

Coventry Diocesan Guild Report 2024

Trustees Annual Report

This annual report has a threefold purpose. Firstly, it summarises what took place in the year. This aspect is covered more fully and in a timely manner in the Guild Magazine published quarterly. Secondly it acts as a repository for all the useful information needed about the Guild and as such serves as its handbook. Finally, but not of least importance, it satisfies the obligations placed on the trustees of a registered charity to make public our operation.

Generally, the trustees are the elected officers of the Guild and form the Executive Committee of the Guild. They also serve as the trustees of the separate Bell Repair Fund (BRF) charity. The close relationship between these two charities means that this one report covers the work of both and that separate meetings of each charity are not held.

2024 has been a difficult year for the Guild. During January, our longest standing Trustee and Treasurer of 44 years, Simon Rogers notified us of his sudden but serious illness. We were all devastated when he passed away on April 8th. May he rest in peace.

This has left an enormous gap in our Guild and has presented many challenges for the remaining Trustees. Our thanks to Mark Sayers, a previous Trustee, for stepping up and guiding us through this challenging period. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Claire Tosh who has become the new Guild Treasurer.

Guild membership, as measured by those paying subscriptions during the year, has increased in 2024, after having decreased over the last few years. At the time of preparing the accounts the Guild's paying membership in 2024 was split thus:-

District	Senior	Junior	Total	Towers
Coventry District	100	6	106	16
Rugby District	84	4	88	13
Warwick District	251	13	264	43
Unattached	13	—	13	—
Totals	448	23	471	75

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There are also 7 active life members resident within the Guild taking the resident membership to 478. Thanks go again to Gerald Trevor and Freda Bennett for their invaluable help in the collecting and recording of your subscriptions over the last 12 months. After many years of service, Freda has handed the responsibility to Alison Collins and we wish her the best of success in her new role. If you have not paid your subscription for 2025 by the time you read this (adults £10; juniors £2) could you to send the money to one of us as soon as possible. At the October business meeting, members agreed to use Membermojo to help with the collection of subscriptions. This will be implemented in 2025 with a view to collecting subscriptions in 2026.

This year the General Fund ended up with a surplus of £851. New training bells, purchased with the Jill Roberts legacy are gradually being installed. We paid for two during the year, Shipston and Long Compton. The Guild now therefore has reserves of £26,754, of which £12,209 is designated for expenditure on special projects. The remaining £14,545 is held in the general funds, this is roughly equivalent to 3 years income.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the income, and currently the reserves are deemed sufficient for the Guild.

Thanks must go to Sarah Thomas for examining this year's Guild and Bell Repair Fund accounts, her first year in the role. Also, many thanks to Jane Rogers who helped with the transition following Simon's death.

The Guild Bell Repair Fund income for the year surpassed £28,000, mainly due to income from the Phil Faulks Memorial Bell Repair Fund. Expenditure was about £69,994 giving us a surplus of nearly £10,000 over the year. During the year we donated sums of money to 6 different churches for various improvements to their rings of bells, the highest amount of which was the £45,000 given to Bulkington for the rehangng of the bells including casting of two new bells. This is the largest grant the Guild has ever give and is only possible because of the Phil Faulks legacy. Grants were given to:

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Bulkington	£45,000
Burton Dassett	£19,000
Harbury	£1,068
Long Compton	£126
Nuneaton	£3,300
Tredington	£1.500

It was decided at the Guild six monthly meeting to cancel the inspection scheme which had been running since 2018. Much of the work done recently in the Guild on bell installations has come as a result of these inspections and they have picked up on some important points that might easily have been overlooked.

The Guild Bell Repair Fund now has reserves of £33,500, with £17,500 of these already committed to further projects. It is due almost entirely to the Phil Faulks Fund that we can make such commitments. The very nature of the Fund means that the donations it makes to churches vary from year to year according to repairs, maintenance issues, and enhancements that occur and qualify for support. The donations made from the Fund vary from a few hundred pounds to several thousand according to the work needed. In simple terms with over 100 towers with bells in the Guild the Fund at the end of 2024 is equivalent to just over £335 per tower. The Trustees regard the current level of reserves as adequate. They are being proactive in using the money effectively by donating to churches having bell maintenance reports whilst still being receptive to funding any maintenance needed on bells/fittings; and augmentations to existing rings.

After 20 successful years, it was decided to retire the 100 Draw club. The money raised over the years has been so important to our continued support of the bells within the Guild. Member numbers had been falling and with the Phil Faulkes legacy, there is now a reliable flow of money on to the BRF. Thanks to Joy Pluckrose and Chris Worley for running the scheme for so many years.

The Guild takes its contribution to local communities very seriously and encourage all members to take part in National events. Ring for the King bands are going

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from strength to strength and are involved in community activities. Many towers rang to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings. Warwick rang at 6.30 am, the time the initial landings took part.

Rosemary Spencer, who had been editor of the Guild magazine, Guild Matters, decided to retire her pen and Janette Wolf has taken over as editor. We wish Janette the best of success and thank Rosemary for her service.

Training has continued to be a key focus in 2024 with Training Hubs now running at Kineton; Lighthorne; Leek Wootton; Stretton on Dunsmore; and Tysoe. Many individual towers and "Clusters" are helping local ringers perfect their striking; hunting and method ringing, including the transition from 6 to 8 bells and beyond. The success of any training relies on the dedication of many volunteers who give their time so willingly to not only run the sessions but also to help by sharing their experience and 'know how'.

Successful striking competitions were held at Clifton upon Dunsmore in March and Bulkington in September. The drive to improve standards is of great importance. Every time we ring the bells it is a public performance and part of the cultural heritage of this country. We have a duty to make sure it is of the highest standard. Regular Surprise major practices are held to allow more experienced ringers to practice and improve their skills.

The Guild participated in the celebratory ringing for the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landing in June; and those towers within the Borough of Solihull joined in the Solihull Council celebrations in March and April to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Solihull becoming a Municipal Borough; the 60th anniversary of becoming a County Borough; and the 50th anniversary of it becoming a Metropolitan Borough.

The Guild outing to Coventry Cathedral in January proved popular and our thanks go to Chris Worley for his informative tour of the Cathedral and to Audrey and Andrew Alldrick for the opportunity to climb the tower and ring the bells.

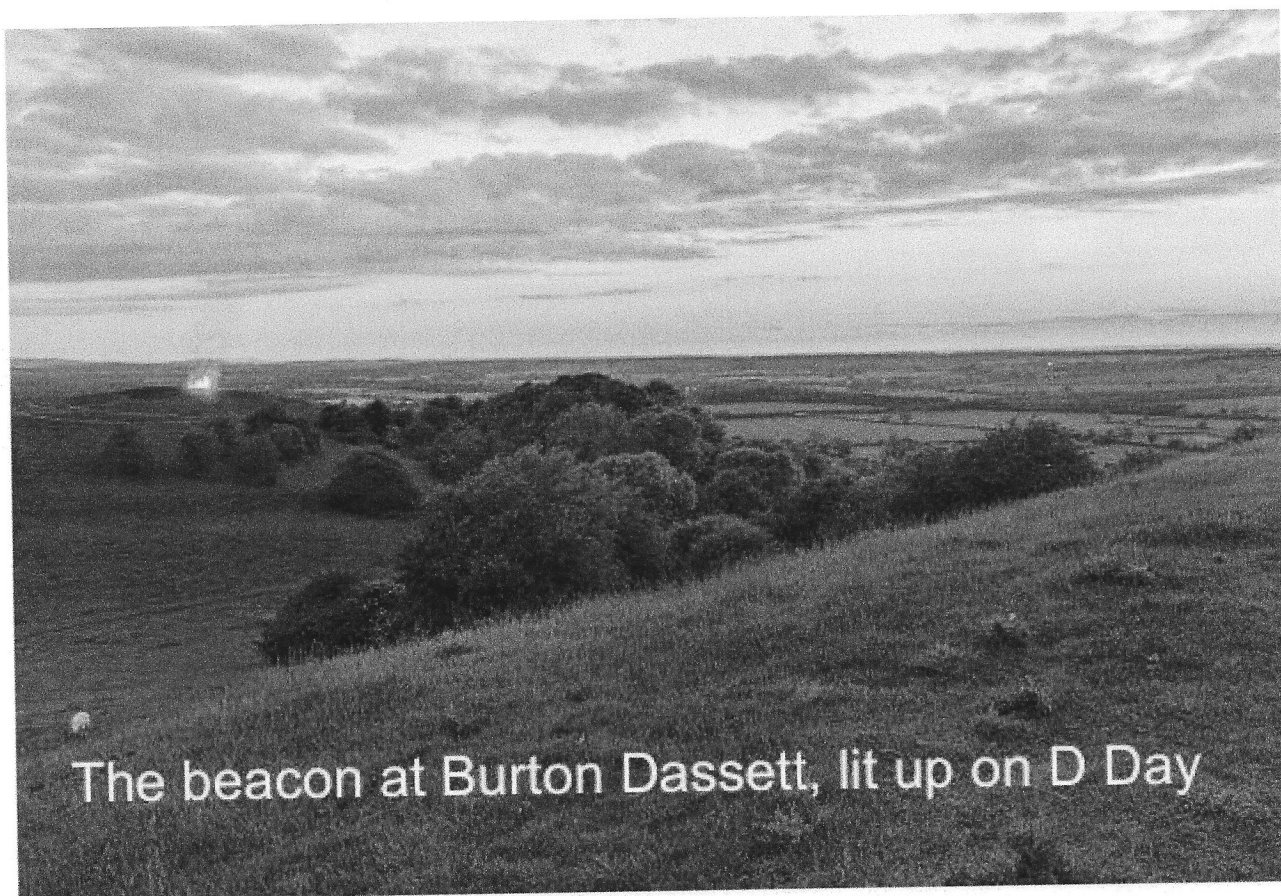
The July Outing to Mollington; Cropredy; Byfield; Napton on the Hill; and Stockton proved popular as did the evening meal and quiz at Long Itchington.

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The Youth Team practice monthly and the highlight of this year's activities was a trip to London for the Ringing World National Youth Competition. The band rang well and our young members are a credit to the Guild and to the teachers who give so generously of their time to help them develop.

The Guild's "New for November" initiate certainly caught the imagination of members with many "firsts" recorded. Peals and quarter peals were scored and members tried new methods; conducting; visiting a new tower; and going on a ringing outing. A summary of the "Firsts" can be found later in the Annual Report. A successful Carol service was held at Wellesbourne.

Michael Chester, (President), Annie Hall (General Secretary), Claire Tosh (Treasurer) & Steve Tibbetts (Ringing Master)



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The Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers					
Charity Number 517977					
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024					
		Unrestricted Funds 2024	Designated Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
Income					
Subscriptions	Coventry	992	-	992	1,048
	Rugby	808	-	808	790
	Warwick	2,516	-	2,516	2,436
	Unattached	110	-	110	100
	Late/Early	50	-	50	10
	Non-resident	10	-	10	5
	Gift Aid Recovered	-	-	-	500
Total subscription income		4,486	-	4,486	4,889
Donations		94	-	94	65
Report Advert		50	-	50	80
Bulding Society Interest		105	-	105	104
Youth Team Donation		-	-	-	1,600
Total income		4,735	-	4,735	6,738
Expenditure					
Officers' expenses		180	-	180	497
Central Council subscriptions		90	-	90	90
Annual report		271	-	271	274
PR, website, etc		-	-	-	120
Training		100	-	100	180
Youth Team		601	-	601	598
Donations - Training Bells - Jill Roberts Legacy		-	4,000	4,000	3,358
Liabilities/Maintenance insurance		427	-	427	427
Total expenditure		1,669	4,000	5,669	5,544
Surplus/Deficit prior to transfers		3,066	(4,000)	(934)	1,194
Transfer of subs to Bell Repair Fund		(2,215)	-	(2,215)	(2,170)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		851	(4,000)	(3,149)	(976)
Total funds brought forward 1 January		13,694	16,209	29,903	30,879
Total funds carried forward 31 December		14,545	12,209	26,754	29,903
Funds breakdown					
General Fund		14,545	-	14,545	13,694
Churches Conservation Trust Fund		-	936	936	936
Jill Roberts Legacy		-	9,673	9,673	13,673
Youth Team		-	1,600	1,600	1,600
Total Funds at 31 December		14,545	12,209	26,754	29,903
Statement of Assets at 31 December					
Coventry Building Society		-	10,138	10,138	10,033
Cash at Bank and in Hand		14,464	2,071	16,535	19,880
Ringing World Credit		81	-	81	80
Current Assets		14,545	12,209	26,754	29,993
Sundry Creditors		-	-	-	90
Current Liabilities		-	-	-	90
Net Assets		14,545	12,209	26,754	29,903
The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 24 March 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:					
Claire Tosh		Sarah Thomas			
Trustee and Treasurer		Independent Examiner			

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Accounts for the Coventry Diocesan Guild Bell Repair Fund

The Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers			
Charity Number 502576			
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024			
		Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income			
Subscriptions from Coventry Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers		2,215	2,170
Coventry Diocesan Trustees - Philip Faulks Memorial Bell Repair Fund		24,424	24,051
Donations from PCC affiliation scheme		246	246
Draw Club		961	480
Surplus from Guild events and sales		268	649
Building society interest		452	423
Total income		28,566	28,019
Expenditure			
Donations - Bulkington - St James		45,000	-
Donations - Burton Dassett - All Saints		19,000	-
Donations - Harbury - All Saints		1,068	-
Donations - Long Compton - SS Peter & Paul		126	-
Donations - Nuneaton - St Nicolas		3,300	-
Donations - Tredington - St Gregory		1,500	-
Donations - 2023 (5)		-	6,200
Maintenance inspections		-	588
Total expenditure		69,994	6,788
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(41,428)	21,231
Total funds brought forward 1 January		74,960	53,729
Total funds carried forward 31 December		33,532	74,960
Statement of Assets at 31 December			
Coventry Building Society		31,301	50,850
Cash at Bank and in Hand		2,231	24,110
Net assets		33,532	74,960
The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 24 March 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:			
Claire Tosh		Sarah Thomas	
Trustee and Treasurer		Independent Examiner	