annual General Meeting of the Guild first held after 31st December in which the Fund's accounts are prepared.

8. No alteration or addition or deletion of these rules shall be made so as to cause the Fund at any time to cease to be charity in law. No alteration, addition or deletion shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting of the Guild or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting especially called for the purpose. Notice of any proposed addition to or deletion from these rules shall be given to the General Secretary of the Guild at least one calendar month prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting or Extra-ordinary General Meeting.

Amended April 2021