



Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

**130th Annual General Meeting
Saturday 22nd April 2023**

at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge

130th Annual General Meeting

The meeting commenced at 5.35pm

The Chairman, Mrs Helen Phillips, welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended thanks to Rev. Victoria Ashley, who currently leads the Cowbridge Ministry Area team, for taking the service and leading the prayers, Cowbridge organist Richard Haines for playing the organ, and to members of the church who helped with the bring and share tea. There were 35 members who signed as attending the meeting, others took part in the ringing but did not stay for the meeting.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Beryl Baldwin, Peter Bennett, Peter Buchanan, Marie Carson, Evan Chapman, Jane Dumont-Jones, Helen Giles. Bob & Mary Hardy, Sandra Hitchen, Neil Jones, Jennifer Malcolm, Margaret Matthews, Rev. Jenny Mole, Pat & David Moore, Pauline Morris, Andrew Muir, Pip & Mike Penney, Ken Phillips, Lesley Sheppard, David Slater, Llyr Thomas-James, Debbie, Adam & Catherine Turner, Perry Turner, John Vesey, Lynne Workman, Eleanor Yates

2) Remembrance of Members lost through death

Rev. Victoria Ashley led prayers in Remembrance of recently deceased members during the service. These were Douglas Davison, Alf Charles, David Marshall, Mike Matthews, Dennis Munday, Daniel Powell and Ruth Stickland

3) Minutes of the 129th AGM

Helen noted that a copy of the 2022 minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting on the website. No corrections were noted and they were proposed for acceptance by Tim Taylor, seconded by Hilary Evans and forwarded to the Chairman for signature.

4) Matters arising from the Minutes:

There were none

5) Officers' Reports

- a) **The Master**, Matthew Turner, referred to his report in the published 2022 Annual Report.

Matthew extended thanks to everyone for supporting the Association including fellow Association Officers, Branch Officers, AMC members and all Tower Captains. He thanked Barry Hayman and Chris Kipling for running the Bell Maintenance course held immediately prior to the AGM. He said it was a privilege to be the Association Master for 6 years which he had much enjoyed and a real joy to see ringing continuing to get back on its feet following Covid. He was pleased that the objective to seek new ringers both post-Covid and in preparation for the Coronation ('Ring for the King') was proving successful with many new recruits and towers rebuilding bands.

- b) The **General Secretary**, Tim Taylor, also referred to his report in the 2022 Annual Report and thanked his fellow officers for their help and support during the transfer from Harriet.
- c) The **Treasurers**, Andrew and Meriel Gainsbury, reminded members that the accounts had been published in the Annual Report already available online and on the web, and people had been asked to forward any comments to the Chairman or Association Secretary in advance of the AGM. No comments had been received. They pointed out that the Bell Restoration Fund now held in excess of £70,000, so funds were clearly available, and that the AMC welcomed bids for funding. The Bell Maintenance Group, now established within the AMC, was doing sterling and indeed crucial maintenance work, led by Joy and Chris Kipling, and all towers were encouraged to consider how the group may help their tower. The Chairman reiterated that the funds are available to aid both post-Covid recruitment and keeping towers in a good ringing condition.
- d) Helen Phillips proposed that these accounts were accepted, seconded by Yvonne John and this was passed without dissent.

6) Election of Officers

- a) **Master** – Matthew Turner's six-year tenure was up and **HARRIET MONCRIEFF** was proposed by Chris Kipling, seconded by Helen Philips with all in favour. There were no other proposals from the floor.
- b) The **Chairman**, Helen Philips, **General Secretary**, Tim Taylor, and **Treasurers**, Meriel and Andrew Gainsbury, were all prepared to stand again and were proposed *en bloc* by Steve Dutfield, seconded by Yvonne John, with all in favour. There were no other proposals from the floor.
- c) **PRO** – This role has not been filled for several years, despite a new job description being written and no volunteer is forthcoming at present so this role remains vacant. Helen Phillips asked anybody interested to get in touch.
- d) **BRF Trustees** – Barry Hayman and Steve Dutfield were prepared to stand again. Both were proposed by Andrew Philips, seconded by Joy Kipling with all in favour. There were no other proposals from the floor.

- e) **Central Council Representatives** – The Association is entitled to 3 representatives. Helen Phillips is prepared to stand again as was Matthew Turner. New Master, Harriet Moncrieff, was proposed and accepted as the third representative. The three were proposed for election by Andrew Gainsbury and seconded by Joy Kipling with all in favour. There were no other proposals from the floor.
- f) **Independent Examiners**, David Slater and Perry Turner, were prepared to stand again. Proposed by Tim Taylor, seconded by Chris Taylor with all in favour. There were no other proposals from the floor.
- g) Helen extended thanks to Matthew for his 6 years of service as Master. She noted that during his period in office he had prioritised recruitment and, latterly, post-COVID recovery. She also noted that he had led the Association to victory in the All-Wales Striking Competition, helped maintain good relations with the Church, represented the Association at the Central Council, and had been instrumental in training a new band at Llanedeyrn. She made a presentation to much applause from all present. The Master’s Badge of Office was then passed to Harriet Moncrieff.
- h) Helen ended by thanking all the Officers and Volunteers for their sterling work and for all those agreeing to stand again.

7) Election of Honorary Life Members

This honour is conferred on people who have given outstanding service to the Aims and Objectives of the Association and is the only honour that can be bestowed by the Association.

John Vesey:

- John has given long and outstanding service to the Association since moving from Cheshire to Cardiff as a student.
- A keen peal ringer and conductor he rang his first peal in the area with the Welsh Colleges Society at St John’s, Cardiff. in March 1988. His 200th peal was in December 2011 at Llandaff Cathedral, his home tower, where he was Tower Captain for several periods. He conducted 78 peals.
- In 1993 he was elected as a Llandaff Branch representative on the Association Management Committee.
- From 1994 until 1999 he served as Association Secretary. In 1996 he oversaw the writing of a new set of Association rules, while from 1998 he led the Association’s response to “Ring in 2000”, the Central Council’s initiative to enable silent towers to ring for the millennium.
- In 2001 he took over as Association Webmaster, a post he still holds today. Over the past twenty or more years he has continually created, updated and upgraded the Association’s presence on the web.
- Between 2002 and 2005 he was the Llandaff Branch Newsletter Editor while also editing the Association’s Annual Report between 2004 and 2007.
- John has served in the three major Association posts, first as Secretary, then Master (elected in 2002) and finally as Chairman from 2015-2021 (a period which included the COVID pandemic). Throughout his years in office his contribution and achievements have been exceptional. Between 2019 and 2021 he represented the Association at the Central Council.
- The award was proposed on behalf of the AMC by Matthew Turner, and seconded by Helen Philips. All present were in favour.

- Unfortunately, John was unable to attend today's meeting and so Helen Philips and Matthew Turner presented the Certificate a week or so later. John said he was thrilled with the award.

8) Central Council (CC) Business

Matthew Turner gave an overview of the activities as already highlighted in the Annual Report. He highlighted the huge amount of work recently undertaken by the Central Council especially in advertising, marketing and general communications in particular ringing following the announcement of the death of the late Queen and the subsequent funeral, also the 'Ring for the King' initiative. Matthew concluded that because of the Central Council ringing currently has the highest national profile for many years.

9) Association Events 2023-24

- (a) It was planned to repeat the **Quiz night**, this year to be hosted by St Woolos. The date set is Friday 27th October at St John's Church, Newport.
- (b) The **Pitman Trophy** is planned to be held after the Branch competitions. Further details to be confirmed.
- (c) The **Association Dinner** is to be held on Saturday 14th October at the Cwrt Bleddyn Hotel & Spa, Usk. Further details to be confirmed.
- (d) Joy Kipling reminded members that the Bell Maintenance Group meets monthly, inspecting towers and carrying out basic maintenance always in collaboration with the tower authorities. She recommended that all towers should be regularly inspected and to contact her if any require assistance. Bird and insect invasion, and rusting frames are regular problems which, if tackled early, could save considerable expense later.

10) Any Other Business

There was none.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

Tim Taylor
General Secretary

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:

Date: